

TAB 11



Board of Education Report

File #: Rep-364-20/21, **Version:** 2

End Authorization to Take Any and All Necessary Actions to Prepare and Respond Effectively to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Established March 10, 2020

May 25, 2021

Office of the Superintendent

Action Proposed:

Staff proposes that the Board of Education take the following actions related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

1. End the authorization provided to the Superintendent to take actions necessary to ensure the continuation of public education, and the health and safety of the students and staff at the District Sites during the emergency conditions related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) through the Board of Education approved Board Report number 308-19/20.

Background:

On March 10, 2020, the Board of Education approved Board Report number 308-19/20 which provided authorization to take any and all necessary actions to prepare and respond effectively to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) Resolution declaring emergency conditions exist at Los Angeles Unified schools and offices.

Through the use of this emergency authority, the District was able to quickly deploy fiscal and personnel resources to provide the best possible online instructional program for students, set a nation-wide standard for the safest possible reopening of schools, and provide a lifesaving safety net for the communities we serve as exemplified below:

- Launch a groundbreaking partnership with PBS, providing educational programming to students and their families. The partnership has become a national model adopted by more than 100 TV stations in 30 states.
- Procure and distribute computers and internet access to 500,000 students to keep them connected with their school community and help them continue to learn.
- Enter into a groundbreaking agreement with Verizon to help bridge the digital divide, which became a model for the entire state of California. The Verizon Distance Learning Program is now available in 38 states and the District of Columbia, reaching more than 36 million students through sponsor, state and ISD partnerships.
- Provide certificated and classified staff with extensive, high-quality professional development in online teaching and learning through our Future Ready program.
- Lead efforts at the state and national level to create a “Marshall Plan” for schools to address the lack of adequate resources that schools in Los Angeles have suffered from for more than a decade. The resulting \$5 billion increase in funding for schools in Los Angeles Unified over the next several years represents record amounts from both state and federal government.
- Use these additional resources to fund the Path to Recovery in schools, including additional reading and math teachers in elementary schools, additional teachers in secondary schools to reduce class sizes,

more mental health counselors for students, increased support for students with learning differences and disabilities and maintaining safe school environments.

- For the first time ever, offer summer school for all students, which included unique enrichment classes such as learning to play guitar with Fender, animation and storytelling with Illumination and a Voyage on the Titanic with James Cameron. 5,000 middle-school students have participated in the teacher-led Fender classes after receiving free guitars, ukuleles and basses.
- Reopen schools in the safest way possible by:
 - Assembling a coalition of world-class universities, technology companies, health insurers, and innovative and cost-effective testing laboratories to advise on health and safety practices.
 - Providing regular COVID testing along with contact tracing to school staff, students and their families as part of the most comprehensive, school-based COVID-testing program in the nation.
 - Upgrading air-filtration systems in all classrooms and 80 million square feet of buildings. The air is filtrated 24 hours a day through the equivalent of an N-95 mask.
 - Putting in place health and safety practices at schools that exceed CDC guidelines.
 - Providing vaccinations at school sites for students, staff, and family members.
 - Establishing 25 school-based vaccination sites for families in communities that lack access to health services
- Maintain a safety net for the families we serve by providing more than 130 million meals to those in need: 93 million to children and 30 million to adults.
- Distribute more than 30 million items of supplies including masks and hand sanitizer, diapers and baby wipes, clothing and shoes, toys and sports equipment, books and school supplies to families in need.
- Establish LA Students Most in Need, a charitable fund that raised \$40 million to help families in the communities we serve.
- Rebuild relationships with community partners and philanthropic organizations while creating new partnerships to help schools and students. Step Up Tutoring was launched to provide free, online tutoring and will be helping more than 2,000 students by August, CAA has helped tell the stories of students' needs and their accomplishments and ReWerk is facilitating donations of technology and learning equipment from major corporations across California being used by students in schools, to name just a few.
- Create and implement innovative ways to help students, including a partnership with SNAP to launch a book club with Alicia Keyes and Russell Westbrook keeping high school students engaged in remote learning.

While using this emergency authority, Los Angeles Unified has been transparent and accountable, which has helped to build trust in the communities we serve.

- Town Halls are held regularly in each of 44 communities and every school principal holds weekly school meetings with families. Resource guides are published in multiple languages and provided online and sent to families. A telephone hotline was set up to help families.
- Weekly updates to the school community had lots of information on relief efforts and classroom, student, staff and family experiences.
- Every contract for spending Los Angeles Unified entered into during the crisis was shared publicly and ratified by the Board, and detailed explanations were provided as to how COVID relief dollars are used.

No other government agency at the local or state level has shared this level of information with the public. A survey of 20,000 families in May 2020 told us 75% of families felt Los Angeles Unified was doing a good job responding to the crisis, and in another survey taken by more than 200,000 families in November 2020, 72%

said Los Angeles Unified's response to COVID has been good or excellent. In the same November survey, 80% of families said Los Angeles Unified was doing a great job communicating.

At this time, whereas all Los Angeles Unified schools have reopened for in-person instruction in the safest way possible, and with the recognition that the crisis caused by the COVID-19 virus is ongoing, we recommend transitioning back to the traditional form of governance.

Expected Outcomes:

Staff anticipates that the Board of Education will approve ending the authorization provided to the Superintendent and/or his designee back on March 10, 2020.

Board Options and Consequences:

If the Board of Education does not approve ending the authorization outlined in this Board Report, the Superintendent and/or his designee will continue to be able to take immediate actions as necessary to 1) protect the short-term health of students and staff, and 2) ensure the delivery of public education is not impaired for the students at District Sites.

Policy Implications:

Staff will adhere to the normal policies related to the procurement of good and service that were in place prior to March 10, 2020.

Budget Impact:

None.

Student Impact:

We will continue to be able to provide students with learning environments that help them achieve their educational goals.

Issues and Analysis:

None.

Attachments:

Not Applicable

Informatives:

Not Applicable

Submitted:

05/21/21

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



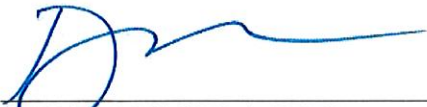
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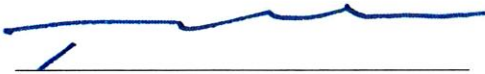
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