



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

OF THE

BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 16, 2013

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

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

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

Student Representatives: Abbey Grundmann, Tokay High School and Morgan Walding, filling in for the representative from Lodi High School

Meeting Recorder: Lynn Aebi, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

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.

Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

Reconvene Open Session

The meeting was reconvened at 7:01 p.m. Attendance was recorded and Board Clerk, George Neely, led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session

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

- **Non-Public School Student Placement** – Mr. Heberle motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the placement of Non-Public School Student 2012-13 #'s 101; 113 and 114.
- **CAHSEE Waivers** - Mr. Neely motioned, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board voted 7-0 to approve California High School Exit Exam Waivers for students 2013 #'s 28; 29; 30; 31; 32; 33; 34; and 35
- **Closed Session Personnel Matters:**
 - Mr. Heberle motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the appointment of Ms. Nancy Rostomily, as Director I, Food Service.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Washer reported on the season of celebration within the District as students, staff members and schools are receiving awards and recognitions for their accomplishments. Dr. Washer highlighted CST accomplishments made by students and staff members of Borchardt and Clairmont Elementary Schools. Dr. Washer reported on recent actions of T.E.A.M., the name given to the committee representing the

staff members at the JAESC. The committee presents various fundraising events throughout the year with the bulk of the proceeds going towards endeavors geared to District students or community charities. T.E.A.M. is currently preparing to present their annual scholarships to LUSD seniors. This year T.E.A.M. received 38 applications. The T.E.A.M. Scholarship Committee will be awarding four scholarships in the amount of \$500 each.

Lisa Kotowski, Administrative Director, Curriculum & Instruction gave a demonstration showing how textbooks can be rebound for \$17.00 versus purchasing a new book for \$65.00.

Consent Agenda A

No items were pulled for discussion from Consent Agenda A. No comments were received from the public.

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board voted unanimously to adopt Consent Agenda A, as presented:

- Item A-1 Changes to the Adopted Budget
- Item A-2 Warrants
- Item A-3 Purchase Order Detail Report
- Item A-4 Quarterly Report Pursuant to the Williams and Valenzuela Settlements

The student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases

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

- Item B-1 Suspended Expulsion: Student #12/13-9-60
- Item B-2 Expulsion: Student #12/13-8-61
- Item B-3 Expulsion: Student #12/13-7-62
- Item B-4 Expulsion: Student #12/13-10-63
- Item B-5 Expulsion: Student #12/13-10-64
- Item B-6 Expulsion: Student #12/13-9-65
- Item B-7 Expulsion: Student #12/13-4-66
- Item B-8 Expulsion: Student #12/13-7-67
- Item B-9 Expulsion: Student #12/13-7-68
- Item B-10 Readmission: Student #10/11-10-13

Other Action Items

Option for Exempting Student Athletes From Second Year of Physical Education Requirement

Ms. Dawn Vetica, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education presented the item for Board action.

Ms. Cassel stated her pleasure with the exemption. According to the exemption, students must: 1) take 9th grade PE all year; 2) pass five out of six physical fitness tests; and 3) be a two sports athlete. She encouraged her fellow Board members to accept the option.

Mr. Neely voiced concerns related to effect on students' GPA.

Minutes, Regular Board Meeting

April 16, 2013

3

Dr. Washer responded that in a calculation of GPA for valedictorian, only classes A-G would be accepted.

Mr. Nava, stated that to pass five of the six components in PE is a difficult endeavor. He believes students that need another elective will benefit from this proposal.

Mr. Heberle stated he would like to discuss the subject of how the valedictorian and the pass/no pass of classes are bundled so they come together as a package. They are tied together and should be kept together.

Dr. Washer agreed and stated that staff would bring this issue back at a future Board meeting to explain how the process works and also allowing an arena for public input.

Mr. Neely asked if the Board needed to vote on the process. Dr. Washer explained that the pass/no pass is already in policy, staff would like to show the Board the GPA calculation. If there is a need for a policy update, it can be pursued.

Ms. Davis stated she has tried to research the issue at the state level, but has yet to receive a return phone call.

