

REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Redwood City, California

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

February 24, 2016

1. Call to Order

President Alisa MacAvoy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the District Office, Redwood City School District ("RCSD"), 750 Bradford Street, Redwood City.

Present at the Board Meeting: President Alisa MacAvoy, María Díaz-Slocum, Dennis McBride, Janet Lawson and Superintendent John Baker.

Trustee Paulson was absent from the meeting due to illness.

Others present: Chief Business Official Wael Saleh, Executive Director of Educational Services PreK-5 Linda Montes, Executive Director of Educational Services 6-8 Wendy Kelly, Leslie Crane, Joanne Khoury, MaryKaile, Erika Zamora, Megan Chhen, Maria Stockton, Sarah Cullum, Gilbert O'Young, Nancy Bloomquist, Wendy Kandil, Salma Kandill, Erin Velcos, Jeri Murphy, Sammy Murphy, Liya Murphy, Brenda Cuevas, Claudia Martínez, Melissa Tosetti, Claudia Conti, Alexandra Bouchard, Katherine Rivera, Brett Baird, Kip Husty, Raúl Guevara, Salma Candle, Martín Ruiz, Viviana Verduzco, Dante Tosetti.

2. Welcome

President MacAvoy welcomed those present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited with the assistance of John Gill student, Raúl Guevara.

3. Changes to the Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

4. Approval of Agenda

The board approved the agenda as submitted, (Lawson/Díaz-Slocum; 4-0).

5. Community / Staff Recognition

5.1 Recognition of John Gill School

President MacAvoy, the entire board and Superintendent Baker recognized Brenda Cuevas, Erika Zamora García, Claudia Martínez, Amaliya Murphy, Melissa Tosetti, Socorro Contreras, Alexandra Bouchard, and Claudia Conti for their countless support of John Gill School.

On behalf of the board, President MacAvoy and Superintendent Baker presented a Certificate of Recognition to the aforementioned volunteers, staff, and parents.

School Board Trustees and Superintendent Baker expressed their utmost thanks to Brenda Cuevas, Erika Zamora García, Claudia Martínez, Amaliya Murphy, Melissa Tosetti, Socorro Contreras, Alexandra Bouchard, and Claudia Conti for their dedicated service to John Gill School.

6. Oral Communication

Kip Husty, instructional assistant for the Special Education Department at Hawes Community School, addressed the School Board by stating that the district needs to break away from testing students. Mr. Husty expressed that he does not believe that the School District should use testing to track students' academic achievement. Mr. Husty believes that students are creative and intelligent and encouraged parents to opt out of testing.

Maria Stockton, CSEA President, addressed the School Board by commenting that CSEA is getting ready to wrap up negotiations with the district. Furthermore, Ms. Stockton commented on the recent parcel tax and feasibility meeting she attended. Ms. Stockton stated that she feels that the committee is only obtaining feedback from community members and teachers. Ms. Stockton added that she would like for the parcel tax and feasibility committee to obtain feedback from all staff, including RCSD's classified staff. Ms. Stockton further added that she would like to know what is the District's policy on leave of absence. Ms. Stockton commented that she would like to obtain a computer from the district to check her emails, as she often times uses her personal cell phone to check for emails.

Nancy Bloomquist, retired Kennedy Middle School teacher, addressed the School Board and Superintendent Baker and expressed her appreciation for the re-installment of the 6th grade science equipment at Kennedy Middle School. Ms. Bloomquist expressed that she, together with Principal Paliughi and a custodian brought all the equipment back to the science lab. Ms. Bloomquist expressed that she is glad all the science equipment is available for all teachers and suggested that each department at Kennedy Middle School have a department chair that can help facilitate the organization of equipment and supplies. Ms. Bloomquist thanked the School Board and Superintendent Baker for their help in resolving this issue.

Bret Baird, RCTA President and teacher at Kennedy Middle School, commented that he has heard great comments about Kennedy Middle School from parents. Mr. Baird acknowledged Principal Paliughi for his great outreach to parents at the Henry Ford Spaghetti Feed and for promoting a positive climate at Kennedy Middle School. Lastly, Mr. Baird reported that he is working on having a Hall of Fame reunion at Kennedy Middle School.

