

**Minutes of
Special Meeting of the Governing Board
For Tracy Unified School District
Held on Tuesday, October 17, 2018**

- 5:45 PM:** 1. President Silva called the meeting to order and adjourned to closed session.
- Roll Call:** 2. Board: D. Arriola, J. Costa, W. Gouveia, T. Guzman, G. Silva, J. Vaughn
Staff: B. Stephens, S. Harrison, T. Jalique, C. Goodall, B. Etcheverry
(There is currently one vacancy on the board)
- 6:00 PM** 5. President Silva called the Tracy Unified School District Board of Education to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Closed Session:** No Action taken.
- Employees Present:** M. Hill, T. Quiambao, D. Schneider, J. Nott, J. Stocking, M. Petty, M. Ramirez, A. Flores, R. Riddle, R. Pecot, J. O'Hara,
- Press:** D. Rizzo, Tracy Press
- Visitors Present:** S. Kaur, L. Pekari, B. Pekari, L. Souza
- Hearing of Delegations** 6. None.
- Action Items:** 7.1 **Administrative & Business Services:**
7.1.1 Conduct Interviews and Approve Provisional Appointment of Board Member for Unexpired Two Year Term
Each member was asked the following two questions and given up to three minutes to respond to each.
- Question 1: Please describe your work experience or background that has prepared you to serve as a board member for Tracy Unified.
- Question 2: What are two of the most important issues the district is facing that are unique to our district? What recommendation would you make to address it?"
- Candidate Iris Schaeffer:
1. Her background is in behavioral health. She has a Masters in counseling and has worked in the healthcare industry for the last 15 years. She serves various clients including school districts so she has insight regarding benefits and compensation packages. She worked

initially as a crisis counselor and then moved into a role to allow her to help more than 1 person at a time. New role allows her to help thousands. She has worked in various organizations regarding behavioral health.

2. Teachers are the core of a nurturing and safe school environment. She wants to make sure teachers are happy and that will make a better environment. Keeping and maintaining high quality teachers is parallel.

Candidate Mateo Bedolla:

1. He is a lifelong resident of Tracy for the past 25 years. After high school, he attended Delta and transferred to Cal State East Bay where he received his Bachelor's in Political Science. He has worked as an intern for a local congressman where he helped clear up bureaucratic red tape including loans. Afterwards, he started working for a local home builder which gives him a different perspective and will help parents, students and staff on what we can offer versus one size fits all. His work experience gives him a unique perspective to addressing some of the challenges.

2. The most important issue is making sure all students have a pathway after graduation. We need to focus on career and technical education. ROP and work experience is great. We need to make sure students have opportunities in career pathways. The Board has done a good job of being fiscally responsible and receptive to public input. We can do a better job in reducing class sizes and make reductions where necessary.

Candidate Steve Abercrombie:

1. He has been in law enforcement for 32 years and has served on many non-profit boards. He is the chair for Brighter Christmas, Eric's Vision, etc. and was on the Tracy City Council from 2006-2012. He has experience in government. He has worked in TUSD schools since 2003 and was involved with schools in Hayward since 1994. He has a good understanding of some of the needs and understands there are designated funds that can only be spent on certain things.

2. When he met with Dr. Stephens he was surprised and disappointed that we have to pay \$2 million to STRS and additional money each year until 2025. Having to find that money is a great challenge. We cannot raise taxes, we count on the state to provide our funding. California is ranked 43rd – 46th nationally in funding and that is disappointing. We need to talk to Sacramento and be a high priority. We also have declining enrollment which reduces the amount of ADA money we receive. There are new developments going in and we may get some students but will not get growth like they are getting in Mountain House. We need to maintain a balanced budget and still provide the services expected in TUSD.

