



SARB Minutes
November 18, 2020
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Zoom

Attendees: Shauna Ashmore, Carol Bjordahl, Cheryl Burns, David Castellano, Rebecca Day, Robert DeCandia, Veronica Escobedo, Cynthia Frutos, Juan Garcia, Sonia Garcia, Robin Gillette, Ray C. Gonzales, Liz Jimenez, Melissa McMurdo, Laurel McWaters, Jose Ramirez, Chris Ridge, Rebecca Rocha, Rosie Rosales, Gina Simonsgaard, Stef Sisman, Jamie Snodgrass, Brett Taylor, Julie Taylor, Suzanne Weist, Mike Winters

Mr. Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Gonzales asked for introductions.

Mr. Gonzales asked that everyone take a few minutes to review the minutes from the October 14th meeting (previously emailed). The minutes were reviewed and approved.

Public Comments

There were none.

Kids on the Move

There were none.

Reports

- District Attorney's Office – Ms. McWaters stated that AB 901 was signed by the governor. She doesn't see a change in the county. The law only seems to apply to counties where there is no SARB and it does prohibit a Superintendent of Schools in making a direct referral. The law requires intervention to be offered. A police officer can't cite a student for truancy. Students need to be referred to intervention. She added that we already go through the SARB process and offer services. SB 98 is temporary until the end of this school year. Compulsory education is still law during distance learning. Ms. McWaters shared that the CA Department of Education sent an email to State SARB members indicating that we can't move forward with a prosecution during distance learning. Ms. McWaters explained that she does not see that the law changed. She suggested that when doing interventions, making sure to cover what is being covered during distance learning; making sure students have devices and special needs are being met. Ms. McWaters stated that cases will be selective but are still planning on moving forward with cases. Mr. Gonzales stated everyone should continue with the work the way it has been done. Mr. Winters inquired regarding FAQ information that was posted on the CDE website. Mr. Winters explained that there is a blurb on the document that goes against what Ms. McWaters explained. Ms. McWaters stated that is not what the law says – it's a

blurb. Ms. McWaters has spoken to other DA's and they also agreed that what is written on the FAQ document is not the law. She added that truancy laws do apply during distance learning.

Mr. Ridge asked that if Public Health gives us direction to restrict a child from school and a child is sent home and is restricted from returning to school; how would that be coded for attendance purposes? What if the student completes the work while he/she is out? The student must be provided distance learning during the time they are quarantined. If they do the work, they should be counted present. It is important that work is being offered to those students that can't be on campus; they should be offered educational services.

Ms. McWaters stated that per the email that was received from the State, it reads as though truancy letters 1, 2, 3 do not apply. She does not see in the law that letters 1, 2, 3 have been suspended. If going forward with cases, letters 1, 2, 3 should be tailored letters about the student being re-engaged. Mr. Ridge stated that CDE has shared letters that have that language. Mr. Gonzales agreed that letters 1, 2, 3 should be modified with the re-engagement information.

- Public Defender's Office – Ms. Taylor thanked everyone for their efforts to keep students engaged.
- Probation Agency – Ms. Simonsgaard asked that everyone please share a free virtual event, Parent Café, that will be offered in English and Spanish. The flyer with detailed information was sent out to the group in an email from Ms. Roman.
- Gateway Community School – Mr. Taylor shared that Gateway has had a couple of expulsions during distance learning. Gateway is accepting referrals, please contact Mr. Taylor with any referral or expulsion questions.
- Behavior Health – Nothing to report.
- Public Health – Ms. Jimenez shared that there is a list of testing locations on the Public Health website. She encourages everyone to get a flu vaccine.
- Human Services Agency/Children Family Services – Nothing to report.
- Human Services Agency/CalWORKs – Ms. Garcia shared that the pandemic EBT cards were sent out for August and September; this is an extension for children that previously received these benefits.
- Community Partners – Nothing to report.

Around the Table: Successes, Challenges and Needs

Mr. Gonzales shared he had his first SARB meeting. It took a lot of prep and new skills. Spent time with staff on how to set up Google Hangouts. He added that a link was set up for each case scheduled for the day. Some families may not have a computer and/or prefer to come to the site. For those families that chose to come to the site, a computer was set up in a room and they were in the room by themselves. They are learning by trial and error. They call the day before the meeting to



remind the parent of previous conversations and to remind them about the upcoming meeting. Not all parents show up, but staff reschedules the appointment. Success: Families show up and student is in class the next day. Challenges: Communication with families. Needs: Staff with new procedures.

Mr. Gonzales asked if anyone wanted to share a success, challenge, etc. Ms. McWaters shared that a challenge many still have is a child losing their device. Mr. Gonzales stated they have two staff members designated to review technology issues with students and parents. Hot spots continue to be purchased. Ms. Garcia asked if the student is responsible to pay for a lost hot spot. Mr. Gonzales said yes, ultimately, they are responsible. Ms. Lopez shared that some of the SARB meetings were falling behind when meetings were scheduled back to back. Mr. Gonzales suggested having two staff members in the meeting, and maybe one close the current meeting and the other staff member open the next meeting or schedule more time in between meetings. Ms. McWaters asked that communication options be given to parents. She thought including a phone number to the meeting invite might be helpful.

Monthly Court Fines and Fees

Ms. Roman will email the Monthly Court Fines and Fees document.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Trainings and Workshops Upcoming from VCOE – Virtual unless noted *

- December 16, 2020 - School Attendance: Systems and Accountability & Supervisor of Attendance Certification Training / 8:30AM to 3:00PM
- February 4, 2021 - Annual Legislative Update / 8:30AM to 12:00PM

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting

- January 13, 2021 - Zoom