



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION September 15, 2020 Closed Session 6:00 p.m./Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. Joe Nava, President; Mr. Ron Freitas, Vice President; Mrs. Susan Macfarlane, Clerk; Mr. Ron Heberle; Mr. Gary Knackstedt; Mr. George Neely and Mr. Courtney Porter

Administrative Staff: Dr. Cathy Washer, Superintendent; Mr. Mike McKilligan, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel and Mr. Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer

Student Representative: Arriana Galvan, Tokay High School and William Machado, Lodi High School, were present.

Meeting Recorder: Mrs. Michelle Armstrong, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. via YouTube and GoToWebinar.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

No public comments were received prior to Closed Session.

Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

Reconvene Open Session

The meeting was reconvened at 7:05 p.m. and attendance was recorded. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Nava.

Closed Session

President Nava reported the following action was taken in Closed Session:

Closed Session Student Matters:

Mr. Heberle motioned, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the placement of 2020-2021 Non-Public School Students (Renewals) numbers 1-6, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24-28, 30-34, 37-42, 44, 45, 48, 49, 51-58, 61-67, 71-74, 81, 85, 86, 88, 89, 92, and 93.

Mr. Freitas motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the placement change of 2020-2021 Non-Public School Student (Changes) number 42.

Mr. Porter motioned, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the placement of 2020-2021 Non-Public School Students (New) numbers 12 and 13.

Closed Session Personnel Matters:

Mr. Porter motioned, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Lisa Chaves as Program Coordinator, Special Education, effective date TBD.

Mr. Porter motioned, Mr. Knackstedt seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Jennifer Tillett as Program Coordinator, Professional Development, effective date TBD.

Mr. Porter motioned, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Aisha Brice as Program Coordinator, School Climate & Compliance, effective date TBD.

Mr. Freitas motioned, Mr. Porter seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Rinaldo Shackelford as High School Assistant Principal, location TBD, effective date TBD.

Conference with Labor Negotiators:

Mr. Freitas motioned, Mr. Porter seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the CSEA agreement.

Recognition

Dr. Washer introduced Pat White, Principal at Elkhorn Elementary who spoke about Hank Chau, 7th & 8th Grade STEM Teacher at Elkhorn Elementary, receiving the North Central Valley STEM Center (NCVSC) Albert Brocchini Memorial STEM Teacher of the Year Award for 2020. Mr. Chau also commented about what an honor it is to be recognized and thanked Mrs. White, the staff, and students at Elkhorn Elementary.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Washer recognized the 13 Wagner-Holt students who scored in the top 50% in the Math Olympiads for Elementary and Middle Schools, International Math Olympiad Competition. She stated there were over 160,000 participants and one Wagner-Holt student made it to the top 10%. Dr. Washer recognized that it was National IT Professional's Day. She thanked Edith Holbert, Director, Technology Services, and her team for all their hard work. Dr. Washer introduced Susan Petersen, Principal at Washington Elementary School, to share information on how her site is providing social and emotional support for students and staff during Distance Learning with "Wellness Wednesday". Ms. Petersen explained that every Wednesday they post wellness activities that include social, emotional, and coping skills in addition to fun engaging activities. She commented on the great work that Erica Contreras-Suarez, Elementary Counselor, is doing at reaching her students at Washington as well as other sites. Dr. Washer shared a video clip of Board President Nava speaking about National Hispanic Heritage Recognition Month.

Comments from the Public

Melinda Davis, P.E. Teacher, Christa McAuliffe Middle School, commented on middle school department chair compensation.

Karla Goehring, Teacher, Millswood Middle School, commented on middle school department chair compensation.

Juan Garcia-Reyes, Teacher, Christa McAuliffe Middle School, commented on middle school department chair compensation.

Katie Brown, Teacher, Lodi High School, commented on the waiver to reopen in-person learning at elementary school sites and would like the District to apply and move forward the process.

Comments from Board Members

Mr. Heberle thanked everyone who is making Distance Learning the best it can be, including the parents and caregivers assisting students at home. He commented on the air quality and getting a policy into place to close schools down when air quality is too dangerous. Mr. Heberle congratulated Mr. Chau on his achievement.

