

REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Redwood City, California

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

May 11, 2016

1. Call to Order

President Alisa MacAvoy called the meeting to order at 7:04 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.

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, Warren Sedar, Ramiro Carranza, Stephanie Vance, Tiki Dare, Bret Baird, Maria Stockton, Susanne Pillay, Merrily Robinson, Dione Smith, Peter Bartok, Rita Melton, Naomi Hunter.

2. Welcome

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

3. Changes to the Agenda

Trustee MacAvoy requested to move Oral Communication to after Item 7.3.

4. Approval of Agenda

The board approved the agenda as amended, (McBride/Lawson; 4-0).

6. School/Community Reports

6.1 Recognition of Selby Lane

President MacAvoy, the entire board and Superintendent Baker recognized Lisa Benner, Ana Cervantes, Norma Gómez, Sandy Kahman, Kristina King Cohen, Monica Lombera, Saroj Pathak, Nicholas Peters, Damaris Ramos, Kathie Ratzlaff, Susan Speicher, and Jackie Ward for their dedicated service and support to Selby Lane School.

On behalf of the board, President MacAvoy and Superintendent Baker presented a Certificate of Recognition to Lisa Benner, Ana Cervantes, Norma Gómez, Sandy Kahman, Kristina King Cohen, Monica Lombera, Saroj Pathak, Nicholas Peters, Damaris Ramos, Kathie Ratzlaff, Susan Speicher, and Jackie Ward.

School Board Trustees and Superintendent Baker expressed their utmost thanks to the aforementioned staff and volunteers for their service to the Redwood City School District.

## 6.2 “Meet RCSD” Videos

Naomi Hunter, Director of Communications, presented to the School Board a video “Meet RCSD”. The video included interviews of students and staff.

## 7. School/Community Reports

### 7.1 Selby Lane School Report

Warren Sedar, Principal, updated the School Board on Selby Lane’s programs and activities. Principal Sedar presented the School Board with a Power Point presentation that demonstrated Selby Lane’s mission, goals, and data regarding testing scores, professional development, literacy, the Spanish Immersion Program, behavior policies, PE, and parent engagement.

Principal Sedar thanked his staff, teachers, students and parents for supporting Selby Lane and attending the Board meeting.

School Board Trustees and Superintendent Baker expressed their utmost thanks to Principal Sedar, Vice Principal Carranza, teachers, staff, students and parents at Selby Lane School for all their hard work and dedication.

### 7.2 Bond Program Update

Sarah Schoening, Bond Program Advisor, provided the School Board with an update on the bond program.

### 7.3 School Health and Wellness Report

Andrea Garen, Director of Health and Wellness provided the School Board with a presentation about the health and wellness programs throughout the Redwood City School District.

## 8. Oral Communication

President MacAvoy commented that the Board welcomes public comments at our board meetings, but due to the Brown Act, the Board can not make detailed comments or have a discussion about items addressed under Oral Communication that are not on the board meeting agenda.

Merrily Robinson, teacher at MIT spoke on behalf of Rodric Hung, teacher at MIT. Ms. Robinson commented that Mr. Hung has been in the Redwood City School District since 2000. Ms. Robinson expressed that Mr. Hung embarked on his teaching career at the Redwood City School District with the purpose of making a difference in the lives of

students. Ms. Robinson, on behalf of Mr. Hung, commented that the district has seen many high quality teachers leave the district. Ms. Robinson encouraged the School Board, on behalf of Mr. Hung to offer a competitive salary to teachers.

Dione Smith, teacher at Clifford School, addressed the School Board by reading a letter on behalf of 15 families in her classroom, focusing on the Bay Area housing increase. Ms. Smith expressed that it is difficult to attract teachers when the salaries offered to them are not competitive. Ms. Smith encouraged the School Board to work collaboratively with the teachers to reach a compensation agreement.

Susanne Pillay, RSP teacher at MIT, expressed that it is difficult to offer jobs to teachers when the salaries are not competitive. Ms. Pillay urged the School Board to help teachers find a solution, as teachers love Redwood City and want to stay.

Peter Bartok, teacher at Hoover Community School, expressed his concern about the solvency of the district. Mr. Bartok stated that it is difficult to hire teachers, when many of them are leaving the district due to financial reasons. Mr. Bartok conveyed his desire to be part of a thriving community and further commented that he wants to be part of a community where students are not impacted negatively by the financial strains of housing costs.

Rita Melton, teacher at Adelante Spanish Immersion School, commented that she has lived in Redwood City for 20 years and her children have been students in the Redwood City School District. Ms. Melton encouraged the School Board to offer teachers a competitive salary.

Stephanie Vance, teacher at North Star, stated that she has been teaching for 24 years and has served the Redwood City School District community for 15 years. Ms. Vance commented that she has seen many of her colleagues leave the district and would like to encourage the School Board to work collaboratively with teachers to offer a salary raise.

Bret Baird, RCTA President, commented that he met with Assemblymember Kevin Mullin and Zach Ross and engaged in a discussion about the LCAP and state funding for the Redwood City School District. Mr. Baird stated that there are currently 27 classrooms being taught by substitute teachers and opined that it affects the overall climate of the school. Mr. Baird urged the district to readdress the LCAP for Friday's negotiations with RCTA.

Maria Stockton, CSEA President commented how wonderful it would be for the School Board to do a celebration for students who have accelerated on their reading levels. Ms. Stockton honored custodian Leonardo Hernández, as he recently passed away.

