



REDDING SCHOOL of ARTS
WHERE EDUCATION AND THE ARTS CONNECT

Redding School of the Arts
California Nonprofit Benefit Corporation
Adopted Emergency Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 6, 2020

This meeting was held via video conference and met the provisions of the Brown Act, as allowed by the California Governor's Executive Order issued in response to the "shelter in place" requirements of the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was accessible via:

Zoom Video Conference Meeting

Meeting ID: 895 3059 1294

Passcode: Th2gsk

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89530591294?pwd=SCttd3NBd1lqble5WUVqSHdkdXN0QT09>

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 895 3059 1294

Passcode: 860143

Open Session: 1:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order by Presiding Officer Steven Riley at 1:05 p.m.

Roll Call/Establish Quorum:

Steven Riley, President	<u>X (via video conference)</u>
Andrew McCurdy, Vice President	<u>X (via video conference)</u>
Heather Wright, Treasurer	<u>X</u>
Daria O'Brien, Secretary	<u>X</u>
Jean Hatch, Founder	<u>X (via video conference)</u>
Jonathan Sheldon, Community Member	<u>AB</u>

Additional Non-Voting Participants

Margaret Johnson, Executive Director	<u>X</u>
Carol Wahl, Dean of Students	<u>X</u>
Cathleen Serna, Business Serv Provider	<u>X (via video conference)</u>
Laura Dunaj, Staff Liaison	<u>AB</u>

Board Recorder: Adel Morfin

Onsite Guests: Wendy Sanders, Tracy Sawyer, Katie Vernon, and Erica Warrington

Zoom Online Guests: Stakeholders & Staff Members

PUBLIC FORUM:

Hearing of persons desiring to address the Board on a subject NOT covered in this agenda. NOTE: 1) Individual speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to address the Board. The Board President may further limit the speaking time allowed in order to facilitate the progress of the meeting. 2) Complaints presented to the Board must not involve specific reference to employees. Citizens should contact the Director for complaint procedures regarding employees. 3) A charter school cannot take action on a matter that has not been placed on the official agenda. (G.C. 54954.2).

- No Comments

DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA:

2.1 Discussion/Action: 2020/21 COVID-19 School Re-Opening Plan

Administration called for an emergency meeting to reevaluate the 2020/21 RSA Re-Opening Plan as previously adopted at the 7/29/20 Special Board Meeting. Margaret Johnson reported on the liability issue currently facing schools in California due to the non-advancement of AB-1384 in the state legislature this week.

AB-1384 *“would exempt a local educational agency, and its officers or employees, that meet these requirements from monetary liability and damages for injury relating to COVID-19 infection, transmission, or specified policies and procedures established pursuant to the bill, any condition in existence because of the COVID-19 pandemic, or any act or omission by the local educational agency, its officers, or its employees in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as provided, with specified exceptions.”*

Margaret reported that because COVID-19 is a disease, there is limited liability insurance for school districts. Without AB-1384’s liability protection, RSA’s exposure risk could be too great, which could potentially have a negative impact on RSA’s financial budget and its ability to remain open.

RSA original plan to open in Phase 3: All students return to school every day with restrictions would now have to be re-evaluated to determine if students will return to class on 8/12 or move to distance learning full time (Phase 1).

The Governing Board was presented with two possible educational scenarios for returning students as recommended by administration:

School Scenario (Phase 2):

- Hybrid classroom program with students participating in teacher directed lessons, recess, lunch, etc. as a cohort of group A and group B, 2 day’s onsite and 3 days distance learning, where students attend class from home. Attendance is taken daily.
- Home School is an option for parents who want to work directly with their child daily and connect with their teacher of record regularly. This option is a separate program from the classroom instruction and the child no longer has a seat in the classroom based program, rather they have a seat in the home school program. Attendance is calculated on the amount of reasonable work completed as assigned by the teacher. Resuming the classroom based program is contingent upon space availability.

School Scenario (Phase 1):

- Virtual Learning is where the student participates online with lessons for a minimum of 3 hours per day (depending on grade level needs) accessing the teacher directed curriculum and content with homework being assigned to keep up with the class. Attendance is counted by participating on line and completing directed assignments.

A new staff and parent reopening survey was sent out Wednesday afternoon by administration with the amended school scenarios. The voting results concluded that participants were split 50/50 between returning to a hybrid classroom program and a full time distance learning scenario.

Margaret Johnson also stated that some teaching staff are against in person instruction due to health and safety concerns and would prefer to transition to Phase 1 instead.

Call for Requests from the Audience to Speak to Any Item on the Agenda:

The regular agenda includes those individual items to be discussed by the Board. Some of those items may also require action or approval by the Board. Members of the public will have the opportunity to address the Board on any item at the time that particular item is discussed by the Board, and prior to any action taken by the Board. Individual speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to address the Board.

The board opened the floor for public comment regarding the proposed scenarios. Questions were submitted via email (prior to the meeting) and via Zoom chat. The board went through each question before closing the public forum.

