



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**October 21, 2014**  
**Closed Session 6:00 p.m./Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

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**Board Members Present:** Ms. Bonnie Cassel, President; Mr. Joe Nava, Vice-President; Ms. Ruth Davis, Clerk; Mr. Ron Freitas; Mr. Ron Heberle; Mr. George Neely; and Mr. Ralph Womack

**Administrative Staff:** Dr. Cathy Washer, Superintendent; Mr. Tim Hern, Associate Superintendent/CBO; and Mr. Mike McKilligan, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel

**Student Representatives:** Mr. Ryan Ozminkowski, Lodi High School and Ms. Alexa Douros, Tokay High School.

**Meeting Recorder:** Ms. Valerie McFee, Executive Assistant to the Board

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the James Areida Education Support Center, 1305 East Vine Street, Lodi, CA.

**Public Comment on Closed Session Items**

Ms. Tricia Dale, Parent, Lodi High; Ms. Danielle Crosby, Student, Lodi High; Ms. Cassidy Youdall, Student, Lodi High; Ms. Bethanie Miller, Student, Lodi High; Ms. Demaris Lopez, Parent, Lodi High; and Ms. Melissa Youdall, Parent, Lodi High

**Adjourn to Closed Session**

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:20 p.m.

**Reconvene Open Session**

The meeting was reconvened at 7:06 p.m. Attendance was recorded and President Cassel led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Report on Actions from Closed Session**

President Cassel reported that no action was taken during Closed Session. Closed Session will be continued at the close of the Regular Meeting.

**Superintendent and Staff Member Reports**

Dr. Washer reported that Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> is scheduled as Anti-Bullying day. This is an annual District-wide awareness day where all schools make an effort to do lessons, conduct anti-bullying programs, and such. Specific and age-appropriate curriculum has been made available to schools. Dr. Washer announced that Thursday is the start of the "California Thursdays" program, which will feature fresh and local grown produce for school lunches on Thursdays. This is part of the District's healthy food program. The program will have its kick off on Thursday morning at Tokay High School. Vendors will be available with samples of the local grown food soon to be available in District cafeterias. She thanked Mr. Hern and his staff for being ahead of the game by implementing this new program that will benefit

both our students and the local community. Dr. Washer reported that Lincoln Tech has invited Morada Middle School students to their site so students could see the career education programs and get excited about what to expect from high school. She stated LCAP year two is in the process. The first step is to analyze year one to see how we are doing with our goals. Two upcoming meetings scheduled are DELAC on November 5 and a District-wide committee meeting of parents on November 19. In December and January, staff will meet with employee groups and a new group of students. A draft will be prepared in April, and updates will be provided along the way. Staff is hoping to get more parent involvement in the process.

## **Recognition**

Marvel Bristow, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Paula Calderon, President of Lodi Chapter #77, California School Employees Association, presented two CSEA Boss of the Year awards. The honorees were Ms. Catherine Pennington, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education and Mr. Harold Brown, Principal, Sutherland Elementary School.

## **Consent Agenda A**

Mr. Heberle removed Item A-9, Ms. Cassel and Mr. Johnston, President, Lodi Education Association, removed Item A-10 and Ms. Davis removed Item A-11 from Consent Agenda A.

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Womack seconded and the Board members voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda A, Routine Business, as amended:

- Item A-1 Changes to the Adopted Budget
- Item A-2 Contracts List
- Item A-3 Warrants
- Item A-4 Lodi Unified School District Contract Re-openers with California School Employees Association for the 2014-15 year
- Item A-5 Lodi Education Association Re-openers for the 2014-15 year
- Item A-6 Textbook Adoptions for Medical Assistant Course of Study
- Item A-7 Advanced Placement Art History Course of Study
- Item A-8 Resolution 2014-40 Authorizing Two Operational Agreements for Cortez and Dentoni Park Softball Diamonds

Student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

### **Item A-9 Integrated Mathematics I Course of Study**

Mr. Heberle pulled this item to ask when the other math courses would be adopted. Ms. Kotowski gave a timeline for Integrated Mathematics II, III, Math 7 and Math 8, which will be considered after they are reviewed by the District's Curriculum Council.

Public Comments: Susan Heberle, Citizen

Mr. Heberle motioned, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board members voted unanimously to approve Item A-9 Integrated Mathematics I Course of Study.

Student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

**Item A-10 Minutes of the Regular Meeting, October 7, 2014**

Ms. Cassel pulled this item for the purpose of abstaining from the vote; however after clarification from Dr. Washer, did not do so. Mr. Johnston pulled this item for a requested change to the minutes. Mr. Johnston asked that under Comments from Employee Group Representatives, he would like the change to be made that he thanked Mr. Freitas for attending the LEA open house, as it was incorrectly stated that Mr. Neely attended the celebration.

Mr. Heberle motioned, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board members voted unanimously to approve Item A-9 Minutes of the October 7, 2014 Regular Meeting, as amended.

