

**Minutes of  
Regular Meeting of the Governing Board  
For Tracy Unified School District  
Held on Tuesday, September 24, 2019**

- 6:00 PM:** 1-3. President Abercrombie called the meeting to order and adjourned to closed session.
- Roll Call:** 4. Board: S. Abercrombie, A. Alexander, S. Kaur, B. Pekari, J. Silcox, L. Souza  
Absent: J. Costa  
Staff: B. Stephens, S. Harrison, T. Jalique, C. Goodall, B. Etcheverry
- 7:00 PM** 5. President Abercrombie called the Tracy Unified School District Board of Education to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Closed Session:**
- 6a** Action Taken on Findings of Fact: #19-20/#02, #19-20/#05, #19-20/#07, 19-20/#9, 19-20/#10  
**Action:** Pekari, Silcox. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Costa)
- 6b** Report Out of Action Taken on Reinstatements: AR#19-20/#9  
**Action:** **Vote:** Yes-4; No-0; Absent-1(Costa)
- 6c** Report Out of Action Taken on PE Exemptions: WHS# 10328268, WHS# 10345329, WHS# 10308269  
**Action:** **Vote:** Yes-4; No-0; Absent-3(Costa, Alexander, Souza)
- 6d** Report Out of Action Taken on Consider Paid and Non-Paid Leave of Absence Request for Classified Employee #UCL-335, Pursuant to Article XXIII  
**Action:** Approved. **Vote:** Yes-4; No-0; Absent-3(Costa, Alexander, Souza)
- Minutes:** **Approve Regular Minutes of September 10, 2019**  
**Action:** Pekari, Alexander. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Costa)
- Employees Present:** R. Soto, J. Lopez, J. Nott, V. Aceves, R. Riddle, M. Johnson, A. Ciraulo, J. Gomez, A. Gil, S. Agapie, C. Crone, K. Felisberto, S. Hagerty, A. Worden, J. Winberley, T. Gonzales, H. Yates, D. Brown, J. Stocking
- Press:** B. Browne, Tracy Press
- Visitors Present:** A. Bullock, V. Serrano, A. Chavez, M. Hernandez, C. Lozano, E. Rodriguez, R. Lopez, J. Villa, A. Garcia, C. Cono, E. Velasco, L. Rangel, J. Olivares, Z. Davila, L. Romero, C. Masten, B. Coronado, S. Alejandre, B. Mendez, A. Villela, M. King, I. Sanchez, S. Christensen, L. Sanchez, S. Ross, J. Crone, C. Blair, L. Martinez, R. Singh, D. Skinner, M. Diaz, S. McIntyre
- Student Rep Reports:** **Kimball High:** Gabriel Coronado reported that it's Homecoming season and students have been working on it for the past month. They will have a spooky

movies theme. Starting on September 30<sup>th</sup> with Midnight Monday with the powder puff game at 6:00. Each day has a specific theme and a night rally is scheduled for Wednesday. Friday is extreme orange and blue day and the first ever carnival on campus from 1:00 to 3:30. The football game will be against Weston Ranch with the Homecoming dance after. Students are excited and stressed. He invited everyone to attend. They have also planned the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual trunk or treat and all are welcome. In sports the football team has been playing hard and water polo is having a good season. Next week CSU applications are open for seniors. Theatre cancelled to *Kill a Mocking Bird* and will replace it with *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

**Tracy High:** Sophia Alejandre reported that on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> was their first home game with a rally and dance. Students showed their Bulldog spirit and teachers played knock out and a game of tug of war. The football game was against Manteca. They lost but had a great time and a dance was held after. September 16-20<sup>th</sup> is St. Jude's at Tracy High. Everyone teamed up to raise awareness about childhood cancer. They had spirit days in support of St. Jude. And sold bracelets and t-shirts. They raised over \$7,000 which was \$2000 more than last year. On September 27<sup>th</sup> the link crew will host Friyah with Freshman. Flower parties will be starting to get ready for Homecoming. The these is seasons. Science teacher, Mr. Wedell passed away. All classes collected recycling in order to have a scholarship in his name.

**West High:** Briana Mendez and Alexis Villela reported that the Wolf Pack entered the jungle against Kimball High. They lost but showed a lot of spirit and the following week they won against Ceres 27-0. September is suicide awareness month. Their goal to spread awareness. Each year they paid the school yellow with yellow ribbons all over campus. In October they will be preparing for Homecoming. The annual Powder Puff game is a week away. They have created a new club called Club Unity for the community of special needs students. They plan to have special ed students join the leadership class for lots of fun. The goal is to unite general ed students with special ed students and show strength of diversity. Last weekend students helped decorate downtown lampposts with cornstalk and an orange ribbon for the season. October 4<sup>th</sup> is the Homecoming parade. Two freshman students from leadership spoke about high school and stereotypes. Their focus is diversity for all clubs. They have amazing staff members that are very kind and helpful. Teaches respect each other's differences. They are thankful that West High has given opportunities to be involved on and off campus. Everyone has made feel welcomed.

