



*The Rodeo Municipal Advisory Committee serves as an advisory body to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and the County Planning Agency.*

## Record of Action

May 28, 2020, 11:00 a.m.

### **CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) ADVISORY WARNING** **STAY SAFE, STAY HEALTHY, STAY HOME**

The Contra Costa County Health Department has ordered individuals in Contra Costa County to “shelter in place”. The California Department of Public Health issued its “Mass Gatherings Guidance on Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19” followed by a recommendation that certain gatherings in California be postponed or canceled. The Governor of the State of California issued Executive Order N-25-20 which, among other things, orders that all California residents are to “. . . heed any orders and guidance of state and local public health officials, including but not limited to the imposition of social distancing measures, to control the spread of COVID-19” and pursuant to Executive Order N-33-20 has ordered all individuals in California to stay home or at their place of residence with very limited exceptions. That means residents must obey State and County rules and guidelines.

Contra Costa County and Supervisor Glover’s office will **not** make available any physical location from which members of the public may observe the meeting and offer public comment. Due to COVID-19 and our technical capabilities, the public will not be able to join the meeting through our video communication platform. Instead, members of the public may address the meeting remotely. Below is information on how to do that.

#### **How to Submit Public Comments:**

**Written:** All comments must be received **before 3:00 pm the day before the meeting, which is Wednesday, May 27**. Please email your comments to [Dominic.Aliano@bos.cccounty.us](mailto:Dominic.Aliano@bos.cccounty.us). Your comments will be read out loud during the meeting and will be reflected in the minutes.

1. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call**

Deborah Drake  Anthony Hodge  Theresa Foglio  
 Barbara Vargen-Kotchevar  Lauren McCollins

2. **Approval of Agenda and Record of Actions**

- A. November 19, 2019 Agenda and Record of Action – Motion by: Deborah Drake Seconded by: Barbara VK Vote: 4-0-1
- B. December 19, 2019 Agenda and Record of Action – Motion by: Barbara VK Seconded by: Deborah Drake Vote: 4-0-1
- C. January 23, 2019 Agenda and Record of Action – Motion by: Deborah Drake Seconded by: Barbara VK Vote: 4-0-1
- D. February 27, 2020 Agenda and Record of Action – Motion by: Deborah Drake Seconded by: Barbara VK Vote: 4-0-1
- E. March 26, 2020 Agenda and Record of Action – Motion by: Deborah Drake Seconded by: Barbara VK Vote: 4-0-1
- F. April 23, 2020 Agenda and Record of Action – Motion by: Deborah Drake Seconded by: Barbara VK Vote: 4-0-1

3. **Presentation**

a) California Highway Patrol (CHP)

- Not Present

b) Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Office

- Lt. Buford reported that there was a slight uptick in crime in Rodeo. There was a homicide and they did make arrests related to the homicide. The Sheriff’s Department is seeing crime reduce when the shelter in place continues to open more. Currently citing people that are committing crimes because with COVID-

# Rodeo Municipal Advisory Council



**Dr. Anthony Hodge, Chairman**  
**Supervisor Federal D. Glover, District V**

Dominic Aliano, Staff Liaison for the Rodeo MAC  
151 Linus Pauling, Hercules, CA 94547 (510) 942-4200

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19 health order is keeping the jails from getting crowded with people.

c) Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District Report

- Chief Craig reported that Covid-19 has not stopped their response yet the equipment that they wear and use has been changing. The employees are having their temperatures taken and are also being vetted through questions to make sure they do not have COVID-19. Calls have reduced during Covid-19 and now the calls are going back up. Staffing has not changed.

d) John Sweet Unified School District (JSUSD)

- Board Member Deborah Brandon's report is in the following attachment.

