

April 22, 2020 Regular Called Meeting - Prados Questions

Good Evening Ms. Sendejo,

I am submitting the following question(s) on agenda items for the Regular Board Meeting on April 22, 2020:

First, Questions pertaining to the April Budget Amendment, Quarterly Investment Report and Monthly Financial Statements

BACKGROUND: As the Board continues to allocate funds to fulfill its commitment to reopen Athens, Kazen, West Campus High School and the Olivares Complex we should be keenly aware of the implications of the second year of implementation. The Board's fiscal commitment is obvious by the decreasing General Fund balance, the continuing expenditures and encumbrances for these facilities and the manageable but growing budget deficit. Although, today we have new members sitting on the Board of Trustees, they should know the unmerciful scrutiny, unworthy chastisement and incomplete facts the general media employed as they characterized the reopening of our schools. Needless To Say, the Board anticipated the approximate costs in reopening our schools. The Board also had anticipated a loss in student enrollment. The Board planned well and a TEA acceptable fund balance was realized after all was said and done. New Board Members should also be aware, in a different setting, of those partly responsible for the deliberate, passive resistance to the Board's Direction and Guidance in the reopening of our schools. There is no reason we cannot reopen these schools with a viable student enrollment at each campus. Should the school district not accomplish these manageable tasks at the beginning of SY 2020-2021, then the criticism we endured this past year will truly be validated. We need to justify the expenditures we have invested in our schools. **IMPORTANT TO NOTE: THE BOARD DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN. ONLY THE SUPERINTENDENT CAN MAKE THIS HAPPEN.**

GOAL ONE: West Campus High School. Is it unreasonable to expect at least 90% of existing Shepard MS-8th graders (78242) would matriculate to West Campus High School?

No, is not unreasonable to expect at least 90% of existing Shepard 8th graders (78242) to enroll into WC. We have a number (15-20) parents that are requesting transfers which could potentially impact the 90% enrollment expectation.

Is it unreasonable to expect at least 50% of existing SSSH-9th graders (78242) would matriculate to West Campus High School?

Yes, it is unreasonable to expect at least 50% of existing SSSH 9th graders to transfer to WC. In 2019-2020 our all Shepard 9th grade cohort were registered at SSSH due to WC not being listed with a County District Campus (CDC). During the week of March 2-6, 2020 all current 9th grade students identified with a 78242 zip code attending meetings on updates of WC and the opportunity to register for the 2020-2021 academic school year including a letter to parents.

GOAL TWO: Athens Elementary. Are there any students at Price and Carrillo Elementary that would normally attend Athens Elementary? Is it unreasonable to expect that these students would return to Athens?

Yes, there are Athens students at both Price and Carrillo Elementary that would normally attend Athens Elementary. Yes, it is unreasonable to expect that these students would return to Athens as they were provided the option to transfer during the registration period of the 2019-2020 academic school year.

GOAL THREE: Kazen Middle School. Are there any students at Zamora Middle School, not involved in the Academy of Choice, that would normally attend Kazen MS? Is it unreasonable to expect that these students would return to Kazen?

Yes, there are Kazen students at Zamora MS that would normally attend Kazen MS. Yes, it is unreasonable to expect that these students would return to Kazen as they were provided the option to transfer during the registration period of the 2019-2020 academic school year. However, we anticipate an increase due to our new academy at Kazen MS for the 2020-2021 academic school year.

NOTE: The Board of Trustees this past year established attendance zones for all schools.

Yes, attendance zones were established throughout the district, however, the district transfer policy is in place for students that desire to attend a campus outside of their current attendance zone. In addition, our 5th grade student cohort has the opportunity to apply to our four designated academies.

FISCAL NEEDS: The Superintendent needs to bring forth any Budget Amendments that would be required to accomplish these tasks/goals. The staff continues to exceed expectations in providing sound, practical and inviting, esthetic schools for students. But without sufficient students it is not a viable school.

Are there any incentives which would require funding in order to accomplish this task/goal?
There are no incentives in place at this time in order to complete the tasks/goal listed above.

Can the Superintendent and staff "think outside the box" and open viable schools?
There is definitely an opportunity for the Superintendent and staff to discuss opportunities for tasks/goals listed above. The campuses are open and staff continues to explore opportunities to increase enrollment at the newly reopened campuses as well as throughout the district.

The Superintendent needs to bring forth any Budget Amendments which will attract new students. We need to compete for students.

Can the Superintendent identify any funding mechanism in order to accomplish these tasks/goals?

At this time there are no funding mechanisms or amendments to bring forward to accomplish the tasks/goals listed above.

Please share my questions with the members of the Board of Trustees. Forthcoming responses to these questions will hopefully be shared with the trustees prior to the meeting.

Thank you,
Connie Prado