## **Recognition & Presentations:**

### **9.1 South/West Park Elementary School Presentation**

Principal, Ramona Soto and Assistant Principal, Juan Lopez, presented a Prezi presentation. They make sure that students are there every day so they can learn and be successful. They monitor their academic progress and expect all students to be respectful, responsible and safe. Parent and community involvement is very important at Southwest Park. They offer professional development for parents. They then take tools and work together to support their children at home. They gave an update on the STEM grant. They worked together this summer to support staff and monitor student progress. Students fully participate with enthusiasm and support of teachers. Responsibility centered discipline (RCD) teaches students to

take responsibility for their behavior. They make sure they fully understand their actions and take responsibility so that they can change that behavior. Support is provided for staff and then implemented in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. This is bringing students staff and community together.

**Information &  
Discussion Items:**

**10.1 Educational Services:**

**10.1.1** Receive Report on AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Director of Continuous Improvement, State and Federal Programs, Julianna Stocking, and AVID District Coordinator, Dave Brown, presented a power point. They showed a video of students holding signs about what they have been told and how AVID has helped them. AVID is a school wide college readiness system to help all students. They focus on instruction, systems, leadership and culture. They reviewed the college readiness system. Poet Christian is the only AVID elementary school. WICOR is a collection of teaching strategies and learning strategies. AVID students have average to high test scores, have desire and determination, could be first in family to attend college, low income or special circumstances. There are 3 district wide AVID goals: instruction, systems and culture. There are currently 672 students in AVID grades 6-12. They will continue to monitor and implement AVID site plans using the continuous improvement cycle have quarterly AVID site team workshops, meaningful site visits and coaching, professional learning workshops and training staff to present AVID professional learning modules. They showed a video about students going to college and how AVID helped them see their potential.

**Hearing of  
Delegations**

11. Mayeli Diaz is a parent at Southwest Park. She feels that Ms. Soto does not support the parents and is not available to meet with them. She's upset that there is not child care so that parents can volunteer at school and that they do not have Parent Café any more. There is no parent liaison to help voice their concerns. She feels there's no enough communication and that she has alienated parents. She submitted a petition for removal of her position as principal and submitted it to the district.

Ms. Lopez of Taylor Farms is here representing Tracy Chamber tonight. She has flyers to distribute and wanted to invite everyone to the One World Festival at Lincoln Park Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. She also needs students to volunteer with set up and clean up.

Susan Agapie is a special education teacher and loves her students and is always there for them. She appreciated Chris Crone and knew he would be an asset to the department. He appreciated her work ethic. She is grateful to have worked under him.

Chris Crone thanked the board for opportunity to speak. Last Friday he was surprised when he met with the superintendent and was told we are moving in a different direction. He has been here for 10 months and wondered what he did wrong. He had an evaluation in June of 2019 from Dr. Harrison. He believes his

evaluation was not based on facts. He also believes that the story was fabricated about an event that happened on May 13<sup>th</sup>. He provided a 3-page response to his evaluation to give his perspective. He passed out copies to the board. Since that one event he has had ongoing meetings with the tech department to make sure reports are ready to go on time. Special Education is a huge endeavor and he has worked hard to build a team.

Cleveland Masten is a resident of Tracy. He is a business owner and Pastor. He listed several questions that he wanted to know the answers to about HR practices regarding Mr. Crone.

Ms. McIntyre read statement a statement. She was sad and shocked about Chris. Her interactions with him have been nothing but positive. She felt he was honest, patient, humble and approachable. She has a special ed child in our program.

Jelena Crone is Chris Crone’s wife and speaking from her perspective. She was disappointed to see the district move in this direction. She didn’t know what went wrong and tried to play both sides. She felt that if information is given from one person to another, sometimes the message can change. She urged the board to research the facts and investigate. She feels that this will not reflect positively on the district.

**Public Hearing:**

**12.1 Educational Services:**

- 12.1.1** Conduct a Public Hearing to Determine Sufficiency of Textbooks and Instructional Materials for the Students of Tracy Unified School District  
Public hearing was opened at 7:58 pm.  
No comments were made.  
The public hearing was closed at 7:59 pm.

