

**Minutes of
Regular Meeting of the Governing Board
For Tracy Unified School District
Held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021**

- 6:15 PM:** 1-3. Vice-President Abercrombie called the meeting to order and adjourned to closed session.
- Roll Call:** 4. Board: S. Abercrombie, A. Alexander, A. Blanco, N. Erskine, Z. Hoffert, L. Souza
Absent: S. Kaur
Staff: B. Stephens, R. Pecot, T. Jalique, J. Stocking, B. Etcheverry
- 7:00 PM** 5. Vice-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 Report Out of Action Taken on Approve Settlement Agreement for
3.2.1 Compensatory Education Services and Educational Supplies for Student and Attorney Fees
Action: **Vote:** Yes-5; No-0; Absent-2(Kaur, Hoffert)
6b Report Out of Action Taken on PE Exemption: WHS#10334071
3.2.2
Action: **Vote:** Yes-5; No-0; Absent-2(Kaur, Hoffert)
- Minutes:** 7. **Approve Regular Minutes of June 22, 2021**
Action: Alexander, Souza. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Kaur)
- Visitors:** R. Soto, J. Lopez, B. & B. Hoffert, C. Galvan, R. Acierto, L. Hawes, C. Lopez, C. Munger, M. Stagnaro, S. Brown, R. Riddle, V. Copeland, E. Gonzalez, J. Nott
- Student Rep Reports:** 8. None.
- Recognition & Presentations:** 9.1 Southwest Park Elementary School Presentation
Principal, Ramona Soto and Assistant Principal, Juan Lopez, presented a report which started with having the board and cabinet use their cell phones to log into Kahoot. They had the board interact with the questions and responses of the application. The questions were asked and then explained how it was related to their school. They build relationships with students and staff. All teachers at Southwest Park teach STEM. Professional Learning Communities are used to analyze data and share effective teacher strategies. The programs at Southwest Park are Bilingual, Conventional and GATE. They are proud to offer these 3 different programs and enjoyed presenting their school.

**Information &
Discussion Items:**

10.1 Administrative & Business Services:

10.1.1 Receive Report on Superintendent's Transition Plan

Dr. Brian Stephens and Dr Rob Pecot reviewed the transition plan for the upcoming year as Dr. Pecot becomes superintendent. They developed this plan together. Dr. Pecot will attend the ACSA Superintendent's Training and will also attend CASBO which will cover business and human resources. School Services will also have training on collective bargaining. He is in his fourth year on the negotiating team. He will also be meeting with the board president and board members. The county meetings that the Superintendent currently attends will also allow for Dr. Pecot to sit in on those. He will also participate in the interview process where the candidate meets with the superintendent after the committee interviews and will have input in the final decision. He will review agendas and topics with the board president. He will also be the rep for the city/school liaison meetings starting in the second half of the year. He will sit in on the superintendent's meetings with union reps. Dr. Pecot plans on having a community forum where people can ask questions on various topics and he will be meeting one-on-one with each administrator. Dr. Stephens noted that during the second semester his focus will be on the day-to-day operation and any issues or decisions that will impact next school year will be made by Dr. Pecot. This way he will put his imprint on the district as he moves forward. Dr. Pecot feels we will meet the challenges that the district faces. Friday memos will also continue.

10.2 Educational Services:

10.2.1 Receive Report on 2021-22 Special Education Updates

Director of Special Education, Mr. Sean Brown, presented a power point on the 2021-22 school year. He reviewed the vision and mission for his department. He showed the demographics of their department which serves 1953 students, 229 teachers and many other services and staff. He reviewed the 4 areas of focus, inclusion, staff development, collaboration and compliance. He reviewed celebrations in their department. One is that Tracy Unified is the only district in San Joaquin County that is a grant participant from SJCOE. It was just awarded \$5 million dollars, which will partially go towards training over the next 3 years. The Virtual Job Shadow Platform will be coming to our district in October. This provides students in high school and young adult help to define their career choice. This will also build a resume for them. Inclusion, there are more classrooms each year and he is hoping to bring it down to the elementary level in the next year or so. He introduced a student to share his success story. The student shared his experience and also thanked Mr. Brown and Kimball High. The student didn't have much hope, was bullied and made fun of. He was diagnosed with OCD which caused great anxiety. He recalled some teachers not supporting him and telling him he's using his disability as a crutch. His Senior year he had hopes because of Mr. Brown's leadership, special

education took a turn in the right direction. He sprouted and successfully graduated high school and will soon start college with a triple major. He thanked Mr. Sean Brown and Mr. Eric Kimball.

