



Amador County Unified School District
Superintendent's Report to the Board of Trustees
November 6, 2019

Topic: The Special Board of Trustees Meeting on November 1, 2019
Re: The Public Safety Power Shutoff Events of October 2019

The Board of Trustees is to be commended for their thoughtful discussion about this serious matter. The notes that follow are from the Board discussion and will be included in the meeting minutes.

Possible PSPS Solutions – Offered by the Board

- Explore the use solar energy for back-up battery support.
- Add more emergency days into the school calendar.
- Consider all options as to when to keep school open, including what are the circumstances at that time?
- Consider alternatives to school closure when not all parts of the county have lost power.
For example:
 - Move students to another school or location where there is power.
 - Consider available community resources in the affected area(s), and request to use other large facilities as relocation sites.
 - Consider how best to provide food during a relocation.
 - Consider meaningful educational experiences for students during a relocation.
- Consider how to support our employees who have lost power but who may work in another part of the county where power is on.
- Ideas for student intervention/support
 - Teacher make-up work day with students to offer intervention, tutoring, Advanced Placement (AP) course support, etc.
 - Involve students and teachers in the plan to keep up academically.
 - Provide ongoing MTSS support.
 - Consider “red file” approach with independent work for students.
 - Add suggestions for “at-home activities” to the Family Handbook, for reference.

PSPS Staff Follow-up

There are short-term, mid-term, and long-term action steps needed as a result of what we've learned from this experience. In the short-term, here are the next steps for staff:

- Collaborate with labor leaders to determine options and process for employee's work make-up days.
- Continue and strengthen MTSS work in progress targeting students who need support based on data and their voice.
- Activate student voice about what they say they need.
- Continue to explore a variety of alternatives to school closure.



AMADOR COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of the Superintendent

**Board of Trustees Special Meeting
November 1, 2019**

Public Safety Power Shutoff Events
October 9-11, 2019 and October 28-30, 2019
Understanding the Impacts & Planning for the Future

1. Students' Educational Progress
 - 4 days of lost learning (2 of 6 made up with built-in snow days)
 - Momentum, pacing, routines and structure interrupted
 - Parent/teacher conferences canceled or rescheduled
 - Special Education services, supports, IEP implementation delayed
 - State and AP exam preparation and career/college readiness jeopardized
2. Students' Social-emotional & Physical Health
 - Change in routine and structure
 - Access to staff and counselor support not available
 - Breakfast and lunch not provided
 - Lack of hot water and heat
3. Student & Staff Safety
 - Balancing safety with access/equity of learning opportunities
 - Access to telephones, emergency systems, restrooms, HVAC, septic, water
4. Impact on Employees
 - Uncertainty about work time and how/if it will be made up
 - Concern about impact on STRS/PERS and wages
 - Concern about lost learning time and pacing of lessons for students
 - All of the items below related to Impact on Families
5. Impact on Families
 - Availability and cost of child care
 - Loss of spoiled food
 - Stress due to safety concerns and unusual, emergency circumstances
 - Cost and availability of unexpected emergency equipment, supplies
 - Cold, hungry, tired
6. Facilities & Financial Implications
 - Cost of generators, portable restrooms, batteries, lamps, etc.
 - Loss of spoiled food
 - Potential loss of ADA funding if waiver not approved by State Board of Education
 - Extensive use of staff time for planning, communication, setting up temporary and emergency solutions, responding to community needs, etc.
7. Solutions
 - Submit Form J13 to CDE for student attendance waiver
 - Collaborate with labor leaders to make agreements about how to make up work days
 - Plan and implement interventions and other student services supports
 - Plan and prepare for future PSPS events
 - Collaborate with community partners
 - Advocate for no more PSPS events



AMADOR COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent, Amy L. Slavensky, Ph.D.

217 Rex Avenue, Jackson, CA 95642 | (209) 257-5353 | Fax (209) 257-5360 | www.amadorcoe.org

PREPARE, SUPPORT, INSPIRE!

October 31, 2019

PRESS RELEASE

RE: RECENT PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF (PSPS) EVENTS

Student and staff safety and student learning are our top priorities. The recent Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events posed a new challenge for us in both of these areas. As a 34 year veteran educator in California public schools, I'm very concerned. As a mother, I'm also concerned and very much understand the concerns of the families we serve and support. To date, we've had to close our schools for six full school days due to the power outages.

Our students live in a rural county with limited access to quality health and mental health services. Nearly 50% are living at or below the poverty line. Many are hungry, homeless, and/or foster youth. With school closures, our young children suffer due to the break in routine and structure. Some rely on the two free meals a day we provide and may have missed meals during this time. Our high school students may now be at risk of failing AP exams, not meeting UC/CSU admission requirements, and perhaps becoming less competitive with their college applications. With every school day they miss, they lose ground.

The Matthew effect (i.e., the rich get richer, and the poor get poorer) is already a real problem. The PSPS events are making it worse for our children. Our children's lives and futures are at stake. This cannot become the new normal.

Our Board of Trustees is equally concerned. Friday afternoon, November 1st, they will conduct a special board meeting where they will discuss the matter and consider adopting a resolution expressing their concern and ongoing commitment to serve and advocate for our students. Part of their unity of purpose is this: "We make policy decisions that ensure equitable support to increase student achievement and foster social, emotional, and physical well-being for all students." The PSPS events make that commitment very challenging.

In the days and weeks that follow, we will work with our school leaders and labor leaders to determine how best to make up for the loss of learning time and the missed work days for our employees. More information will follow about this.

I do understand and respect the concerns about wild fire and am sympathetic to the devastation happening now throughout our state and in Butte County last year. In fact, I personally reached out to and supported then Butte County Superintendent Tim Taylor as he was responding to and supporting his community. However, we must do something to keep our students in school. As your fellow Amador County citizen, let's work together as a community to address this new concern.

Amy L. Slavensky, Ph.D.

ACUSD Superintendent of Schools



**Public Safety Power Shutoff
October 2019**

**School Closure Dates
& Canceled or Rescheduled Events**

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Parent/Teacher Conferences for all Elementary Students
Special Education Study Team Meeting, Session 1 (full day)
School Site and District Office Secretaries Meeting
ACUSD & ACOE Board of Trustees Meetings

Thursday, October 10, 2019

Parent/Teacher Conferences for all Elementary Students
FOSS Science Professional Development

Friday, October 11, 2019

Parent/Teacher Conferences for all Elementary Students
FOSS Science Professional Development

Monday, October 28, 2019

Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) Meeting
Amador Parent Advisory Committee (APAC) Meeting

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Amador/Argonaut "Big Game" Football Breakfast

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

Special Education Study Team Meeting, Session 2 (full day)
"Big Game" Rallies in Downtown Sutter Creek and Jackson

Additionally, at the school level, learning was lost and many events were canceled or postponed such as Special Education IEP meetings, Red Ribbon Week (drug, alcohol and tobacco use prevention education), field trips, and other important learning experiences.