



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 18, 2014

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

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

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

Meeting Recorder: 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

None

Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

Reconvene Open Session

The meeting was reconvened at 7:08 p.m. Attendance was recorded and President Cassel led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session

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

- **Non-Public School Student Placement** - Mr. Womack motioned, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the placement of Non-Public School Students 2013-14 #s 91, 92, 93 and 94.
- **CAHSEE Waivers** - Mr. Womack motioned, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board voted 7-0 to approve California High School Exit Exam Waivers for students 2013/2014 #s 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Washer noted that Student Representatives were not in attendance, as their attendance is optional during school breaks. Dr. Washer asked Board and audience members to take a look, when leaving the meeting, at the bulletin board outside the Board rooms. The bulletin boards are the work of Ms. Laura Rodriguez's fourth grade class at Westwood Elementary School. The bulletin board exhibits a lesson that demonstrates Common Core Standards. She thanked Ms. Rodriguez and her students for sharing such an interesting presentation. Dr. Washer stated that Tokay High student, Julia Fukunaga, garnered first place in the County Science Fair and will go on to participate in the Science Fair in Los Angeles in

April. Dr. Washer reported that several Christa McAuliffe students participated in the Stockton Elks Lodge essay contest. Christa McAuliffe students placed at \$100, \$75 and \$50 levels.

Consent Agenda A

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board members voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda A, Routine Business, as presented:

- Item A-1 Changes to the Adopted Budget
- Item A-2 Contracts List
- Item A-3 Purchase Order Detail Report
- Item A-4 Warrants
- Item A-5 Minutes of the February 25, 2014 Regular Meeting

Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases

- Expulsion: Student #13/14-10-68
- Expulsion: Student #13/14-12-69
- Expulsion: Student #13/14-10-70
- Expulsion: Student #13/14-7-71
- Expulsion: Student #13/14-8-72
- Expulsion: Student #13/14-8-73
- Expulsion: Student #13/14-10-74

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

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 2014-14 – Authorization to Transfer Ownership of Clements Elementary School to the Clements School Community Center

Mr. Hern, Associate Superintendent/CBO, presented the item for Board consideration. On May 17, 2011, Resolution 2011-48 was approved by the Board to form a Surplus Property Advisory Committee for the purpose of deciding the fate of Clements Elementary School that was shuttered in 2011. The Committee returned to the Board with four recommendations. The Board decided to act on one of the recommendations, which was to return the school to the community. This action required the community to obtain a non-profit status. With the adoption of Resolution 2014-14, the property would formally transfer ownership to the Clements School Community Center.

Mr. Nava sought clarification that the proposed action had gone through appropriate legal channels. Mr. Hern answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Heberle commented that he is very impressed with the group and believes the school will be well cared for and that it is a progression of things to happen so the community can have its property back.

Mr. Womack stated the Board is faced with many difficult decisions throughout the year; this is not a difficult decision. He will vote in the affirmative to return the school back to the community.

Mr. Freitas echoed his colleagues' comments. He personally thanked Ms. Sandra Hale for keeping the Board informed on the status of the committee and with items of community interest. The type of dedication from the group proves to him that he is making the right decision.

Ms. Cassel, the elected representative from the Clements community, stated she has attended many of the Clements School Community Center meetings and functions. She stated the Clements School Board of Directors and community members have a deep history associated with the school, as up to five generations of some families have attended school on the property. Over 135 years ago, farming families of Clements wished to educate their children so they donated the property to do so. "We share the same vision today; that is why we exist as a Board and as a District – to educate children. Please honor the past to respect the Clements folks' wish to once again own this property."

Ms. Cassel motioned, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board members voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2014-14 Authorization to Transfer Ownership of Clements Elementary School to the Clements School Community Center, as presented.

Ms. Cassel thanked staff who had a part in "the story that now has a happy ending," including Dr. Cathy Washer; Ms. Ruth Davis; Mr. Ron Heberle; Mr. Tim Hern; Mr. Warren Sun; Ms. Vicki Brum; and Mr. Steve Miller.