5. **Public Comments (2 Minutes per speaker)**

**Please see how to submit Public Comment above.**

- No Public Comment

6. **Update from Supervisor Glover**

- Supervisor Glover thanked everyone for their service and mentioned that we need to find the good within the bad. There will be a new normal and need to figure out how to conduct ourselves in this environment. Introduced Dr. Thomas Warne who is a Deputy Health Officer for Contra Costa County.
- Dr. Warne from the Department of Public Health reported Contra Costa County Health Services dashboard and guided us through it. Went over the numbers and shared with us that the report for new cases went up but our progress since March has been really strong. Overall, the new cases have been reducing yet there was a slight rise and have mentioned that the cases have gone up because of the improvement with testing. We need to continue to cover or face and wash our hands. We have had great success and now we are focusing on the work that needs to be done so we can start to reopen. Dr. Warne showed us the indicators need in order to open more.
- Dominic Aliano reported that the Rodeo Downtown Infrastructure project started and should be finished by August 2020. The project consists of ADA compliant sidewalks, curbs, gutters, a storm water treatment area with landscaping components, storm drain installation, a bike lane, an ADA compliant concrete path and soldier pile walls. Work will be done on Pacific Avenue, Investment Street, and the intersection of San Pablo Avenue, Willow Avenue, and Parker Avenue.
- Dominic Aliano also informed the Rodeo MAC about the Census 2020. The Census 2020 is very important because it provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products and support for you and your community. Every year billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, and roads because of census data. After discussion, Dominic was going to send the Rodeo Mac and JSUSD information on the census.

7. **M.A.C. Committee and/or Member Reports**

\_\_\_ Deborah Drake \_\_\_ Anthony Hodge \_\_\_ Theresa Foglio \_\_\_ Barbara Vargen-Kotchevar \_\_\_ Lauren McCollins

- Deborah Drake – Reported that the Bayo Vista Resident Council is providing 3 meals a day for Bayo Vista kids. They continue to have CAP meetings and even gave out some scholarships.
- Anthony Hodge – Reported that New Horizons is suffering and has no funding because of COVID-19 and does not know what will happen to them. The Zion Hill Baptist Church has been giving out groceries.
- Theresa Foglio – Reported EBRPD has been doing a great job of keeping their trail in Rodeo clean but mentioned that there are homeless on the railroad tracks. Wants to put the debris on the railroad on the agenda and she received the 3 votes.

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- Barbara Vargen-Kotchevar – Mentioned that she would like to put the Rodeo Clean Up back on the agenda and she received the votes to put it on the agenda.
- Lauren McCollins – Supports talking about the Clean Up. Wants to put the Lefty Gomez sign in Rodeo on the agenda and she received the 3 votes.

### 8. **Future Agenda Items:** REVIEW & DISCUSS

#### **Adjournment**

The next RMAC meeting is Thursday, June 25, at the Rodeo Senior Center.

Motion made by: Anthony Hodge Seconded by: Deborah Drake Vote: 5-0

**Subject:** Re: Rodeo Municipal Advisory Council Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 9:19:58 AM Pacific Daylight Time

**From:** Deborah Brandon

**To:** Dominic Aliano

**CC:** District5, Lynn Reichard, David Fraser, Vincent Manuel, Anthony Hodge, Deborah Drake, Theresa, Theresa Foglio, Barbara, Lauren McCollins, Joseph Buford, Bryan Craig, Charles Miller

JSUSD Report

Hello everyone, I hope this email finds you and your families healthy and in good spirits. I am sending this out ahead of our RMAC meeting.

I thought it was a great time to step back and take a look at the progress in our district over the last three years. At times it is easy to lose sight of the end goal because it feels we are moving at a snail's pace, but the road is long and we need to be persistent.

I have not touched on the progress of the construction, but will do so in my next address to RMAC.

This email entails the progress made over the last three years at JSUSD, we are very fortunate that we were able to choose Dr. Charles Miller out of a pool of candidates for his track record in similar circumstances, his grasp of the district's issues and strategies for success as well as his collaborative approach. As a board we were aware that our district needed to undergo an ambitious plan to change our culture. The nature of education and its structure makes this a slow process, but we are gaining ground.

We have since replaced several of the administrators and some key office personnel who have greatly supported the vision of Dr. Charles Miller and the Governing Board.