Mr. Womack stated the need to find the best compromise to meet the needs of both sides. He noted that we are not talking about a large number of students who will be requesting the exemption and acknowledged there are still some issues to deal with regarding GPA. He noted that if the District sees a mass exodus out of Physical Education, the Board will revisit the issue.

Mr. Freitas asked if Board could resolve the issue, if the option were revised to include another bullet point that stated the elective taken in lieu of the exemption would not be used to calculate class rank for valedictorian or class ranking. Ms. Vetica stated the option could be revised to include Mr. Freitas' suggestion. Mr. Neely stated he liked the concept that Mr. Freitas presented.

Ms. Cassel moved, Mr. Freitas seconded and the Board voted as follows to adopt the Option for Exempting Student Athletes From Second Year of Physical Education Requirement, including all bold language:

Ayes: Cassel, Davis, Freitas, Heberle, Neely, Womack

Noes: None

Abstain: Nava

Motion passed

Student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Public Comments: John Hunt; Erin Aitken; Dave Nutting; Brad Friesen; Lynette Haley; Darlene Lang; Kylie Henne,, Carole Funge; Rod Gaines; Marena Henne; and a student (unnamed).

Resolution 2013-17 Final Action: Certificated Reduction in Force for 2013-2014

Mr. Mike McKilligan, Assistant Superintendent, presented Resolution 2013-17 for Board consideration.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2013-17 Final Action: Certificated Reduction in Force for 2013-2014.

Public comment: None

The student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Consider Changing Staffing Ratio (decreasing by one student K-12) For The 2013-2014 School Year In Order to Lower The Class Size Average By a Minimum Of One Student

Mr. Heberle noted that the item states "decreasing by one, Kindergarten through 12th grade", if there is a motion to decrease by two students in grades K-3, that would be fine. Mr. Heberle stated that he is bringing this item forward for Board discussion. He stated that when the money coming in to the District was decreased, cuts had to be made to keep the District solid, financially. When money comes back, we need to start rebuilding. Mr. Heberle stated that he has heard comments regarding timing of the request and added that perhaps we need to be sure that the financial situation is more stable or the Strategic Plan is complete.

Mr. Neely stated that the Strategic Plan, that is to be discussed at the Special Board Meeting, includes discussion of ratios. Mr. Neely would be in favor of getting the Strategic Plan laid out and target this area, while not getting involved in negotiations.

Ms. Davis stated she is a proponent of smaller class size. She stated it improves attitude about learning.

Mr. Nava noted that we should keep in mind that our budget is still \$25M short of 2008. He stated the need to focus our limited funds towards the K-3, as that area took the hardest hit. He stated that we have to be careful as to how we spend money and that he agrees with Mr. Neely, that tonight is not the night to make this decision.

Ms. Cassel noted that having been a teacher, she is sympathetic to teachers with large classes. Ms. Cassel noted that analysts have looked at the last 17 years of state class size reduction – they found modest gains in student achievement after all that money was spent. Class size reduction is costly, one child out of every classroom in the District will cost \$2.5M. She urged those present to come back the next evening to discuss the Strategic Plan. Ms. Cassel presented several ways to promote student achievement without reducing class size, such as bringing back counselors for elementary schools, placing campus security at elementary schools, etc.

Public Comments

Jeff Johnston, President, Lodi Education Association; Christy Dougherty, Teacher, Creekside School; Jan St. Clair, Teacher, Larson School; Jill Keefer, Teacher, Larson School; Jill Van Ness, Teacher; Sonja Renhult, Teacher, Tokay Colony School; Debbie Clark, Teacher, Parklane School; and Susan Heberle Mr. Freitas agreed with everyone who spoke under Public Comments. He agrees with Mr. Nava that this is a great starting point for our Strategic Plan and is a great discussion to tomorrow's Board Special Meeting.

Ms. Davis responded, as a teacher for twenty-five years, stating she believes class size does matter. She does not think reducing by one is an end-all, but it is a starting point.

Mr. Neely commented on a reference made by Ms. Cassel earlier when speaking to this item, clarifying Ms. Cassel is not talking about replacing teachers with programs, she is talking about arming teachers with the best possible tools to teach. Secondly, he added in reference to putting things back, the District is still \$25M in the hole. He urged Board members to delay their decision pending further conversation the following evening.

