

REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Redwood City, California

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

April 4, 2018

1. Call to Order

President María Díaz-Slocum called the Closed Session meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office, Redwood City School District (“RCSD”), 750 Bradford Street, Redwood City.

Present at the meeting: President María Díaz-Slocum, Vice-President Dennis McBride, Janet Lawson, Alisa MacAvoy, Hilary Paulson, Superintendent Baker and Wendy Kelly.

2. Oral Communication

None.

3. Closed Session – 6:00-7:00pm

The School Board, Superintendent Baker, Wendy Kelly, and Counsel went into Closed Session at 6:00 pm.

3.1 Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation: Anticipate significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2). One case

3.2 Consideration of Employee Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence

4. Reconvene to Regular Session at Approximately 7:00pm

4.1 Roll Call

The School Board, Superintendent Baker, and Administration reconvened to Regular Session at 7:04pm.

4.2 Report Out on Closed Session from 4/4/18 (6-7pm)

President Díaz-Slocum reported that the School Board heard information during Closed Session and no action was taken.

5. Welcome

President Díaz-Slocum welcomed those present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Others Present: Linda Montes, Wendy Kelly, Leslie Stafford, Rosario González, Ashley Gordon, Maria Stockton, María Orozco, Lupe Ortíz, Angie Ibarra, Gabriela Caamal, Edith Castro, Gonzálo Rangel, Doug Morton, Beatriz Cerrillo, Hisela Torres, Maricela Arias, Carmela Jiménez, Leslie Stafford, Gloria Rangel, Edgar Rangel, Melina Rangel, Ana López, Alexander Rodríguez, Elizabeth Rodríguez, Marta Marcos, Lilian Silva, Brenda Torres, Alma Rubio, Juan Torres, Verónica Esqueda, Yessica Morales, Agustín Rodríguez, Micaela Vail, Francisca Meza, María Soto, Ramiro Ramírez, Sofia Echeverría, Eddy Soto, José Aguayo, Silvia Velazco, María Ramírez, Jorge Carrillo, Rosa López, Megan Waiters, Erasmo Dávila, Graciela Dávila, María González, José Rojas, Doly Chacón, Elena Mercia, Gabriela Gochez, Evelyn Rojas, Luis Gochez, Daniela Gochez, María Velazquez, Guillermo V., Eva Ramírez, Manuel Calderón, Martín Soto, María Reynaga, Carmela Herrera, Angelita Huato, Nancy González, Alex Cruz, María Jacobo, Fernando Martínez, José Álvarez, María Pérez, Lynette Juárez, Felicia Tse, Raquel Beltrán, Angeles Cendejas, Blanca Galeana, Irma Garibay, Sandra Esquivel, Michael Bachicha, Adolfinia García, Michelle Mendoza, Guadalupe Romero, Rina Merino, Victor Tena, Maribel Gochez, Erika Esquivel, Ángel Esquivel, Martín Rodríguez, Cherrill Roth, Melanie Davenport, Naomi Hunter, Rick Hunter, Sara Shackel, Tony Quintero, Ana Lange Soto, Angeles Peña, Yessica Morales, América Elias, Sandra Esquivel, Luis Gochez, Victor Tena.

6. Changes to the Agenda

Trustee McBride requested to move Action Items 13.1-13.3 to Consent.

7. Approval of Agenda

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

8. Discussion Items

8.1 Plan to Restructure Fair Oaks Community School and Consolidate RCSD Services

Superintendent Baker provided the School Board and members of the audience with a presentation on Fair Oaks Community School.

Superintendent Baker expressed great sorrow in having to provide the audience with a presentation that would affect the lives of many students.

Superintendent Baker opened his presentation by stating that Fair Oaks Community School has experienced a decline in enrollment since the 2008-2009 school year. Superintendent Baker further commented that currently for the 2018-19 school year, there are approximately 186 students enrolled and out of those 186, 40 students have filled out a Schools of Choice of application to transfer to a different school site.

