



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 23, 2015

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

Board Members Present: Mr. Joe Nava, President; Mr. George Neely (*teleconferenced*), Vice President; Mr. Ron Freitas, Clerk; Ms. Bonnie Cassel (*teleconferenced*); Mr. Ron Heberle; Dr. Daryl Talken (*teleconferenced*) and Mr. Ralph Womack

Administrative Staff: Dr. Cathy Washer, Superintendent; and Mr. Tim Hern, Associate Superintendent/CBO

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

Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

Reconvene Open Session

The meeting was reconvened at 7:04 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:

- **Closed Session Personnel Matters:**
 - Mr. Womack motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board voted to approve the appointment of Mr. Enrique Avalos as Coordinator of Positive School Climate, effective July 1, 2015, by the following vote:
 - Ayes: Cassel, Freitas, Heberle, Nava, Talken, Womack
 - No: None
 - Absent: Talken*
 - Abstain: None

Motion carried

**Note: Dr. Talken marked absent for Closed Session, as we could not establish telephone contact to his teleconferenced location.*

Superintendent and Staff Member Reports

Dr. Washer announced the Campaign for Business & Education Excellence named the following schools to their roster of Honor Roll Schools for 2014: Middle College High School (Honor Roll and STEM); Elkhorn School (Honor Roll and STEM); Podesta Ranch School (Honor Roll); Manlio Silva School (Honor

Roll); and Vinewood School (Honor Roll). The 2014 Honor Roll includes public K-8 and high schools that are recognized for demonstrating consistently high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement over time, and reduction in achievement gaps. STEM designates schools that excel in science and mathematics.

Dr. Washer announced that Needham West School is currently conducting a Film Camp for students. The Joey Travolta Summer Film Camp is designed to address social, cognitive, communication and interpersonal skills of individuals diagnosed with high functioning autism or Asperger's syndrome. The students will learn the process of making a short film. Dr. Washer invited those interested to drop by to view the activities; on Thursday they will be conducting a "Shark Tank" activity. Today, when she visited, all students were engaged in making a trailer for a movie.

Consent Agenda A

Mr. Freitas pulled Item A-1 and Mr. Neely pulled Item A-3 from Consent Agenda A.

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

Item A-2 2015-16 Non-Public Agency Master Contract

Item A-1 Nutrition Services – Contracts and Extension Contracts 2015-16 School Year

Mr. Freitas commended staff for increasing the fresh produce and dairy portions of the contract, as he had commented during the 2014-15 contract approval process that those areas were lacking. He also noted the utilization of local vendors.

Mr. Freitas motioned, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board members voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda Item A-1 Nutrition Services – Contracts and Extension Contracts 2015-16 School Year.

Item A-3 Minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 16, 2015

Mr. Neely pulled Item A-3 to abstain from the voting process, as he was absent from the meeting of June 16, 2015.

Mr. Heberle motioned, Mr. Womack seconded and the Board voted to approve Item A-3 Minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 16, 2015, by the following vote:

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

No: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Neely

Motion carried

Other Action Items

Approval of Associate Superintendent/Chief Business Officer Employment Contract

Dr. Washer presented the contract for Board consideration. She explained that the proposed contract was in alignment with the increases given to other District staff and would extend his contract by one year.

Public Comments

Susan Heberle, Community Member

Mr. Freitas motioned, Mr. Womack seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Associate Superintendent/Chief Business Officer Employment Contract.

Approval of Superintendent Contract, Sixth Amendment

Mr. Nava brought forth the contract amendment for the superintendent position. He noted that there is an extension to 2018 and the compensation is in alignment with what other employees received.

Mr. Neely commented that he will vote against the contract; knowing that there will be enough votes for the contract to pass. Mr. Neely noted he will speak with the superintendent at a later date.

Public Comments

Ms. Susan Heberle, Community Member; Ms. Lisa Wilkins, Vice President, Lodi Education Association

Mr. Freitas motioned, Mr. Womack seconded and the Board voted to approve Approval of Superintendent Contract, Sixth Amendment by the following vote:

Ayes: Cassel, Freitas, Nava, Talken, Womack

Noes: Heberle, Neely

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

Personnel Matters

Superintendent Washer presented Personnel Matters for Board consideration.