The following members of the Board of Directors of the Clements School Community Center introduced themselves and made comments: Mr. George Whitby; Mr. Ed. Jones; Ms. Sandy Hale; Ms. Frankie Granlees-Engel; Ms. Emily Roth-Humphries; Ms. Winnie Jones; Mr. Steve Granlees and Mr. Lauren Knighton. Also present were committee members Ms. Jennell Johnson and Ms. Nancy Callsen.

Ms. Cassel presented a symbolic heart-shaped key and a certificate of transfer to Mr. George Whitby, President of the Board of Directors, Clements School Community Center.

Measure L Bond Oversight Committee Annual Report

Mr. Kevin Thompson presented the annual report on behalf of Mr. Lester Patrick, who was unable to attend. Mr. Thompson stated the committee is charged with reviewing the annual audit and examining at least twenty percent of Measure L District functions. The committee conducted site visitations to view improvements as a direct result of Measure L funding. The Committee determined that Lodi Unified was out of compliance in one area, as the tax rate is not to exceed \$60.00 and is currently being assessed at \$63.50. Mr. Thompson also indicated that the committee will be submitting a proposal to change the term limit section in the bylaws in the near future. Mr. Thompson noted that a committee member recently resigned, and the vacant seat needs to be filled.

Mr. Womack thanked Mr. Thompson for his time and effort on the committee and with the presentation of the report.

Mr. Neely also thanked Mr. Thompson for stepping forward and taking on this assignment.

Mr. Nava urged Mr. Thompson to submit the proposal to change the bylaws in a timely manner, as to keep committee members working.

Public Comments
None

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Womack seconded and the Board members voted unanimously to accept the Measure L Bond Oversight Committee Annual Report for 2012-2013.

Consider Approval of Proposal to Continue the Re-organization of the Facility and Planning Department in Order to Improve Efficiency Due to Changing Needs

Mr. Hern, Associate Superintendent/CBO and Mr. Warren Sun, Senior Operations Director, presented the item for Board consideration. Mr. Hern stated the Facilities & Planning Department has a different mission, as they are no longer building schools, but currently focusing on smaller projects including modernizations, safety concerns and working more closely with the Maintenance & Operations Department.

Mr. Sun stated the plan is to eliminate two vacant positions and allocate personnel resources where needed most – a Typist Clerk II to be housed in the lobby of the JAESC and a Maintenance Services Assistant that would work at M & O. The Typist Clerk II would assist with developer fee collection, phones, provide assistance and greet the public from the front desk. The Maintenance Assistant's duties would include recordkeeping and keeping track of the work order database. Mr. Sun indicated the change in positions will enhance customer service for sites and the community and will save the District \$55,000 annually.

Board Comments

Mr. Neely stated the Facilities & Planning Department is doing a fantastic job and he would be for the changes.

Ms. Cassel stated the proposed changes fit the current needs of the District, as we are not currently building school sites. She understands that it is painful in some ways; however a necessary change.

Public Comments

Mr. Kyle Harvey, Labor Relations Representative, California School Employees Association (CSEA), stated he had sent a cease and desist letter via e-mail to Dr. Washer and Mr. Hern regarding the issue as it effects terms and conditions of CSEA members. Mr. Harvey cited the need for the District to meet and negotiate with CSEA prior to Board action. He also had concerns regarding a F&P Technician on the re-employment list who would be negatively effected by this proposal as well as some of the duties proposed for the Typist Clerk II do not fall within the job description for that classification.

Mr. Neely asked why the item was not first presented as a report.

Mr. Heberle stated he felt it was more appropriate to revisit the proposal after negotiating with CSEA. Dr. Washer explained that the positions in question are currently vacant. Dr. Washer inquired as to Mr. Sun's timelines.

Mr. Nava stated he would like to have the item as an information item, and then take action at the next meeting.

Ms. Davis inquired as to the negotiation process. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Marvel Bristow, 2nd Vice President, CSEA, Lodi Chapter #77, stated the duties listed in the Board item are not included in Typist Clerk II job description, and asked if these duties would fall under the category of other duties as assigned.