Superintendent Baker expressed that because of low-enrollment, the School Board and Superintendent Baker have offered to transfer Fair Oaks Community School students to Garfield Community School, Hoover Community School, and Taft Community School. Superintendent Baker commented that if any families wish to attend other schools other

than the choices provided, the Redwood City School District would guide the families through the Schools of Choice application process. Superintendent Baker added that Fair Oaks Community School families would receive the same level of services found at the family center, after school programs and would also receive transportation services for two years to Garfield Community School, Hoover Community School or Taft Community School. Furthermore, summer school options would be provided to families at any of the three aforementioned school sites and incoming kindergarten families would continue to have the option to enroll their students in the bilingual programs.

Superintendent Baker added that a charter school organization would consolidate its services at Fair Oaks Community School, as it currently serves at two different school sites.

9. Oral Communication

Tony Quintero, North Fair Oaks Resident and Community Member, addressed the School Board with disappointment and frustration at the decision to close down Fair Oaks Community School. Mr. Quintero commented that the Redwood City School District created mistrust in families and families are not willing to sacrifice their children's education for a budget. Mr. Quintero added that there are many alternatives to solving the budgetary issue, such as: renewing operating costs, janitorial costs, and registering more students to the school. Mr. Quintero further commented that Fair Oaks Community School families would be psychologically affected by this decision. Mr. Quintero added that Education Code mandates that an advisory committee convene to plan and advise on decisions made for a school. Mr. Quintero reiterated that there are California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines that need to be followed, prior to decision-making. Mr. Quintero demanded that Fair Oaks Community School remain open and expressed that the School Board and Superintendent Baker did not have the authority to make such decisions based on the fact that no proper steps were followed in regards to Education Code and CEQA guidelines. Mr. Quintero encouraged the School Board to open their hearts and consider and listen closely to the needs of every Fair Oaks Community School family. Mr. Quintero reiterated that School Board members were elected to look after the education and safety of RCSD children.

Ana Lange Soto, nun, expressed that she was contacted by families and members of the community to speak on their behalf and plead to the School Board and Superintendent Baker to reconsider their decision to close Fair Oaks Community School. Ms. Lange Soto commented that it was such a shock to families and members of the community when the announcement of the school's closure was made public. Ms. Lange Soto requested on behalf of families that the School Board and Superintendent Baker provide families with one more year to give families an opportunity to figure out their personal situation. Ms. Lange Soto encouraged the Redwood City School District to convene a selective committee and make an intelligent decision. Ms. Lange Soto reiterated that a few weeks was not sufficient time notice for families to make a drastic change in their lives.

The School Board and Superintendent Baker recessed at 8:05pm

The School Board and Superintendent Baker reconvened at 8:16pm

Angeles Peña, parent at Fair Oaks Community School, addressed the School Board and Superintendent Baker with her discontent about how the news about the closure of Fair Oaks Community School was conveyed to parents and staff. Ms. Peña expressed displeasure with the lack of communication from RCSD Administration and further commented that she is not in favor of Fair Oaks Community School's closure. Ms. Peña expressed that she attended Fair Oaks as a child and stated that she would like for her son to have the same experience as she did. Ms. Peña urged the School Board to reconsider their decision of closing Fair Oaks and encouraged them to give Fair Oaks Community School parents and community members the opportunity to advocate for their school.

Yessica Morales, parent at Fair Oaks Community School, commented about the significant academic progress of her son at Fair Oaks Community School. Ms. Morales further stated that her son experienced tremendous growth after he transferred from Hoover Community School. Ms. Morales expressed that her son has received a lot of support from teachers and staff at Fair Oaks and she fears that sending her son to a different school site would regress the academic growth he has experienced at Fair Oaks Community School. Ms. Morales urged the School Board to reconsider their decision to close Fair Oaks Community School.

Sandra Esquivel, parent at Fair Oaks Community School, expressed her disagreement of closing Fair Oaks Community School. Ms. Esquivel commented that Fair Oaks is a community school that not only offers a great level of education to students, but it also provides many resources. Ms. Esquivel encouraged the School Board to reconsider their decision of closing Fair Oaks Community School.

Lily Silva, parent at Fair Oaks Community School, addressed the School Board by commenting that she arrived from El Salvador in 2014 and left her family behind. Ms. Silva added that she felt alone and found a great feeling of comfort and support at Fair Oaks Community School. Ms. Silva expressed that teachers and staff encouraged her to continue her education and based on that great level of support she received, she feels that no other school would be able to offer what she has received from Fair Oaks Community School. Ms. Silva urged the School Board to reconsider their decision of closing Fair Oaks Community School.

