



Update on SUSD Governing Board meetings this week August 23, 2021

On Tuesday, August 17, the SUSD Governing Board held both a public hearing on a proposed Instructional Time Model for the 2021-2022 school year, as well as a special meeting to consider implementing a mask requirement. In the intervening days, there has been some confusion regarding the difference between a *public hearing* and *public comment* that we would like to clarify.

It is SUSD's practice to take public comment only at the **regular meetings** of the Governing Board (the 4th Tuesday of the month). The district does not take public comment at special meetings and is not required to do so under Arizona Open Meetings law. The special meeting last Tuesday included two specific agenda items, one of which required a "public hearing." When public hearings are required, those are conducted separately on the agenda and any member of the public may speak to the *specific topic* under consideration.

In response to the confusion around the difference between a public hearing and public comment, we have decided to separate the second public hearing on the Instructional Time Model from tomorrow's regular meeting of the Governing Board. The [second hearing](#) will be held this evening at 5 p.m. and will be conducted virtually. Interested parents, staff and community members can watch the meeting on the district's [YouTube channel](#) and may call in to provide feedback at 480-484-SUSD (7873).

The August regular monthly meeting of the Governing Board will take place tomorrow, Tuesday, August 24, beginning at 6 p.m. In consultation with the Scottsdale Police Department, we have decided to modify aspects of the meeting in order to ensure the safe and orderly conduct of the meeting agenda. The Governing Board will meet in person at Coronado High School, the usual location of its regular, monthly meetings. Staff members who are needed to address specific agenda items will be permitted in the Boardroom. However, no members of the public will be permitted in the room other than during the Public Comment section of the agenda. One individual at a time will be invited in to address the Governing Board.

This decision has been reached in consultation with the police department in light of past experience. On May 18, the Governing Board had to recess its meeting as a result of disruption related to the mask requirement that was in effect at the time and the refusal of some members of the audience to comply with the requirement. Last Tuesday, even though the Governing Board met remotely, there was an incident involving protesters outside the district office, during which an individual who disregarded police directives was arrested. This person was not an SUSD parent and was not a Scottsdale resident. Many of the people who created the disruption at the May 18 meeting were also not from Scottsdale, and social media chatter indicates that it is likely they will return for tomorrow's meeting.

The Governing Board is committed to hearing from our community and has established this modified process in order to allow public comment to be given in person, while also ensuring the meeting will be able to proceed without disruption. Masks will be required inside the Governing Board room. While waiting outside the school building to address the Board, masks are not required.

Governing Board meetings are available live and after the fact on the [district's YouTube channel](#).

Thank you.