



## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 4, 2017

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

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**Board Members Present:** Mr. Ron Heberle, President; Dr. Daryl Talken, Clerk; Mr. Ron Freitas (*via teleconference*); Mr. Gary Knackstedt; and Mr. Joe Nava

**Board Members Absent:** Ms. Bonnie Cassel and Mr. George Neely

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

**Student Representatives:** Ms. Carina Zazzarino (substitute), Lodi High School and Mr. Michael Stallworth, Ronald McNair 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

No public comment was received on Closed Session agenda items.

### Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

### Reconvene Open Session

The meeting was reconvened at 7:01 p.m. Attendance was recorded and it was noted that Mr. Freitas was attending via teleconference from Monterey, California and both Ms. Cassel and Mr. Neely were absent. President Heberle led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Closed Session

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

- **Closed Session Personnel Matters:**

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Freitas seconded and the Board voted to approve the appointment of Allen Dosty as Program Coordinator, Child Welfare & Attendance, effective date to be determined, by the following vote:

Ayes: Freitas; Heberle; Knackstedt; Nava; and Talken

Noes: None

Absent: Cassel and Neely

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

○ **Closed Session Personnel Matters:**

Dr. Talken motioned, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board voted to approve the appointment of Chandara Chunn as an Elementary School Principal, effective date to be determined, by the following vote:

Ayes: Freitas; Heberle; Knackstedt; Nava; and Talken

Noes: None

Absent: Cassel and Neely

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

## **Recognitions**

### **FFA State Champion Grapevine Pruning Team for 2017 from Tokay High School**

The top four team members of the Tokay High School FFA program's Grapevine Pruning Team earned the title of "State Champion Grapevine Pruning Team" at the recent FFA state finals in Fresno. Rebecca Freeman, Teacher/Coach and Joe Valente, Coach, were also acknowledged.

### **Tokay High School Science Bowl Team Achieves Regional Championship Designation and Will Compete at the Nationals in Washington D.C.**

The Tokay High School Science Bowl Team won the regional championship for the Central Valley and will now compete at the national level in Washington D.C. Coach Susan Heberle was acknowledged. It was also acknowledged that this was the first time that Lodi USD hosted the Central Valley Science Bowl event. Ms. Heberle thanked staff and Luann Casey, retired teacher, for assistance in coordinating the event.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Washer displayed a photograph showing the celebration naming Lincoln Technical Academy Instructor, Toni Dahlen, as the Barnes and Noble Teacher of the Year. Barnes and Noble selects an annual teacher of the year based on nominations from students. A video clip of the *Good Morning Sacramento* segment featuring the Joey Travolta Film Camp was shown. The two-week long film camp with Inclusion Films involved general and special education students working together to create, produce, film and edit. The film premier is scheduled for May 22 at Hutchins Street Square in Lodi.

Karen Minnick, Teacher/Speech Coach, Bear Creek High School, reported on Bear Creek High School Speech and Debate Students' achievement at a recent meet in Arcadia. Amongst the winners of the speech contests were three of the students took first place and two of those students double qualified. She explained the many hours of preparation by students and coaches to prepare for such meets and the costs associated with competing.

## **Comments from the Public**

Monie Rude-Scrivner, Teacher, Bear Creek High School, asked that the Board compensate Lodi USD teachers with salary and benefits comparable to Stockton Unified School District.

Rosslyn Halekakis, Community Member/Teacher Stockton USD, asked that the Board attract and retain all Lodi educators by offering them a fair contract settlement. She detailed recent salary increases and benefit package offerings from Stockton USD.



## **Comments from the Public - continued**

Cole Hudson, Teacher, Podesta Ranch Elementary School, detailed some of the difficulties at Podesta Ranch. He commented that despite year-long substitute teachers in his son's science class and four principals at the school site in five years, the teachers continue to bring about academic excellence in their students and for this, they should be fairly compensated.

Lana Gentry, Teacher, Bear Creek High School, spoke of the need for a salary increase for teachers and apprised the Board that surrounding districts are sending recruiting information to our teachers.

Joe Sandoval, Teacher, Bear Creek High School, spoke of the loss of teachers to surrounding school districts where they could earn more money and the need for an increase in compensation to Lodi teachers.

Jeff Johnston, Library Media Specialist, Tokay High School, spoke regarding the Board's decision making process when it comes to budgetary allocations and making decisions based on Board priorities. He asked for a fair contract settlement for teachers.

Jaimee Wilson, Teacher, Oakwood Elementary School, spoke of the loss of a RSP teacher at their school site, who left for another district with lower caseloads and substitutes to cover when she is administering tests. She asked that the Board make LUSD an attractive work environment where teachers will come and won't want to leave.

Dawn Teagen, Teacher, Lockeford School, spoke of how the District has changed over the years. She asked that the District settle the arguments and accept the offer of the Memorandum of Understanding to build the Concept Plan.

Jeff Tracey, Teacher, Tokay High School, asked that the Board consider a fair contract settlement for teachers and equated what a two percent salary increase would mean to him, a 35-year teacher.

Aimee Ramsower, Teacher, Beckman Elementary School, spoke regarding the shortage of four music teachers. She explained that at her school site teachers are losing prep periods. They are getting paid via timecard; however, this does not make up for the missed time to prepare. She cited various problems with lack of substitutes and the prolonged use of long term substitutes.

Maria Ironteeth, Teacher, Oakwood Elementary School, spoke regarding the salary level for teachers and as a single parent of four children; her income qualifies her for Healthy Families insurance for the children.

