

**APPROVED MINUTES  
ALUM ROCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2930 Gay Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95127**

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING/COMMUNITY FORUM  
AND NOTICE OF VACANCY, BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
of the Alum Rock Union School District  
Held on Monday, February 4, 2019, 6:00 p.m. at the Alum Rock Union School  
District Office Board Room, 2930 Gay Avenue, San Jose, CA 95127  
Meeting #08-18/19**

**1. OPEN SESSION**

**1.01 Call to Order / Roll Call**

President Linda Chavez welcomed everyone in the audience. President Linda Chavez called the Board Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. followed by Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present:

Linda Chavez	President
Ernesto Bejarano	Vice-President
Dolores Marquez-Frausto	Clerk
Andrés Quintero	Member ( <i>arrived late at 6:44 p.m.</i> )

Board Member Vacant Seat

Administrative and Support Staff Members Present:

Dr. Hilaria Bauer	Superintendent
Rene Sanchez	Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services
Kolvira Chheng	Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Marie Sanchez	Sr. Executive Assistant, Superintendent's Office

Administrative and Support Staff Members Absent:

Jess Serna	Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
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## 1. OPEN SESSION *(continued)*

President Linda Chavez announced the items that would be discussed throughout the agenda. She proposed to her colleagues that ***Agenda Item 3.01 Community Forum, Input from the Community*** be addressed prior to ***Agenda Item 2.01 Process and Procedure for Candidates for Board Vacancy*** so that the Board could hear public comment at this time. President Linda Chavez introduced Mr. Albert Gonzalez, Board Member from Santa Clara Unified School District and CSBA Regional Director.

Mr. Gonzalez gave a short summary about himself and commented that Alum Rock holds a special place in his heart – this was, at one time, his community.

Vice-President Ernesto Bejarano asked President Linda Chavez for clarification on certain items of the agenda. President Linda Chavez explained and clarified the transparent process which would give the community the opportunity to be heard with important input.

Clerk Dolores Marquez-Frausto also asked for further clarification, specifically on ***Agenda Items 2.01 Process and Procedure for Candidates for Board Vacancy*** and ***3.02 The Board will Identify Values that will guide Board Work***.

President Linda Chavez explained her reasons for placing these items on the agenda with the purpose to set certain perimeters as an entire Board. She reported that the two sets of questions that were made available to the Board were just samples and the Board would be developing the final questions that would be given to the candidates on Wednesday, February 6, 2019.

## 3. COMMUNITY FORUM

### 3.01 Community Forum – Input from the Community

Trustee Albert Gonzalez briefly explained the process and informed the public that they would have 2 minutes to speak on their topic.

#### Public Comments:

- 1) Natalie Dowd-Abal – Community member, commented that she wants someone that is involved with the community.
- 2) Male speaker – Evergreen School District Board Member, briefly spoke about his outreach. He commented that he hopes that he will never be put in the situation where he will have to go through the process of appointing a board member. He wished the Alum Rock School Board the best of luck with the responsibility of the appointment of the vacant seat.

### 3. COMMUNITY FORUM *(continued)*

#### 3.01 Community Forum – Input from the Community

- 3) Manuel Mejia – Renaissance parent, gave thanks to the Board for giving the community the opportunity to speak and give input. He commented that he was here to support Mr. Ray Mueller.
- 4) Dilza Gonzalez – Community member, commented that she was here representing the EMPUJE community. She read out loud some of the organization's recommendations for the candidate that would fill the vacant seat.
- 5) Maria Martinez – Community member, reported that she has a child in the district. She asked the Board to consider the points that Dilza mentioned. She would like the candidate to be involved in parent engagement and attend various meetings like DAC, DELAC. She wants a candidate that demonstrates leadership and can hold difficult situations with a positive behavior. Lastly, she wants the candidate to come prepared to the board meetings!
- 6) Flor DeLeon – Community member representing SOMOS Mayfair and EMPUJE, stated that this is a very important decision the Board has to make and to keep the students in mind. This position is not to be used as a stairway to the Board's own agenda. Remember that the students come first!
- 7) Tanya Freudenberger – Former board member, stated she wants the new board member to learn and know the board policies and to come prepared to all the board meetings. She commented that meeting with either the Superintendent or the Board President prior to the board meetings is critical – do your research prior to the board meetings! Lastly, she commented that she still reads and keeps current with the board policies!
- 8) Female speaker (last name Ortiz) – Parent, commented she would like the candidate to be open-minded to other people's ideas but to focus on the students.
- 9) Steven Schnosky (*? spelling of last name*) – Community member, stated that he is new to this community and believes that Ray Mueller would be a good asset because he puts the students first. He is very collaborative and would be the best choice!
- 10) Bertha Razo – Community member, commented she has been active in the community since 2005 and has seen several superintendents come and go. She shared she was part of the team that interviewed Stephen Fiss.
- 11) Mr. Soto – Parent, stated he would like to see a person that is respectful, honest, puts education first, makes the right decisions to spend the dollars where they belong, is open-minded and does what is best for the District!
- 12) Jocelyn Merz – AREA President, commented that she was puzzled because she thought she and the community would be made aware of whom the candidates were. She wanted the next board member to have integrity, be an honest person, and have the best interest of the students at heart. She reported that AREA had endorsed Mr. Ray Mueller and she felt he would be the best choice for the next board member. She commented that she had some concerns about the process.

