

REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Redwood City, California

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

February 11, 2015

1. Call to Order

President Dennis McBride called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. at the District Office, Redwood City School District ("RCSD"), 750 Bradford Street, Redwood City.

Present at the Board Meeting: President Dennis McBride, Trustees Alisa MacAvoy, Hilary Paulson, Shelly Masur, Díaz-Slocum and Superintendent Jan Christensen.

Others present: Deputy Superintendent Dr. John Baker, Chief Business Official Wael Saleh, Assistant Superintendent Jane Yuster, Jan McCormick.

Trustee Díaz-Slocum arrived a few minutes late to the meeting.

2. Welcome

President McBride welcomed those present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Changes to the Agenda

Trustee MacAvoy requested to move Action Items 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 to Consent.

4. Approval of Agenda

The board approved the agenda, as amended (Paulson/Masur; 5-0).

5. Oral Communication

None.

6. School/Community Reports

6.1 Citizens' Measure W Oversight Committee Year Two Report for 2013-14

Margie Carrington, Chair of the Citizen's Measure W Oversight Committee addressed the School Board with an overview of the second year report.

Ms. Carrington expressed that the work completed by the Redwood City School District Business Department in completing the second year report was excellent! Ms. Carrington acknowledged CBO Saleh and his team for their great work.

Ms. Carrington commented that the Citizens' Measure W Oversight Committee met on January 20th and unanimously supported the resolution and found in compliance to the Measure W tax initiative, all of the expenditures made on the 2013-14 school year.

The School Board thanked Ms. Carrington and the entire Citizens' Measure W Oversight Committee for their dedication and wonderful contribution to supporting the Redwood City School District.

Jan McCormick, librarian at Kennedy Middle School, addressed the School Board after reviewing the second year Measure W report and expressed that she was disappointed at seeing that so little money was allocated for library services district-wide. Ms. McCormick commented that if money is not allocated for library services, then schools should not use the title of "library funding" for other sources, as this might be misleading information to tax payers. Ms. McCormick urged the committee to consider her thoughts about the expenditure of tax dollars for library services.

In response to Ms. McCormick's comment, President McBride asked Ms. McCormick to provide the Business Department with her written comments pertaining to the changes that need to be made on the Measure W second year report.

6.2 District English Language Advisory Committee Update

Director of the Department of English Language Services, Linda Montes, together with DELAC President Gumildo de la Luz, DELAC Vice-President Paulina Santiago, DELAC Secretary Leticia Ramos, DELAC Vice-President Angélica Estrada provided the School Board with a Power Point presentation.

DELAC President Gumildo de la Luz stated that DELAC is a group of parent leaders representing families of English learners, in addition, DELAC supports parents of English Learners at school sites by sharing information from the district during its monthly meetings to school site ELAC meetings. Mr. De la Luz stated that there are currently 11 schools represented.

Dr. Linda Montes commented that the CELDT reclassification had gone through a series of changes during this school year. Dr. Montes added that the district reading assessments as the academic criteria to replace the CSTs are: Fountas and Pinnell and STAR online reading assessment.

DELAC Secretary Leticia Ramos provided an overview related to the recent parent participation during the LCAP meetings. Ms. Ramos expressed that there were approximately 65-70 participants and each group of parents provided input to 5 LCAP questions. Ms. Ramos stated that there were many parents that were concerned about math and the level of reading students are required to have in math, as well as parents discussing the need for tutoring in math reading and math writing. Ms. Ramos added that parents also discussed the need for more parent participation in school meetings (ELAC, PTOs, PTAs, and SSC). Ms. Ramos commented that parents suggested to add more parent-teacher conferences, at least twice a year, especially for parents of English language learners.

DELAC Vice-President Angélica Estrada stated that DELAC engaged in discussions about topics such as the implementation of Common Core Standards, Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, charter schools, school attendance, improvement of parent involvement and the Mandarin Immersion program in Redwood City.

Furthermore, Ms. Estrada expressed that many RCSD parents had shared with DELAC parents their concern about charter schools and their aggressive approach towards many parents at various school sites and out in the Redwood City community with the intent of having parents sign petitions for student enrollment for the 2015-16 school year. DELAC parents expressed that many parents are unaware of the effect that charter schools will have in the district and urged the School Board to provide an informational meeting to provide information to parents about how charter schools will have an effect in enrollment and funding to the Redwood City School District.

The School Board and Superintendent Christensen thanked Director of the Department of English Language Services, Linda Montes and DELAC parents for their presentation and dedication to serving the Redwood City School District.

