Updates From Amador County School Board Meeting

With the School District planning to welcome back students to the classroom with a so-called hybrid model learning, the Amador School Board fielded criticism and addressed policy details as students and teachers prepare for in-person instruction.

While the Board’s last meeting was focused on the big questions of instruction in the age of COVID-19, last night’s meeting dealt with the details of mixing distance and in-person learning. Those details continue to evolve, as just this week the District announced that elementary school students will have a two days in-person/ two days distance learning schedule, matching the junior high and high school students. Originally the district had planned on four half-days of in-person learning a week, but lacked the transportation capacity to make it work.

The move to hybrid learning also came in for criticism during public comment as the Board heard from teachers concerned about the adequacy of the District safety measures, and from parents of students concerned that the change would disrupt coursework and class availability.

The Board also took a step to address a potential staffing shortfall, approving a pay increase for substitute teachers at the district, raising the daily rate from $110 to $175. The District has had difficulties filling substitute teaching positions, which are in demand as strict health guidelines prevent any in-classroom teaching by those who show any potential COVID symptoms.

