

**Yuma Elementary School District No. One
Governing Board
Study Session**

The Governing Board for Yuma Elementary School District No. One held a Study Session June 30, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in the District Office Board Room, 450 West Sixth Street, Yuma, Arizona

Members present: Mrs. Barbara Foote, President (remotely); Mr. Cory Mayrant, Clerk (remotely); Mrs. Karen Griffin, Member (remotely); Mrs. Irene Montoya, Member; Member; Mrs. Theresa Fox, Member (remotely)

Others present: Mr. James Sheldahl, Superintendent; Mrs. Alice Quintero, Board Secretary, District and School Administrative Staff

Call to Order:

Mrs. Foote called the Study Session to order at 9:07 a.m. The purpose of the Study Session was to inform and discuss various options/scenarios on returning to school.

Mr. Sheldahl started the discussion with an opening statement with a timeline starting from March 15, 2020 on the initial closing of schools due to the pandemic. Since the last day of school task force committees were formed to poll parents and staff on returning to school. His statement focused on how this pandemic has not only hit our school district but the community at large. The education system has been impacted dramatically and faces significant challenges moving forward. Three critical factors that need to be considered, they are the health and safety of children the health and safety of faculty and staff and the continuity of an instructional program that engages every student in meaningful, rigorous learning, whether that be in person , on line , or a combination of the two.

The District One Return to Learning Taskforce has performed much of the heavy lifting. Members of the task force have organized and led committees that have sought input, examined guidance from experts and studied models from around the world. Mr. Sheldahl concluded his opening remarks by thanking the parents and community for being patient, communicative and supportive. The faculty and staff have been diligent, determined and innovative and to the School Board that has extended its trust and support throughout the process.

The presentation started with a reminder to the board the 3 critical factors that the committees took into consideration. The health and Wellness of Faculty Staff and Students, Equitable and Excellent Student Learning, and Safe School Operations. There were 11 chair committees and several sub committees. The committee chairs were on call and available for any questions or additional information.

The range of options being developed as learning tracks and potential options for families. They are as follows; Traditional School – Five days a week in-person, not until deemed safe. Emergency Remote- In the event of a shutdown most likely scenario to start the year, just as what we did starting March 15. Hybrid Model – Students would have a combination of two days of in-person instruction with three days of remote learning. Remote Learning – Students would attend school remotely five days a week and stay connected with their school’s classroom.

The first Hybrid model discussed is the two day a week model student would be divided into two smaller groups and classrooms would be arranged to ensure social distancing, remaining

three days would be remote learning at home. The second is students would get two full days of in-person instruction and would be in their assigned classroom, for the remaining days they would learn in an assigned area.

The first Remote model students would attend school remotely five days a week and stay connected with a school's classroom from home. The second, students would be enrolled in our district's online school not connected with a specific school. This is a self-paced program not connected to a school and the parent would serve as a co-teacher in this education structure. These four options give parents options that will best fit the needs of their child and family.

The Hybrid school-connected learning track (2 days) will look like Cohort (A) will be in school Monday-Tuesday and remote Wednesday thru Friday. Cohort (B) will attend Thursday and Friday remote Monday thru Wednesday. Benefits to this model allows for smaller classes and social distancing precautions. Students have a direct connection with teacher and fellow students. Implement Google Suite Platform designed to enhance student learning experiences. Accommodates for students with special education and EL needs. Alignment with High School District schedule for remoted days to accommodate families in both districts. Counselors will be supporting students for social and emotional needs. Operating benefits are increased cleaning and sanitation between cohorts. Child nutrition will continue to provide meals for students both in-person and remote. Transportation will still be provided for eligible students. Increased health practices and working with Department of Health for protocols. Exploring options to expand technology connectivity.

The Hybrid school-connected learning track (5 days) has the same benefits but on 3 days will allow student to continue learning digitally but monitored at school in an assigned learning area. Every school will differ depending on classroom size and available auxiliary space.

District consideration: How many parents would select the 2-day learning track? Staffing the "monitoring areas", scheduling and operations, added cost to our operations and personnel budgets.

Remote school-connected learning track is designed for parents who choose to keep their child(ren) home, but are still connected to a school. Students would continue to receive instruction and support from a district one teacher connected a school. Allows for smother transition hybrid or traditional model at a future date. Parents support is requested with this learning track. This similar to the spring model but upgrades. Google classroom has been enhanced to Google Suite. Teachers learned a great deal this spring engaging with students and have a better understanding how to implement the talents of special area teachers and paraprofessionals. EL Students and our military students will be contacted to make sure the needs of those students are met.

YSD1 Digital Learning Academy: Student would be enrolled in our district's online academy. Program is self-paced and flexible in its schedule. Student and parent would be responsible to complete the required hours with minimum district support using our online school platform. State will fund the district 95% of ADM.

Emergency remote track: Mandatory learning track implemented due to health and safety concerns with local COVID-19 cases. All student would be assigned to learn from home and receive instruction and guidance for their class teacher through our learning management system.

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District would work to provide internet connectivity to ensure an equitable learning experience. Child nutrition would still be provided. This will be the plan for Aug. 3-17, 2020.

Budget and Finance: The Governor's Executive order allows district flexibility to operate remotely or a in a hybrid setting with 100% pupil funding. The worst-case scenario is that we are cut 2% of our ADM, which for District One is about 1-million-dollar reduction of last year's budget.

Timeline for our next steps are as follows; June 30th Study Session to discuss options, July 6-10 communication blitz to contact every parent to solidify the learning track they will commit to for the upcoming year, July 13th Special Meeting to approve options, August 3, 2020 First Day of School returning remotely. It was decided instead of July 13th the board would meet Wednesday, July 15, 2020 for the next Special Meeting to approve the options.

Adjourn:

The Study Session adjourned at 11:29 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Quintero, Secretary to the Board

Barbara Foote, President

Cory Mayrant, Clerk

Karen Griffin, Member

Irene Montoya, Member

Theresa Fox, Member