



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

July 22, 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 (*via teleconference*); and Mr. Ralph Womack

Teleconference Locations:

Mr. Neely was teleconferenced from the following location: Compostela Suites, Zambrana, 4, 20.San Bias, Madrid, Spain, 28022.

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

Meeting Recorder: Ms. Valerie McFee, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

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 7:00 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** – Ms. Davis motioned, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the placement of Non-Public School Students 2013-14 #107 and the renewal replacements for 2014-15 #s 1 through 67.
- **Closed Session Personnel Matters** – Ms. Davis motioned, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Lori Ruegsegger as Elementary School Vice Principal, location to be determined, effective July 1, 2014.
- **Closed Session Personnel Matters** – Ms. Davis motioned, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Angel Mendoza as Elementary School Vice Principal, location to be determined, effective July 1, 2014.
- **Closed Session Personnel Matters** – Ms. Davis motioned, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Sheree Flemmer as Program Coordinator, Curriculum & Instruction, effective date to be determined.

- **Closed Session Personnel Matters** – Ms. Davis motioned, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Jorge Benuto as Middle School Vice Principal, Morada Middle School, effective July 1, 2014.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Washer reported on the opening of school and noted the excitement building at the school sites. She reported many employees were attending professional development workshops to improve and perfect their skills, including 140 teachers who attended the New Teacher's Boot Camp. The employees of the Food Service Department received various training including how to prepare new food items and a review of food safety. The Transportation Department employees received training related to school bus safety measures and how to manage behavioral issues. Dr. Washer reported the school sites are welcoming returning staff, as well as new staff members, while exploring new math curriculum, Common Core Standards and visions and goals in alignment with the newly adopted Local Control Agency Plan. Dr. Washer reported that Reggae and Rhone will take place on August 16th at Michael David Winery. Michael David Winery will host the event and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the GOT Kids Foundation. She noted those interested could visit the Michael David website to purchase tickets. Dr. Washer reported that nine McNair High School students took first place in various categories at the California State Fair, including first place in photography, art, and clothing apparel design.

Consent Agenda A

Mr. Womack pulled Item A-2, Mr. Freitas pulled Item A-4. No items were pulled by the public.

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

- Item A-1 Changes to the Adopted Budget
- Item A-3 Warrants
- Item A-5 Purchase Order Detail Report
- Item A-6 Purchase Order Detail Report
- Item A-7 Quarterly Report Pursuant to the Williams and Valenzuela Settlements
- Item A-8 Minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 3, 2014
- Item A-9 Minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 17, 2014
- Item A-10 Minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 24, 2014
- Item A-11 College Preparatory Math III (CPM III) for Grades 9-12
- Item A-12 Adoption of MATH 180 for Grades 7 and 8
- Item A-13 English 3D – Academic Language Development I and II for Grades 7-12
- Item A-14 READ 180/System 44 Replacement Core for English Language Arts in Grades 4-6

Item A-2 Contracts List

Mr. Womack asked questions pertaining to the second item on the list regarding the continuation of service if we agree to a lease with Point Quest. Mr. Hern answered that if an agreement is reached to lease to Point Quest, the cost of the utilities will be transferred with the lease.

Mr. Womack motioned, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board voted unanimously, by voice vote, to approve Item A-2 Contracts List.

Item A-4 Donations

Mr. Freitas pulled the donation list to acknowledge and thank the donors on the list. Donations amounted to \$94,000. Mr. Freitas read some of the donations and the school sites and programs that benefitted from the generosity of these individuals and companies.

Mr. Freitas motioned, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board voted unanimously, by voice vote, to approve Item A-4 Donations.

Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases

Readmission: Student #11/12-6-40

Readmission: Student #12/13-7-81

Readmission: Student #13/14-7-09

Admission: Student #14/15-6-A1

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

Other Action Items

Food Service Contract for the 2014-15 School Year

Mr. Hern presented this item for Board consideration. Mr. Hern stated it was a normal contract pursuit and he recommended approval.

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Womack seconded and the Board voted unanimously, by voice vote, to approve the Food Service Contract for the 2014-15 School Year.

Confidential Employee Policy Statement

Mr. McKilligan presented the item for Board consideration.

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board voted unanimously, by voice vote, to approve the Confidential Employee Policy Statement.

Consider Approval of Relocating the Turner Academy to the Tokay Colony Campus Due to On-Going Challenge Meeting the Standards of Public Water Requirements at Turner Campus

Mr. Hern presented the item for Board consideration. Mr. Hern explained that the program currently in place at Turner Academy has grown and moving to a larger facility would accommodate continued growth.

Mr. Neely stated he appreciated the innovative proposal to lease the property.

Mr. Heberle inquired as to the extent of the water quality at the site. Mr. Warren Sun, Senior Director of Operations, stated the well is high in nitrates among other problems.

Ms. Cassel expressed her happiness that the Tokay Colony site will be utilized.

Public Comments

None

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Womack seconded and the Board voted unanimously, by voice vote, to approve Relocating the Turner Academy to the Tokay Colony Campus Due to On-Going Challenge Meeting the Standards of Public Water Requirements at Turner Campus

Personnel Matters

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

Mr. Neely commented that, according to the report, the District is adding 15 new classroom positions with nine of those positions going to combination classes.