Mr. Neely inquired regarding exit interviews for outgoing staff members as an information gathering tool. Dr. Washer stated that the District is currently utilizing an exit survey. The survey has been done via e-mail, however this has proved to be more challenging with classified staff, as not all classified have a District e-mail account. Dr. Washer noted there has not been a huge response to the surveys and this remains an issue to work on.

Mr. Freitas noted that Principal Linda Denman was on the Personnel Matters action item. He noted that her leaving will be a big loss and he wishes her the best in her retirement.

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

Communications

Comments from the Public

To comply with the agenda, President Nava asked for cooperation from the audience by adhering to the twenty (20) minute time period allotted for public comments; thereby limiting the speakers to three (3) minutes per person.

Ms. Malay O'Reilly, Teacher, Needham Elementary, spoke in support of retaining Leslie Maldonado as principal of Needham School, noting that she has gained the respect and trust of the Needham learning community and her work there is not yet finished.

Ms. Liliana Valencia, Parent, spoke in support of Leslie Maldonado remaining as principal of Needham School.

Ms. Damona Lopez, Parent, spoke in support of Leslie Maldonado remaining in the position of principal at Needham School.

Ms. Lorena Dominguez, Parent, spoke of the many contributions Leslie Maldonado had made to the Needham School site and the motivation and support she provides to the students.

Ms. Kimberly Blackwell, Parent, spoke of Leslie Maldonado being a positive force at Needham School during her two-year tenure. She voiced her displeasure with the District, as parents were not informed of the change in principalship of their school.

Ms. Catherine Pennington, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education, explained that staffing decisions are made for a variety of reasons, some of which are discussed by the Board in Closed Session. Open principal positions (currently Podesta Ranch and Needham Elementary Schools) will go through the normal interview process.

Mr. Jonathan Araujo, Student, Needham School, commented that Ms. Maldonado painted the school, planted plants and helped the students. He asked that the Board allow her to stay at his school.

Ms. Alma Rodriguez, Parent, informed Board that it has been years since the school has had a principal who has contributed so much to Needham School. If Ms. Maldonado does not return to the school, she will transfer her daughter to another school site.

Ms. Liliana Valencia, Parent, spoke again to voice concern that the parents and students were not notified of the personnel change.

Ms. Maria Alicia Rufino, Parent, informed Board that prior to Ms. Maldonado being principal, the school was substandard, including dirty drinking water fountains and students eating lunch on the floor, due to lack of accommodations. She asked that the Board allow Ms. Maldonado to remain at their school site.

Comments from Employee Group Representatives

None

Comments From Board

Mr. Freitas thanked the parents and staff from Needham School for coming to the Board meeting. He informed the parents that they will be very happy with what is being done for them and if they are not, they may return to another Board meeting. He commented that the entire District has now been designated as Title 1 and it is important that the District employs strategies to educate the impoverished. He asked that the Board have a Study Session to determine if the District is using the best practices to make sure our students are getting the best education possible. He acknowledged the contract agreements for the superintendent and the associate superintendent/chief business officer. He commented regarding this, the last Board meeting for Catherine Pennington.

Mr. Neely thanked the parents from Needham School who brought their concerns forward. He acknowledged the retirement of Catherine Pennington.

Mr. Heberle commented that the District should make known their plans related to staff reassignments, so that no one is surprised when such changes occur.

Mr. Womack thanked the parents from Needham School for their input and invited the parents to also attend Local Control Accountability Planning meetings to provide direction. He noted that the children who succeed are the ones who have strong parental involvement in their life. Teachers need support from home; parents should talk with their child's teacher to make a plan for their children. Mr. Womack stated it was a great pleasure to work with Ms. Pennington and she will be missed.

Mr. Nava thanked the parents and staff members from Needham School for providing input to the Board. He noted that past practices can change and he looks forward to a new process in terms of notification of changes regarding school staff. He thanked Ms. Pennington for her years of service, professionalism and resolution to many parental concerns.

Comments From the Superintendent

Dr. Washer thanked the Board for recognizing the last Board meeting of Ms. Pennington. Dr. Washer acknowledged Ms. Pennington's mentoring of staff, creation of programs and her service to children. Dr. Washer noted that there is no one else like Catherine Pennington and the District is going to miss her.

Board Advisory Committee Reports

No reports presented.

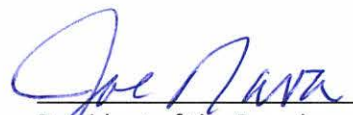
Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were presented.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.


Clerk of the Board


President of the Board