Student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

**Item A-11 Minutes of the October 8, 2014 Special Meeting**

Ms. Davis pulled this item to for the purpose of abstaining from the vote, as she was absent at the Special Meeting of October 8, 2014.

Mr. Heberle motioned, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board members voted, as follows, to approve Item A-11 Minutes of the October 8, 2014 Special Meeting:

Ayes: Cassel, Freitas, Heberle, Nava, Neely, Womack  
Noes: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: Davis

Motion carried

Student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

**Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases**

- Item B-1: Suspended Expulsion: Student #14/15-8-04
- Item B-2: Expulsion: Student #14/15-10-05
- Item B-3: Expulsion: Student #14/15-8-06
- Item B-4: Admission: Student #14/15-8-A3
- Item B-5: Admission: Student #14/15-10-A4

Mr. Neely motioned, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board members voted unanimously, by voice vote, to table the Consent Agenda B, Student Discipline Cases, until the Regular Meeting is reconvened after the continuance of Closed Session.

**Other Action Items**

**Resolution 2014-39 - Authorizing the District to Participate in the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVPCD) Public Benefit Grant Program for the Purchase of New alternative Fueled Vehicles**

Mr. Hern reported that this is the second time the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has offered Lodi Unified to participate in their grant program for the purchase of compressed natural gas vehicles, the first time being several months ago. The current grant program would allow the District to purchase five (5) additional passenger vehicles with the SJVPCD offering up to \$20,000 allowance per vehicle.



Mr. Heberle asked what kind of cars were available and what the cost to the District would be. Mr. Hern said they were passenger sedans and the estimated cost per vehicle would be an additional \$1,500 per vehicle.

Ms. Cassel stated that she was proud that Lodi Unified is participating in this grant, as air in the valley is terrible and we are doing our part to mitigate additional pollution sources. She added that ventures such as this puts Lodi Unified on the map as a green district.

Mr. Neely motioned, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board members voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2014-39 - Authorizing the District to Participate in the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVPCD) Public Benefit Grant Program for the Purchase of New Alternative Fueled Vehicles.

Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

## **Personnel Matters**

Mr. McKilligan presented Personnel Matters for Board consideration.

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Womack seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Personnel Matters, as presented.

## **Report**

### **Rio Valley Charter School Renewal Petition**

Dr. Washer stated that the Pacific Charter Institute is offering a renewal petition for Board consideration to continue their charter school for an additional five years. The report item will be followed by a Public Hearing for discussion on the proposal.

Dr. Paul Keefer, Executive Director, Pacific Charter Institute, stated that Rio Valley educates predominately credit-deficient high school students. Working as an independent study option, credentialed teachers work individually with students. Dr. Keefer reported that Rio Valley has a six-year WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) accreditation through 2019-2020. Dr. Keefer outlined several of the programs, courses and interventions currently available at their campus.

## **Public Hearings**

### **Rio Valley Charter School Renewal Petition**

President Cassel declared the public hearing "Rio Valley Charter School Renewal Petition" open.

### **Board Comments**

Mr. Womack asked questions regarding the parent component, outreach, and teacher-student relationships. Dr. Keefer explained the staffs' phone communication techniques and planning methods. Mr. Womack questioned that the petition mentioned that expulsions have no appeal rights or no means for an alternative education program. Dr. Keefer explained that there is no referral after expulsion because they are their own Local Education Area and they have no one to refer them to. Dr. Keefer noted that Rio Valley has a zero expulsion rate. Mr. Womack asked for an explanation of what was

meant by "district oversight". Dr. Keefer explained the charter school is separately independent from Lodi Unified. Dr. Washer explained the fiscal oversight of the District.

Mr. Neely asked about technology resources utilized by the school and mentioned he would be stopping by to view their program first hand.

Mr. Heberle asked if there will be an update when the District's financial analysis is complete. Dr. Washer clarified that if the District has concerns with the financial analysis, she will apprise the Board. Mr. Heberle asked if Lodi Unified is financially responsible if something happens at the school. Dr. Keefer stated that there is a Memorandum of Understanding in place that indemnifies Lodi Unified in the event of such an occurrence.

Ms. Cassel commented that she is pleased thus far with the relationship of Lodi Unified and Rio Valley Charter School. She advised Dr. Keefer that the final version of the charter petition will need to have the grammatical and structural errors corrected prior to final Board consideration.

The public hearing was declared closed.

## **Communications**

### **Comments from Student Representatives**

Mr. Ryan Ozminkowski, Lodi High School and Ms. Alexa Douros, Tokay High School, presented reports from their respective high schools.

### **Comments from the Public**

Dr. Scott Keithley, Citizen, presented the Board with a proposal to schedule a later start time for high schools. He has met with Mr. Carlos Garcia, Director, Transportation Department, with favorable results. He explained the proposal would mean a shift of all bus schedules 30 minutes or later. He presented statistics of districts within a 40-mile radius and noted their start times are all later than Lodi Unified, with the exception of Cesar Chavez School in Stockton. He presented research to the Board to read and indicated research advocates for change.