Comments from administration and board members:

Wendy Sanders: Inquired as to the risk of liability as it relates to the Special Education Department. She asked if students receiving special education services would still be allowed to come on campus to receive said services, even if RSA moved forward with Phase 1? Margaret Johnson responded that special education students who required additional one on one support would be allowed to come on campus, regardless of any potential liability risk to the school.

Carol Wahl: Stated that there was now more requirements for schools that choose to move to distance learning. The same rules that were used before no longer apply. She highlighted changes related to student participation, social emotional learning component, parent communication, and student assessments.

Carol reported that the state average of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) has doubled recently and is a big concern in Shasta County. She reminded the board that Shasta County currently meets all safety requirements with everything that's been put in place. Carol commented that the legal and liability concern puts RSA in a bind, as the school would not be able to sustain a lawsuit, even if it's defensible and the school happens to win.

She believes the best education is person to person, as you cannot negate that relational aspect that makes RSA a special place. Teachers do an exceptional job in creating relationships with student and parents, which is why RSA was successful in conducting distance learning last spring. She feels one of the biggest obstacles RSA faces moving forward are due to the 20% of new students who don't already have an established relationship with RSA. She reported having heard that some schools may move to a hybrid classroom program during the first few weeks of school, in order to establish those relationships, and then transitioning to Phase 1, in order to reduce their liability risk.

Steven Riley: Reported being open to moving to Phase 1 with 100% distance learning. He feels the liability risk to the school is too high if RSA was sued. He recommended postponing the start of the school year until Monday, August 17th in order to allow RSA additional time to make any necessary preparations for transition from Phase 3 to Phase 1.

Andrew McCurdy: Agreed with Steven Riley in moving to Phase 1 and postponing the start of the school year until 8/17. He commented on the liability risk being too great. He feels the deck is already stacked against Charter Schools and the board needs to protect everything RSA has worked for in order to remain open.

Heather Wright:

Heather inquired if students would be allowed to meet with teachers face to face, in order to pick up materials and chrome books. She suggested coordinating small group sessions especially for new families who are not familiar with RSA campus. Margaret Johnson reported that some RSA teachers were not open to the idea, due to health and safety concerns, but would look into it.

Heather also inquired if parents who choose to move from the classroom based program to a hybrid home school program, due to COVID-19 concerns, would they be allowed to resume the classroom based program if and when RSA transitioned back to onsite lessons without restrictions (Phase 4). Margaret responded that families would have to remain in the homeschool program for the remainder of the year, but would have to confirm with the auditor to see if there were any exceptions to the rule in light of COVID-19. Additionally, she would look into the policy / procedures with families retaining their place in the classroom based program, rather than going on the waiting list when transitioning to the home school program for this year, and bring that to the board at the next general meeting. She would also talk with the teachers to make arrangements for students who have multiple siblings using the internet or have no internet sources from their home. Carol Wahl also stated that RSA could not exceed home school enrollment by 20%, as it could result in a negative funding impact to the school, causing RSA to file an SB 740 Funding Determination Form.

Jean Hatch: Stated she had originally been concerned with RSA moving to Phase 3, onsite instruction five days a week, due to the possible risk of COVID-19 transmission. She felt the Phase 2 hybrid learning model, accompanied by smaller classroom sizes, posed less of a risk.

Jean also inquired as to the potential impact of staff pay schedules as a result of postponing the start of the school year until 8/17. Margaret Johnson responded that teaching staff calendars would not be negatively impacted, as there was some flexibility already built in, allowing them to complete their contract as scheduled on 5/31. The 2020/21 Instructional Calendar would have to be amended to reflect 8/17 as the first day of instruction, if the board decides to moved forward with the change.

Daria O'Brien: Agreed with fellow board members in moving to Phase 1 and postponing the start of the school year until 8/17.

After much discussion and feedback, the board agreed with administrations recommendation to reopen the 2020/21 school year in Phase 1: Full Distance Learning, beginning 8/17/2020 in order to allow administration and staff to better prepare for distance learning.

Jean Hatch moved to approve moving forward with full distance learning (Phase 1 of RSA COVID-19 Reopening Plan), beginning 8/17/2020, seconded by Heather Wright. Vote 5 Ayes: 0 Nays.

Final Meeting Comments:

Steven Riley commented that although the board approved moving forward with the distance learning model, it was done with a heavy heart. He hopes everyone understands this was not what the board originally wanted, but it's in the best interest of protecting the school in the long run. On behalf of the board, Steve thanked administration and staff members for everything they have done in preparation for the coming school year and appreciates everyone's flexibility with the changing situation.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020
Time: 5:45 p.m.
Location: Redding School of the Arts
955 Inspiration Place
Redding, CA 96003

Governing Board Minutes Respectfully Submitted,



Daria O'Brien
RSA Governing Board Secretary

8/18/20
Board Approval Date