

**PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Board of Education  
**FROM:** Randall Booker, Superintendent  
**DATE:** March 24, 2021  
**RE: ON-CAMPUS INSTRUCTION (SPRING 2021, FALL 2021)**

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**I. SUPPORT INFORMATION**

Over the past few days, Piedmont Unified has heard from families, students, and staff regarding many of the new (and positive) developments regarding decreased COVID-19 infection rates, new guidance from the CDC, and increased vaccination access and distribution for educators. All of these developments are encouraging and have prompted the district to re-evaluate our current school schedules and instructional models.

The following are brief updates regarding our current planning now (Spring 2021) and for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Spring 2021**

Currently the Piedmont Unified School District has developed plans to welcome back all students to on-campus instruction under a hybrid model. These instructional models were negotiated and developed in partnership with the Association of Piedmont Teachers (APT), District and Site Administration, and the Board of Education. Negotiations are required whenever terms of a previously-negotiated contract change, as they did at the beginning of the pandemic last year. At the time of schedule development and negotiations, Alameda County was in the State's "purple tier" classification for COVID-19 infection rates. At that time, vaccination availability and distribution was unknown; public health information at that time indicated a slower rollout than has actually occurred.

Today, we find ourselves in a different landscape, thankfully. Many PUSD Staff members have received at least one vaccination, Alameda County is in the "red tier" (and hopefully soon to be in the "orange tier"), and the Center for Disease Control recently revised its guidance on social distancing in classrooms from 6 feet to 3 feet.

## **New Developments Based on Improved Conditions**

APT and the District are now planning in order to negotiate any changes to the current schedule and instructional model. **APT has already held emergency staff meetings to gather input from their members, and as we negotiate this week, our hope is to coordinate and communicate any logistical changes, safety procedures, and any agreed-upon schedule changes promptly to our staff, students, and families.**

### **Challenges Unrelated to Bargaining**

Facilitating changes to the current schedule and instructional model at the elementary and secondary sites, will create logistical challenges unrelated to negotiations with bargaining units. These include:

1. **Challenge #1 (Elementary): How to handle shifting students to a new class/teacher (some for the third time this year) and how to reassign and/or hire additional teachers to support those students who will choose to remain in a Distance Learning model** for the remainder of the school year. The District assured parents that any family who wanted their child to be in full distance learning for 2020-21 would have a DL placement. For elementary, teacher/student assignments were changed in November to a schedule that was for the remainder of 2020-21. Any shifts that require the district to move away from a cohorted model (AM/PM) to each class becoming a single cohort throughout the instructional day would require a significant change to the elementary master schedule and approximately 15 cohorts of students would be assigned a new teacher.
2. **Challenge #2 (Secondary): How to ensure that all students get the same opportunity to return** given that some classrooms across the district will not accommodate a full complement of students even with 3' social distancing.
3. **Challenge #3 (Elementary & Secondary): Whether we are able to purchase a large number of individual student desks** quickly enough to bring students back under the new social distancing guidelines. Many of our classrooms contain student furniture that do not adhere to 3' social distancing (e.g. group tables instead of individual student desks).

**Fall 2021**

**The Board of Education and the Piedmont Unified School District is planning for providing full-time, on-campus instruction for the 2021-2022 school year.**

II. **RECOMMENDATION: INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

The Superintendent will provide the Board of Education an update on the Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 on-campus learning plans.