Candidate Brian Pekari:

1. Over the last 30 years he has had an opportunity to work in the

business world, but since 2012 he has helped found *Tracy United to Make a Difference*. He never knew how much that impacted our community. When it was first founded the core was about the education of our kids. It started at the schools. He first met with Dr. Franco and Dr. Harrison to roll out the vision and look back at the 6 pillars of character and uniting the community. He worked with many schools and over 40 organizations including College Bound, Anti-bullying Committee, Jaguar Projects, Bulldog Project, Conflict Resolution at West High. He is also involved with the annual *Make a Difference Day* which is in its 7th year. They work with the City of Tracy on various projects and events. He has worked with kids throughout TUSD and has touched every school there as well as in Mountain House. His passion brought will be for the kids and he will continue to advocate for them. He has also collaborated with students and with teachers and has been a part of the Parent/Superintendent meetings, PTSAs, Safety Committee, Tracy Crime Stoppers and is very involved with anything safety related.

2. Recently, the board has had a few tough decisions. *Tracy United to Make a Difference* is based on the 3 C's – collaboration, communication and cooperation. They have faced many issues, but when they run into a barrier what is at the core is our students. If there are disagreements that is something he can bring, by bringing people together. He has had experience with legalities which he can bring to the table. He sees the opportunity to bring everyone together administration, teachers, and voices of students. Moving forward he will have he will be involved with how money coming in is allocated. He wants to continue with a balanced budget, help to build morale, be positive, get people to talk who may not be communicating. He will continue looking for opportunities for special programs. We are limited to a certain amount of money. He hopes to collaborate outside of our triangle. He has many relationships with the city government, county government and organizations, and works with the San Joaquin County Office of Education. There are great programs going on.

Candidate Stephanie Voress:

1. She has been a business owner for the past 30 years. Her prior community was Bellflower which is a dairy town similar to TUSD. She has served on the chamber and was a member of the Soroptimist Club. She holds a degree in Business Administration. Her job as a board member is to conduct the business. She is familiar with budgets and her strong suit is collaboration, negotiation and public speaking. She has also been involved with TUSD for a while and has seen some terrific opportunities for improvement and some things blew her away on how great everything is going. She is open-minded. Her business background has prepared her the most.

2. She is not sure what is unique to our district. Our budget isn't what it should be. We have no control over that, maybe we can negotiate with the county or state to get more money to do all the things we need to do. To hear that the state takes money back from us breaks my heart. The

board should provide fiscal responsibility. The budget is the biggest thing. The second would be providing school safety. We have a unique situation that our schools have a lot of points of entry. We do a good job of keeping our schools safe. Those would be the 2 things.

Candidate Sabrina Hunter did not attend.

President Silva then polled each member and had them state their first choice:

Trustee Costa: B. Pekari; Trustee Vaughn: B. Pekari; Trustee Gouveia: B. Pekari; Trustee Guzman: B. Pekari; Trustee Arriola: S. Abercrombie. Trustee Silva: B. Pekari.

Trustee Costa moved to appoint Brian Pekari.

Action: Costa, Vaughn. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0.

President Silva administered the oath of office to Brian Pekari.

Trustee Costa thanked all applicants. It is not easy to get up and answer questions you haven't prepared for. Everyone did a great job and she looks forward seeing everyone back at our meetings. Trustee Vaughn agrees with Jill. It was a difficult decision and we had qualified applicants. He thanked them for participating. We have a school bond oversight committee through the facilities department where we need people all of the time. They oversee the projects that we have going on. That is where Jill and Greg got their start. Trustee Gouveia thanked applicants for submitting their names and for being here. He urged everyone to stay involved. Trustee Guzman thanked all candidates. He realizes that it is difficult to speak on the spot. All applicants were very qualified. Continue to stay involved. Trustee Arriola welcomed Brian Pekari to the board and thanked all for applying. There are many ways to get involved in our community. There are many great non-profits and commissions to be involved with. Trustee Silva thanked all applicants and stated that this was a very difficult choice. Everyone is to be commended. Your work in the community is outstanding and appreciated. Keep up what you are doing.

Superintendent, Dr. Brian Stephens, thanked all and commented that it is apparent that we have a lot of really good people.

New Trustee, Brian Pekari, thanked the board and everyone else who applied for this position. He works with some of the applicants and knows how involved they are. He asked them to please continue to work for our community.

Adjourn: 6:46 pm

Clerk

Date