



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 21, 2015

Closed Session 6:00 p.m./Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. Joe Nava, President; Mr. George Neely, Vice-President; Mr. Ron Freitas, Clerk; Ms. Bonnie Cassel; Mr. Ron Heberle; Dr. Daryl Talken 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. Jay Halva, Bear Creek High School and Mr. Carlos Casillas, Ronald McNair High School

Meeting Recorder: Ms. Lynn Aebi, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

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

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. Attendance was recorded and President Nava led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session

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

- **CAHSEE Waiver** – Mr. Neely motioned, Dr. Talken seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve California High School Exit Exam Waiver for student 2014/2015 #27.
- **Closed Session Personnel Matters:**
Mr. Neely motioned, Dr. Talken seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Elodia Ortega-Lampkin as Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education, date to be determined.
- **Anticipated Litigation:**
Dr. Talken motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board voted unanimously to reject Claim #501666.

President Nava lead the meeting in a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Gary Fujihara, Teacher at Lodi High School was passed away on April 10th.

Recognitions

American Red Cross Hero Essay Contest Winners

Ms. Pennington, Assistant Superintendent introduced Ms. Maria Cervantes, Principal, Joe Serna, Jr. Charter School. Ms. Cervantes introduced American Red Cross Hero Essay Contest winners Tafari Lee and Jaiden Ha, students from Joe Serna who won in two divisions in a field of over 500 entrants in the county.

First Place Winners from the Superintendent's Poetry Contest

First Place Winners from their respective grade categories were invited to the Board Meeting to read their poems: Juan Cortez, Clairmont Elementary; Alexandra Souza, Reese Elementary; Victor Plunkett, Reese Elementary; and Ngozi Elobuiké, Bear Creek High School.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Washer reported that State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torklason, visited Middle College High School this afternoon. A picture was displayed featuring Mike McKilligan, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel, speaking to attendees at the University of Pacific, School of Education's Career Faire, conducted on March 18, 2015. Dr. Washer stated that the Lodi Unified Certificated Job Fair presented on April 16th was a huge success. She thanked the entire Personnel Department for their efforts towards coordinating this second annual recruitment event.

Consent Agenda A, Routine Business

Ms. Cassel asked to remove Item A-8 from the Consent Agenda A, Routine.

Mr. Womack motioned, Mr. Heberle 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 Purchase Order Detail Report
- Item A-5 Minutes of the Regular Meeting, April 7, 2015
- Item A-6 Resolution 2015-15 Amendment to CaPROMISE Grant Awarded December 1, 2013; Increase of \$376,337 for 2014-2016
- Item A-7 Resolution 2015-17 Authorizing the Revision of Bylaws for Measure L Citizens' Oversight Committee
- Item A-9 AB 1200 Documents for Lodi Unified School District Employee Group: Lodi Unified Supervisorial Group (LUSG)

The student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Item A-8 Resolution 2015-18 Finding That Board Member Bonnie Cassel Was Absent From The Regular Board Meeting April 7, 2015, Due To A Hardship Deemed Acceptable By The Board

Ms. Cassel pulled this item for the purpose of abstaining from the voting process.

Dr. Talken motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board voted to approve Item A-8 Resolution 2015-18 Finding That Board Member Bonnie Cassel Was Absent From The Regular Board Meeting April 7, 2015, Due To A Hardship Deemed Acceptable By The Board, as follows:

Ayes: Freitas, Heberle, Nava, Neely, Talken, Womack

No: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Cassel

Motion carried

The student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases

Item B-1 Expulsion: Student #14/15-9-69

Item B-2 Expulsion: Student #14/15-9-70

Item B-3 Expulsion: Student #14/15-8-71

Item B-4 Expulsion: Student #14/15-8-72

Item B-5 Readmission: Student #13/14-7-118

Mr. Womack motioned, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board members voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda B, Student Discipline Cases, as presented.

Other Action Items

Board of Education to Consider a Letter Advocating Support for the Establishment of a North County Delta College Campus in the Greater Lodi Area

Mr. Neely explained the positive aspects of having a campus in the Lodi area. If approved, a letter of support would be forwarded to Mr. Steve Castellanos, President of the Board of Directors, Delta College and Dr. Kathy Hart, Superintendent of Delta College. Mr. Freitas thanked Mr. Neely for bringing this opportunity to the Board.