Mr. Knackstedt asked how the technology call center is working out for parents and teachers. He asked what kind of plan is in place when a connection issue takes place and teachers need help in the middle of class. He stated coaches are reaching out asking how to get CPR/First Aid training and if the District has a training planned. He requested information be brought forward at a future meeting for an update on his items.

Mr. Neely congratulated Mr. Chau and hopes that he can get other schools involved in STEM programs and activities. He would like to see a report from Dr. Washer on the amount the District is spending on non-public schools and the possibility of Lodi Unified opening a non-public school. Mr. Neely commented that District insurance will not cover a COVID-19 related case if sites open under the waiver and worries about the financial ramifications of a potential lawsuit.

Mr. Porter thanked Ms. Petersen for her presentation and efforts at making sure her students and staff are in a mentally safe and healthy environment. He stated he would like to see a resolution for the middle school department heads. Mr. Porter commented on teachers taking time for themselves, he appreciates the sacrifices they are making during this time.

Mrs. Macfarlane congratulated Mr. Chau on his award and Ms. Petersen for her presentation. She stated she would like to see the middle school department heads fairly compensated. Mrs. Macfarlane commented on the waivers and cohorts, stating a lot goes into those decisions and the Board is in agreement that in-person instruction is the best option for the children. She thanked special education staff, parents, teachers, administrators, LPPA, and everyone involved in Distance Learning.

Mr. Freitas recognized Mr. Chau and Ms. Petersen for an outstanding job. He commented on what an honor it is to be Board Vice President serving alongside of President Nava. Mr. Freitas recognized Jordan Anderson, Liberty High School student, who was inducted into the U.S. Navy Boot Camp.

Mr. Nava requested Ms. Petersen to share her "Wellness Wednesday" with other school site principals to help break up the weekly monotony of Distance Learning. He commented on the middle school department heads and would like to see them compensated for the important work they do.

Comments from Student Representatives

Arriana Galvan, Tokay High School and William Machado, Lodi High School, presented reports from their respective schools.

Reports

Staff Will Provide Any Updates, if Available, on Issues Related to the 2020-2021 School Year in Response to the Health Pandemic for Board Discussion

Dr. Washer shared that San Joaquin County is looking a little better at 9.5 new cases per 100,000 per day with a positivity rate of 7.1% as of Tuesday, September 15, 2020. She stated that the county has met the positivity rate criteria to move up into the next level, but the new case criteria still is too high to

move out of the purple tier. The county needs 7 (or less) new cases per 100,000 per day and 8% (or less) positivity rate for 2 consecutive weeks in order to get to the next tier (red tier). Dr. Washer explained that even within the purple tier the District can do small cohorts for special at-risk students. The cohort must be no larger than 16 students and teachers combined. She stated that the San Joaquin County Health Department is now accepting applications for waivers to reopen elementary schools for in-person learning.

Mr. Porter and Mrs. Macfarlane are in favor of moving forward with cohort groups, especially for special education and at-risk students.

Mr. Neely stated he is in favor of moving forward with cohort groups and commented that cohort groups would be a supplement to Distance Learning and would need to be well thought out and planned.

Mr. Freitas stated he is excited about moving forward with special education cohorts as well as starting the process for elementary school waivers only if it is safe and all safety guidelines are in place.

Mr. Knackstedt stated he is in favor of moving forward with cohort groups, especially for special education and at risk students, but would like the teachers who are involved to be asked, not told, to be part of that.

Mr. Heberle stated he is in favor of moving forward with the process of fulfilling the requirements to start cohorts.

Student Comments

Ms. Galvan and Mr. Machado stated they both were in favor of starting cohorts.

Public Comments

No comments were received from the public.