### 3. COMMUNITY FORUM *(continued)*

#### 3.01 Community Forum – Input from the Community

- 13) Ellen Turner – Community member, commented she would like the next board member to have some background in construction and bonds and Mr. Ray Mueller has the background. He has put in the time, has lots of experience and the skills.
- 14) Mimi Hernandez – Community member, stated some of the things she would like in the next board member would be the following: good ethnics, interested in the students, active community member, stands up to bullies, loves the community and possesses loyalty. She commented she was glad that the community was part of the process.
- 15) Ray Mueller – Candidate for the board vacancy, invited whatever candidates that were in the audience to come up to the podium and introduce themselves.
- 16) Victor Vasquez – Community member, briefly commented on some of the values. He stated that he would like the next board member to have the following characteristics: respect, accountability, parent engagement, knowledge of all policies, good leadership, putting the students first, knowledge of special education and school climate.

#### ***The community forum ended at 6:52 p.m.***

Member Andrés Quintero commented that he had understood from the previous board meeting that the applicants would attend this community forum with the understanding that they would have the opportunity to speak about themselves and have the community know them.

Clerk Dolores Marquez-Frausto commented that she was confused about the process.

Vice-President Ernesto Bejarano commented that he was in agreement with Member Andrés Quintero.

The Board had dialogue on whether or not to let the 7 candidates come to the podium and introduce themselves and say a few words on their behalf. Clerk Dolores Marquez-Frausto was not in agreement. She felt that all 8 candidates needed to be present and 1 candidate was not in attendance. After more dialogue from the Board, there was consensus from the majority to give the 7 candidates an opportunity to speak with a 3-minute time limit.

#### ***Clerk Dolores Marquez-Frausto recused herself from the meeting at 7:05 p.m.***

The board meeting continued with public comments from the 7 candidates with a 3-minute time limit.

**Candidate Roberto Carlos Alvarez** – Introduced himself and spoke on his values, philosophy, and his vision.

### 3. COMMUNITY FORUM *(continued)*

#### 3.01 Community Forum – Input from the Community

**Candidate Jamil Carter** – Introduced herself reporting that she was an alumna of McCollam Elementary, George Middle, East Side Union High School District, and Santa Clara University. She has two children and is truly vested in her children's education. She has been employed for the past 17 years with the City of San Jose Police Department, currently assigned to Patrol Division. She stated that she knows about accountability and understands education. She currently volunteers at Linda Vista Elementary and is bilingual in Spanish.

**Candidate Richard Chesney Keller, Jr.** – Introduced himself and reported that he has had a connection with the district since 1966. He taught math at Piedmont Hills, James Lick, and Independence High Schools. He commented that he has a good handle on what the students need to do. He feels that he could make a difference as a board member. His own children attended schools in the district graduating from Linda Vista.

**Candidate Corina Herrera-Loera** – Introduced herself and reported that she moved from Hayward to East San Jose and has been living in this community for the past 21 years. She currently has a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student at Adelante Academy. Her parents migrated from Zacatecas, Mexico when she was young. She was the first in her family to attain a four-year degree. She now works as a Deputy Probation Officer, County of Santa Clara Probation Department.

**Candidate Ray Mueller** – Introduced himself and reported that some traits of a good trustee are the following: passionate, honest, transparent, creative, intelligent, generous, restrained, patient and a parent. He stated that he is fully committed and invested in this district. He wants to see change in this district. He has been a PTA/PTO leader, District Advisory Committee Vice-Chair, Citizens Bond Oversight Committee Chair, and a successful volunteer at his son's schools. He commented that together we will be able to enhance the spectrum and shine as any district in the county.

**Candidate Juan Quinones** – Introduced himself and reported that he grew up in the Tropicana neighborhood near Story and King Road. Superintendent Hilaria Bauer was his principal at Fischer Middle. He graduated with two degrees from UC Santa Cruz. He truly believes that education is the key to success and the students should come first! He has had the opportunity of working with several elected officials such as County Supervisor Cindy Chavez, and Silicon Valley Leadership CEO Carl Guardino.

### 3. COMMUNITY FORUM *(continued)*

#### 3.01 Community Forum – Input from the Community

**Candidate Brenda Zendejas** – Introduced herself and reported her son attends Linda Vista Elementary. She works at Hubbard as a para-educator and enjoys working with Special Education students. She currently sits on her son’s School Site Council and is also active with DAC. She reported that she has taken advantage of trustee trainings to better educate herself on how a board works. As the district moves ahead with planning and budget allocations, she is capable of working toward decisions that support established goals and objectives.

