

REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Redwood City, California

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

April 13, 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, Hilary Paulson, María Díaz-Slocum, Dennis McBride, Janet Lawson and Superintendent John Baker.

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, Leslie Daniele, Holly Watts, Sigrid McCarthy, Eneida Manriquez, María Sandoval, Olga García, Cinthya Álvarez, Merrily Robinson, José Manuel Meléndrez, Suzanne Wood, Angeni Kanaday-Álvarez, Elizabeth Hernández, Patricia Alcocer, Rita Melton, Jeanett Serrano, Kerry Schmidt, Rossi Fernández-Davila, Virginia García, María Carrillo, Ko Kim, Cynthia Wilson, Peggy Klein, Sudha Fatima, Tiffany Parrish, Gordon Zhang, Julie Gordon, Victoria Orozco, María Orozco, Steven Murray, Bret Baird, Brian Cagle.

2. Welcome

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

3. Changes to the Agenda

Trustee Paulson conveyed that Action Item 8.1 would be pulled from the agenda.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Oral Communication

Superintendent Baker introduced to the School Board and audience, Sarah Schoening, Measure T Consultant for the Redwood City School District. Superintendent Baker commented that back on January 20th, attorney Mark Kelley from Dannis Woliver Kelley made the recommendation to the Redwood City School District to hire a bond consultant to provide direction and guidance on the bond issuance process. Superintendent Baker commented that the Bond Oversight Measure T Committee interviewed and hired Ms. Sarah Schoening. This position will be paid out of bond funds.

Ms. Sarah Schoening commented that she is excited to be working with the Redwood City School District and expressed that she will address the School Board frequently with updates regarding the Measure T bond.

Merrily Robinson, teacher at MIT, addressed the School Board about her concern on the increasing cost of living in Redwood City and urged the School Board to consider a fair salary for teachers in the School District. Ms. Robinson expressed that new teachers cannot afford to live in the area and conveyed her concern towards the future of teachers in the Redwood City School District.

Bret Baird, RCTA President, commented that he has been a teacher since 1982 and is highly dedicated to the Redwood City School District. Mr. Baird commented that he is deeply sad to see many teachers leave the district due to increasing prices in housing. Mr. Baird further commented that he hopes the School District realizes the wonderful assets that teachers are to RCSD and encouraged a fair contract for teachers.

Brian Cagle, PE teacher at North Star, addressed the School Board by commenting that he would like the Redwood City School District to attract and retain teachers.

Julie Gordon, teacher at Roosevelt School, expressed she has been a teacher for the Redwood City School District for 4 years and commented that she chose to be part of the School District because of its community and teachers. Ms. Gordon commented that neighboring districts such as Palo Alto and Menlo Park offer higher salaries for their teachers and that is why one of RCSD's former teachers, Sarah Coyle, left the School District. Ms. Gordon urged the School Board to consider a fair raise for teachers in the School District.

Kerry Schmidt, teacher at Hoover Community School, stated that she has worked at Hoover Community School for many years and enjoys working with the Hoover community, as well as with the teachers. Ms. Schmidt commented that she commutes from Sunnyvale and as the cost of living is substantially increasing, she is strongly considering moving out of the area, possibly out of the state if teachers' salaries do not increase. Ms. Schmidt asked the School Board to consider increasing teacher's salaries in the Redwood City School District.

Ann Lucero, teacher at Hawes Community School, thanked Superintendent Baker for attending the RCTA Representative Council meeting. Ms. Lucero commented that Superintendent Baker's attendance was heart warming and was well accepted. Ms. Lucero commented that at the 2016 CABE Conference, that in addition the award issued to RCSD, many other districts received awards due to their success in working collaboratively with their unions.

Jeanett Serrano, teacher at Hoover Community School, commented that she joined the Redwood City School District several years ago due to its commitment to bilingualism. Ms. Serrano stated that all teachers work arduously and often times take work home for after school, weekends, and even for the summer. Ms. Serrano expressed her concern for the future and would like the respect that a fair contract would provide for teachers.

Ko Kim, teacher at Garfield School, commented that it is challenging for her to provide a peaceful environment to her students when she is stressed out about her financial situation. Ms. Kim expressed that she enjoys working at Garfield because of its community and students and added that the cost of living has affected Garfield, as the school has already lost 32 families who moved out of the area.

President MacAvoy expressed that under Oral Communication, members of the School Board cannot engage in a discussion or detailed comment on any topic. President MacAvoy thanked all of the teachers in attendance for addressing the School Board with their concerns. President MacAvoy added that the School Board has had past conversations about the increasing cost of living in Redwood City and expressed that the School Board always comments on RCSD's wonderful teachers and staff.

6. School/Community Reports

6.1 2016 CELDT Report

Linda Montes, Executive Director of Educational Services provided the School Board with a presentation on the administration of the California English Language Development (CELDT) test to 3,700 English Learners students from August through October 2015 and its results.

Ms. Montes explained that the results of the CELDT test are used to determine placement of students for English Language Development classes until students are fully proficient in English. Ms. Montes commented that there are five different proficiency bands: Level 1 – Beginning, Level 2 – Early Intermediate, Level 3 – Intermediate, Level 4 – Early Advanced, and Level 5 – Advanced.

Ms. Montes commented that she would work with the schools with the highest percentage of English Language Learners to determine if ELD is provided as recommended by the California Department of Education.