**Consent Items:**

**13. Board approval of any agenda item requiring insurance is conditioned upon acceptance of appropriate insurance accepted by Tracy Unified.**

**Action:** Pekari, Souza. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Costa)

**13.1 Administrative & Business Services:**

- 13.1.1** Approve Accounts Payable Warrants (August, 2019)  
(Separate Cover Items)
- 13.1.2** Ratify Routine Agreements, Expenditures and Notice of Completions Which Meet the Criteria for Placement on the Consent Agenda
- 13.1.3** Accept the Generous Donations From the Various Individuals, Businesses, and School Site Parent Teacher Associations Listed Herein With Thanks and Appreciation From the Staff and Students of the Tracy Unified School District
- 13.1.4** Approve Payroll Reports (August, 2019)
- 13.1.5** Approve Revolving Cash Fund Reports (August, 2019)

**13.2 Educational Services:**

- 13.2.1** Approve Agreement for Special Contract Services with San Joaquin County Behavioral Health Center Services to Provide Parenting Classes to families in all TUSD Schools. These include Nurturing Parenting Program: "Alcohol and Kids don't Mix," and Strengthening Parenting Program: "Strengthening Multi-ethnic

Families and Communities”

- 13.2.2 Approve Out of State Travel for Educational Services Staff to Attend the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) Executive Leadership Council in Boston, MA, December 4-6, 2019
- 13.2.3 Approve Out of State Travel for West High Journalism Teacher Alana Escalante and 4 Student Officers, to Attend the Journalism Editors Association 2019 National Convention in Washington D. C. on November 19-25, 2019
- 13.2.4 Approve California Science Project Grant for West High School Science Department
- 13.2.5 Approve Agreement for Special Contract Services with Tyson Amir of Freedom Soul Media, Motivational Speaker

**13.3 Human Resources:**

- 13.3.1 Accept the Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence for Certificated, Classified and/or Management Employees
- 13.3.2 Approve Classified, Certificated and/or Management Employment

**Action Items:**

**14.1 Administrative & Business Services:**

- 14.1.1 Adopt Board Bylaws to Be Compliant with CSBA Guidelines (Second Reading)

**Action:** Souza, Silcox. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Costa)

- 14.1.2 Authorize the Associate Superintendent for Business Services to Enter Into a Pre-Unification Agreement with Banta Elementary School District

**Action:** Kaur, Pekari. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Costa)

- 14.1.3 Approve Resolution 19-07 Authorizing AZ Bus Sales to Make Application for, to Sign Required Assurances, and to Administer the Lower-Emission School Bus Program with Respect to Applications for Local, State, and Federal Programs, Projects or Grants, on Behalf of Tracy Unified School District

**Action:** Souza, Alexander. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Costa)

- 14.1.4 Adopt Joint Resolution No. 2018/19 - #15 in Support of a Joint Petition for Reorganization of a Portion of Tracy Unified School District to Form Banta Unified School District within the Boundaries of Banta Elementary School District (Separate Cover Item)

**Action:** Pekari, Kaur. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Costa)

- 14.1.5 Delete Board Bylaw 9400

**Action:** Silcox, Souza. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Costa)

**14.2 Educational Services:**

- 14.2.1 Adopt Resolution #19-08: A Declaration That There Are Sufficient Textbooks and Instructional Materials for the Students of Tracy Unified School District

**Action:** Souza, Pekari. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Costa)

**14.3 Human Resources:**

- 14.3.1 Approve Declaration for a Provisional Internship Permit

**Action:** Silcox, Souza. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Costa)

**14.3.2 Approve Intern Agreement With Chico State University**

**Action:** Pekari, Souza. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Costa)

**Board Reports:**

Trustee Silcox passed. Trustee Souza thanked Southwest Park for presenting. She appreciates the progress made on that school and all that they have done with students. She was excited to hear about the AVID program. It's good to see so many people in attendance. Trustee Kaur thanked everyone for their presentations. We are holding an LCAP meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 to 1:00 in Modesto. Trustee Alexander thanked everyone and stated that AVID is a great program. Trustee Pekari had the opportunity to go on classroom visits with Dr. Stephens. They visited Hirsch Elementary. It was great to see what's going on and with STEM. They visited 6 different classes and it was great to see the excitement of the kids and their engagement. Our West High students helped decorate our downtown Tracy area. It's good to see our business owners collaborating with students. They put up the cornstalks attached to the light posts. Trustee Abercrombie appreciated everyone coming out and being respectful.

**Superintendent Report:**

Dr. Stephens attended the West High JROTC program ceremony on September 11<sup>th</sup>. They did a great job. We have 107 students in the program and just added a second instructor. He visited Hirsch classrooms with Brian Pekari. If any board member would like to join him, please contact Bobbie. Last week he was able to attend North's students performing a cultural dance and it was outstanding.

**Adjourn: 8:06 pm**

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Clerk

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Date