Mr. Dave Hurley, Teacher, Sutherland Elementary, congratulated Ms. Pennington and Mr. Brown for their honor as CSEA Boss of the Year. He appealed to the Board to once again consider a transportation stop at Sutherland School to the Henderson campus. He stated that until the transportation issue is resolved, he will refrain from advising parents to enroll at Henderson School.

Ms. Kristen Wilson, Counselor, Tokay High School, spoke of the programs that she and the other three Tokay High School counselors are implementing on that campus to bring about student success and well-being. She spoke of programs at the campus that are benefitting students as well as fellow staff members.

Ms. Amy Witsaman, Counselor, Morada Middle School, detailed the field trip of 70 Morada Middle students to Lincoln Tech. The trip was designed to inspire and motivate the students and prepare them to take advantage of programs available to them when they reach high school. Upon returning to Morada, the students shared their experience with other students. Ms. Witsaman hopes to take another group in the spring. She said Morada students are participating in an event at UOP, as part of a four-year



partnership with the college. She informed the Board that Morada students will be asked to sign an anti-bullying pledge on Thursday. The hope is to get one hundred percent participation from the students.

#### **Comments from Employee Group Representatives**

Mr. Jeff Johnston, President, Lodi Education Association, spoke of the Lodi Education Associations sunshine proposal and noted the group has opened on salary and benefits.

#### **Comments from Board Members**

Mr. Freitas commented that a 1<sup>st</sup> grade class at Ansel Adams Elementary School has won the Stockton Fire Department's Sparky the Fire Dog Fire Prevention Poster Contest. He thanked Mr. Hern for providing the *Fiscal Focus* Newsletter and for the application to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution District for the acquisition of compressed natural gas vehicles for the District. He gave his thanks to employees, namely his grandson's teacher, for doing their civic duty and being jurors. He stated we cannot have justice without qualified jurors.

Mr. Womack gave kudos to Lincoln Tech and Morada Middle for making the connection to provide this opportunity for Morada students. He attended the PLC at Bear Creek High School and noted that Principal, Bill Atterberry and staff are embracing alternatives to discipline. He stated Bear Creek could be a model for others. He made a site visit to Delta Sierra, which he noted has just been repainted and looks like a new school. He congratulated Ms. Pennington and Mr. Brown for the honor of being selected as CSEA Boss of the Year.

Mr. Neely acknowledged the staff at Henderson School and noted that the Board recognizes that all students do not learn in the same manner and asked that staff determine if we are utilizing Henderson as we should. He noted that the District needs to address the concern brought forth or we will lose enrollment. Mr. Neely asked staff to look into reinstating the milestone awards, along with the 25-year award, for employee service acknowledgements. He congratulated Mr. Brown and Ms. Pennington as being selected as CSEA Boss of the Year. He asked staff to look in to the question that arose regarding high school start times and spoke of the potential for LUSD to take part in this year's Hour Of Code programming event.

Mr. Heberle offered congratulations to Mr. Brown and Ms. Pennington regarding their awards. He spoke highly of the hard work and innovations highlighted at the recent PLC he attended at Lodi High School.

#### **Board Advisory Committee Reports**

Mr. Nava and Mr. Womack announced that the Stockton 2x2 Committee meeting will be conducted on November 13<sup>th</sup> at Ronald McNair High School.

#### **Closed Session (continued)**

The Board reconvened Closed Session at 8:30 p.m.

#### **Reconvene Open Session**

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 9:43 p.m.

**Report on Actions from Closed Session**

President Cassel reported that no action was taken during Closed Session.

**Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases**

Item B-1: Suspended Expulsion: Student #14/15-8-04

Item B-2: Expulsion: Student #14/15-10-05

Item B-3: Expulsion: Student #14/15-8-06

Item B-4: Admission: Student #14/15-8-A3

Item B-5: Admission: Student #14/15-10-A4

**Individual Action on Items Pulled from Consent Agenda B – Student Matters**

**Item B-1: Suspended Expulsion: Student #14/15-8-04**

Mr. Heberle motioned, Ms. Davis seconded and the Board members voted unanimously, by voice vote, to recommend expulsion for Student #14/15-8-04.

**Item B-2: Expulsion: Student #14/15-10-05**

Ms. Davis motioned, Mr. Womack seconded and the Board members voted unanimously, by voice vote, to deny the recommendation for expulsion for Student #14/15-8-04.

**Item B-3: Expulsion: Student #14/15-8-06**

Ms. Davis motioned, Mr. Womack seconded and the Board members voted unanimously, by voice vote, to recommend expulsion for Student #14/15-8-06.

**Item B-4: Admission: Student #14/15-8-A3**

Ms. Davis motioned, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board members voted unanimously, by voice vote, to recommend admission for Student #14/15-8-A3.

**Item B-5: Admission: Student #14/15-10-A4**

Ms. Davis motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board members voted unanimously, by voice vote, to recommend admission for Student #14/15-10-A4.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

  
Clerk of the Board

  
President of the Board