7. School/Community Reports

7.1 John Gill Report

Katherine Rivera, Principal, updated the School Board on John Gill School's programs and activities. Principal Rivera presented the School Board with a Power Point presentation that demonstrated John Gill's mission, goals, data regarding testing scores, professional development, literacy, the Mandarin Immersion Program, SEAL, ELD, PE and dance program, and parent engagement.

Students: Raúl Guevara, Salma Candle, Martín Ruiz, Viviana Verduzco, and Dante Tosetti expressed why they love John Gill School. They expressed that John Gill provides a safe, friendly and easy-to-learn environment.

Principal Rivera thanked her staff, teachers, students and parents for supporting John Gill School and attending the Board meeting.

School Board Trustees and Superintendent Baker expressed their utmost thanks to Principal Rivera, the teachers, staff, students and parents at John Gill School for all their hard work and dedication. The School Board was impressed by the students' enthusiasm, articulation and leadership skills.

8. Consent Items

The board approved the Consent Items (Díaz-Slocum/Lawson; 4-0), taking the following action:

- 8.1 Recommendation re: Approval of January 20th Board Minutes
- 8.2 Recommendation re: Approval of January 22nd Board Minutes
- 8.3 Recommendation re: Approval of February 10th Board Minutes
- 8.4 Recommendation re: Ratification of Warrant Register, January 1, 2016 through January 31, 2016
- 8.5 Recommendation re: Approval of Water Field Trip Request to UC Santa Cruz, Garfield Community School
- 8.6 Recommendation re: Approval of Revision of Measure W Funds for Adelante Spanish Immersion School
- 8.7 Recommendation re: Approval of Revision of Measure W Funds for Roosevelt School

President MacAvoy (Ayes)
Trustee Paulson (Absent)
Trustee Díaz-Slocum (Ayes)
Trustee McBride (Ayes)
Trustee Lawson (Ayes)

9. Action Items

9.1 Recommendation re: Approval of District Sunshine Proposal for RCTA

Superintendent Baker commented that the district sunshine proposal for RCTA had been discussed amongst board members during closed session on February 10th. Superintendent Baker added that after deliberate discussion, this item was coming to the School Board for approval.

The Board approved the district sunshine proposal for RCTA, (Lawson, Díaz-Slocum; 4-0)

President MacAvoy (Ayes)
Trustee Paulson (Absent)
Trustee Díaz-Slocum (Ayes)
Trustee McBride (Ayes)
Trustee Lawson (Ayes)

10. Board and Superintendent Reports

10.1 Report from Board Members and Superintendent

Trustee Lawson reporting attending the 17th District PTA Luncheon and commented it had been a great event. Trustee Lawson added that Lori McBride received an award for all her years of service. Trustee Lawson stated that she attended the Superintendent's Advisory Council Committee meeting and commented that there had been an extensive discussion and a series of questions from parents.

Trustee McBride reported visiting 4 schools. Trustee McBride expressed that in all schools he has visited, he can see that all adults care deeply for the students. Trustee McBride commented that a few students from Fair Oaks Community School's special day classes received fit bits and in addition, were able to go to Super Bowl City through a UNICEF program. Trustee McBride added that he had a great and pleasant conversation with three students, Lilly Tuakalau, Ana Tuakalau, and Lupe Flores Avila at Fair Oaks who were enthusiastic and very proud of their school. Trustee McBride reported visiting Roosevelt School's PBL's chemistry lesson.

Trustee Díaz-Slocum reported attending the Food Service Planning Committee meeting, together with Trustee Lawson and CBO Saleh. Trustee Díaz-Slocum reported that there would be a few changes made to the lunch menus and the committee recommendations would come forward for approval at the next board meeting.

President MacAvoy reported attending Superintendent's Advisory Council meeting and thanked Director of Communications, Naomi Hunter for making the presentation and thanked Superintendent Baker for presenting the information to parents. President MacAvoy added that she attended a meeting regarding the Parcel Tax and feasibility and commented that polling will commence the second week of March. President MacAvoy added that the polling results would be presented to the School Board at the last board meeting in March. President MacAvoy reported attending the science

steering meeting with Wendy Kelly and Christopher Link from Staff Development. President MacAvoy commented that it had been a great and engaging meeting.

