



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

OF THE

BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 19, 2013

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

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

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

Meeting Recorder: 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 comments were received at this time.

Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

Reconvene Open Session

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

Closed Session

President Womack reported on the following actions taken in Closed Session:

- **Non-Public School Student Placement** – Ms. Davis motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the placement of Non-Public School Student 2013-14 #72.
- **CAHSEE Waivers** – Ms. Davis motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board voted 7-0 to approve California High School Exit Exam Waiver for student 2013-14 #9.
- **Closed Session Personnel Matters** - Ms. Davis motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the appointment of Dr. Kristen Elgen as Coordinator, Special Education and Student Services, effective date TBD.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Washer reported that the GOT Kids Foundation is hosting a San Francisco Shopping Trip on Saturday, December 7th; working on plans for the Second Annual Casino Night scheduled for May 9th; and a Talent Showcase on February 22nd at McNair theatre. Superintendent Washer announced she will again be sponsoring a Student Poetry Contest.

Catherine Pennington, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education, gave a report on the expansion of the Transitional Kindergarten program. Programs are currently being added to Creekside and Larson Schools. Transitional Kindergarten classes are already in place at Podesta Ranch, Mosher, Lakewood and Lawrence.

Spotlight

City of Lodi Gang Reduction, Intervention, Prevention (LodiGRIP) Program

Mr. Joseph Wood, Neighborhood Services Manager, City of Lodi, presented information related to the gang intervention program offered at the Lodi high schools and middle schools.

Intervention Program at Lodi High School

A team from Lodi High School presented information about the intervention program they have developed using SSR time and lunch breaks.

Consent Agenda A

Mr. Heberle asked to remove Item A-4; Mr. Neely removed Item A-5; and Item A-7 was removed from the Consent Agenda by Mr. Freitas.

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

- Item A-1 Changes to the Adopted Budget
- Item A-2 Warrants
- Item A-3 Purchase Order Detail Report
- Item A-6 Minutes from the November 5, 2013, Regular Meeting
- Item A-8 Positive Prevention HIV/AIDS Education Program

The student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Item A-4 Contracts List

Mr. Heberle asked if the District is looking to increase developer fees, as we are currently at level one. Mr. Hern responded that he does not believe that the District qualifies for level two. Mr. Heberle further elaborated that both Lodi and Stockton have pending subdivisions and he wants to assure that the District will get the appropriate amount of developer fees, as both are within District boundaries.

Mr. Heberle motioned, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item A-4 Contracts List.

The student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Item A-5 Resolution 2013-35 Approval of a Master Agreement between Caltrans and Lodi Unified School District

Mr. Neely thanked Mr. Hern and staff for the acquisition of an additional twelve compressed natural gas (CNG) busses to replace twelve older model diesel busses.

Mr. Neely motioned, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item A-5 Resolution 2013-35 Approval of a Master Agreement between Caltrans and Lodi Unified School District.

The student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Item A-7 Resolution 2013-36 Finding That Board Member Ron Freitas Was Absent From the October 15, 2013, Regular Board Meeting Due to a Hardship Deemed Acceptable by the Board

Mr. Freitas pulled the item for the purpose of abstaining from the voting procedure.

Mr. Neely motioned, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board voted, as follows, to approve Item A-7 Resolution 2013-36 Finding That Board Member Ron Freitas Was Absent From the October 15, 2013, Regular Board Meeting Due to a Hardship Deemed Acceptable by the Board.

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

Motion carried

The student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases

Expulsion: Student #13/14-7-19
Expulsion: Student #13/14-11-20
Expulsion: Student #13/14-9-21
Expulsion: Student #13/14-12-22
Expulsion: Student #13/14-11-23

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

Other Action Items

Requesting Approval to Refinance the 2003 Refunding Certificates of Participation

Mr. Hern explained that by refinancing the Certificates of Participation, the District could take advantage of a better interest rate, saving the District approximately \$65,000 annually.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Request for Approval to Refinance the 2003 Refunding Certificates of Participation.

The student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Personnel Matters

Mr. McKilligan presented Personnel Matters for Board consideration.

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

Communications

Comments from Student Representatives

Deven Villarin, Lodi High School and Amanda Sieglock, Tokay High School, presented reports from their respective high schools.

Comments from the Public

Martha Snider, Teacher, Christa McAuliffe, spoke in support of contract restorations for teachers.

Diane Magallon, Social Worker, Hospice of San Joaquin, presented information of the bereavement program offered to children and teens.

Claudine Stanbridge, Teacher, Heritage School, thanked the community and schools for their overwhelming support for Eden Miranda. She gave a brief update as to his recovery process. She reported that Heritage students were in the process of making a mosaic piece to be included on a memorial bench to be erected on the Heritage campus to honor the memory of the Miranda family.

Comments from Employee Groups

Jeff Johnston, President, Lodi Education Association, reported the passing of long-time Lodi educator, Judy McKelvey. He also gave an update on bargaining issues.

Comments from Board Members

Mr. Heberle commented on the loss and accomplishments of Judy McKelvey, former Lodi educator of 38 years. He recognized Tokay and Lodi High for Block T and Block L awards; and asked staff to look at how we can reduce class sizes at the high school level.

Mr. Neely asked why Katnich School only has 10 students; asked for a report on attendance tracking and what LUSD does about trancies; asked for a report on the impact of the Affordable Care Act; and spoke of CTE grant opportunities and bargaining issues.

Ms. Cassel attended the presentation of "Singing Under the Harvest Moon" at Larson School. She attended Block T and an Academy Meeting, both at Tokay High. She voiced her support for the purchase of energy efficient busses and asked staff to look at state CTE grant opportunities.