Superintendent Baker commented that legal counsel from Dannis Woliver Kelley would be present at the April 25th board meeting to clarify any questions regarding Education Code.

Lillian Silva, 2nd grade student at Fair Oaks Community School, addressed the School Board by requesting that the School Board and Superintendent Baker not move forward with the decision to close Fair Oaks Community School. Lillian expressed that she loves her school and does not want to attend any other school.

América Elias, parent at Fair Oaks Community School, addressed the School Board and Superintendent Baker by expressing her dissatisfaction with the decision to close Fair

Oaks Community School. Ms. Elias reiterated that the closure of Fair Oaks Community School would implicate a series of issues with transportation and adjusting to a new school. Ms. Elias commented that there are many parent interested in registering their children at Fair Oaks and requested from the School Board and Superintendent Baker an opportunity to prove that parents at Fair Oaks and community members can help keep their school open.

Alma Rubio, parent at Fair Oaks Community School, expressed that her daughter had moved to three different schools within the district before coming to Fair Oaks Community School. Ms. Rubio added that her daughter's experience before attending Fair Oaks was not a pleasant one and commented that once she arrived to Fair Oaks, she was provided with support from teachers and staff. Ms. Rubio added that her daughter has made significant progress in reading and thanked the Special Education staff at Fair Oaks Community School for supporting her daughter's academic needs. Ms. Rubio requested from the School Board not to close Fair Oaks Community School.

Luis Gochez, Fair Oaks Community School parent, thanked the School Board for giving him the opportunity to speak about a topic so important to him. Mr. Gochez asked the School Board and Superintendent Baker why did they shift so much attention to the charter schools and not Fair Oaks Community School. Mr. Gochez reiterated that charter schools do not have a strong special education program, preschool or transitional kindergarten options. Mr. Gochez added that the first years of a child's education are the most important ones and as a member of the community, he insisted that Fair Oaks Community School remain open not only for his children, but for future generations.

Victor Tena, North Fair Oaks Community School parent, asked the School Board and Superintendent Baker if the decision to close Fair Oaks Community School was done legally. In response to Mr. Tena's question, Superintendent Baker replied, yes. Mr. Tena expressed that the School Board and Superintendent Baker did not look for a solution, but rather, made a fast and less-complicated decision. Mr. Tena commented that there are several schools within the School District that are over-populated and asked why couldn't the overflow students be transferred to Fair Oaks Community School? Mr. Tena added that with this decision, Fair Oaks Community School parents would have to look for additional alternatives for transportation and babysitting arrangements and often times, these last minute decisions affect those low-income families.

Ana López, former Fair Oaks Community School parent, addressed the School Board by asking the School Board not to close Fair Oaks Community School. Ms. López expressed that her son, who is now a U.S. Marine, attended Fair Oaks Community School as a child. Ms. López encouraged the School Board to reconsider their decision of closing Fair Oaks Community School.

Lilia Martínez, Fair Oaks Community School parent, expressed her disappointment at the lack of communication from the School Board and Superintendent Baker. Ms. Martínez commented that the news about Fair Oaks' closure came as a surprise to parents and she personally felt betrayed, as parents' input was not taken into consideration. Ms. Martínez added that the Redwood City School District made the

decision to close Fair Oaks Community School based on financial reasons and did not consider the well-being of students and their families. Ms. Martínez commented that the Fair Oaks community would not give up and would continue to advocate for their school.

Marielena Gaona Mendoza, North Fair Oaks community member, expressed her concern for students who received the news that their school would close soon. Ms. Gaona Mendoza reiterated that students are affected by this decision and urged the School Board and Superintendent Baker to reconsider their decision.

María Soto, Fair Oaks Community School parent, commented that since the news broke about Fair Oaks Community School closing, her children have expressed fear at transferring to another school site. Ms. Soto added that she would like for her children to remain at Fair Oaks Community School and graduate from there. Ms. Soto added that School Board President Díaz-Slocum and Superintendent Baker looked distracted throughout the meeting and reiterated that the closure of Fair Oaks Community School is a serious issue that affects many students and their families and urged the School Board and Superintendent Baker to reconsider their decision of closing Fair Oaks Community School.