Superintendent Baker attended the Superintendent's Advisory Council meeting and commented that parents had a lot of questions during his presentation. Superintendent Baker added that he asked the parents in attendance to provide him with 5 questions they want to obtain further information on. Superintendent Baker expressed that Naomi Hunter compiled the parents' questions and will provide the School Board with the information on Friday's update. Superintendent Baker further commented that the goal in obtaining parents' questions is to develop a Q&A forum with parents and Cabinet members. Superintendent Baker added that he is thinking of organizing budget forums throughout different school sites to provide further information to parents on RCSD's budget.

10.2 Report Out on Closed Session for District Sunshine Proposal for RCTA, February 10th, 2016

President MacAvoy reported that the School Board discussed the proposal during closed session and it was brought forward for approval at tonight's board meeting.

11. Information

11.1 Recommendation for English Language Arts Program Adoption for Grades K-8

Executive Director of Educational Services, Linda Montes stated that Staff Development personnel attended a training presented by the San Mateo County Office of Education to assist districts in the English Language Arts/English Language Development adoption process. Ms. Montes added that the Curriculum Planning Committee determined the need to provide teachers with English Language Arts curriculum that is Common Core aligned, and is available in Spanish. Ms. Montes commented that 18 teachers in grades Kindergarten through eighth grade would participate in the adoption process. Ms. Montes stated that in 2017, the program would be piloted and in 2018, the program would go into effect.

11.2 Common Core Implementation Update

Executive Director of Educational Services, Linda Montes commented that the Staff Development Team provides coaching support to all school sites on the implementation of Common Core Standards and initiatives, as well as implementing and monitoring the Local Education Agency Plan (LEAP). Ms. Montes commented that this evening's School Report from John Gill School is a great example of how schools will present information to the School Board, which will include an array of data, including results from the implementation of Common Core Standards.

11.3 Information on San Mateo County Investment Fund – January 2016

No questions or comments from the School Board or Superintendent Baker.

12. Correspondence

Trustee Díaz-Slocum reported receiving an email from Abby Salem about board minutes. Ms. Salem wanted further information about who took the board minutes and if the minutes were made available to the public upon request.

President MacAvoy reported receiving a letter from the San Mateo County Office of Education stating that the Redwood City School District is solvent. President MacAvoy added that the County was complimentary on how the district is doing a great job in maintaining their solvency.

In response to President MacAvoy's comment about receiving a letter from the San Mateo County Office of Education, CBO Saleh added that he would present information at the March 9th board meeting regarding RCSD's budget and solvency.

13. Other Business/Suggested Items for Future Agenda

Trustee McBride requested agendaizing an update from the Food Service Planning Committee.

14. Board Agenda Calendar

14.1 Changes to the Board Agenda Schedule

Superintendent Baker, together with the School Board deliberated about the upcoming special study sessions to discuss reading and special education services.

Superintendent Baker and the School Board agreed on conducting a study session on reading on March 30th from 6:30-8:30pm and a study session on special education services on April 20th from 6:30-8:30pm.

Superintendent Baker reported that RCSD would hold a joint board meeting with the Sequoia Union High School District on May 4th at 6:30pm. Superintendent Baker commented that the location of the board meeting has not yet been confirmed.

Superintendent Baker announced that CISCO would like to have an executive meeting with Director of Technology, Marco Baeza, Superintendent Baker and two board members. Superintendent Baker invited two board members to participate in the meeting as asked to send their confirmation via email. Superintendent Baker commented that the meeting would be a daylong meeting, which has been scheduled for March 31st. Superintendent Baker added that CISCO would like to discuss equipment and services to RCSD.

15. Closed Session

15.1 Closed Session for Teacher/Certificated Layoffs/Non Re-elects

At 8:45pm Trustees MacAvoy, Díaz-Slocum, McBride, and Lawson went into closed session with Director of Human Resources, Leslie Crane and Superintendent Baker.

The board came out of closed session at 9:30 p.m.

16. Adjournment (Action Required)

The board adjourned the meeting at 9:31 p.m. (Lawson/Díaz-Slocum; 4-0).

María Díaz-Slocum, Clerk