Mr. Heberle stated he started off by saying that decreasing by one K-12 is an opener. If someone was to make a motion of K-3 to reduce by three, he would go along with that idea. He voiced his concern that by the time the Strategic Plan is in place it will be too late to implement for the 2013-14 school year. He stated we need to reduce the number of combination classes as best we can.

Mr. Hern, prompted by a question from Mr. Womack, stated that next year the District will have a \$4.3M deficit, if you add \$2.1M, then the deficit increases to \$6.5M. After Proposition 30 passed it gave us \$1.30 more per student for this year. This equals \$35,000, which is not a lot of money for a District of this size. The reason the District has a deficit for next year is related to the return of the five days of instructional time and step and column twice for credentialed staff members.

Mr. Womack stated that we are looking at \$2.1M, 26 FTE and we need to make sure the money is spent where it will do the best to educate our children. There will be many areas to look at through the Strategic Plan process. He related that the meeting tomorrow will help the District look at the whole picture. He suggested tabling the item.

Mr. Heberle motioned, Ms. Davis seconded and the Board voted as follows to Consider Staffing Ratio (decreasing by one student K-12) For the 2013-2014 School Year In Order To Lower The Class Size Average By A Minimum Of One Student :

Ayes: Davis, Heberle

Noes: Cassel, Freitas, Nava, Neely, Womack

Motion fails

Consideration and Approval of Tentative Redistricting Map

Dr. Washer explained this Board item is for the purpose of selecting a redistricting map and the next item would be to request the county committee to approve change to by-trustee area elections. An item will be placed on a future Board meeting agenda authorizing a waiver from the state

Mr. Freitas read an article, by Keith Reid, that appeared in the *Record*. The article stated that Tracy USD will continue the practice of at-large voting and the county is supporting their decision. Dr. Washer stated we have tried to contact Tracy USD and will continue to do so. Dr. Washer stated this is brought forward to be pro-active and to avoid potential litigation.

Mr. Nava stated he would like to leave it status quo. However, due to the size and diversity of the District, it is a good thing to be pro-active and avoid lawsuits. He stated he does not want the District to lose money on lawsuits.

Mr. Freitas responded to Mr. Nava that he too does not want the District to have to contend with a lawsuit about this matter, but if a survey shows this is not necessary, why change just to change.

Mr. Womack stated that as a result of discussion and background on the matter, he supports deciding on one of the maps.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consideration and Approval of Tentative Redistricting Map, specifically, Redistricting Map A.

Public Comment: None

Student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Resolution 2013-18 Requesting That County Committee on School District Reorganization Approve Change to By-Trustee Area Elections

Dr. Washer explained the resolution would request the county committee to approve the change.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2013-18 Requesting That County Committee on School District Reorganization Approve Change to By-Trustee Area Elections

Dr. Washer stated the District will continue to investigate Mr. Freitas' question.

Public Comment: None

Student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Personnel Matters

Approval of certificated and classified personnel matters were presented to the Board by Mike McKilligan, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel.

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

Communications

Communications from Student Representatives

Abbey Grundmann from Tokay High School and Morgan Walding from Lodi High School reported on activities from their respective high schools.

Public Comments

Mike Wood, Lodi High School, voiced his concern related to the administrative changes, process and perception.

Tammy Boschee, Teacher, Lodi High School, presented the Board with a petition signed by over 100 staff members of Lodi High School and a petition from the students containing over 500 signatures. Both petitions protested the administrative changes at Lodi High School.

Erin Aitken, Athletic Director, Lodi High School, stated she wanted to reiterate what Mr. Wood and Ms. Boschee had previously stated.

Monica Galvin spoke, representing Nancy Chapel and herself, regarding their request for a Willie Brown Workload consideration. The request has been denied by LUSD Personnel.

Carole Funge, AVID Teacher, Tokay High School and parent. Carole stated she is alarmed at the shuffle of administrators at Tokay High and spoke of Martha Dent's dedication to Tokay High.

Employee Group Representatives

Jeff Johnston, President, Lodi Educator's Association recognized the work that Mr. Hern, CBO, does for LUSD adding that since 2010 the District's reserves have grown. Noting that this year, March 15, 2013, our reserves are over \$15M. He recognizes the caution Mr. Hern has, but states the reserve is on the backs of the employees. He stated he has two grievances – frustration over the issue of paraeducators in SDC classes, and a reduced work-load issue (referring to earlier public comments).