Ms. Cassel stated the two jobs were eliminated through attrition and we no longer need those specific positions. The District has the right to determine a reduction in services and negotiate the results with CSEA. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Neely proposed postponing the item until the April 15th Board meeting. Mr. Neely motioned, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board members voted unanimously, by voice vote, to table the item to the April 15, 2014, Board meeting.

AP Physics I Course of Study

Ms. Kotowski presented this item for Board approval. Due to next generation Science standards, and the increase of information, it was proposed to divide AP Physics into two courses, AP Physics I and II.

Mr. Neely asked if the course of study included a digital component. Ms. Kotowski stated that the course of study did not include a new textbook.

Mr. Heberle stated that the College Board currently wants two one-year courses. He asked if course catalogs reflect this change. Ms. Kotowski answered they do not, as the change was proposed after the catalogs were developed. Mr. Heberle voiced his concern that the District provide multiple pathways in Science and Math to accommodate kids at multiple ends of the spectrum.

Ms. Davis inquired about the availability and adequacy of funding for lab materials.

Public Comments

Mr. Jeff Johnston, President, Lodi Education Association; Susan Heberle, Community Member

Mr. Neely motioned, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board members voted unanimously to approve the AP Physics I Course of Study.

AP Physics II Course of Study

Ms. Kotowski presented this item for Board approval.

Mr. Neely motioned, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board members voted unanimously to approve the AP Physics II Course of Study.

Italian I Course of Study and Textbook Adoption

Ms. Kotowski and Ms. Gianna Barlupi, Italian Teacher, Bear Creek High School, presented the Italian I course of study and respective textbook. Ms. Barlupi explained that the current textbook is outdated, irrelevant, and contains grammar errors. She supplements the current teaching materials in an effort to keep the students engaged. Ms. Barlupi located a company in Rome that specializes in content for high

schoolers. The textbook has extras, including video episodes, a video game and a comic strip that go with the audio dialogue through the textbooks.

Mr. Nava asked how many sections are currently being taught at Bear Creek. Ms. Kotowski stated three sections, over five periods during the day.

Ms. Cassel commented that the class syllabus was great and acknowledged that Italian has become a popular choice at Bear Creek High School.

Mr. Heberle inquired as to the cost of the textbook. Ms. Kotowski stated the textbooks would be a one-time cost and the online licensing fee would be purchased yearly at a cost of \$6.00 per student.

Public Comments
None

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board members voted unanimously to approve the Italian I Course of Study and Textbook Adoption.

Italian II Course of Study and Textbook Adoption

Ms. Kotowski and Ms. Barlupi, Italian Teacher, Bear Creek High School, presented the Italian II course of study and respective textbook.

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Womack seconded and the Board members voted unanimously to approve the Italian II Course of Study and Textbook Adoption.

Italian III Course of Study and Textbook Adoption

Ms. Kotowski and Ms. Barlupi, Italian Teacher, Bear Creek High School, presented the Italian III course of study and respective textbook.

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Womack seconded and the Board members voted unanimously to approve the Italian III Course of Study and Textbook Adoption.

Communications

Comments from Student Representatives

Student Representatives were not in attendance.

Comments from the Public

Ms. Kathy Evans, Teacher, Manlio Silva School, instructs an after-school elementary band class for 70 Lodi Unified students in the North Stockton area. Parents provide the transportation and pay \$25.00 per month, per student for the instruction. Ms. Evans asked the Board to reinstate elementary band for all children in our District. Ms. Evans cited the importance of educating the whole child.

Ms. Davis asked Dr. Washer to provide a report of the approximate cost required to reinstate the elementary band program. Ms. Cassel and Mr. Heberle concurred.

Comments from Employee Groups

No comments.

Comments from Board Members

Mr. Neely attended the fundraiser dinner at Pietro's benefiting Lodi High's track. The Lodi High Boosters raised \$13,700 that evening. Pietro's opened for business on a Monday when they are normally closed and donated the food. Mr. Neely commented that the District needs to formally recognize the Murdocas for their continued support of our schools. Mr. Neely would like to investigate the possibility of adding lesson plans to the District Y-Drive so teachers could access, as needed. He voiced support to reinstate elementary band classes.