7. Consent Items

The board approved the Consent Items (Paulson/Díaz-Slocum; 5-0), taking the following action:

- 7.1 Recommendation re: Approval of December 10th Board Minutes
- 7.2 Recommendation re: Approval of December 17th Board Minutes
- 7.3 Recommendation re: Approval of Field Trip Request to Pillar Point Marine Preserve, Henry Ford School
- 7.4 Recommendation re: Approval of Field Trip Request to the Marine Science Institute, Henry Ford School
- 7.5 Recommendation re: Approval of San Francisco Maritime Museum, Orion School
- 7.6 Recommendation re: Approval of Field Trip Request to Año Nuevo Natural Preserve, Garfield Community School
- 7.7 Recommendation re: Approval of the Agreement Between the Redwood City School District and Notre Dame AmeriCorps for the Fiscal Year 2014-15
- 7.8 Recommendation re: Approval of the Bay Area Air Quality Management Amended Contract with the Redwood City School District
- 8.1 Recommendation re: Approval of Request for Allowance of Attendance Because of Emergency Condition (J13A)
- 8.2 Recommendation re: Approval of Facilities Use Agreement between Galileo Learning and Redwood City School District
- 8.3 Recommendation re: Approval of Personnel Report

President McBride (Ayes)
Trustee MacAvoy (Ayes)
Trustee Paulson (Ayes)
Trustee Masur (Ayes)
Trustee Díaz-Slocum (Ayes)

8. Action Items

All action items were moved to Consent, per Trustee MacAvoy's request.

9. Discussion Items

9.1 Potential Bond Survey

Superintendent Christensen introduced Sarah Stern-Benoit from TBWB Strategies, Inc. and commented that an action item had been brought forward to the School Board on January 28th to approve the hiring of TBWB Strategies, Inc.

Sarah Stern-Benoit stated that the District has been engaging in a Facilities Master Planning Process for the past year to determine its facilities needs in the areas of student safety and 21st century learning to provide improved educational programming to its students. The District has focused its Facilities Master Planning Process on the feedback of its internal community of parents and educators to determine the needs and highest use of its facilities for student learning. Now, the District would like to learn more about the community's perceptions of its schools and facilities, and to gain an understanding of potential voter support for a school facilities bond to improve Redwood City schools. TBWB and sub-contractor Godbe Research have worked with the Redwood City School District community in the past on similar efforts. Once the survey has been conducted, results and analysis will be presented to the School Board.

10. Board and Superintendent Reports

10.1 Report from Board Members and Superintendent

Trustee MacAvoy acknowledged Andrea Garen and Anna Lague for their outstanding work during the Kindness Challenge, as there were 7-9 schools participating. Trustee MacAvoy added that it was impressive to see the amount of kindness and respect received by many of the RCSD schools and wanted to take a moment to thank all of the participating schools. Trustee MacAvoy reported attending a Wellness Committee meeting and discussing the possibility of having more events like the Kindness Challenge throughout RCSD schools. Trustee MacAvoy reported visiting Ms. Beutler's class at Hoover Community School, together with a few board members. Trustee MacAvoy reported attending the Wellness Committee meeting at the Sequoia Union High School District, where she heard about Mindfulness pilots at Sequoia High School. Later, she met Carin Winter, CEO of Mission Bee and as a result of this meeting, Mission Bee offered the Redwood City School District 20 free spots for training they will be conducting for educators. Teachers and parents from Kennedy Middle School, Taft Community School and Orion School will attend the training that will focus on mindfulness geared towards educators and students. Furthermore, Trustee MacAvoy reported visiting Roosevelt School for their Teddy Roosevelt assembly. Trustee MacAvoy expressed that the students had done an outstanding job and asked some very intelligent questions.

Trustee Paulson reported attending the 2nd Annual Redwood City Together meeting hosted by Redwood City 2020 and expressed that it had been a well-attended event. Trustee Paulson further added that the Redwood City Together meeting had brought together community members from various neighborhoods in Redwood City to discuss topics related to housing and immigration. Trustee Paulson added that she attended a meeting on County Community on School District Organization and added that she had the opportunity to visit North Star School. Trustee Paulson also visited Hoover Community School and added that she had attended a morning session of one of the LCAP meetings and commented that it had been well-attended meeting. Trustee Paulson stated that she, together with Board President McBride participated as judges for the Hoover Boys and Girls' Club. Furthermore, Trustee Paulson visited John Gill and commented that Assistant Principal Nikolaos Fanourgiakis is creating amazing videos of daily John Gill activities, with the help of students. And lastly, Trustee Paulson visited Garfield School to read to 6th grade students and visited Clifford School.

