



## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

### OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 25, 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 Neil Young, Director, Personnel

**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

Anthony Lewis addressed the Board regarding a readmission request.

#### Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

#### Reconvene Open Session

The meeting was reconvened at 7:07 p.m. Attendance was recorded and President Womack 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**  
Motion was made by Mr. Neely, seconded by Mr. Heberle and carried unanimously to approve the placement of Non-Public School Students 2012-13 #s 109, 122, 123, 124, and 125.
- **CAHSEE Waivers**  
Motion was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Neely and carried unanimously to approve California High School Exit Exam Waiver for student 2012-13 #43.
- **Closed Session Personnel Matters:**  
Motion was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Nava and carried unanimously to approve the appointment of Angela LeStrange, High School Vice Principal, location to be determined.

Motion was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Nava and carried unanimously to approve the appointment of Mark Dawson, Continuation High School Principal, Plaza Robles High School.

## **Superintendent's Report**

No report

## **Public Hearings**

### **Proposed Resolution Authorizing Request for Waiver of the Requirement That the Adoption of a "By-Trustee Area" Election Process Be Submitted to the Electors**

Mr. Womack declared open the Public Hearing: Proposed Resolution Authorizing Request for Waiver of the Requirement That the Adoption of a "By-Trustee Area" Election Process Be Submitted to the Electors. Dr. Washer presented the item. There were no comments and the hearing was declared closed.

## **Consent Agenda A**

Ms. Cassel asked to remove Item A-4 and Item A-5 for the purpose of abstaining. Ms. Davis also asked to remove Item A-5 for the purpose of abstaining.

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

- Item A-1 Contracts List
- Item A-2 Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Aid Programs, for fiscal year 2013-14
- Item A-3 2013-14 Non-Public School/Agency Master Contract

### **Item A-4 Minutes of the June 4, 2013, Regular Board Meeting**

Mr. Neely motioned, Mr. Nava seconded and the Board voted as follows to adopt the Minutes of the June 4, 2013, Regular Board Meeting:

Ayes: Davis, Freitas, Heberle, Nava, Neely, Womack  
Noes: None  
Abstain: Cassel

Motion passed

### **Item A-5 Minutes of the June 18, 2013, Regular Board Meeting**

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board voted as follows to adopt the Minutes of the June 18, 2013, Regular Board Meeting:

Ayes: Freitas, Heberle, Nava, Neely, Womack  
Noes: None  
Abstain: Cassel, Davis

Motion passed

## **Other Action Items**

### **Resolution 2013-31 Authorizing Request for Waiver of the Requirement That the Adoption of a "By-Trustee Area" Election Process Be Submitted to the Electors**

Public comments – none

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2013-31 Authorizing Request for Waiver of the Requirement That the Adoption of a "By-Trustee Area" Election Process Be Submitted to the Electors.

Ms. Davis sought clarification regarding which map was selected. Dr. Washer stated that Map A, was adopted at the April 16, 2013 Board of Education meeting.

**Addition of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) as an ROP Course Housed at McNair High School Beginning with the 2014-15 School Year**

Dr. Washer explained that this request was brought back for consideration by request of a Board Member. She explained that a few years ago the actual JROTC program courses were approved. The merits of offering a JROTC program were highlighted. Staff does not see it as a recruitment tool, but as an opportunity for students. The program may prevent dropouts and has had successful reviews across the country. Jim Davis, Principal at McNair High School, has direct experience with the program. The District is looking at creative tools to motivate students. Students can earn P.E. credits and/or elective credits. McNair has classroom and storage facilities to support the program. The military will supply the equipment and cost of uniforms. The government will contribute to the funding for staff. The estimate is \$60,000 to \$120,000, depending on the number of staff required.

Ms. Davis asked if student participation will be limited. Dr. Washer responded that based on available staff, the program will be limited to thirty-two students for now.

Mr. Neely explained that he was the Board member that asked for the item to be placed on the agenda. Mr. Neely further explained that Principal Davis is excited and confident that the District has the ability to put on a good program and requests one year to put the program together. Mr. Neely commented that the program not only highlights a military way of live, but instills integrity, honesty and the value of hard work.

Ms. Cassel stated she was opposed to the original item and is dismayed to see the current item come before the Board as an action item when there has not been a report item. She voiced concern over younger teenagers' admission to the program.

Mr. Freitas stated this program will create opportunities for 13 to 15 year olds and may be an avenue for some students to escape possible gang involvement. Mr. Nava agreed. Mr. Heberle was also in favor adding that public school systems need to offer many choices to students including JROTC, Apple Academy, Instructional Arts, etc. Mr. Womack added that this might be the hook to keep some students in school, especially those students not involved in music or sports.

Public comments – none.

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board voted as follows to approve Addition of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) as an ROP Course Housed at McNair High School Beginning with the 2014-2015 School Year:

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

Motion passed



### **Primary Grades Class Size Support Plan**

The item was presented by Dr. Washer and Ms. Pennington. Dr. Washer related that this plan meets with Board requests and priorities, and provides a level of service not before available. The proposal would also respond to the expression of teacher concerns with combination classes while remaining in compliance with Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). The proposal would provide targeted intervention to reduce the number of students in a class during core time, enough to have a significant impact. Ms. Pennington explained the proposal in detail. Mr. Hern explained the process to provide the funding for the additional twenty-four teaching positions. He added that this intervention program would not jeopardize future funding prospects with regards to LCFF.

Mr. Heberle stated he doesn't have a problem with the general concept of the proposal, but has concerns that it does not help all K-3 schools. Mr. Heberle presented an additional proposal that would also aid grades 7-12 and grades 4-6.

The pros and cons of class size reduction were discussed in detail.

Mr. Womack wrapped up the discussion by complimenting the Board for their passion for trying to the right thing for our students. He commented that this is a starting point to address Board priorities related to the building blocks of K-3 and the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Davis asked what data was used to support the K-3 proposal. Ms. Pennington responded that 1) direction from Strategic Plan goals; 2) support of the governor's plan to return to class size reduction in K-3 and 3) motivated by conversations regarding combination classes. Dr. Washer added that our API scores have gone up over the last few years, even with larger class sizes.

### **Public comments**

Sue Kenmotsu, Lodi Education Association representative, presented a written proposal for discussion. LEA is not opposed to combination teachers receiving support. The LEA proposal is to take the same \$2 million and deal with only one grade level at K-3. This would allow for one grade level to be driven down to 25 students. The remainder of the money could be used to provide support to other teachers, such as paraprofessionals for teachers in combination classes.

Susan Heberle spoke in favor of class size reduction.

Sonja Renhult addressed various aspects of combination classes and class size reduction.

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Primary Grades Class Size Support Plan, as presented.

### **Personnel Matters**

Neil Young, Director, Personnel, presented Personnel Matters for Board consideration.

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

## **Communications**

**Comments from the Public** - None

**Comments from Employee Groups** - None

### **Comments from Board Members**

Mr. Freitas welcomed Ms. Cassel back. He acknowledged Mr. Neely's article on Common Core that was recently featured in the *Lodi-News Sentinel*.


### **Comments from the Superintendent**

A Special Meeting is scheduled for July 9<sup>th</sup> to appoint administrators to be onboard for the first day of school. She thanked the Board for their support of the Primary Grades Class Size Support Plan and stated that this is not an end all, it is an attempt to get some additional support for students for this year; now our work begins.

## **Board Advisory Committee Reports**

None

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

  
Vice President of the Board

  
President of the Board