Report on Recommendation to Change Vacant Sign Language Interpreter I Positions to Sign Language Interpreter II Positions to Better Meet Student Needs and Reduce Costs

Paul Warren, Administrative Director, Student Services/SELPA, shared that sign language interpreter (SIL) I positions can only work with elementary school students and SIL II positions can work with all ages of students. He stated that the District currently has six SIL I positions with three filled and three vacant plus one SIL II position filled. Mr. Warren stated staff is recommending filling the three vacant SIL I positions as SIL II positions, for a total of four SIL II positions which would produce an annual cost savings of \$298,000 and allow flexibility with the services.

Mr. Nava asked if it is difficult to hire SIL specialists.

Mr. Warren stated because we are able to contract with agencies for those positions he believes those specialists are out there and it is worth it to try and fill.

No further Board comments were received.

Student Comments

No comments were received from the Student Representatives.

Public Comments

No comments were received from the public.

Staff Will Present Lodi Unified School District's Response to California Department of Education's Compliance Requirement for a Governance and Administration Plan for Our Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)

Mr. Warren stated that the California Department of Education has been working with districts on issues related to compliance. He commented that Lodi USD has met the compliance requirements which are listed in the presented Governance and Administration Plan document. Mr. Warren stated the SELPA local plan area includes: Lodi Unified, Oak View Union Elementary, New Hope Elementary, and Rio Valley Charter. He stated the purpose of the plan is to meet compliance requirements for the state and does not need to come back to the Board for approval.

Mr. Neely thanked Mr. Warren for all his hard work.

No further Board comments were received.

Student Comments

No comments were received from the Student Representatives.

Public Comments

No comments were received from the public.

Draft Communication and Marketing Plan

Dr. Washer stated the Communication and Marketing Plan was a goal discussed last year, but due to past and current circumstances it is now being presented. She introduced Chelsea Vongehr, Public Information Officer and Grant Writer, to answer any questions.

Mr. Heberle stated the plan is organized and categorized nicely and seems to flow really well. He noted that "Crisis Communication" seemed to be not labeled correctly in certain sections. Mr. Heberle stated he had an idea of what "branding" is but wanted to hear what the plan is for branding.

Ms. Vongehr stated there was a mistake in the header of the document and all the noted items would be under "External Communication". She stated that branding would consist of a new logo and color scheme that would be consistently used throughout the District.

Mr. Porter commented that the plan should be re-organized and feels like the webmaster position could be filled from within the District.

Mrs. Macfarlane stated she liked the idea of rebranding and loves the direction the plan is going, but doesn't want to take anything away from Distance Learning and the crisis we are in now.

Mr. Knackstedt stated he liked the idea of rebranding, but is concerned about spending extra money during times like this.

Mr. Neely stated that a well-organized website should be the center of the communication plan and feels like the only way to obtain that is with a webmaster.

Mr. Freitas commented on Ms. Vongehr's expertise in the field; he feels like the plan is a great first draft and is excited about moving forward.

Mr. Nava stated that he looks forward to seeing the next draft that incorporates the ideas and comments from the Board.

Student Comments

Ms. Galvan stated she would like to see the plan happen.

Mr. Machado commented on the statement about losing students to charter schools and asked if the Board had the actual number of students or statistics of that happening.

Public Comments

Lisa Wilkins, Teacher, Morada Middle School

Consent Agenda A, Routine Business

Mr. Porter pulled Item A-1, Item A-2, and Item A-3 and Mr. Kahn pulled Item A-4 and A-8 from Consent Agenda A for discussion.

- Item A-5 Resolution 2020-67 "Gann" Appropriations Limit for 2019-2020 and 2020/2021
- Item A-6 Resolution 2020-68 Application for the Don Carnahan Memorial Grant Through the National Association for Pupil Transportation and Zonar Systems
- Item A-7 Resolution 2020-70 Authorizing the District to Participate in the California Energy Commission's Zero-Emission Transit Fleet Infrastructure Deployment Program Grant for the Purchase of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure
- Item A-9 Notice of Completion for Public Works Projects under the California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Act (CUPCCAA)
- Item A-10 Proposed Adoption of an Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drone) Policy
- Item A-11 Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 27, 2020
- Item A-12 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 1, 2020

Mr. Freitas moved, Mr. Heberle seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda A, Routine Business, as amended.

