



MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 24, 2022

Closed Session 5:30 p.m./Study Session 6:00 p.m.

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

Board Member Absent: Mr. George Neely, Clerk

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 5:30 p.m. at the James Areida Education Support Center, 1305 East Vine Street, Lodi, CA, and broadcast on YouTube.

Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance was recorded and Mr. Knackstedt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 6:00 p.m.

Closed Session

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

President Macfarlane held a moment of silence for the Robb Elementary School community in Uvalde, Texas.

Study Session

2022-2023 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)/District Budget: Goals, Expenditures, Staffing, Budget Committee Recommendations

Robert Sahli, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, and Rafael Ceja, Program Coordinator, Educational Support Services, presented a report and update on the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). Dr. Ceja spoke about the new required LCAP Goal, stating that districts with student groups identified for Differentiated Assistance (underperforming based on California Department of Education Dashboard indicators) for three years (2017, 2018, 2019) are required to write LCAP goals for those student groups. Dr. Ceja stated that Lodi USD students with disabilities, and homeless, are the two groups that meet the criteria. He commented that approximately \$823,000 is allocated to the LCAP Goal 4 and

that due to increase in add-on concentration funding, Lodi USD received an additional \$6,170,570 for the 2022-2023 school year. He explained the funds will apply to increasing staffing levels for specific actions and adding new staffing to address existing deficiencies. Dr. Ceja stated that staff will finalize the LCAP after the Board Study Session and present the final LCAP at the Public Hearing on June 7, 2022.

Mr. Nava and Mr. Knackstedt expressed concern over the staffing shortage and asked how the District will recruit new employees.

Discussion ensued.

Dr. Washer introduced Neil Young, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education, who addressed possible solutions for teacher staffing to help assure a fully credentialed teacher is in each classroom, especially for the start of the school year.

Mr. Knackstedt suggested giving a stipend to teachers who take combo classes.

Mr. Porter suggested moving all credentialed teachers at schools that are not working with students (i.e., coaches) and move them into the classroom. He also proposed moving teachers from one school site to the other within the District.

Mr. Heberle recommended getting the teachers who are on special assignments back in classrooms and that student/teacher ratios should never be raised.

Mrs. Macfarlane stated the District needs to think outside the box and suggested the employees pay structures be reviewed.

Mr. Young, spoke about the Digital Academy and the decrease in student interest and performance. He suggested that the Digital Academy reduce the on-site teachers which would allow for two elementary teachers, and four middle school single subject teachers to return to other classrooms across the District.

Discussion ensued.

Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, and Adina Andris, Budget Director, presented the budget update executive summary, commenting that a complete analysis of the Governor's May Revision will be provided at the June 7, 2022 Regular Board Meeting. They stated the initial analysis of the May Revision announced on Friday May 13, 2022, revealed a projected on-going revenue increase to K-12 of 9.89%, comprised of a 6.56% COLA and approximately 3.33% increase to LCFF under Prop 98, with all three (3) tax bases (PITI, Sales, and Corporate) showing healthy gains. Mr. Kahn stated it is important to consider how drastically different the economic environment was in the 2021 tax year, commenting that since January 2022, interest rates have effectively doubled, stocks have tumbled, the Federal Reserve Bank has stated its intention to Quantitatively Tighten credit conditions, inflation is embedded and rising, and goods/food shortages are occurring across all sectors. He presented the 2022-2023 Budget showing a bulk of current vacancies unfunded which is estimated to be the mathematical difference between a positive and a qualified budget in the 2023-2024 Budget Year. Mr. Kahn stated that at some point the Board will need to address the ongoing deficit. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Andris presented a draft salary comparison analysis for Lodi USD and the surrounding areas. She stated that Lodi USD compensation ranges from equivalent-to-lower versus its comp districts; however, Lodi generally staffs at lower student/staff ratios. Discussion ensued.

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

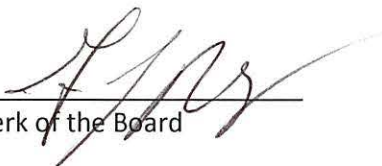
Desiree Wise, Representative, California School Employees Association, Lodi, Chapter #77

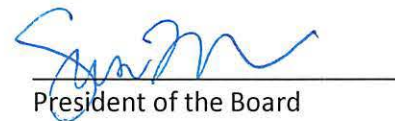
Bobbie Ables-Smith, Representative, Lodi Pupil Personnel Association

Lisa Wilkins, Teacher, Morada Middle School

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.


Clerk of the Board


President of the Board