

**MONTECITO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
Special Board Meeting Minutes  
November 29, 2021**

Present: Mrs. Susannah Osley, President, Mr. Chad Chase, Vice President, Mrs. Jacqueline Duran, Member and, Mrs. Jessica Smith, Member, and Mr. Peter van Duinwyk, Member.

Staff Present: Mr. Anthony Ranii, Superintendent, Ms. Virginia Alvarez, Chief Business Official, Dr. Nick Bruski, Principal, Mr. Rusty Ito, Assistant Principal, and Mrs. Autumn Noe, Executive Assistant.

**Call to Order**

Board President, Mrs. Susannah Osley called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**Opening Business**

**Public Comment for Items on the Agenda**

There was no public comment.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mrs. Jessica Smith made the motion to approve the Agenda. Mr. Peter van Duinwyk seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members: Chase, Duran, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk.

***Strategic Initiative #1B: Academic Excellence and Whole-Child Success (Integrate a variety of learning experiences across all curricular areas for each student. Provide problem-solving opportunities to research, design, create, test, reflect upon, and explore concepts.)***

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Colonial Trip**

Mr. Anthony Ranii expressed gratitude to 5<sup>th</sup> grade parent Mrs. Olivia Marr who has been working with other parents and the administrative team in order to gather information and collaborate on finding solutions for the Colonial trip. He explained that at the November board meeting he gave the Board a recommendation and update to the week-long trip that starts in Philadelphia, travels to D.C., Monticello, Jamestown, and Williamsburg and that with direction of the Board he was to gather more information. Mr. Anthony Ranii presented to the Board that safety concerns and the inability to follow health orders is why he made the recommendation not to move forward with the trip. He reviewed and provided additional information which included; children that get sick with colds or the flu and the logistics of sick children requiring to isolate and being able not to continue on the trip, the possible legal opinion that both vaccinated and unvaccinated students must be given access to the trip, students that test positive for COVID-19 cannot travel by air and will need to be isolated, any unvaccinated person that comes into close contact with a COVID positive person must also self-isolate, and the ability to include trip insurance in case the trip gets canceled. He went into further details if students, staff, and chaperones were needing to isolate and not being able to continue on with the trip and for the students that did not have their parents with them how they would return back to California.

He explained that with all of the information provided he would support parents to plan and organize a parent led trip. If parents do plan on moving forward with the trip they would need to commit by January 1, 2022.

Mr. Chad Chase inquired as to what guidelines are necessary to be followed when traveling outside of the State. Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that the school trip is providing school instruction and the rules must be followed as if you are at school.

He explained the three reasons as not to pursue the trip; could not successfully isolate symptomatic students during the trip which is following all Local and State orders, there is a higher risk to vaccinated and unvaccinated people as this is out of state travel to highly attended, public tourist destinations, and the risk for someone getting or being exposed to COVID would be serious and the logistics complicated.

The Board continued to discuss; whether or not the staff supported the recommendation, the importance of following local and state rules, and the importance of supporting parents to facilitate the trip.

Mrs. Kelly Shiffman and Mrs. Kat Jacobs were present and expressed gratitude for the support from the Board regarding having the discussion and receiving additional information regarding the logistics of the trip.

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that the Montecito Union School Foundation could possibly still support the scholarship component of the trip. Mrs. Susannah Osley thanked the parents present.

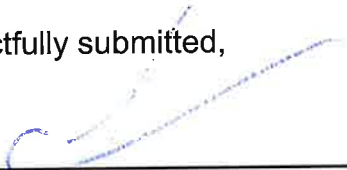
Mr. Peter van Duyinwyk made the motion to take action to not move forward on the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Colonial Trip for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Chad Chase added to the motion that the administration do what they legally/ethically can in order to make the parent trip successful. Mrs. Jessica Smith seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members: Chase, Duran, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk.

### **Closing Business**

#### **Adjournment**

Mr. Chad Chase made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 p.m. Mrs. Jessica Smith seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members: Chase, Duran, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk.

Respectfully submitted,



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Mr. Chad Chase  
Board Vice-President