Comments From Board Members

Mr. Freitas thanked the members of the audience for coming. He commented on the spirited debate of the evening, as he mentioned that is why he ran for the Board. Mr. Freitas commented that our hearts and prayers are with the people of Boston.

Mr. Heberle reported on the NorCal State Science Olympiad competition that took place this weekend with Tokay High and Bear Creek High Schools participating.

Mr. Nava acknowledged the scholarship awards from San Joaquin Sections, Scholarship Award received by Colin Anderson, Lodi High School, Senior.

Mr. Neely acknowledged the two LEA issues and said he would like to know more about the issues. He mentioned Christa McAuliffe is having technology training on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., presented by Discovery Education. Mr. Neely thanked LEA and CSEA for their contributions to the GOT Kids Casino Night fundraising efforts. Regarding class size, he would like the Board to "put on the hard cap."

Mr. Womack attended the Open House at Oakwood Elementary and commented on ways to increase parent involvement. He and Mr. Nava attended a Lo Family-sponsored event in Sacramento to represent the District. He attended the Leadership Lodi Education Day, sponsored by Lodi USD and attended Clairmont's CST. Mr. Womack read an e-mail from a proud parent of a student at Christa McAuliffe.

Comments From The Superintendent

Dr. Washer thanked staff members from Lodi and Tokay High for their comments and for being well organized in their presentations. She also thanked all schools for the raffle prize baskets they have pledged to donate for the GOT Kids Casino Night fundraiser.

Report

Parklane and Sutherland Elementary Schools: Exploration of a Conversion to K-6 Schools

Ms. Pennington was joined by Princetta Purkins, Parklane Principal; Ruth McMaster, Parklane Vice Principal; and Harold Brown, Sutherland School, Principal to present the report item. The group reported that Heritage and Needham were converted to K-6 several years ago and significant improvement has been seen in their API scores. When investigating, one of the concerns that surfaced was the large economic divide between Parklane and Sutherland. Staff would like to explore the idea of one attendance area and have the two schools develop two magnet programs, one for each school. The parents would then choose the best school for their child. Ms. Pennington shared this information with staff members at both school sites on March 7th. In April, the principals and vice-principals at each school are sharing and receiving feedback from their respective parent groups.

Mr. Nava asked Ms. Purkins how she felt about the idea. She responded that she thought it would be good for Parklane to make the conversion, adding that it would provide the families the opportunity to have all their kids in one school. Mr. Nava asked Ms. Purkins how her staff felt about the possible change. Ms. Purkins stated the main concern is the magnet program and what will draw the students to the school.

Ms. Pennington responded stating the teachers she has spoken to have said they want to do what is best for the students.

Mr. Heberle asked, if the District is developing two magnet schools, what do we envision the draw to be? Ms. Pennington answered that staff is bouncing around ideas.

Mr. Heberle asked if staff was being given two options – that of magnet or changing attendance areas? Ms. Pennington answered as to why the push for the magnet concept. If the District makes the conversion through a geographic plan, Parklane will be a more economically disadvantaged school than Sutherland. Ms. Pennington stated a report, detailing parent comments, will be presented at a future meeting. Mr. Heberle asked that the report include “pros and cons.”

Ms. Pennington stated that she has been through boundary changes eight times during her tenure.

Ms. Cassel stated she followed the Heritage and Needham conversion, which has worked out nicely. She is looking forward to hearing more about the magnet ideas.

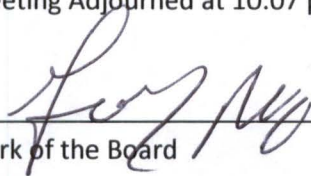
Public Comment: Debbie Clark, Teacher, Parklane School

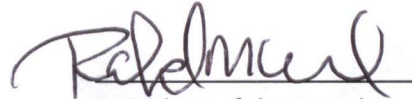
Minutes, Regular Board Meeting

April 16, 2013

9

Meeting Adjourned at 10:07 p.m.


Clerk of the Board


President of the Board