Trustee Masur reported attending Hoover Community School's ceremony. Trustee Masur attended Rich Gordon's Advisory Committee meeting and reported that the meeting had been an update on the Governor's budget and the outcome of numerous bills in the senate. Trustee Masur commented that she was interviewed by PIVOT. Trustee Masur further commented that she attended a graduate student seminar at UC Berkeley to discuss community schools, together with San Francisco Unified, Oakland Unified and Contra Costa.

Trustee Díaz-Slocum reported attending Orion's Children's Author and Illustrator event and commented that there were many people in attendance. Trustee Díaz-Slocum expressed that students are a lot more comfortable in asking questions. Trustee Díaz-Slocum attended the Redwood City/San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards and Recognition dinner, together with Superintendent Christensen, Deputy Superintendent Baker, Trustees McBride, MacAvoy, and Paulson and Principal Amanda Rothengast. Trustee Díaz-Slocum commented that the dinner had been a very nice event. Trustee Díaz-Slocum reported attending the California School Library Association Centennial Conference and expressed that it was wonderful to see three RCSD staff members in attendance. Trustee Díaz-Slocum reported attending the Youth of the Year event at Garfield School and commented that Principal Griffith and the students had done a great job throughout the presentation!

President McBride reported visiting John Gill and expressed that the positive changes are very noticeable. President McBride noted that the students seem a lot more engaged and the teachers, together with Principal Rivera and Assistant Principal Fanourgiakis are doing an excellent job! President McBride visited MIT and expressed that the teachers were well engaged. President McBride added that he attended the Boys and Girls' Club event and expressed that Principal Rothengast had done an exceptional job presenting. President McBride reported attending Safe Routes to School, together with Superintendent Christensen, Deputy Superintendent Baker, and Trustee MacAvoy. President McBride added that he and Chief Business Official Saleh met after President McBride had requested a 5-year budget plan. President McBride added that he and Lori McBride read to students at Garfield School. President McBride also visited Hawes Community School and stated that Principal Pérez and teachers are doing a great job! President McBride reported that P.A.L is in search of a new director.

Superintendent Christensen reported attending a luncheon at Google, together with Deputy Superintendent Baker to see a presentation from Salmon Khan from Khan Academy. Superintendent Christensen commented that there might be some additional resources made available to RCSD teachers from Khan Academy. Superintendent Christensen stated that she and Don Dias have been working together on a facilities' analysis for charter schools and have also met with Principal Dave Paliughi to discuss facilities for the charter schools.

10.2 Report Out on Closed Session for Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Retention: Govt. Code §54957 (3 cases) for Board of Education Regular Board Meeting, January 28, 2015

School Board President McBride reported that no specific action was taken.

10.3 Report Out on Closed Session for Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code) Name of case: Joshua W. v. Redwood City School District, CIV 521193 for Board of Education Regular Meeting, January 28, 2015

School Board President McBride reported that the School Board approved the settlement.

10.4 Report Out on RCTA Negotiations Update for Board of Education Regular Meeting, January 28, 2015

School Board President McBride reported that Assistant Superintendent Yuster provided the School Board with an update; however, no specific action was taken.

10.5 Report Out on Public Employee Appointment (Govt. Code §54957) Title: Superintendent for Board of Education Regular Meeting, January 28, 2015

School Board President McBride reported that due to the late start of the meeting, there was no specific action taken on this item.

11. Correspondence

None.

12. Other Business/Suggested Items for Future Agendas

Superintendent Christensen reported receiving an email from Ernesto García, informing her that Innovate Public Schools would be hosting a meeting on March 11th, together with Mayor Jeff Gee, Supervisor Warren Slocum, representatives of Rocketship Redwood City and KIPP Excelencia Charter School. Superintendent Christensen commented that Deputy Superintendent Baker, Trustee Paulson and Naomi Hunter would be in attendance representing the Redwood City School District.

13. Board Agenda Calendar

13.1 Changes to Schedule of Board Agenda Items

Superintendent Christensen reported that no recent changes have been made to the Schedule of Board Items.

14. Closed Session

14.1 Closed Session for Public Employee

Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Retention: Gov. Code §54957 (3 cases)

14.2 RCTA Negotiations Update

14.3 CSEA Negotiations Update

14.4 Public Employee Appointment (Govt. Code §54957) Title: Superintendent

At 9:15 p.m. Trustees McBride, MacAvoy, Paulson, Masur and Díaz-Slocum went into closed session with Superintendent Christensen, Deputy Superintendent Baker and Assistant Superintendent Jane Yuster.

The board came out of closed session at 10:10 p.m.

15. Adjournment

The board adjourned the meeting at 10:11 p.m. (MacAvoy/Masur; 5-0).

Hilary Paulson, Clerk