



## DISTRICT NEWS BRIEF & UPDATES

February 12, 2021

From the Office of Superintendent David Alexander, Ed.D.

3150 Education Drive Santa Rosa, CA 95407 (707) 542-5197  
[www.bUSD.org](http://www.bUSD.org)



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*Mission: Inspire learning*  
*Vision: Engaging and ♥ (valuing/caring) for our families, students and staff to empower our community.*

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### Dear Bellevue Union School District Families and Staff,

The safety of our students, staff, parents and community is a high priority as we consider reopening our schools to an in-person educational model. Each school district in our county lies in distinct communities with their own set of variables to consider on how best to reopen. On top of these factors we have constant new guidance and requirements directed by county and state public health.

The big question for us all is; when will we reopen to in-person learning? Some school districts have projected designated specific target dates and many have not.

As shared in our last week's newsletter: A special board was held on 2/3/21 to allow the board to discuss the current resolution which extended the non-use of in-person instruction to February 8, 2021. However, this resolution was due to expire and considering the next regular board meeting is not scheduled until February 16, 2021, it was necessary to hold a special board meeting to allow our school board the opportunity to discuss this issue. The common theme was safety for our students, staff and community and the desire to get our students back to in person. Each one of our board members expressed their concerns and directed the superintendent to draw up a resolution to extend the non-use of in-person instruction to March 16th or when deemed safe to return to in-person learning. This resolution will be considered at the February 16th board meeting. Our school board would like to express to our community considering our current local data that there is a chance that we may not be returning for the rest of the year. We will continue to monitor the local metrics as well as continue to work on the necessary components needed.

SCOE has been advised that Sonoma County may enter the Red Tier sooner than anticipated due to the state's health equity metric. Please be aware the county-wide metrics may be much different than within our zip codes. We are expecting revised guidance from the Governor's office in the next day or so and will provide any new updates as available. In addition, we are still waiting for the specific school safety plans template. Other districts have attempted to submit their own versions and at this time no plans have been approved. These roadblocks and obstacles are no doubt frustrating; however, I believe, I remember someone saying this is not a sprint. We will continue to keep you informed through our newsletters, webpage and social media.

As shared in our last newsletter, Sonoma County has begun to implement the vaccination plan for school employees. We sent all staff members an email with an update of the implementation. In general, school employees eligible for vaccination during the week of February 15 are limited to:

1. **Cohort A only (BUSD is in Cohort B):** Pre-K-6 staff (of any age) including childcare workers, preschool providers, and K-6 school staff.
2. All school employees age 70 and older regardless of their work assignment
3. Educators who currently have direct contact with students

We are hopeful that this is a big step toward the reopening of our schools.

In addition, we continue to work diligently for the reopening of our schools to an in-person educational program on our school campuses.

Last week we reached out to all our stakeholders requesting input to our reopening plans. We will be revising the reopening plan based on the input and additional information and guidance being provided to school districts. Once our Return to In-Person Plan is a solid draft we will be holding town hall meetings as well as reaching out to you asking for your preferences in our programs. Our reopening plan will be presented at an upcoming board meeting. That date will be announced soon.

#### STATE NEWS

##### **Newsom: school reopening deal could come this week**

Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Legislature are getting close to a deal on reopening elementary schools and hope to announce a final plan this week, the governor said yesterday. A key sticking point has been vaccines, and whether teachers will need to be vaccinated before returning to classrooms. Teacher unions argue schools shouldn't require teachers to return unless they've been offered the vaccine. Newsom says that won't be possible because there are simply not enough shots available to inoculate all teachers and school employees before the end of this school year. At this point, Newsom says negotiations on schools are focused on statewide standards for vaccinations, protective equipment, testing, spacing and other safety measures. He and lawmakers are also negotiating over possible extensions to the school year to make up for lost learning. Newsom said he's hoping to also reach a deal on allowing more youth sports this week.

