

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 1, 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

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. via YouTube and GoToWebinar.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association on a Closed Session item.

Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

Reconvene Open Session

The meeting was reconvened at 7:03 p.m. and attendance was recorded. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Nava.

Welcome Student Representatives

Mr. Nava welcomed Emma Glanville from Bear Creek High School, and Haley Escorpiso from Ronald McNair School.

Closed Session

President Nava reported that no action was taken in Closed Session.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of former Wagner Holt Elementary School Teacher, Mitchel Atchley, who passed away on August 19, 2020.

Public Hearing

Learning Continuity Plan (LCP)

President Nava declared open the Public Hearing: Learning Continuity Plan. Superintendent Washer presented the Learning Continuity Plan (LCP), which is a revised process of the Local Control and Accountability Plan. She stated there is a Special Meeting planned on September 8, 2020, if the Board would like to proceed, to discuss the LCP in more detail. Dr. Washer introduced Robert Sahli, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, who gave a brief overview of the plan.

Dr. Sahli stated the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan template addresses the large areas of expenditures; personal protective equipment, Distance Learning, meal services, professional development, and modifications the District is making due to COVID-19.

Mr. Nava confirmed that the Special Meeting will take place on September 8, 2020.

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

Jen Dietrich, Parent

Debra Ladwig, President, California School Employees Association, Lodi, Chapter #77

Dean Blount, President, Lodi Pupil Personnel Association

Mr. Nava declared the public hearing closed.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Washer shared a math lesson video from Phi-Bao Tran, 8th Grade Math Teacher at Millswood Middle School. She thanked Mr. Tran and Erin Lenzi, Principal at Millswood Middle, for their great work and letting her share the video. Dr. Washer announced that GOT Kids held an event over the weekend. She shared pictures of volunteers who gathered to stuff 1,600 envelopes with school supplies. The envelopes will be distributed during meal service at selected school sites. Dr. Washer thanked everyone involved and expressed special thanks to Diede Construction who donated the location for the assembling event.

Comments from the Public

Natalie Handel, K/1st Combo Teacher, Houston Elementary School, commented on grouping students by grade level for combo classes during hybrid distance learning.

Comments from Board Members

Mr. Knackstedt congratulated Hank Chau, 7th/8th Grade STEM Teacher at Elkhorn School, who received the designation of San Joaquin County Office of Education 2019-20 STEM Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Porter thanked CSEA members for their great work from meals to technology during these trying times as well as the LEA teachers for all their hard work. He stated he would like the Expansion of Valley Robotics Academy (Item OAI-6) from the August 18, 2020 Board meeting, brought back to the next Board meeting. Mr. Porter previously voted no, but would like staff to present a report to look at the staffing and teacher-based curriculum so it can be revisited.

Mr. Neely requested Dr. Washer to look into Ms. Handel's comments about combo classes. Mr. Neely commented on all the great things he is witnessing during Distance Learning and thanked all the staff.

Mr. Heberle thanked everyone involved in Distance Learning.

Mr. Freitas recognized Timmy Samuth, student from McNair High School who passed away and expressed his condolences to his friends, family and classmates. He agreed with Mr. Porter and would like the expansion of VRA brought back because he too, voted no and would like more information brought back to the Special Meeting on September 8, 2020.

Mrs. Macfarlane thanked everyone who makes the District run, day in and day out, and for all their efforts during these trying times.

Mr. Nava congratulated teachers for doing a good job. He thanked Mr. Porter for bringing back the VRA Expansion proposal and asked Assistant Superintendent, Jeff Palmquist to request Stacy Kahn, principal at VRA, to be available to speak at the September 8th meeting.

Comments from Student Representatives

Emma Glanville, Bear Creek High School and Haley Escorpiso, Ronald McNair School, presented reports from their respective schools.

Mr. Nava excused Ms. Escorpiso after her report.

Reports

Proposed Business Services Position for Facilities and Risk Management as Part of a Reorganization Plan for the Maintenance & Operations Department

Mr. Kahn presented a proposed job description for a Director of Operations and Risk Management and a new organizational chart for M&O, Risk Management and Facilities.

Mr. Heberle asked for clarification on how a risk management item or situation progresses through our District. Mr. Kahn responded and discussion ensued.

Mr. Freitas thanked Mr. Kahn for his report and his thoughts that went into the proposed reorganization of the departments. He stated his concern about filling the position and is strongly undecided. Mr. Freitas stated he is looking forward to hearing what his colleagues have to say and for more information.

Mrs. Macfarlane stated she appreciated the work that went into the report, but her biggest concern is the education in the job description doesn't show any insurance or risk assessment field background. She also commented on the amount of groundskeepers on the organizational chart and was astonished that we have so few.

Mr. Knackstedt asked Mr. Kahn what he thought the chief advantage of doing the reorganization would be and what the biggest disadvantage would be.

Mr. Kahn replied stating the department would run more efficiently but the downside would be that might create a department that may lack work in the future.

Mr. Neely thanked Mr. Kahn for the information and feels like the position might help eliminate the money spent on consultants.

Mr. Porter stated he was surprised by the vast job requirements in the proposed job description and stated he would like more time to do research on this topic.

Mr. Nava stated he would like the job description to state what the position is going to do, not just a list of duties and responsibilities, and he does not want to see a pecking order.

