

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

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL BOARD MEETING /BOARD RETREAT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
of the Alum Rock Union School District  
Held on Saturday, March 6, 2021, 9:00 a.m. at the Alum Rock Union School  
Board Members and Superintendent participated via Zoom Meeting  
Meeting #15-20/21**

**1. OPEN SESSION**

**1.01 Call to Order / Roll Call**

President Corina Herrera-Loera welcomed everyone. President Corina Herrera-Loera called the Board Meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. followed by Roll Call.

Board Members Present:

Corina Herrera-Loera	President
Andrés Quintero	Vice-President
Ernesto Bejarano	Clerk
Linda Chavez	Member
Minh Pham	Member

Administrative and Support Staff Members Present:

Dr. Hilaria Bauer	Superintendent
Rene Sanchez	Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services
Carlos Moran	Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Kolvira Chheng	Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Maribel Carrillo	Sr. Executive Assistant, Superintendent's Office

**1. OPEN SESSION** (*continued*)

**1.01 Call to Order / Roll Call/ Pledge of Allegiance**

President Corina Herrera-Loera said there is a quorum.

**1.02 Getting Started: Frame the work ahead and review meeting objectives and agenda.**

Superintendent Bauer thanked Superintendent Dewan from the Santa Clara County Office of Education for supporting the district financially to have the Strategic Planning.

Aaron Price with the Glen Price Group said, for the Board Retreat, he would like to focus on the guiding principles.

Glen Price with the Glen Price Group thanked the Board for setting time to have interviews with him.

**2. Public Members Who Wish To Address The Board**

**2.01 Requests to Address the Board**

There were no public comments.

**3. Board Retreat & Governance Team Training**

**3.01 GPG-Supported Planning Work 2021. Context ARUSD Strategic Planning Work in 2021 \* Background and Interview Results \* Identification \*What Implementation Looks Like.**

Aaron Price gave a presentation regarding the 2021 ARUSD Strategic Planning Work. He said this presentation is from the information they gathered during the interviews with the Board.

**ARUSD 2019-2020 LCAP**

- 1) All English Learners will attain proficiency in English within three years in the district
- 2) Re-design of middle schools with a college and career focus
- 3) Increase parent engagement

### **3. Superintendent/ Board Business (continued)**

#### **Board Members Interviews: Envisioning ARUSD's future.**

Glen Price said, during the interviews with the Board, they discussed the district's strengths. He said he served as a Trustee at the Contra Costa School District and they utilized their assets the best way possible. He said 65% of the districts are facing declining enrollment.

Clerk Ernesto Bejarano thanked the Glen Price Group for interviewing the Board. He said what stood out to him was the top university.

Vice-President Andrés Quintero said he shares Clerk Ernesto Bejarano's concerns. He said there are competitors getting students to go to their school by saying they will send them to Harvard.

Member Minh Pham said to the point Clerk Ernesto Bejarano and Vice-President Andrés Quintero made that the district is underestimated. He said the district has an award-winning Dual Immersion Spanish Program.

President Corina Herrera-Loera said what stood out to her was a need for a stronger focus on student performance and the relationship with district staff.

Member Linda Chavez said there is a Board Bylaw that speaks about parent engagement. She said students need to come to school with their homework finished.

Vice-President Andrés Quintero said East Side San Jose is a different world. He said there are a lot of people trying to make a living and many cannot work from home.

Clerk Ernesto Bejarano said he concurs with some of Vice-President Andrés Quintero's comments. He said he encourages parent participation. He commented that making a blanket statement is irresponsible. He said that the district's families face a social-economic reality.

Member Minh Pham said the district can encourage parents to be engaged. He said the district faces a different social-economic situation. He commented that many parents do not have high education.

President Corina Herrera-Loera said she was poor growing up and she was able to succeed in her education. She said she now has a good-paying job. She thanked Member Linda Chavez for her comment.

Member Linda Chavez said she feels the district does not ask parents to be engaged. She said being poor is no excuse for parents not to engage.

### **3. Superintendent/ Board Business (continued)**

Aaron Price said guiding principles can change two or three years from now.

Member Linda Chavez said paraeducators and teachers need to come to the Board meeting and ask for help.

Member Minh Pham said the district was founded by people who worked the fields.