[Sacramento Bee](#)

#### NATIONAL NEWS

##### **Biden administration quizzed on school reopenings**

As President Joe Biden and his administration navigate the political and practical implications of trying to help U.S. schools reopen their doors to students in the first few months of his presidency, concerns are rising that the White House's definition of reopening schools doesn't perfectly match what many people are picturing. Since Biden's inauguration, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki has been quizzed regularly about the administration's position on the issue. On Tuesday, a reporter asked for more details about the administration's idea of what it means to reopen schools; whether that meant teachers in classrooms teaching students in classrooms, or whether it just meant kids in classrooms, but still on screens with teachers at remote locations. After noting that it meant in-person classes in the majority of schools, without specifying K-8 schools, by day 100 of his presidency, Ms Psaki said, "That means some teaching in classrooms. So at least one day a week. Hopefully it's more." Martin R. West, a professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education who's looked at polling data on reopening schools and written about the issue, comments: "It seems like they are making the target less ambiguous, but also less ambitious than what I think many people had interpreted it to mean. I think what it means is parents and advocates hoping for a major federal push to reopen schools in a more robust manner in the 2020-21 school year are going to be disappointed."

[Education Week](#)

#### **Resources:**

1. The SCOE Communications team has developed a frequently asked questions section available now at [scoe.org/vaccines](https://scoe.org/vaccines). This reflects the most common questions received to date and will be updated to reflect new questions and changing information. A Spanish version will be available early next week.
2. [COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year.](#)
3. [Sonoma County Coronavirus Data at Glance](#)

#### **SCHOOL SITE SUPPORT:**

**Bellevue: Nina Craig, Principal**

Registration for 2021-22 School Year Open! Complete it online, call, or come by the office!

Hiring for Special Education Instructional Aide - Please call if you're interested! 542-5195

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

No School Monday Feb. 15

ELAC Friday, Feb 19; 9:00 (zoom link texted)

Site Council Friday, Feb 19; 12:00 (zoom link texted)

Weekly Meals and Food Pantry Tuesday 12:00

Office hours: Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00

Email Principal Craig [ncraig@busd.org](mailto:ncraig@busd.org) Office Manager, Karina [kmartinez@busd.org](mailto:kmartinez@busd.org) Parent Liaison, Amy [aflorescasares@busd.org](mailto:aflorescasares@busd.org) with any questions.

### **Kawana Springs: Denise McCullough, Principal**

Thanks to the families who participated in our Health and Wellness Challenge! More info to come on our raffle...

Kindergarten Registration is open! Register online or stop by our office today!

We have openings for Special Education Instructional Assistants- please email Principal McCullough or call the office if interested! 545-4283

No School- Monday, Feb. 15

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Kindness Week- Feb. 16-19 (see flyer sent for details)

School Site Council- Thursday, Feb. 18, 2:30 p.m.

Food Pantry- Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:00 p.m.

Grab-and-Go lunches: Tuesdays, 10:00-12:00 p.m.

You may email or call Principal McCullough [dmccullough@busd.org](mailto:dmccullough@busd.org), Office Manager Susy Bradley [sbradley@busd.org](mailto:sbradley@busd.org), or Parent Liaison Angelina Estrada [aestrada@busd.org](mailto:aestrada@busd.org) with any questions.

### **Meadow View: Jean Walker, Principal**

Kindergarten Registration is open! Register online, call or stop by our office today!

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

No School Monday, February 15th

Grab n Go meals Tuesday 11:30-1:30

Food Pantry Every Tuesday 2:00-3:00

If you have any questions please call or stop by during our office hours (8:00-4:00). Masks and social distancing required for the safety of all.

Please call the office or if you have questions email; Principal Walker [jwalker@busd.org](mailto:jwalker@busd.org), Office Manager Ana Peoples, [apeoples@busd.org](mailto:apeoples@busd.org), Office Assistant- Isabel Luna, [imluna@busd.org](mailto:imluna@busd.org), or Parent Liaison Natali Ramirez, [nramirez@busd.org](mailto:nramirez@busd.org).

### **Taylor Mountain: Margaret Jacobson, Principal**

Kindergarten Registration is open! Register online or stop by our office today!

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

No School Monday Feb. 15

Special Mr. Science Zooms Feb. 18 (teacher provides zoom links)

Coffee Zoom with the Principal: Feb. 24, 9:00 am

Grab n Go meals Tuesday 10:30 am-1:30 pm

Food Pantry Every Tuesday 12:00-1:00 pm

Office hours: Monday - Friday 8:00am-4pm. Masks and social distancing required for the safety of all.