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

Proposed Adoption of an Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drone) Policy

Mr. Kahn thanked Isaiah Stowers, Teacher at Delta Sierra Middle School, Christina Colburn, Teacher at Valley Robotics Academy, and Stacy Kahn, Principal at Valley Robotics for their input on the proposed policy. Mr. Kahn stated that this policy separates school academic use and non-academic use of drones. He commented that the Superintendent can grant permission for staff and students to operate drones on school sites.

No Board or public comments were received.

Consent Agenda A, Routine Business

Ms. Orgon pulled Items A-2, Megan Long, Speech Language Pathologist, Health Services, pulled Item A-4, and Mr. Heberle pulled Item A-5 from Consent Agenda A for discussion.

- Item A-1 Contracts List
- Item A-3 Resolution 2020-66 Authorizing the Filing of the Notice of Completion (NOC) for the Valley Robotics Extension Road Project
- Item A-6 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 18, 2020

Mr. Freitas moved, Mrs. Macfarlane 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-2 Changes to the Adopted Budget

Ms. Orgon questioned the change on the budget to Fund 12, Increase Head Start Preschool budget and asked why it was increased.

Mr. Kahn responded stating it was an increase in funding and an allowance for more Head Start seats in the District.

Mr. Heberle moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda A, Item A-2 Changes to the Adopted Budget.

Item A-4 Addition of Ardor Health Solutions, Maxim Healthcare Staffing, ProCare Therapy, RX Healthcare, The Speech Pathology Group, and Sunbelt Staffing to The 2020-2021 Non-Public Agency Master Contract

Ms. Long, commented that approving the SLP contracts is supplanting Lodi Unified employees and that the District is paying contractors a much greater rate of pay. She requested the Board to look at the wording of contracts when they are approving contracts; noting the student caps.

Mr. Neely moved and Mr. Porter seconded to approve Item A-4 Addition of Ardor Health Solutions, Maxim Healthcare Staffing, ProCare Therapy, RX Healthcare, The Speech Pathology Group, and Sunbelt Staffing to The 2020-2021 Non-Public Agency Master Contract, as follows:

Ayes: Heberle; Knackstedt; Macfarlane; Nava; Neely; Porter
Noes: Freitas
Absent: None
Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Item A-5 Revised Ratification of Representatives and Alternate Designees to CIF Section (California Interscholastic Federation)

Mr. Heberle questioned if the new alternate designees get trained on policy and procedures and if so, when.

Jeff Palmquist, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, responded stating there are a series of trainings and the first one is in the coming week.

Mr. Heberle moved, Mr. Freitas seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda A, Item A-5 Revised Ratification of Representatives and Alternate Designees to CIF Section (California Interscholastic Federation).

Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases

- Item B-1 Revoke Suspended Expulsion: Student # 19/20-10-18
- Item B-2 Reinstatement: Student # 19/20-6-25

Mr. Freitas moved, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda B, Student Discipline Cases, as presented.

Other Action Items

Item OAI-1 Approval of the Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) Eligibility Certification for Henderson School as the School's Enrollment Meets the DASS Criteria

Robert Sahli, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, explained that Dominee Muller-Kimball, Principal, Henderson and Independence, brought forward this item to address the unique situation with Henderson as a continuation school. He commented that the state has recognized for years that there are certain schools that house students that are more transient than others and thus have different factors that would impact the measurement of the school on the state dashboard.

Mr. Knackstedt stated that it makes sense and he is in favor.

Mr. Neely agrees that it makes sense but stated separately from this item he would like to revisit Henderson School because he feels like Lodi Unified is missing opportunities. He stated he would like a report brought to the Board sometime before spring break 2021.

Mr. Freitas agrees with Mr. Neely and looks forward to further information on Henderson School.

Public Comment

No comments were received from the public.

Student Representative Glanville voted aye.

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Knackstedt seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-1 Approval of the Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) Eligibility Certification for Henderson School as the School's Enrollment Meets the DASS Criteria.

Personnel Matters

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

Public Comment

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Knackstedt seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Personnel Matters.

Communications

Comments from Employee Group Representatives

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association, commented regarding allowing questions during the Board meeting tonight and thanked the Board for recognizing the loss of Mitchel Atchley. She stated that LEA is looking forward to language from the District regarding negotiations and being face to face with students. Ms. Orgon commented on the District being proactive on planning for the hybrid and small group settings and hopes (the District and LEA) to come to an agreement before something goes out to the public. She also commented on student attendance and taking roll in the digital classrooms and concerned about the amount of time it is taking away from teachers. Ms. Orgon stated concern over who will be teaching the elementary Distance Learning all year long after returning to in-person school.

Comments from the Superintendent

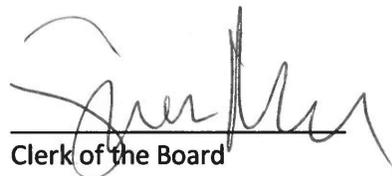
Dr. Washer had no further comments.

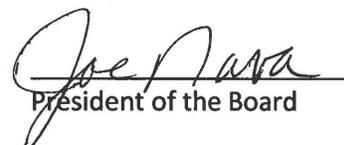
Board Advisory Committee Reports

No reports were presented.

Adjourn

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Knackstedt seconded and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.


Clerk of the Board


President of the Board