President MacAvoy thanked everyone that addressed the School Board with their comments and concerns. President MacAvoy expressed that the district would have to work collaboratively to address the housing crisis.

## 9. Discussion Items

## 8.1 Discussion on CSBA's Agenda Online Program

The Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Eliana García addressed the School Board with various concerns about the posting of the online agenda.

Ms. García stated that during the past year, she has experienced numerous problems when she prepares the board agenda packets to be posted online. Ms. García discussed looking into other vendors that could provide agenda online services. Ms. García agreed that she would obtain more information on other vendors that provide similar services and would address the School Board at a future board meeting with her findings.

## 10. Consent Items

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

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

10.2 Recommendation re: Approval of Field Trip Request to Elk's Lodge #1991, Clifford School

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

## 11. Action Items

11.1 Recommendation re: Approval of Citizen's Oversight Committee for Measure W

Naomi Hunter, Director of Communications commented that nine members were appointed to the Committee in 2012. In April 2015, the 4 two-year terms expired, and 4 Committee members, including 2 existing members and 2 new members, were appointed. Furthermore, Ms. Hunter commented that in April 2016, the 5 three-year terms expired.

As in the past, the District publicized the openings and posted the application for all interested citizens using various communication channels. Applications were due on April 15, 2016. The District received 9 applications, and is appointing 6 new members. Ms. Hunter stated that the Administration met to review the applications and recommends the slate of candidates for board approval.

All terms will expire in 2018 or whenever funds are spent, whichever comes sooner. The terms can be extended by the Board, if the measure is renewed.

The Board approved the citizen's oversight committee for Measure W, (McBride, Díaz-Slocum; 4-0).

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

#### 11.2 Recommendation re: Approval of Declaration of Need 2016-17

There were no questions nor comments from the School Board and Superintendent.

The Board approved the declaration of need for the 2016-17, (McBride, Díaz-Slocum; 4-0).

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

#### 11.3 Recommendation re: Approval of Variable Term Waiver Request

There were no questions nor comments from the School Board and Superintendent.

The Board approved the variable term waiver request for the following staff members: Samuel Ansah Asamoah and Lisamarie Gascot Reyes, (Lawson, Díaz-Slocum; 4-0).

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

### 12. Board and Superintendent Reports

#### 12.1 Report from Board Members and Superintendent

Trustee Lawson reported attending the Superintendent's Advisory Council meeting. Trustee Lawson also reported visiting Fair Oaks Community School and Roy Cloud School. Furthermore, Trustee Lawson attended the Aladdin presentation, the Día del Niño event at Selby Lane School, and the Golden Ribbon Award ceremony. Trustee Lawson was happy to report that she completed the Masters in Governance Program.

Trustee McBride reported attending the April 28<sup>th</sup> bond meeting, in addition to attending the Chamber Education Committee meeting. Trustee McBride reported attending the joint board meeting between the Redwood City School District and the Sequoia Union High School District. Trustee McBride also attended the Familias Unidas Ceremony at Hoover Community School in addition to the mural ceremony at Fair Oaks Community School.

Trustee Díaz-Slocum reported that she had been at some of the similar events as the rest of the School Board members. Furthermore, Trustee Díaz-Slocum reported attending the Día del Niño event at Selby Lane.

President MacAvoy reported attending a mental health meeting together with Andrea Garen and Margaret Lavin. President MacAvoy commented that there was further conversation about wellness support for teachers and staff. President MacAvoy reported attending a wellness alliance meeting, in addition to visiting North Star and will visit later this week, Clifford, John Gill and Orion. President MacAvoy reported attending Selby Lane's Día del Niño and Senator Jerry Hill's meeting with other county superintendents and schools boards.

Superintendent Baker commented that he attended a lot of the same events as the board members. Superintendent Baker added that the Redwood City School District had been awarded the Big Lift.

#### 12.2 Report Out on RCTA Negotiations Update, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016

President MacAvoy commented that the School Board discussed RCTA negotiations and directed staff to move forward with their decision.

#### 12.3 Report Out on CSEA Negotiations Update, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016

President MacAvoy commented that the School Board discussed the District's proposal to be submitted to CSEA.

#### 12.4 Report Out on Closed Session for Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Retention: Gov. Code §54957 (2 cases), April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016

President MacAvoy commented that the School Board discussed the employee discipline issue and directed staff to move forward with their decision.

### 13. Correspondence

President MacAvoy reported receiving a letter from the San Mateo County Office of Education about the second interim budget report.

CBO Saleh commented that he would report on the findings from the San Mateo County Office of Education at a board meeting in June.

### 14. Other Business/Suggested Items for Future Agenda

The School Board commented that all correspondence and emails received by the School Board would be forwarded to the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Eliana García for filing.

### 15. Board Agenda Calendar

#### 15.1 Changes to the Board Agenda Schedule

Superintendent Baker commented that there have been no changes since the last board meeting.

16. Closed Session

16.1 RCTA Negotiations Update

16.2 CSEA Negotiations Update

16.3 Closed Session for Public Employee

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

16.4 Conference with Legal Counsel--Anticipated Litigation

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

At 9:58pm 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 10:45 p.m.

17. Adjournment (Action Required)

The board adjourned the meeting at 10:46 p.m. (Díaz-Slocum/Lawson; 4-0).

María Díaz-Slocum, Clerk