Trustee Hoffert left the meeting at 7:48 pm

Trustee Hoffert returned to the meeting at 7:51 pm

Hearing of Delegations

11. Brandon Hoffert read a letter that his wife wrote. He feels that the special education department is flawed. He is a parent of special needs son. He is proud of his son but not the way things have been handled in this district. He feels that the special education process has been nothing but obstacles. He advocates for his son. He asked why there are so many walls for services and why there are so many positions that have not been filled. He wants the board to make special education a priority. He thanked and named teachers and staff for supporting his son and getting to know him. He also referenced a social media post where Lori Souza posted the district's job openings and he didn't think she should do that. She said that TUSD had the highest pay in the area. She was corrected by others and got upset when she was told she was wrong. He doesn't understand how over a year ago 150 positions were almost eliminated because we couldn't pay for them and now can't fill them. He thinks we need to find a better way to fill jobs.

Virginia Copeland from Sow-a-Seed stated that they are youth advocates for mental health. They provide mentoring and mental health services for students at risk and they do that through evidence-based programs. They offer a variety of mental and social programs to help our youth. Students that are referred are connected to caring and highly trained specialists. Last year, they helped students from 2nd grade through high school as there was a tremendous need and they noticed an improvement by the end of the program. With students returning full time, mental health will be needed. She commends TUSD for the increased presence of these organizations that will further help mental help. She thanked the board for renewing their contract.

Chris Munger is the newly elected president of TEA. He wanted to take this opportunity to introduce himself to the board. He has spoken with some of the board and is looking forward to speaking with all. He is excited to represent the teachers and to continue the great work that TUSD and TEA have accomplished. There will be many challenges as we continue to struggle with COVID. He sees this as an opportunity to work together and problem solve on these issues. He is happy to communicate with all of the board.

Sherry Wilson is happy that the previous family that spoke received the services that they needed. She had to fight for her child, and he has now aged out of the program. She is upset that she has to look for resources for him. She knows her rights and will fight for her child. She also saw a staff member harass her son and nothing ever came of it. She has been bullied by staff and other teachers. Her child had a one-on-one aide but attended summer school without one. For every success story, there are parents who are not success stories. She is hoping that Sean can make a difference here. She will be attending meetings and helping to support families.

Public Hearing: 12.1 **Administrative & Business Services:** None.

- Consent Items:** 13. **Board approval of any agenda item requiring insurance is conditioned upon acceptance of appropriate insurance accepted by Tracy Unified.**
Action: Amending Item 13.1.6 and all other items except those voted on separately below. Souza, Alexander.
Vote: Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Kaur)
Action: Item 13.2.4. Souza, Erskine.
Vote: Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Kaur)
Action: Item 13.2.5 Erskine, Souza.
Vote: Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Kaur)
Action: Item 13.3.2 Souza, Erskine.
Vote: Yes-5; No-1(Hoffert); Absent-1(Kaur)
- 13.1 Administrative & Business Services:**
- 13.1.1** Approve Accounts Payable Warrants (June, 2021)
(Separate Cover Item)
- 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** Accept and Review the Status of School Connected Organization/Booster Club Applications Submitted for the 2021/22 School Year
- 13.1.5** Approve Payroll Reports (June 2021)
- 13.1.6** Approve Revolving Cash Fund Reports (June 2021)
- 13.2 Educational Services:**
- 13.2.1** Approve Agreement for Special Contract Services with Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) to Provide Training for Parents at Art Freiler School during the 2021-2022 School Year
- 13.2.2** Approve Agreement for Special Contract Services with Sow A Seed Community Foundation to provide Group Counseling for Art Freiler School
- 13.2.3** Approve Out-of-State Travel to Las Vegas, NV for the Media/Video Production Teacher to attend the NAB Show (National Association of Broadcasters): Where Content Comes to Life on October 9-13, 2021
- 13.2.4** Ratify Overnight Travel for the Tracy High Cheer and Dance Team Camp in Manteca, CA at the Great Wolf Lodge, July 24 – July 27, 2021
- 13.2.5** Receive Update on Quarterly Williams Uniform Complaint Report for the Quarter Ending July 15, 2021
- 13.2.6** Approve Service Agreement for LifeChangers Int. LLC Motivational Speaker at Williams Middle School on August 23, 2021
- 13.3 Human Resources:**
- 13.3.1** Accept Resignations/Retirements/Leave of Absences for Classified, Certificated, and/or Management Employment
- 13.3.2** Approve Classified, Certificated, and/or Management Employment

