

Board Briefs

April 20, 2021

District Invests Heavily in Emotional Support for Students and Staff in 21-22

In anticipation of the mental and emotional health needs of our New Haven students and staff, the Board approved a proposal that will significantly increase resources and supports at school sites for at least the next year. Director of Pupil Services, Marcus Lam, provided information to the Board which lays out the plan and details the supports.

School staff will receive opportunities for mental and emotional health supports, in addition to receiving professional development to support their students. School sites will implement social and emotional learning curriculum to strengthen their school culture and climate for supporting the mental and emotional health of their students. Behavioral Health Workers or a Health and Wellness Teacher will be deployed to all school sites next year to support whole-school initiatives related to mental, social, and emotional health, as well as provide counseling support as needed. To view the presentation, [please click here](#).

The Board Briefs are a summary of the April 20, 2021, Board Meeting and Links to Documents



Board Members

Sarabjit Kaur Cheema, President

Melissa Shuen-Mallory, Clerk

Linda Canlas, Member

Michael Gonzáles, Member

Lance Nishihira, Member

Watch the Meeting

[Click here](#) to watch a recording of April 20, 2021, Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Meeting Agenda

[Click here](#) to see the full agenda for the **April 20**, 2021, meeting. Then click on the Tuesday, April 20, 2021, AGENDA link.

Meeting Information

During the Shelter in Place order, Board meetings will be held virtually and will begin at 6:00 p.m.



Watch the Meeting

[Click here](#) to watch a recording of April 20, 2021, Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Meeting Agenda

[Click here](#) to see the full agenda for the **April 20, 2021**, meeting. Then click on the Tuesday, April 20, 2021, AGENDA link.

Upcoming Meetings

May 4, 2021

May 18, 2021

June 1, 2021

June 15, 2021

2021-22 Upcoming Meetings

August 3, 2021

August 17, 2021

September 7, 2021

September 14, 2021

Board Approves Reorganization of UCFC and Pupil Services

With the pending retirement of the Executive Director of the Union City Family Center (UCFC), Nancy George, the Board approved the reorganization of the Union City Family Center and the Pupil Services Department. Previously, staff at the UCFC supervised such areas as family engagement, expanded learning programs, and the Family Services Assistants (FSAs). The Pupil Services Department was primarily responsible for supervising attendance, discipline, enrollment, and the district social worker and Kids First program. By combining these areas under the Director of Student and Family Services, support for families and students from infant/toddler readiness to enrollment to graduation will be better aligned and coordinated. Further, despite the addition of a Coordinator of Pupil Services position and the elevation of a program manager to Coordinator of UCFC, this reorganization will save the district up to \$80,000 a year. To view the reorganization presentation, [please click here](#).

Board Approves New Principal at Conley-Caraballo High School

At Tuesday night's meeting, the Board approved the hiring of Dana Chavez as the principal of Coney-Caraballo High School. Ms. Chavez is most recently from the Pleasanton Unified School District where she served as the Principal of Alternative Education. She has also worked in San Lorenzo and Hayward and brings over twenty years of educational experience with her to New Haven. With over thirteen years of experience in alternative programs, she is sure to be a great fit with students and staff at Conley. Welcome, Dana Chavez!

Board Sets Meeting Schedule for the 2021-22 School Year

The Board voted to approve their meeting schedule for the 2021-22 school year. Unlike Board meetings held during the current shelter-in-place order, next year's meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. The meeting schedule can be [found here](#). Again, although this document states the meetings will begin at 6:00, they actually will start at 6:30 p.m.

Board Hires New Director of Food and Nutrition Services

The Board formally approved the hiring of Yazied "Yaz" Widatalla as our new Director of Food and Nutrition Services at Tuesday night's meeting. Mr. Widatalla is most recently from the Sequoia Union High School District where he served as the Supervisor of Food Services for nearly five years. Mr. Widatalla joins New Haven with years of foodservice experience in both the public and private sectors. Congratulations and welcome to Mr. Widatalla!

Board Approves Resolution in Recognition of Certificated Employee Week

In appreciation of the tremendous work that our certificated staff has performed under the most stressful of circumstances this year, the Board passed a resolution recognizing the week of May 3 -7 as Certificated Employees Appreciation Week in honor of our certificated teachers, nurses, and psychologists on Tuesday. As stated in the resolution (which can be [found here](#)), “the certificated employees of the New Haven Unified School District have gone above and beyond the call of duty in developing and providing virtual learning and support for our students during the continuance of the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic”. Thank you to all of our certificated staff members!

Board Recognizes May 17-21 as Classified Employee Week

On Tuesday, the Board passed a resolution designating May 17-21 as Classified Employees Week, in recognition of their exemplary service and work during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Classified employees, which include paraprofessionals, clerical, custodial, and food services staff, have been key to ensuring that schools have remained open to the extent that they could be and that important services are still available to students and families. To read the resolution, [please click here](#).

Board Passes Resolution in Support of Asian American and Pacific Islanders

In response to the increasing number of attacks and harassment directed towards our Asian American and Pacific Islander community members, the New Haven Unified School District Board of Trustees passed a resolution in support of these communities and condemning “...all manifestations or expressions of racism, xenophobia, discrimination, anti-Asian sentiment, scapegoating, and ethnic or religious intolerance.” To read the resolution, [please click here](#).

Board Passes Resolution in Recognition of Dolores Huerta Day

On Tuesday, the Board passed a resolution recognizing April 10 as Dolores Huerta Day. Ms. Huerta is the most prominent Mexican-American female labor leader in the United States and is the co-founder, with Cesar Chavez, of the United Farm Workers of America.

Ms. Huerta founded the Dolores Huerta Foundation, which recruits and empowers grassroots leaders in low-income communities to attain social justice by organizing volunteer organizations called Vecinos Unidos (United Neighborhoods) to work on issues in education, health, the environment, civic engagement and economic development. You can read the resolution in honor of Dolores Huerta by [clicking here](#).



Watch the Meeting

[Click here](#) to watch a recording of April 20, 2021, Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Meeting Agenda

[Click here](#) to see the full agenda for the **April 20, 2021, meeting**. Then click on the Tuesday, April 20, 2021, AGENDA link.

Upcoming Meetings

May 4, 2021

May 18, 2021

June 1, 2021

June 15, 2021

2021-22 Upcoming Meetings

August 3, 2021

August 17, 2021

September 7, 2021

September 14, 2021