**Moving from Sorting and Excluding to Supporting and Including:** For a long time in our society, schools have traditionally been sorting institutions that reify social class distinctions and access to economic opportunity. John Swett Unified had a system of schooling that had many aspects of this sorting process still embedded within its systems and overall culture. Evidence of this sorting and excluding within the District was manifested by excessively high suspension data for African American and socio-economically disadvantaged students. During the 2016-17 school year, the suspension rate for students was three times the State average. Furthermore, the suspension rate for African American male students was so high that we were identified as one of the fifteenth worst districts in the State of California. This was not a good statistic and had civil rights implications. Through careful attention to alternatives to suspension and restorative practices, we were able to reverse this trend in suspensions. We now rank below the state and county average for suspensions, especially for African American students.

**Supporting the Whole Child:** Prior to my arrival in the District, we had suppressed academic achievement for all students, and especially for students of color and socio-economically disadvantaged students. Our California School Dashboard had academic achievement indicators in the Red and Orange for both mathematics and English/Language Arts. Dashboard indicators of Red and Orange are considered low. In addition, we had our African American students and students with Disabilities scoring at extremely low levels, which placed us in "Differentiated Assistance" by the County. By focusing on academic and social-emotional systems of support, we have been able to steadily increase academic achievement in the District. As of this date, we no longer have ANY dashboard indicators in the Red or Orange. Furthermore, almost all of our sub-groups have shown signs of academic growth and we are no longer designated as in need of "Differentiated Assistance" by the County. By using multi-tiered systems of support, and our Coordination of Services Teams (COST), we have been able to deliver targeted assistance to students who are at-risk of failing.

**Balancing the Budget:** Enrollment was in decline and we were grossly overstaffed. Through a thoughtful and strategic process, we were able to fiscally rehabilitate the District. By capitalizing on attrition events (when an employee left the District on their own), we were able to contract our staffing and realize

significant fiscal savings. In addition, through careful cash management, we were also able to increase our Reserves from 3% to 6%, which is proving to be especially important in light of the recent round of budget cuts due to Covid-19.

### **Next Three Steps:**

**Navigating through Covid-19:** The crisis brought about by the Coronavirus pandemic will have significant implications for the District for the coming years. We have already seen significant shifts in the way we deliver instruction, supporting students, and meeting the needs of families. We are also dealing with a massive reduction in State funding. These challenges will take up much of our time and energy as we seek to protect the core functions of the District. We will be working through a stakeholder involved process in order to figure out how we will open school safely in the fall, deal with a hybrid of Distance Learning and face-to-face instruction, and keep our students and staff safe.

**Addressing Equity Needs of the District:** As we continue to focus on improving academic achievement, we will be turning our attention to equity needs within our District. We still have many students and families who feel unseen and disenfranchised. This is especially true for our students and families of color and our socio-economically disadvantaged students. We will be doing work related to better understanding the role of implicit bias and racism within our system. We will also focus on the need for increased culturally responsive teaching and meeting the needs of our English Learners. Finally, we will be seeking the involvement and input of all parents in the District as we move forward to serving students.

**Bond Projects:** Over the next few years we will be seeking to bring our School Bond construction projects to fruition. This will entail close oversight of two major bond projects that include the remodel of John Swett High School and building a new Carquinez Middle School. I will be focusing on ensuring that these projects reach completion, applying for additional State monies, and assisting staff as they transition into our new facilities. In addition, I will be keeping our community informed about the progress of the Bond projects and the use of tax monies in this process.

Thank you for joining us on our Journey and supporting JSUSD.

*Warm Regards,*

Deborah Brandon

JSUSD Governing Board Member

400 Parker Ave, Rodeo CA 94572

### **Vision**

**The John Swett Unified School District is a marvelously diverse, welcoming, and inviting community of learners.**

### **Mission**

**The John Swett Unified School District provides every student...**

- **A safe, equitable and restorative culture and community;**
- **The opportunity to realize their full potential;**
- **Access to an excellent 21st Century Education;**
- **The skills and knowledge to pursue lifelong learning.**