Mr. Womack read to students at Needham School during Read Across American Day. He visited John Muir School and viewed the 3rd grade students using Chromebooks that were purchased by the school's Parent Teacher Association. He visited Delta Sierra and noted the increased safety from the fence height being raised from three to six feet and the good things going on with their STEM program. He thanked Dr. Washer and staff for the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Study Session. He gave congratulations to Elkhorn School for taking first place in the middle school category of the Science Olympiad.

Mr. Freitas commented the LCAP presentation was outstanding and well thought out with doable steps. He thanked Ms. Vega's class at Mosher Elementary School for inviting him to read to them during Read Across America Week. Mr. Freitas commended Mr. Anthony Matthews, McNair Basketball Coach for his hard work and dedication. Coach Matthews has sustained a record of six seasons with no less than twenty wins per season. The team has now advanced to the CIF Nor Cal Regional Championship in Sacramento. Mr. Freitas noted he took part in the Millswood Italian dinner fundraiser catered by De Vincis.

Mr. Nava thanked Ms. Evans for bringing the elementary band request to the Board's attention.

Mr. Heberle attended the Lodi High fundraiser at Pietro's and a spaghetti dinner at Vinewood Elementary School. He attended a flag dedication ceremony at Lawrence School. He stated the principal and staff did a great job organizing the event.

Ms. Cassel attended the Lawrence School flag dedication ceremony. Ms. Thompson, music teacher, lead the children in singing. The students planted ninety-eight five-gallon shrubs that were donated to the District to enhance landscaping. She visited Davis School this week. Davis School received several of the combo class additional teachers and Ms. Cassel related how Davis School is utilizing the additional staff. She attended the Block L and gold pin ceremony at Lodi High School.

Comments from the Superintendent

Dr. Washer updated Board on recent LCAP meetings.

REPORT

Ms. Dawn Vetica, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education, and Mr. Bill Toledo, Coordinator, Child, Welfare & Attendance, presented the report. Mr. Toledo gave an overview of current staffing and responsibilities of the department.

Mr. Neely inquired as to the percentage of Average Daily Attendance (ADA). ADA runs about 97 – 98% for elementary schools and a bit lower for upper grades.

Mr. Toledo clarified the purpose of the School Attendance Review Board (SARB): identify barriers to attendance; provide support to improve attendance; communicate to parents; and communicate consequences of non-adherence to compulsory attendance laws.

Mr. Nava asked why the increase in SARBs in 2013-14 as opposed to the prior years. Mr. Toledo answered that some were scheduled the year prior and were conducted in the 2013-14 year. With the move to their new site (Henderson School), SARBs will be conducted on a more routine calendar.

Mr. Heberle inquired as to the increments of the truancy letters. The question was fielded by Paula Calderon, Student Attendance Advisor. She stated a truancy letter is sent after each 3rd absence, until three letters are sent.

Mr. Toledo addressed the concerns regarding safety of the student attendance advisors when making home visits in areas deemed unsafe or hazardous. He stated currently they wear badges and he is in the process of setting up a new schedule to do home visits on a weekly basis for those home visits requiring additional personnel, teams, or law enforcement. Mr. Toledo stated the job description for a student attendance advisor states the employee may be going to an area that is less than totally safe.

Ms. Davis and Ms. Cassel voiced concern regarding employee safety. Mr. Toledo stated he is in the process of developing a plan to address these issues.

Ideas for additional student monitoring and support were discussed, including developing a plan to address 6th grade absentees with a focus on a successful transition to middle school.

Mr. Neely stated he will wait until the plan is presented to ask additional questions.

Mr. Nava stated he would like to see a progress report by the first meeting in May. Mr. Heberle agreed.

Mr. Womack asked Dr. Washer to consider contacting surrounding agencies to get their input and support regarding CWA concerns.

Board members agreed to continue this dialogue and await the report from the Child Welfare and Attendance Department.

Board Advisory Committee Reports

None

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.


Clerk of the Board


President of the Board