Public Comments

None

Mr. Neely motioned, Mr. Freitas seconded and the Board members voted unanimously to approve a Letter Advocating Support for the Establishment of a North County Delta College Campus in the Greater Lodi Area.

The student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Surplus Property Advisory Committee – Appointment of New Members

Mr. Hern, Chief Business Officer and Mr. Warren Sun, Senior Director of Operations, brought this item forward. According to California Education Code, prior to the sale, lease or rental of any excess real

property, a school board shall appoint a district advisory committee to advise the board on policies and procedures governing the use of school buildings not needed for school purposes.

Based on applications received, staff recommends the following applicants be appointed to the Surplus Property Advisory Committee: Mr. Dennis Bennett; Ms. Sandra Hale; Ms. Crystal Kirst; Mr. James Lampe; Mr. Dave Vaccarezza; Mr. Ed Wall and Mr. Gary Yocum.

Public Comments
None

Mr. Womack motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board members voted unanimously to approve the appointment of the following members to the Surplus Property Advisory Committee: Mr. Dennis Bennett; Ms. Sandra Hale; Ms. Crystal Kirst; Mr. James Lampe; Mr. Dave Vaccarezza; Mr. Ed Wall and Mr. Gary Yocum.

Resolution 2015-16 to Refinance the 2006 Series of Measure K 2002 General Obligation Bonds
Mr. Hern presented this item and stated this refinancing proposal would save tax payers about \$976,000.

Mr. Neely thanked Mr. Hern for being very diligent about saving the public money.

Dr. Talken motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board members voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2015-16 to Refinance the 2006 Series of Measure K 2002 General Obligation Bonds.

Personnel Matters

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

Mr. Neely, motioned, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board members voted unanimously to approve Personnel Matters, as presented.

Communications

Comments from Student Representatives

Mr. Jay Halva, Bear Creek High School and Mr. Carlos Casillas, McNair High School, presented reports from their respective high schools.

Comments from the Public

Ms. Gay Hardwick, Teacher, Reese Elementary School, spoke of the increase in the cost of living since 2008 and the need for salaries to keep up with these increases.

Ms. Aly Fetzer, Teacher, Tokay High School, spoke regarding the cost to become a highly qualified teacher and other costs associated with teaching. She advocated for a salary increase for teachers.

Ms. Karen Minick, Teacher, Bear Creek High School, spoke regarding the results of the Bear Creek High School speech and debate team from the State Competition the past weekend. She advocated for reinstatement of coach stipends and a salary increase.

Ms. Martha Snider, Teacher, Christa McAuliffe Middle School, thanked staff at Bear Creek High School for providing suicide prevention training. She thanked Board for attending Christa McAuliffe's Open House the week prior and invited Board to join the site on Saturday for the third annual Family Development Day.

Mr. Cris Beach, Cafeteria Assistant, Creekside Elementary School, related that open classified positions receive fewer applicants due to the low salary schedule. He advocated for fair wages to retain and recruit quality classified workers.

Ms. Laurie Bradley, Teacher, Reese Elementary School, read testimonials from teachers at Reese making comments on the need for more money at school sites and fair wages.

Mr. Scott Bradley, Teacher, Manlio Silva Elementary School, read testimonial cards from fellow teachers regarding the need for an increase in compensation.

Ms. Connie Simpfenderfer, Administrative Secretary, Elementary Education Office, spoke on behalf of fellow classified employees regarding an increase in compensation. She inquired as to the need for the District to have an attorney present during CSEA negotiations.

Ms. Elizabeth Gambrah, Library/Media Assistant, Bear Creek High School, spoke regarding the need to reinstate the hours of Library Assistants back to full time positions.

Ms. Lana Yarbrough, Teacher, Live Oak Elementary School, spoke regarding problems in the Special Education arena, lack of BTSA support for Special Education teachers and the need for a salary increase for teaching staff.

Ms. Mary Caruso, School Psychologist, read a letter from a parent of a Special Education student regarding the decision not to rehire teacher, Theresa Van Wagner for the 2015-2016 school year.

Mr. Chris Funge, Teacher, Larson Elementary School, spoke regarding the sacrifices teachers have made since 2008 and the need for a fair contract settlement to be reached.