Please call or stop by with questions: 542-3671; Principal Margaret Jacobson [mjacobson@busd.org](mailto:mjacobson@busd.org); Office Manager Julie Roza [jroza@busd.org](mailto:jroza@busd.org), Office Asst. Hope Leon [hleon@busd.org](mailto:hleon@busd.org), or Parent Liaison Juana Solis [jsolis@busd.org](mailto:jsolis@busd.org)

### **DISTRICT SUPPORT:**

Information Technology, Lawrence Black, Director

We are open at our Learning Center office at 2641 Dutton Meadow from 8:00-4:00 for all parent support needs. English and Spanish support available.

- Email - [ithelp@busd.org](mailto:ithelp@busd.org)
- Call - 1-707-544-8164

#### **Human Resources: Siara Goyer, Director**

Join the BUSD team! Applications for job opportunities and more at Bellevue Union School District can be found at [Edjoin.org](https://edjoin.org) Please Note: While Siara is out on Maternity Leave, Lindsay McLaughlin will be assisting in the HR office. Her email is [lmclaughlin@busd.org](mailto:lmclaughlin@busd.org) for any HR questions or concerns.

#### **Food Services: Kayla Todd, Food Program Manager**

**Curbside meal pick is Tuesday every week.**

Please note that the meals are “grab and go” and will include 5 days worth of meals.

Reminder: School lunches are FREE FOR ALL CHILDREN under 18, pick up 5 days worth of breakfast and lunch at the following sites:

- 10am-12pm Kawana Elementary
- 10:30am-1:30pm Taylor Mountain Elementary
- 12pm-1pm Bellevue Elementary
- 11:30am-1:30pm Meadow View Elementary

#### **Business Services, Chris Kim, CBO**

*Update to the Annual Audit Presentation:* The District’s Audit of its FY 2019/2020 Financials is on track to be completed by Christy White and Associated and will be presented to the Board of Trustees on March 9, 2021.

*2nd Interim Report and Cash Flow Updates:* The District will be presenting its 2nd Interim financial report covering the period between July 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021. This report will include the most up to date Cash Flow Projections.

*Governor’s Proposed Budget:* On January 8, 2021, the Governor released his proposed State Budget for the upcoming 2021-2022 fiscal year. Governor Newsom’s State Budget focused on the impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic along with a push to safely reopen schools. Some of the major 2021-22 budget components include: (1) funding for in-personal instruction grants, expanded instructional time, and educator professional learning; (2) a 3.84% compounded COLA, applied to LCFF base grant in 2021-22 and 1.5% COLA for other programs; and (3) funding to eliminate the on-going deferrals scheduled for February 2022 through May 2022. Important to note, Cash Deferrals for 2020-21 remain in place as scheduled.

*Tax Revenue Anticipation Note (TRANS):* Due to the State Cash Deferrals taking place in the current fiscal year, the District has partnered with the Sonoma County Office of Education and the firm, Governmental Financial Strategies, to evaluate the need for a Tax Revenue Anticipation Note. In the event that the District is unable to close the fiscal year with a positive unrestricted cash balance in its General Fund, the District may need to borrow from future property tax revenue to meet its financial obligations.

*2nd Round of ESSER (Learning Loss Mitigation Funding):* A second round of ESSER funds was approved by Congress in December 2020 and funding will be disbursed to LEAs based on Title I allocations. While official details have not yet been released, we anticipate that the ESSER II funds will not be disbursed until the 2021-22 fiscal year.

#### **Executive Assistance, Moriah Hart**

New student registration is open both [online](#) and hard copy packets available at the school sites. Students eligible for kindergarten are 5 years old on or before September 1, 2021. Students turning 5 years old September 2 through December 2, 2021 are eligible for TK (transitional kinder). Depending on space we may accept students born December 3rd through March 1 to what we call TK plus. To register you will need a copy

of the birth certificate, proof of residence (PG&E or water bill, lease), immunizations, physical and dental exam. Please call your school office with any questions.

In partnership with you,

Dr. David Alexander

Superintendent

BELLEVUE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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