

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SIERRA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD

October 15, 2020

*In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order pertaining to the convening of public meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SCOE School Attendance Review Board held this meeting via Zoom Videoconferencing.*

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OPEN SESSION MINUTES

- I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 9:02am
- II. ROLL CALL  
PRESENT:  
  X JAMES BERARDI, Chairman, Superintendent and Downieville Schools Administrator  
  X ANDREA CERESOLA (WHITE), Administrator, Loyalton Elementary School  
  X TOM JONES, Administrator, Loyalton High School/Sierra Pass Continuation School  
  X J. LON COOPER, Sierra County Public Defender  
  X SANDRA GROVEN, Sierra County District Attorney  
  X SOFIA GONZALEZ, Sierra County Deputy Probation Officer, *alternate for Chuck Henson*  
  X LAURIE MARSH, Sierra County Behavioral Health  
  X CARA BOWLING, Sierra County Behavioral Health, Student-Parent Navigator  
  X SHERI ROEN, Parent Representative  
  X JAMIE SHILTZ, Sierra County Child Protective Services  
*\*\*one vote per agency*  
  X KRISTIE JACOBSEN, Secretary
- ABSENT:  
  CHUCK HENSON, Sierra County Chief Probation Officer  
  KRISTAL EVANS, Sierra County Social Services, *alternate for Jamie Shiltz*  
  MIKE FISHER, Sierra County Sheriff  
  BRAD DEMPSTER, Sierra County Deputy Sheriff, *alternate for Mike Fisher*
- VACANT: NONE
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA  
*COOPER motioned to approve agenda with addition of discussion item AB 901 after item V per Sofia Gonzalez. Second by GROVEN.*  
9/0
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the February 20, 2020 meeting  
*JONES/COOPER*  
9/0
- V.   SARB IN THE TIME OF COVID-19  
*BERARDI: Schools closed mid-March and we went to a Distance Learning model for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. We worked on reopening plans over the summer and were able to open the elementary schools to in-person learning on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The Jr/Sr high schools were able to open to in-person learning this Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, a month ahead of schedule, thanks to the low cases of COVID in the county and we are moving through the tiers set by the state. We are in close contact with the County Health Department. What does SARB look like for the 2020-21 school year? With the abnormal learning models the students have been forced to adjust to we are showing empathy and being flexible with students and their attendance. Some students were having connectivity issues as well as little to no supervision at home due to parents needing to work. That's not to say they are not still being held accountable for attendance and engagement, but there's been a lot of leniency up to this point.*

Each site has been reaching out to the students and parents to help solve issues to the extent possible. Now that all school sites are back to in-person learning we will "reset" our attendance monitoring. We should see a shift back to better attendance and engagement from those students we saw fall off with the Distance Learning model. The SARB list would be pretty substantial today if we were not taking into consideration all of the factors playing into each student's attendance and engagement. As has always been our goal, we will always try to work with the students and families at the site level to support them as much as possible before bringing them in front of SARB.

V.VI. ASSEMBLY BILL 901 – CHANGES TO SARB

GONZALEZ: The Governor signed AB 901 in September. It goes into effect January 1, 2021. This bill makes changes to how juvenile cases are handled by probation and the court which ultimately impacts how we handle juveniles through SARB as well. A copy of the bill and highlighted changes will be sent to JACOBSEN and distributed to all SARB members following this meeting.

JONES: We will have to review SARB policies and bylaws to make the necessary updates.

VI.VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

CHARLES ERVIN—Presiding Judge, Sierra Superior Court: Recidivism rates in the youth court environment are at 7% versus 70% in the adult prison population. It's worth highlighting that getting kids on the right trajectory early on keeps them out of the pipeline from school to prison – the pipeline begins with kids not going to school. We're in a dynamic situation that we've never been in before, and everyone is scrambling to adjust. I just want to encourage the SARB board to remain open-minded regarding truancy. The state SARB board is concerned about seeing a huge increase in drop-outs this year, but that remains to be seen. Continue open communication with our youth to have a positive impact and work with them through these challenging times to keep them engaged and attending school.

VII.VIII. CLOSED SESSION at 9:35am

The Student Attendance Review Board moved into Closed Session to consider and/or take action upon student or attendance related matters. Pursuant to Education Code Sections 35146 and 48912, the Board may hold closed sessions to consider an action against a pupil.

1. STUDENT HEARINGS – none
2. CASE REVIEW/PLANNING
  - a. Watch List
  - b. School
  - c. Law Enforcement
  - d. Human Services/Mental Health
  - ~~d.e. Legal~~

VIII.IX. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION at 10:17am

IX.X. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

*Nothing to report*

X.XI. ACTION ITEMS – none


XI.XII. NEXT MEETING DATE will be November 19, 2020

*\*\*Via Zoom again unless any Student Hearings are scheduled*

XII.XIII. ADJOURN at 10:19am

JONES/GONZALEZ

9/0

  
James Berardi  
Chairman