Ms. Cyndi Bonini, Teacher, Lockeford School, asked the Board to do their best to assure quality teachers are hired in Lodi Unified School District.

Ms. Lisa Wilkins, Vice President, Lodi Education Association, spoke regarding professional development time for teaching staff, professional development opportunities and salary advancement.

Ms. Brenda Murarik, Teacher, Needham Elementary School, commented on the amount of money teachers spend out-of-pocket on classroom supplies and the need for teachers to be paid a living wage.

Ms. Patty Litts, Teacher, Oakwood Elementary School, spoke regarding the high number of students in her Special Day class, the records that must be maintained for student IEPs, the meetings that take place after work hours and how the three release days allotted in the current contract do not cover the time she puts in.

Ms. Sonja Renhult, Teacher, Woodbridge Elementary School, read a letter on behalf of a non-tenured Special Education teacher regarding needs specific to Special Education teachers. She commented regarding the need for all sides to come together, work together and find common ground.

Ms. Carol Thomas, Teacher, Wagner Holt Elementary School, noted that she is a reader for the UC system and announced that six students from Bear Creek, two students from McNair, six from Tokay and five from Lodi High school were accepted to UC campuses. Ms. Thomas also spoke regarding the need for teachers and classified staff to have a fair contract settlement.

Mr. Bryan Pilkington, Teacher, John Muir Elementary School, stated he felt disrespected due to statements made by a Lodi Unified Board Member.

Mr. Dave Hurley, Teacher, Sutherland School, spoke regarding teacher recruitment and retention.

Ms. Susan Heberle, Community Member, spoke regarding the need for the Board to look for ways to fix the current situation regarding contract negotiations for both classified employees and teaching staff.

Ms. Van Ha To-Cowell, Teacher, spoke regarding the importance of pre-school for students to be successful in kindergarten and throughout their education. Ms. To-Cowell asked for Board consideration to add Wagner-Holt, Creekside and Oakwood schools to the sites that currently offer Pre-K classes, as the need for such is great in these learning communities.

Comments from Employee Group Representatives

Mr. Jeff Johnston, President, Lodi Education Association, read the definition of respect and asked the Board to show respect to teachers and all employees. He spoke of teacher pay inequities with surrounding school districts and asked for a fair share of what the District has received in increased monies and for an increase in professional development days. He stated that LEA has filed for impasse and they believe an agreement can come via the mediation process.

Ms. Debra Ladwig, President, California School Employees Association, Chapter #77, noted that CSEA will be a sponsor of the upcoming GOT Kids Casino Night and is pleased to support the foundation. She updated Board on current happenings within the CSEA chapter and executive board. She noted that the CSEA group remains committed to a fair and just outcome to current negotiations and will meet with District representatives on May 6. Ms. Ladwig reported she attended the A. Dale Lackey CIF Sac-Joaquin Section /CSEA Scholar Athlete of the Year scholarship awards of which three awardees were from Lodi Unified School District. She noted that Classified School Employee Week is slated for the third week in May and she has been selected by the California Department of Education to be on the committee to select the state-wide Classified School Employee of the Year.

Comments from Board Members

Mr. Neely spoke regarding restorations and the need to continue to seek restorations for summer school, class size, Special Day class size, counselors, deferred maintenance, coaching stipends, and a variety of other positions. He stated that the District is \$5M above the revenue of 2009. He related that there is a lot of work to do in this area. Mr. Neely spoke of the need to work with groups regarding use permits for facilities, as such events bring people and dollars into our community.

Mr. Heberle thanked those in the audience for their attendance, comments and work for the District. He congratulated the Bear Creek High School Speech and Debate team on their achievements. He will report the results of the State Science Olympiad competition, conducted over the weekend, at the May 5 Board meeting. Mr. Heberle reported on the following winners of the Elementary Math Tournament in the school division: 1st Place Elkhorn School; 2nd Place Larson School; and 3rd Place awarded to Borchardt School. In the individual division the following students were selected: 1st Place, Sabrina Chen, Elkhorn School; 2nd Place, Ryker Henne, Larson School; and 3rd Place, Felix Qu, Borchardt School.

Ms. Cassel stated her appreciation for the attendees present and for their sharing of thoughts. She spoke briefly regarding the negotiation process and referenced Consent Agenda A, Item A-9. She noted that historically, what the Board does for one group is done for all the groups.