6.2 RCSD Child Development Centers' Report

Edna Carmona, Principal of Child Development Centers, together with Verónica Lobos, Patricia Perla, Roxana Peña and Elvira Cortéz addressed the School Board with a Power Point Presentation that demonstrated the various activities, academic development, social skills of preschool students.

7. Consent Items

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

7.1 Recommendation re: Approval of March 23rd Board Minutes

7.2 Recommendation re: Approval of Field Trip Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, Fair Oaks Community School

7.3 Recommendation re: Approval of Field Trip Request to Outdoor Education Program, Taft Community School

7.4 Recommendation re: Approval of Field Trip Request to Yosemite National Park, Taft Community School

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

8. Action Items

8.1 Recommendation re: Approval of Non-Reelection of Certificated Probationary Personnel

This action item was removed from the agenda by the Human Resources Department.

9. Board and Superintendent Reports

9.1 Report from Board Members and Superintendent

Trustee Lawson reported attending the Wellness Committee meeting. In addition, Trustee Lawson commented that she attended the CAFE celebration dinner, together with Superintendent Baker and other board members. Trustee Lawson attended the RWC2020, Redwood City Together Dinner and commented that she sat with Redwood High School's principal. Trustee Lawson also reported visiting Clifford School and Garfield Community School for their clean up day. Trustee Lawson attended the Progress Seminar, together with Superintendent Baker and fellow board members and also attended the LCAP Committee meeting.

Trustee McBride reported that he attended many of the same events as Trustee Lawson and added that he attended the Progress Seminar where he had a conversation with a Selby Lane parent, Gary Johnson who was absolutely impressed with Selby Lane's Spanish immersion program.

Trustee Díaz-Slocum reported visiting Roosevelt School and Everest High School. Trustee Díaz-Slocum commented that it was great to see that many former RCSD students are doing so well in high school!

Trustee Paulson reported attending a meeting, together with Trustee McBride regarding the Measure T bond and commented that they will meet with Sarah Schoening on Thursday morning to discuss the bond. Trustee Paulson expressed that she feels that Ms. Schoening will steer the Redwood City School District in the right direction and makes her feels at ease. Trustee Paulson reported that she, together with President MacAvoy, Superintendent Baker and Marco Baeza attended a meeting with CISCO.

President MacAvoy reported attending the California School Boards Association Legislative Action Day and reported that different topics were discussed. President MacAvoy reported visiting Selby Lane School, Roosevelt School, Adelante Spanish

Immersion School, MIT, and John Gill School. Furthermore, President MacAvoy commented that she met with Pamela Estes from the Art's Foundation.

Superintendent Baker commented that he attended a lot of the same events as the board members. Superintendent Baker added that he had a meeting earlier in the day with Ms. Sarah Schoening to discuss the bond and commented that Ms. Schoening will attend board meetings regularly to provide the School Board with an update.

9.2 Report Out on RCTA Negotiations Update, March 23rd, 2016

President MacAvoy reported that the School Board received an update during closed session in regards to the RCTA negotiations. The School Board took no action.

9.3 Report Out on CSEA Negotiations Update, March 23rd, 2016

President MacAvoy reported that the School Board received an update on CSEA negotiations. The School Board took no action.

9.4 Report Out on Closed Session for Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Retention: Gov. Code §54957 (1 case), March 23rd, 2016

President MacAvoy reported that the School Board discussed a discipline issue and the School Board concurred with the recommendation of staff.

9.5 Report Out on Closed Session for Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Superintendent's Evaluation), March 30, 2016

President MacAvoy reported that the School Board discussed the Superintendent's evaluation.

9.6 Report Out on Report Out on Closed Session for Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Retention: Gov. Code §54957 (1 case), March 30, 2016

President MacAvoy reported that the School Board discussed a discipline issue and the School Board concurred with the recommendation of staff.

10. Information

10.1 Quarterly Williams Report, January 1 – March 31, 2016 – attachment

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

11. Correspondence

Trustee Paulson reported receiving an invitation to the Día del Niño celebration at Selby Lane. Trustee Paulson invited other board members to attend, as she will not be able to attend this year.

Trustee Lawson reported receiving an email from a Roy Cloud parent regarding a future TK at Roy Cloud.

12. Other Business/Suggested Items for Future Agenda

Superintendent Baker reported meeting with Director of Human Resources Carla Crenshaw and commented that the Special Education report originally scheduled to be presented on April 20th's special session, has been postponed. Superintendent Baker asked board members if they could attend on May 18th.

In response to Superintendent Baker's question, all board members with exception of Trustee Paulson expressed they can attend. Trustee Paulson commented she would notify Superintendent Baker at a later time.

13. Board Agenda Calendar

13.1 Changes to the Board Agenda Schedule

Superintendent Baker commented that there are a few changes that have been made since the last board meeting.

14. Closed Session

14.1 RCTA Negotiations Update

14.2 CSEA Negotiations Update

14.3 Closed Session for Public Employee

Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Retention: Gov. Code §54957 (2 cases)

14.4 Conference with Legal Counsel--Anticipated Litigation

Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Subdivision (b) of Section 54956.9: (1 case)

At 9:40pm Trustees MacAvoy, Paulson, 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 10:45 p.m.

15. Adjournment (Action Required)

Trustee McBride requested to adjourn the meeting in honor of John Murphy.

The board adjourned the meeting at 10:46 p.m. (Paulson/Lawson; 5-0).

María Díaz-Slocum, Clerk