Mr. Nava attended the PLCs at Clairmont and Lodi High Schools and stated he was very impressed with both; attended the Hmong New Year celebration at which many of our Stockton area students performed; and acknowledged McNair's Block M awards celebration.

Mr. Womack reported on his visit to Sutherland School and PLC at Julia Morgan; acknowledged the Block L celebration at Lodi High; and complimented the Business Services staff on excellent work with the budget as indicated by the District auditors.

Comments from the Superintendent

No further comments.

REPORTS

Strategies to Address Over-crowding at Christa McAuliffe

Dawn Vetica, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding boundaries and three suggested strategies for addressing the overcrowding concerns. The first strategy is to close the school to future Inter-District Agreement (IDA) requests; second, to look at sixth grade enrollment numbers at feeder schools. The third strategy is to increase counseling time with a cost of about \$40,000.

Ms. Cassel stated that after touring Delta Sierra and reviewing their API scores, benchmark assessments, and currently offered programs, her opinion has changed from the November 5th Board meeting and she now supports sending the Sutherland students to Delta Sierra. Ms. Cassel stated that the overcrowding at Christa McAuliffe must be having an impact upon the learning process.

Ms. Davis stated she did not want to compare schools, as both are excellent middle schools. She thanked Ms. Vetica for providing options and stated that students' needs will be met at either middle school.

Mr. Neely was not impressed with the strategies offered, stating that we need to watch statistics because they can be misleading. He felt that the strategies offered justify the original intent, whereas he wanted staff to "look outside the box."

Public Comments

Dave Hurley, Teacher, Sutherland School, stated he did not see any solutions than had not already been suggested.

Ann Swehla Garcia, Teacher, Julia Morgan and Bear Creek High School Parent, suggested that Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) students could attend Delta Sierra, thus making additional room at Elkhorn, ending the current lottery system for available spots at Elkhorn.

LaShawnda Carey, Parent, stated the case for more strategies/options for Board and parents of Parklane/Sutherland students.

Martha Snider, Teacher, Christa McAuliffe, asked that the Board look at all boundaries throughout the District.

Mary Hood, Teacher, Podesta Ranch, presented the option that Podesta Ranch could expand to a K-8 site.

Christy Torres, Parent, John Muir, spoke of Mello-Roos funding for Christa McAuliffe and parents wanting their students to attend a school they funded via this tax fee.

Mr. Heberle stated that he voted against the proposal at the last Board meeting to acquire additional information. Having done so, he is now ready to proceed with the original proposal.

Mr. Nava asked that staff bring back the proposal to the next Board meeting as an Action Item. Mr. Womack confirmed that this was a consensus of the entire Board.

Common Core State Standards Implementation Funding Spending Plan

Lisa Kotowski, Administrative Director, Curriculum & Instruction, presented a report regarding how the District will spend the one-time Common Core funds.

Mr. Nava and Mr. Heberle asked about flexibility in terms of budget. Mr. Hern stated that changes can be made, as any other budget item.

Ms. Davis expressed concern regarding spending more on staff development than on materials. Ms. Kotowski explained that additional funds will be spent on instructional materials and the staff development costs are significant, as teachers need the training on Common Core Standards. Dr. Washer further clarified that additional instructional materials will be purchased from other general fund sources.

Mr. Neely expressed concern regarding the purchase of Chrome Books. Mr. Hern answered that Chrome Books are the best way to accommodate 100% of the schools testing for two weeks. He also responded to Mr. Neely by stating that additional laptops will be purchased. Mr. Neely asked for a report on this equipment purchase.

Public Comments

Sue Kenmotsu, Teacher, Julia Morgan, stated that her class has utilized Chrome Books, which were Internet capable. She stated the Technology Department installed an icon that enabled the students to locate the practice test with one click.

Mr. Heberle addressed concerns regarding access to professional development being offered at various times, as to not impact the school day.

Susan Heberle, Community Member, expressed concern regarding teachers being out of the classroom for professional development and that the District should have non-instructional time during the work year.

Joe Serna, Jr. Charter School Common Core State Standards Implementation Funding Spending Plan

Catherine Pennington, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary, presented the funding report and explained the needs and testing timeframe for the school site.

Joe Serna, Jr. Charter School Annual Report

Catherine Pennington and Maria Cervantes, Principal, Joe Serna Charter School presented the school's focus, future direction and action plan.

Mr. Freitas commented that he was very impressed with the program and the commitment of a Joe Serna Charter School parent he had encountered.

Mr. Womack commended staff for the 31 point gain in achievement rankings.

Ms. Cassel commented on the original charter. Ms. Pennington stated she wrote the original charter and believes the best is yet to come for the site.

Board Policy Revisions

Dr. Washer presented the suggested revisions and changes. She stated that most of the policies are technical revisions to meet legal requirements, suggestions from the California Department of Education or California School Boards Association.

Mr. Heberle asked who he should talk to regarding the policy on environmental changes. Dr. Washer suggested he speak to Mitch Slater, Director of Maintenance & Operations. He also posed a question in relation to student fees.

Mr. Freitas asked where the revisions originate. Dr. Washer stated that California School Boards Association (CSBA) sends suggestions on a regular basis. An example is the bullying policy is not a requirement but a suggestion. Many revisions are the result of law changes.

Mr. Womack asked a question regarding Policy 5113 and Rule 6146.2.

Board Advisory Committee Reports

None

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.


Clerk of the Board


President of the Board