Brenda Torres, student at Fair Oaks Community School, asked the School Board and Superintendent why was her school closing? Brenda expressed that she does not want her school to close.

Gloria Rangel, Open Action Community President, addressed the School Board by reinforcing the impact that the decision of closing Fair Oaks Community School would cause in families. Ms. Rangel added that there are more than 200 families that want to stay at Fair Oaks Community School and she denied that there were only 186 students registered to attend the 2018-19 school year. Ms. Rangel commented that over 300 people, including members of the community signed a petition requesting to keep Fair Oaks Community School open. Ms. Rangel commented that she hoped that the School Board and Superintendent Baker informed other school sites that Fair Oaks Community School students would be transferring there.

Olga Ramírez, parent at Fair Oaks Community School, urged the School Board to not close Fair Oaks Community School. Ms. Ramírez expressed that her son is receiving Special Education services and commented that the support her son has received at Fair Oaks has been exceptional. Ms. Ramírez urged the School Board to reconsider their decision and keep Fair Oaks Community School open.

Rafael Avendaño, North Fair Oaks Community member, thanked the School Board and Superintendent Baker for all their hard work in providing service to the community. Mr. Avendaño commented that he is not personally affected by the decision, but he attended the meeting with the purpose of supporting his neighbors and community. Mr. Avendaño expressed that as a community leader; he would like to work collaboratively with the School Board and Superintendent Baker to keep Fair Oaks Community School open. Mr. Avendaño encouraged the School Board and Superintendent Baker to be more mindful and work with the community to work

towards improvement and finding solutions where students and families would not be affected negatively.

John Holden, North Fair Oaks community member, addressed the School Board and Superintendent Baker by commenting that he started a large food pantry over six years ago in the East Palo Alto community. Mr. Holden added that in addition to East Palo Alto, he and his wife have also served John Gill School, Hoover Community School, Taft Community School, and Fair Oaks Community School communities. Mr. Holden expressed that Fair Oaks Community School parents are hardworking and are people that possess integrity. Mr. Holden added that he has witnessed Fair Oaks community members helping others, despite of their dire circumstances. Ms. Holden expressed that the Fair Oaks Community possess values dear to everyone. Mr. Holden urged the School Board and Superintendent Baker to reconsider their decision to close Fair Oaks Community School.

Mario Silva, North Fair Oaks community member, commented that he attempted to register his daughters a few years ago and he was informed that there was no space available. Mr. Silva added that he received help from the school site to fill out the registration application, but he was told that there was no space. Mr. Silva commented that he knows that other parents have had the same experience as him and urged the School Board and Superintendent Baker to make an intelligent decision towards the future of Fair Oaks Community School.

Maria Stockton, Redwood City resident and Clifford School staff member, addressed the School Board by stating that she has witnessed many of the changes that have occurred throughout the years at the Redwood City School District. Ms. Stockton commented that many families that have left Fair Oaks Community School, have left because of the rising cost of living, not because they do not like their school or their community. Ms. Stockton reiterated that the Redwood City School District has great teachers, staff and excellent schools. Ms. Stockton expressed that what mattered mostly, was that the Redwood City School District did its best to provide an excellent education to students. Ms. Stockton commended families for becoming strong advocates for their children and reassured families that no matter where their children attended school, they were guaranteed a new experience, safety and a great education.

Tony Quintero, North Fair Oaks community member, commented that families are willing to work hard for their children and are willing to advocate for them. Mr. Quintero added that many of the Fair Oaks Community School families are subjected to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and many families are afraid to travel outside of their neighborhood in fear that their families would be divided. Mr. Quintero urged the School Board to reconsider their decision and keep Fair Oaks Community School open.

Board President Diaz-Slocum, thanked Fair Oaks Community School parents, staff, teachers, and community members for attending the board meeting and voicing their comments and concerns. Board President Díaz-Slocum shared her personal story and expressed that she too knows first-hand what it is to move from place to place and move to different schools. Board President apologized to anyone she might have offended and reiterated that it was never her intention to hurt anyone's feelings. Board

President Díaz-Slocum stated that she is available to listen and work collaboratively with families to resolve the matter. Board President Díaz-Slocum commented that the next regular board meeting was scheduled for April 25th and added that the Fair Oaks Community School topic would continue as a discussion and action item on the agenda for that evening. Board President Díaz-Slocum invited families and members of the community to attend the next regular board meeting.

