

To: Point Arena School Board Members and Staff

From: School Board Member, Mary Visser

Date: January 4, 2022

RE: Information about COVID-Relief Funding Received and Spent by Point Arena Schools to Support Teaching and Learning - 2020 to 2026

Our February Board meeting agenda includes an item under 6.1 called "COVID funding". I suggested this topic and prepared the following background and context to inform the discussion. The goal of this discussion item is to decide if and how we want to direct the Superintendent and the Director Finance to prepare a report to present to the Board at the March Board meeting about how we have spent and will spend the special COVID funding we received in the last two years, which was about \$2 million (see below).

Why should the Board receive more detailed information about how we have spent and are spending these relief funds? Although we receive regular reports about revenues and expenses throughout the year, it is difficult to figure out from those how much special funding we have received (and spent) earmarked by regulations to be spent on services designed specifically to address challenges created by COVID-19. For example, although revenues and expenses in these reports are broken down by source (e.g., federal, state) it's unclear how much of that is special COVID funding versus regular funding and what services (expenses) are specified as "eligible for these dollars. As a Board, whose mission is to provide a high quality education to our students, I think we need to know how that money has and will be spent. I have no "agenda" here, other than to inform the Board. What we do with that information, if anything, would be another conversation.

I have four key questions I'm hoping to get answers for; other Board members may have additional or different questions. Note that my questions are about funding services that are for expenses related only to teaching and learning and mental health, not physical health, such as vaccinations, COVID testing, masks, sanitizer, or air filters. My four questions are:

- 1. What funding have we received so far from the feds and state to provide relief\mitigate impacts of COVID on learning and mental health?**
- 2. Of funds received, what have we spent on COVID-related teaching and learning services and supports?**
- 3. How much of what we spent is to supplant recurring services rather than strengthen or enhance them, like moving existing counselor salaries to COVID funding?**
- 4. What else does the Board need to know to assess the extent to which we used funding to support academic and mental health services?**

While I have ideas about how to present data to answer the questions above, I'll save sharing those until after we as a Board have determined that we should ask for this information

To support the discussion at our next meeting and beyond, I have included below

- An excerpt from a chart from the CDE website, showing COVID relief funding for all districts in California. These data are for only our two schools, and show that as of September 2021 we