President Corina Herrera-Loera said she will recess for the Board to have a five-minute break at 10:40 am.

President Corina Herrera-Loera said there is a quorum and the Board returned from a break at 10:43 am.

Glen Price said the following are the notes he took regarding the guiding principles the Board discussed.

#### **1) ARUSD is the foundational educational institution of the community**

#### **2) Make student-based decisions**

- a) Support student achievement

#### **3) Support teachers and staff**

#### **4) Use challenges as opportunities**

- a) Don't let challenges make us feel limited

#### **5) Recognize and draw on culture as a strength**

- a) Have an ongoing curiosity about the cultures in our district culture humility
- b) Honor our families' cultural and socio-economic assets

#### **6) Work as one**

- a) Come to the table with an open mind, while keeping a hold on the moral core
- b) Respect each other
- c) Have compassion and empathy
- d) Integrity & Accountability
- e) Be the change you want to see
- f) Transparency

Glen Price said the following are the district priorities.

### **3. Superintendent/ Board Business** *(continued)*

- 1) All English Learners will attain proficiency in English within three years in our district
- 2) Re-design of the middle schools with a college and career focus
- 3) Increase parent engagement

Member Minh Pham asked Superintendent Bauer what the priority is on the list in regards to English Learner Development.

Superintendent Bauer said there is a revised list and the district can come up with new ones. She said the information is regarding data gathering.

Member Minh Pham congratulated Superintendent Bauer for her leadership and because the district is working hard.

Member Linda Chavez said there is already a Board Policy regarding parent engagement. She said that if students take music or the arts, this will help their education.

Superintendent Bauer said the district has addressed everything on Board Policy 6020 except one item. She said she agreed with the comment made by President Corina Herrera-Loera regarding parent engagement needing to go to the next level.

Clerk Ernesto Bejarano said that there is a timeframe that should be considered due to the current financial situation at Alum Rock.

Public Comment:

- 1) Brenda Zendejas said she would like respect to be added to the list that Glen Price created. She said Clerk Ernesto Bejarano attacked a community by creating a video of her.

Clerk Ernesto Bejarano said the statement he made was not regarding a community member, but it was about a candidate running for the Board at Alum Rock.

#### **3.02 Stakeholder Engagement Planning**

Aaron Price said that the following is the planning for the stakeholder engagement.

- 1) Key next steps in the planning process revolve around stakeholder engagement
- 2) Formation of a CORE planning team to guide the planning process moving forward

**3. Superintendent/ Board Business** (continued)

- 3) Interviews focus groups and surveys to inform the identification of issues and opportunities as well as specific strategies
- 4) As a general principle, utilize existing structures when possible

**Board Members Interviews: Stakeholder Groups of engagement.**

-Specific recommendations

-Si se Puede! Collective

-Labor Partners: AREA, CSEA, Teamsters

-Somos Mayfair

-First 5 Santa Clara County

-Catholic Charities

Member Linda Chavez said a way to have parent engagement is through Zoom.

President Corina Herrera-Loera thanked Glen and Aaron Price for creating a list with all the Board's comments.

Public Comments:

- 1) Brenda Zendejas said City Team is an organization that helped during the pandemic and River of Life Church.

**3.03 Closing and Next Steps: Reflections and Closing Comments \* Clarify Next Steps**

Clerk Ernesto Bejarano thanked Glen and Aaron Price for working with district staff.

Member Minh Pham said this was the first step of Strategic Planning.

Superintendent Bauer thanked the Board and the Glen Price Group. She said she heard good ideas.

Vice-President Andrès Quintero thanked everyone and the staff. He thanked his colleagues for having a robust discussion.

### **3. Superintendent/ Board Business (continued)**

Member Linda Chavez thanked everyone for being at the Board meeting. She thanked everybody who had input.

President Corina Herrera-Loera thanked Glen and Aaron Price. She said she looked forward to hearing from different stakeholders.

Aaron Price thanked the Board members for their time. He said he appreciated the discussion of the Board and the engagement.

### **4. Adjournment**

#### **4.01 President Adjourns the Meeting**

President Corina Herrera-Loera adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:  
*Ernesto Bejarano*  
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Clerk Ernesto Bejarano  
Board Clerk