- 13.3.3 Approve a Variable Term Waiver for Multiple Subject Teacher-Variou
- 13.3.4 Approve Practicum Students, Student Teachers, and Teacher Interns Agreement with Alliant University
- 13.3.5 Approve Paid Student Internship Agreement with Merced County Office of Education
- 13.3.6 Approve Addendum for Current Memorandum of Understanding with Teachers College of San Joaquin

Action Items:

14.1 Administrative & Business Services:

- 14.1.1 Approve the Amended 2021-2022 Designation of CIF Representatives to League

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

14.2 Educational Services:

- 14.2.1 Adopt Revised Board Policy 6158 Independent Study (First Reading)

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

- 14.2.2 Adopt Revisions to the TUSD Athletic Handbook for the 2021-2022 School Year (First Reading) (Separate Cover Item)

Action: Approved as final. Erskine, Souza. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Kaur)

14.3 Human Resources:

- 14.3.1 Authorize the Declaration of Need for the 2021-2022 School Year

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

- 14.3.2 Approve Job Description and Salary for Technology Coordinator of ISET

Action: Souza, Erskine. **Vote:** Yes-5; No-1(Hoffert); Absent-1(Kaur)

- 14.3.3 Adopt Resolution 21-01, Authorizing the Elimination of Certain Classified Positions Due to Lack of Work or Lack of Funds

Action: Erskine moved to approve. There was no second. The motion failed.

Motion to not adopt this resolution. Hoffert, Alexander.

Vote: Yes-4(Souza, Hoffert, Erskine, Alexander; No-2(Abercrombie, Blanco); Absent-1(Kaur)

Board Reports:

Trustee Souza met with administration over the summer regarding mental health. They have a better system now that is streamlined with all of our sites offering providers. She looks forward to group with Sow a Seed. They provide exceptional services. She spoke with the child development teacher regarding the CTE program and students can earn college credits in that class. Ms. MacDonald also graduated from the Tracy High ROP programs. She is the board rep for the Tracy Parks and Rec meetings, after school program and they have talked about how to encourage our students to apply for jobs for the after-school programs. They also talked about Legacy Fields. She congratulated Mr. Brown on completing his first year in Tracy Unified and for working with our contractors. He has provided training on buy-back day and the feedback was good. Yesterday, she visited several schools and thanked staff for doing their best. The kids were great and had no problems wearing their masks. She thanked everyone for a good day. Trustee Hoffert thanked everyone who came up and spoke after their experiences. He went to *Barnes and Noble* to look for a magazine and saw a political science article that was about education reform. He feels that schools are the same as they were in the 1800's. The article also referred to things that are holding back schools from

changing and their inability to adapt. He thinks one of the key things to do is to cut the bureaucracy. He thinks if we cut the bureaucracy, we could put the money back in the schools and hire new teachers. He stated a quote that bureaucracy is not the solution, it is our problem. Trustee Erskine thanked all who attended. She welcomed back all students and staff. She is happy that there are 15 open positions for speech therapists and special ed teachers who will be interviewed for the school year. She wants to emphasize that disabled students have different experiences. She stated that there was a 30% dropped in enrollment compared to 8% drop in non-disabled students. She felt that in-person learning is better for students with disabilities. It is clear that families need to have options. She wants to keep in compliance with AB 130 and AB 104 and beyond what is required by the law and implement universal changes that will help our students. Trustee Alexander welcomed back all of the teachers and staff and hopes it is a successful year. Trustee Blanco welcomed everyone back. She understands the first few days of school were busy. She thanked the Chief of Police for providing the city schools committee with a presentation on the hours and trainings that SROs receive. Trustee Abercrombie commented that he taught class today and the kids were very excited to be back. In prior years that would not have happened. He hopes to continue to move forward.

**Superintendent
Report:**

Dr. Stephens thanked all for a great start to the school year including teachers, classified district administration and school administration. This is the first time in two years that we had an actual "Opening Day". He also thanked the student that spoke, Zack. He is pleased to hear that he found success and is sorry to hear of some of the comments that were made towards him. He is a brave young man.

Adjourn: 8:35

Clerk

Date