



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## SUPERINTENDENT

Jodee Brentlinger

September 17, 2021

Dear Solana Beach School District Families,

As we finish our fifth week of school, I want to take a moment to share with you my gratitude for all of our students, staff, families, and community members. While none of us expected to still be navigating through a pandemic after 18 months, daily I am in awe of the commitment, strength, and fortitude by which I am surrounded. I had the opportunity to visit and observe school sites yesterday and was able to speak with many of our students about their experiences so far this school year. I would like to share some of their observations and experiences that reaffirm why I love being an educator.

*First graders in Ms. Samuelson's class: "We like being back in school, our popsicle parties, and center times."*

*Fifth graders in Ms. Gusman's class: "We like that we are back at school in-person, get to play with more friends, sit at our table groups, and have Discovery Labs in-person again."*

*Fifth graders in Ms. Gurley's class: "We like that we get to sit at tables with more people and interact, play with more friends, and that safety measures help keep us safe and in school."*

Again, thank you for all you do every day to help us keep students safe and in school by performing daily symptom screening, keeping symptomatic children home, encouraging hand washing and mask wearing, and limiting potential COVID exposure outside of school.

Please see below for important information regarding Child Nutrition, updates on quarantine restrictions and virtual Board meetings, and a dangerous social media trend.

### **Child Nutrition Services**

This month, SBSB Child Nutrition Services has worked tirelessly to implement the new "Free Meals for All Students" model in our schools. Every day, a dedicated crew of student-loving staff shows up to our kitchens to serve free "Grab & Go" breakfasts at first recess and lunch midday. In the first five weeks alone, the team has served over 80,000 meals to our hungry students, already eclipsing the total meals served for the entirety of last year! SBSB is fortunate in that it does not serve pre-packaged meals and even with the increased volume, we remain committed to providing fresh and tasty scratch meals while ensuring compliance with all school nutrition and USDA requirements. If your student has not yet participated, please encourage them to take advantage of this opportunity.

### **Quarantine Update**

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) this week updated the quarantine processes for when there are direct contact exposures to students **outside of a school setting**. Prior to this

309 North Rios Avenue, Solana Beach, California 92075-1298 • Phone (858) 794-7100 • Fax (858) 794-7105

revision, any direct contact outside of a school setting was only given one quarantine option, which was Return on Day 15. The CDPH has amended that guidance to allow for Return on Day 8 (following proof of a negative COVID-19 test on Day 6 or later) or Return on Day 11 (without a testing requirement) quarantine options. Students exposed due to a positive COVID-19 household member are not eligible for this change and must consult with a school nurse to determine their date of return.

### **Virtual Board Meetings**

As reported in the September 10 Board Bulletin, the Board of Education and staff appreciate and value the increased involvement and participation of our community during the past 18 months of virtual Board meetings. The Executive Order permitting school board meetings through video conferencing measures was set to expire September 30, 2021. It was learned last Friday that an extension to this provision is forthcoming and awaiting the Governor's signature. Based on this new information, the proposed pilot of a live-streaming system for the Special Board meeting on September 23, 2021, will be postponed. As more details surrounding the extension become known they will be shared with our staff, parents, and community.

### **Beware of a Devious Lick TikTok Challenge**

Some of you may have heard of a recent "challenge" on the social media app TikTok where individuals are encouraging others to steal or damage school property. The original video on TikTok now has over 11 million views and many re-creations. Students are stealing things from their campuses such as soap dispensers, toilet paper holders, microscopes, signs, a box of hand sanitizer, teacher's car keys, and damaging drinking fountains, toilets, fire alarms and more.

While we have not experienced any vandalism or damage in SBSB, this is happening across the country. We want to protect our students and facilities, which is why we are reaching out. Our campuses are safe and clean spaces for our students and staff. Replacing any items is costly and takes precious time and resources away from other priorities. Beyond this, our plant foremen and custodial teams work very hard to serve our student population and keep our facilities clean and safe; especially with the increased measures from COVID-19.

Whether you allow your student to have social media, they will likely hear about this viral trend. We believe this "challenge" presents several opportunities. First, offers the chance to speak with your children about the appropriate use of technology and being socially responsible and kind. Second, it may offer an opportunity for students to be more observant about what is going on around them at school so they can help prevent an incident or report one to an adult on campus. Most importantly, we ask that you please speak with your student and remind them that this "challenge" is not an innocent prank and is classified as an illegal act.

We appreciate your support to keep our campuses safe by talking to your child about the adverse effects of peer pressure sometimes found on social media platforms. Thank you for partnering with us to keep our schools and students safe.

Sincerely,

Jodee Brentlinger, Superintendent

### **Next Regular Board Meeting**

Thursday, October 14, 2021, 6:30 p.m.



**A Spanish translation prepared by District staff will soon be available on our website.**

La traducción al español estará disponible próximamente en nuestro sitio web.

**A Chinese translation prepared by District staff will soon be available on our website.**

我们即将在学区网站上提供中文的翻译版本