**Candidate Dr. Adriana Ayala** – Candidate was not in attendance.

### 2. SUPERINTENDENT / BOARD BUSINESS

#### 2.01 Process and Procedure for Candidates for Board Vacancy

The Board had lengthy discussion on the process to be implemented at the Special Board Meeting scheduled on Wednesday, February 6, 2019.

After dialogue back-and-forth, the Board decided on the following interview questions to be used at Wednesday’s meeting:

1. Do you currently work and/or will you take a job with a Charter School?
2. Will you support the sale of long-term leases to anyone?
3. How will you utilize your experience working with children, families, and community and inform the Strategic Plan for the District?
4. When things have not gone your way in the past, how do you work with colleagues to face challenges and solve problems? What strategies and techniques have you utilized for a positive and productive outcome?
5. What makes a good Trustee or a bad Trustee?
6. Why should we select you as the new Trustee above all the others?

The Board was in consensus to have administration contact Clerk Dolores Marquez-Frausto and have her add her two questions to this list for a total of 8.

The Board had dialogue on the 3 scenarios to be given to the 3 finalists on Wednesday. The Board was in consensus to use the following 3 scenarios starting on the following page:

## 2. SUPERINTENDENT / BOARD BUSINESS

### 2.01 Process and Procedure for Candidates for Board Vacancy

#### SCENARIO 1: BUDGET

Declining enrollment is a factor that affects all areas of budgeting in Alum Rock. Budget considerations have to account for this factor not only on a yearly basis, but as the budget cycle evolves within the year. At first interim, the Superintendent brings to the board a recommendation to self-certify the district as having a “qualified” budget, which means that the district may not meet its financial obligations for the current or two subsequent fiscal years. Please share what thoughts, questions, and/or decisions you would have as an individual board member.

#### SCENARIO 2: PERSONNEL

As a leader in our community, people are aware that you are now a board member. You know that the district staff is working hard on recruiting and retaining the best individuals to be part of the Alum Rock team. You know so many great people in the community that you think would be great additions to the Alum Rock team. As a board member, what is your role in making recommendations to staff about potential applicants for jobs in the district?

#### SCENARIO 3: CHARTERS

Offering options for parents in the community is essential in any district. Alum Rock Union Elementary School District has 5 charter organizations that manage 11 different charter schools in the district. As board member, describe your opinion about school choice and how would you expect to implement your view as board member.

**MOTION #08-01 by Member Andrés Quintero to approve the Process and Procedure for Candidates for Board Vacancy as presented during deliberation. MOTION #08-01 was seconded by Vice-President Ernesto Bejarano.**

Public Comment:

- 1) Ray Mueller – Community Member commented that he wanted to make sure this process was not going to be altered on Wednesday.

***MOTION #08-01 carried with a vote of 3 in favor; no opposition; 1 absent (Clerk Dolores Marquez-Frausto); 1 vacant seat; and no abstention.***

### 3. **COMMUNITY FORUM** *(continued)*

#### **3.02 The Board will identify Values that will guide Board work**

The Board had lengthy discussion on the values to be identified at the Special Board Meeting scheduled on Wednesday, February 6, 2019. After dialogue back-and-forth, the Board identified the values to be used at Wednesday's meeting:

1. Each applicant will be student/family-focused and bring a parent experience in school and district roles with a level-headed look.
2. Look at their work, on the Board, with a bigger picture focus.
3. Time Commitment. Trustee to attend various trainings and participate in Board Retreats with experience that they can share. Work to unify this Board and become a team that works together. Time commitment to the job!
4. Be honest, respectful, and support each other as a Board – remember that we are all working for the betterment of the students' education – the students come first! Learn on a daily basis but especially learn from our mistakes. Have the mindset to work as a team.
5. Does the individual put Alum Rock first with the students, parents, teachers, and the taxpayers? Are they first here for the community and not for themselves?

Superintendent Hilaria Bauer asked Marie Sanchez to read off the list of identified values to make sure that all were captured correctly.

**MOTION #08-02 by Member Andrés Quintero to accept and approve the Identified Values by the Board as presented. MOTION #08-02 was seconded by Vice-President Ernesto Bejarano.**

Public Comments:

- 1) Maria Martinez – Community member, commented that Clerk Dolores Marquez-Frausto should have never left the meeting—this was the reason to be present at the meetings—the community wants to see positive changes.
- 2) Tanya Freudenberger – Former board member, asked if the 8<sup>th</sup> applicant was not present, were they excluded.
- 3) Male speaker – Community member, commented that the Board should be wise and select the best candidate. The students need good quality education!



**4. ADJOURNMENT**

**4.01 President Adjourns the Meeting**

President Linda Chavez adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Dolores Marquez-Frausto  
Board Clerk