Mr. Womack noted he was busy in the previous week going to open houses at Delta Sierra and Oakwood School. He attended the Block M awards at McNair High School and visited Denise Reich's class at Larson School. He also attended the open house at Christa McAuliffe and a Common Core, Parent Information event at Julia Morgan. He noted the upcoming athletic event that will take place between McNair and Bear Creek High Schools; both undefeated in the San Joaquin Athletic Association. He congratulated the winners of the Superintendent's Poetry Contest and thanked the audience members for their participation.

Mr. Nava stressed the word "respect" that was mentioned earlier in the evening, noting that the Board respects all employees. He noted he was elected to the Board during the worst time in the nation, and that the Board continues to work on restorations. Mr. Nava attended the Chamber of Commerce Young Business Owners' meeting. He noted the California Retired Teachers Association offers six scholarship to students in San Joaquin County and of those three were awarded to Lodi Unified students going into the field of education; Maya Castellanos and Ana Martinez from Tokay High School and Jennifer Phinney from Bear Creek High School. The same organization awarded grants to two teachers: Patty Radotic, Millswood Middle School and Marilyn Platt, Henderson School.

Comments from the Superintendent

No further comments.

Reports

The Board Will Discuss Options to Allow Public Access to District Track Facilities

Mr. Hern presented a report on Lodi High School track security. He stated that all school sites are being enclosed with single-point access. Mr. Hern presented three options for community use of facilities: 1) joint-use agreement; 2) limited weekday/weekend use and 3) limited weekday use. Discussion ensued.

Public Comments

Ms. Laurie Merrill, Lodi Physical Therapy; Ms. Debra Ladwig, President, CSEA, Lodi Chapter #77; Mr. Joe Hammonds, Community Member; Ms. Susan Heberle, Community Member; Mr. Steve Scott, Community Member; Mr. Mike Lynch, Community Member and an unidentified female speaker.

Dr. Washer noted that the item will be placed on the agenda for the Lodi 2x2 Meeting (Lodi Unified School District and City of Lodi) to be discussed. The information will be brought back to a future Lodi Unified Board of Education meeting. In the meantime the District will begin implementation of option number three.

Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA)

Ms. Lisa Kotowski, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, presented the report item. Ms. Kotowski noted that prior to hiring Ms. Sheree Flemmer to the position of Coordinator, Professional Growth, the District was paying the San Joaquin County Office of Education to administer the District's BTSA program.

Mr. Neely stated his main concern is that the District is not paying for BTSA for Special Education teachers. Mr. Neely requested the District pay for BTSA for Special Education teachers.

Ms. Kotowski said the District will pay for the training for the Special Education instructors needing BTSA and that beginning with 2016-17, the District will be able to provide the training for all teachers.

Mr. Neely asked if this will come back to the Board for formal approval. Dr. Washer stated that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be developed and the Board will be asked to approve the document.

Board Discussion

Update on Science Equipment/Materials and School Supplies and Board Discussion on These Areas for the 2015-2016 School Year

Mr. Heberle asked that this item be included on the agenda to address the status of providing standards-aligned instructional materials, supplies and equipment with regards to the Local Control Accountability Plan needs assessment. Discussion ensued.

Dr. Washer stated that principals were told if there was a need to contact Catherine Pennington or Dawn Vetica and they would be provided the materials. Staff asked the school sites about safety issues in the Science classrooms. She noted the topic is back on LCAP discussions.

Mr. Neely inquired as to school supply budgets and recalled that the Board voted to increase school supply budgets by thirty percent, yet he hears from teachers that they have had the same amount for the last twenty years.

Ms. Pennington clarified that every school spends its budget differently. If a school trip, or one item is more important than another item, that is their individual choice. She noted sites have been told if they need supplies, they can ask for them and we will be sure the classrooms and sites receive the needed supplies.

Ms. Vetica noted that at the secondary level, schools don't spend down to within ten percent of their allotments. She noted that secondary schools allocated more money to their Science Departments, allocating an average of \$25,000, up from \$5,000 with most other departments receiving about \$1,500.

Minutes, Regular Meeting
April 21, 2015
Page 9

Mr. Heberle voiced concern that students have the needed supplies in their hands at the beginning of the school year.

Board Advisory Committee Reports


None

Future Agenda Items

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 p.m.


Clerk of the Board
President of the Board