Mr. Heberle asked for information regarding what positions have been filled and what positions are still pending. He said receiving this information via a memorandum to Board members would suffice.

Mr. Nava, motioned, Mr. Womack seconded and the Board members voted unanimously, by voice vote, to approve Personnel Matters, as presented.

Board Discussion

Lodi High School and Tokay High School Graduation Location

Mr. Neely presented the item for Board discussion. He stated the Board has always put the students first. This discussion doesn't involve the education of students, but a celebration of their education. He has heard from the community that they would like to continue the tradition of graduations being conducted at the Grape Bowl.

Mr. Bob Lofsted, Principal, Lodi High School and Mr. Erik Sandstrom, Principal, Tokay High School were available to comment and explain the process regarding graduation venues at their respective high schools. It was stated that the students like having their graduation indoors and enjoyed the increased seating capacity for family and friends. The principals indicated that school site councils, parent associations and senior students were involved in the decision making process. Also discussed were safety issues including people sitting on and/or rolling down the grassy areas at the Grape Bowl. The discussion revealed the following: seating was decreased on the south side of the bowl; unsafe gravel terrain exists in the area that students meet with parents at the end of the ceremony; and there is currently no Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access on the north side of the stadium.

Mr. Hern addressed concerns regarding past ADA issues at the Grape Bowl, specifically a lawsuit that did not include a successful outcome for the District. The ADA issue of "path of travel" could now apply to the gravel meeting area.

Comments from the public: Marena Henne, Parent; Kelsey Churchill, Senior, Lodi High School; Kenneth Huntley, 2002 graduate; Kathy Carey Dais, Community Member; Bob Johnson, Community Member; Jeanette Dillingham, Retired Employee/Grandparent; Mitchell Renz, Community Member; and Kylie Henne, former Tokay High Student.

Mr. Heberle noted the pros and cons of each venue. He stated that parents, students and school site staffs should be the decision makers and stressed the need for flexibility.

Mr. Neely stated he would like the Lodi 2 x 2 Committee to address some of the concerns that were expressed. He stated the Lodi 2 x 2 Committee might consider putting together a task force to bring back a recommendation.

Mr. Womack asked Dr. Washer about the deadlines related to venue reservations. Dr. Washer stated such decisions are finalized by December or early January.

Mr. Nava inquired as to the feasibility of the Grape Bowl for graduation purposes. If all is in order with the facility, he would be in favor of keeping the graduations at the Grape Bowl.

Mr. Freitas thanked the members of the audience that voiced their opinions. He stated the students should be able to decide the venue for their own graduation. He is in favor of exploring upgrades to the Grape Bowl in an effort to make it a viable option for graduations.

Mr. Heberle is in favor of a task force or ad-hoc committee of the Lodi 2 x 2 Committee, adding that communication is the key.

Ms. Cassel thanked the audience members for their input. She noted the Board sees some red flags that have to be addressed. Ms. Cassel stated all parties need to work together to come to a compromise and the Lodi 2 x 2 Committee is a good place to start.

Communications

Comments From The Public

None

Comments From Employee Group Representatives

Mr. Jeff Johnston, President, Lodi Education Association, commented that he attended the New Teacher Boot Camp. He thanked Ms. Lisa Kotowski and the Curriculum Department. He stated teachers are excited to welcome the students to the sites and mentioned some of the activities being conducted at the school sites.

Comments From The Board

Mr. Nava congratulated Mr. Womack for being selected Assembly District Veteran of the Year by the state Legislature, having been nominated by Assemblywoman Susan Eggman, D-Stockton.

Mr. Freitas also congratulated Mr. Womack as having received the honor of Assembly District Veteran of the Year.

Mr. Womack commented on the amount of donations received by the District, as was discussed earlier in the evening. He acknowledged the achievement by the McNair students regarding the first place awards at the California State Fair. He thanked Kyllie Henne, former student, for her bravery in expressing her viewpoint during the Board discussion of graduation locations.

Comments From The Superintendent

No further comments.

Report

Combination Classes 2014-15

The report item was presented by Catherine Pennington, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education, as requested by a member of the Board. Ms. Pennington reported that there are currently 53 combination classes in the District. She added that this number will most likely decrease during the first weeks of school. Issues were presented for Board discussion. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Neely inquired as to the process for selection of the student to be placed into combination classes. Ms. Pennington said it is a site by site decision. Staff looks for students who will be successful in a combination class environment. The teacher from the student's previous year is instrumental in the student's placement.

Mr. Womack stressed the point of the focus being on the success of the child.

Ms. Davis asked what are the schools where combination classes are unavoidable. Ms. Pennington gave the example of Davis, Houston and Needham.

Discussion ensued regarding responsibilities of new and first time teachers, including the timeline for Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) compliance. Dr. Washer stated that staff is investigating bringing BTSA training back in house.

Board Member Excused

Ms. Cassel excused Mr. Neely from the remainder of the meeting.

Board Advisory Committee Reports
None

Adjourn

Mr. Womack, motioned, Mr. Freitas seconded and the Board members voted, by voice vote, to adjourn the meeting, as follows:

Ayes: Cassel, Davis, Freitas, Heberle, Nava, Womack
No: None
Absent: Neely (previously excused)
Abstain: None

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.


Clerk of the Board


President of the Board