Jamie Hillis, Teacher, Millswood Middle School, spoke regarding a salary increase to retain teachers that exceeds the two percent currently being offered.

Rebecca Pisano, Teacher, Creekside Elementary School, spoke regarding lack of substitute music teachers. She read a letter from a sixth grade student in her class asking for consideration for staffing of RSP teachers and nurses, art classes, and more.

## Consent Agenda A

No items were pulled from Consent Agenda A by either Board or members of the public.

- Item A-1 Changes to the Adopted Budget
- Item A-2 Donations Report
- Item A-3 Contracts List
- Item A-4 Resolution 2017-30 – 2017 Quick Start Projects for Measure U (Westwood Roofing Project No. 0901-8201, BCHS Painting Project No. 0902-8202, McNair Painting Project No. 0903-8203 and J. Serna Roofing Project No. 0904-8204) Authorization To Advertise and Solicit Bids
- Item A-5 Minutes of the Regular Meeting, March 21, 2017

Mr. Knackstedt motioned, Dr. Talken seconded and the Board voted to approve Consent Agenda A, as follows:

Ayes: Freitas, Heberle, Knackstedt, Nava, and Talken

No: None

Absent: Cassel and Neely

Abstain: None

Motion carried

The student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

## Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases

- Item B-1 Expulsion: Student #16/17-10-51
- Item B-2 Expulsion: Student #16/17-10-52
- Item B-3 Expulsion: Student #16/17-7-53
- Item B-4 Expulsion: Student #16/17-10-54
- Item B-5 Expulsion: Student #16/17-11-55
- Item B-6 Expulsion: Student #16/17-7-56

Dr. Talken motioned, Mr. Knackstedt seconded and the Board voted to approve Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases, as follows:

Ayes: Freitas, Heberle, Knackstedt, Nava, and Talken

No: None

Absent: Cassel and Neely

Abstain: None

Motion carried

## Other Action Items

### Resolution 2017-29 Concerning The Hiring of Short-term Classified Employees

Mike McKilligan, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel, presented Resolution 2017-29 for Board consideration. He explained that the District's Technology Department is in need of classified employees during the summer months.

Dr. Talken motioned, Mr. Knackstedt seconded and the Board voted to approve Resolution 2017-29 Concerning The Hiring of Short-term Classified Employees, as follows:

Ayes: Freitas, Heberle, Knackstedt, Nava, and Talken  
No: None  
Absent: Cassel and Neely  
Abstain: None Motion carried

The student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

## **Personnel Matters**

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

Dr. Talken motioned, Mr. Knackstedt seconded and the Board members voted to approve Personnel Matters, as presented, as follows:

Ayes: Freitas, Heberle, Knackstedt, Nava, and Talken  
No: None  
Absent: Cassel and Neely  
Abstain: None Motion carried

## **Communications**

### **Comments from Student Representatives**

Carina Zazzarino (substitute), Lodi High School and Michael Stallworth, Ronald E. McNair High School, presented reports from their respective high schools.

### **Comments from Employee Groups**

Debra Ladwig, President, California School Employees Association, Lodi Chapter #77, spoke in reference to Resolution 2017-29 (Concerning The Hiring of Short-term Classified Employees) that was approved by Board under the "Other Action Items" section of the agenda. She stated she was disappointed that CSEA representatives could not have had a better conversation with the District regarding the matter. She noted CSEA expects that unit members will do that work (as mentioned in the resolution). Ms. Ladwig explained that during this time of year there is much activity in the CSEA unit including the selection of their Classified Employee of the Year and Classified School Employee Week, among other activities.

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association, recalled the personal stories and comments made earlier in the evening by her fellow teachers during the "Comments from the Public" section of the agenda. She explained that teachers in Lodi are in a competitive market and are highly desirable to other markets. Elk Grove USD is currently recruiting classified and certificated employees, as are other districts in the area. She referred to the Local Control and Accountability Plan and referenced the Board's ability to change budget categories.



### **Comments from the Board**

Mr. Nava spoke in reference to an item on the March 21, 2017 Other Action Item agenda pertaining to the appointment of Measure U Citizens' Oversight Committee. He stated that he, Mr. Freitas and Mr. Heberle were the Board members on the candidate selection committee, which met, interviewed candidates and made a recommendation to appoint all eight candidates. Mr. Nava continued that at that meeting, Mr. Neely made the motion to select the first seven on the agenda item, which was seconded by Dr. Talken. He then spoke up questioning the motion. Mr. Nava indicated, according to Mr. Sun it was acceptable to have up to nine members represent the committee. Noting that all eight candidates were very competent and the members of the committee expended 2.5 hours in the selection process, Mr. Nava felt the Board President should have stopped the motion as he was involved in the selection process and the recommendation of the committee should have been respected. Mr. Nava stated that he would like to have the motion brought back and said he hoped it was an oversight.

Mr. Knackstedt said he appreciated the folks who showed up at the meeting this evening and for their comments. He acknowledged that their comments were heard and that the Board has intentions of trying to make things work.

Mr. Freitas referenced the Donations Report on Consent Agenda A, which reported that over \$60,000 was received by the District and thanked the individual and companies that contributed. Mr. Freitas thanked Mr. Nava for his comments and indicated he would like to join Mr. Nava in his request to bring the matter (appointment of Measure U Citizens' Oversight Committee) back. He thanked staff for making it possible for him to be two places at once (teleconferencing).

### **Comments from the Superintendent**

No further comments.

### **Board Advisory Committee Reports**

None


### **Future Agenda Items**

No items for future agenda were presented.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

  
Clerk of the Board

  
President of the Board