Individual Action on Items Pulled from Consent Agenda A – Routine Business

Item A-1 Contracts List

Mr. Porter questioned the agreement with Erin Byrd Torrell to provide Title I resources to qualifying students at St. Anne's School for 2020/2021 for up to \$19,000.00. He asked if the District had done this in the past.

Dr. Sahli stated that these are equitable services the District is required to provide.

Mr. Porter questioned the amended agreement with Point Quest Education, Inc. to provide additional site funded therapeutic and consultation services for increased hours at Needham and Washington Elementary Schools for 2020/2021 for \$13,338.00. He stated that he is concerned and questioned why the District does not provide those services.

Paul Warren, Administrative Director, Student Services/SELPA replied that there is not a lot of agencies that provide the kind of services that Point Quest does.

Dr. Sahli stated that it is a licensing issue as to why the District doesn't provide the services.

Mr. Porter moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda A, Item A-1 Contracts List.

Item A-2 Warrant Report

Mr. Porter questioned warrant report Item #16406891 SEWUP for \$1,614,724.86 and Item #16406807 SEWUP for \$6,064.00.

Mr. Kahn replied stating the funds for Item #16406891 are for liability and workers compensation insurance for classroom building at Lodi High School.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kahn stated that the funds for Item #16406891 are for builders risk insurance for the Tokay High gym project.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Porter moved, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda A, Item A-2 Warrant Report.

Item A-3 Purchase Order Detail Report

Mr. Porter questioned Item #101298 LPA and asked what LPA stood for.

Mr. Kahn replied stating the LPA is one of the Board's architects and Item #101298 is for the Tokay High gym project.

Mr. Porter questioned if almost \$300,000.00 in lawyer fees is normal and asked for the District legal firms to be explained to him.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Porter presented questions pertaining to the consulting services of Jerry Adams, including quality of work produced and price.

Mr. Porter moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda A, Item A-3 Purchase Order Detail Report.

Item A-4 Certification of 2019/2020 Unaudited Actual Report

Mr. Kahn introduced April Juarez, Senior Director/Controller, to present the Unaudited Actuals Financial Report.

Mrs. Juarez stated the Accounting Department has closed the books for the 2019/2020 fiscal year and the report is a summary of their work, which is a requirement of Education Code Section 42100. She

explained after Board approval, the report will be forwarded to San Joaquin County Office of Education for transmittal to the superintendent of public instruction. Mrs. Juarez explained the next step will be for the auditors to review the data and provide the Board with a report on their findings.

Mr. Freitas moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda A, Item A-4 Certification of 2019/2020 Unaudited Actual Report.

Item A-8 Changes to the Adopted Budget

Mr. Kahn stated the District does not have a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for the Needham project yet; however, the information should be available mid-October.

Mr. Freitas moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda A, Item A-8 Changes to the Adopted Budget.

Other Action Items

Item OAI-1 2020-2021 Learning Continuity Plan (LCP)

Robert Sahli, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, presented the revised LCP with the modifications that were requested. He stated the budget was doubled from \$300,000 to \$600,000 for social/emotional learning and other mental health supports.

Public Comment

Lisa Wilkins, Teacher, Morada Middle School

Mr. Freitas moved, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-1 2020-2021 Learning Continuity Plan (LCP).

Personnel Matters

Mike McKilligan, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel, presented Personnel Matters for Board consideration.

No comments were received.

Mr. Freitas moved, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Personnel Matters.

Communications

Comments from Employee Group Representatives

Dean Blount, President, Lodi Pupil Personnel Association, thanked Susan Petersen for her presentation about "Wellness Wednesdays". He stated he would like to set up a presentation at a future meeting with the elementary, middle and high school counselors to discuss the social and emotional learning of Lodi USD students. Mr. Blount commented that counselors would like to also answer the Board's question about referral processes as well as what kind of support the counselors will need when in-person classes resume.

Comments from the Superintendent

Dr. Washer had no further comments.

Board Advisory Committee Reports

No reports were presented.

Adjourn

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Knackstedt seconded and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m.


Clerk of the Board


President of the Board