The School Board and Superintendent Baker recessed at 10:15pm.

The School Board and Superintendent Baker reconvened at 10:30pm.

10. Consent Items

Note: Per Trustee MacAvoy requested that Action 11.3 be moved to Consent.

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

- 10.1 Recommendation re: Approval of March 14th Board Minutes
- 10.2 Recommendation re: Approval of March 21st Board Minutes
- 10.3 Recommendation re: Approval of Field Trip Request to Yosemite National Park, Hoover Community School
- 10.4 Recommendation re: Approval of Field Trip Request to Peninsula Community Center Pool, Roosevelt School
- 10.5 Recommendation re: Approval of NPS/NPA Contract
- 11.3 Recommendation re: Approval of Topography and Land Surveying Project Authorization Forms with Kier and Wright

11. Action Items

**** NOTE:** Per Trustee MacAvoy's request, Action Item 11.3 was moved to Consent.

- 11.1 Recommendation re: Adoption of Resolution 17, Funding for Preschool Programs for 2017-18 Amendment 02

The School Board adopted Resolution 17, funding for preschool programs for 2017-18 Amendment 02 (MacAvoy, Lawson; 5-0).

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

- 11.2 Recommendation re: Adoption of Resolution 18, Resolution to Apply for Lower Emission School Bus Program Funds

The School Board adopted Resolution 18, resolution to apply for lower emission school bus program funds (MacAvoy, McBride; 5-0).

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

11.4 Recommendation re: Final Reading and Approval of Board Policy 0460 – Local Control and Accountability Plan

The School Board approved Board Policy 0460 – Local Control and Accountability Plan (McBride, Lawson; 5-0).

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

11.5 Recommendation re: Final Reading and Approval of Board Policy 5148.2 – Before/ After School Programs

The School Board approved Board Policy 5148.2 – Before/ After School Programs (Lawson, McBride; 5-0).

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

11.6 Recommendation re: Final Reading and Approval of Board Policy 5148.3 – Preschool/Early Childhood Education

The School Board approved Board Policy 5148.3 – Preschool/Early Childhood Education (Paulson, McBride; 5-0).

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

11.7 Recommendation re: Final Reading and Approval of Board Policy 6170.1 – Transitional Kindergarten

The School Board approved Board Policy 6170.1 – Transitional Kindergarten (Lawson, McBride; 5-0).

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

11.8 Recommendation re: Discussion and Approval of Board Policy 6171 – Title I Programs

The School Board approved Board Policy 6171 – Title I Programs (MacAvoy, Paulson; 5-0).

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

12. Board and Superintendent Reports

12.1 Report from Board Members and Superintendent

Vice-President McBride reported attending a meeting with Fair Oaks Community School parents and commented that Superintendent Baker, Community Liaison Michelle Remond, and Community School Coordinator Patricia Ortiz had done a great job at the meeting. Vice-President McBride also attended the Honor Roll assembly at Kennedy Middle School and attended a County Committee on School Board Organization meeting.

Trustee Lawson reported attending a Chamber of Education meeting and attended John Gill School's Educational Theatre.

Trustee MacAvoy attended the San Mateo County Alliance for Arts and a meeting with the California School Boards Association Board of Directors. Trustee MacAvoy commented about a plan to visit KIPP Excelencia Community Prep.

Trustee Paulson reported visiting Kennedy Middle School and commented it had been a pleasant visit!

President Díaz-Slocum reported attending a meeting at Fair Oaks Community School. President Díaz-Slocum thanked Linda Montes, Antonio Pérez, Jorge Quintana, Marco Baeza, Michelle Remond, and Vice-President McBride for their great support throughout the meeting. President Díaz-Slocum commented that she attended the screening of the movie, "Angst." President Díaz-Slocum also attended a Cafecito at Orion School.

Superintendent Baker reported attending a realtor's meeting at John Gill School and commented that Principal Katherine Rivera provided realtors with a tour of John Gill.

Superintendent Baker also attended a Superintendent's Advisory Council meeting with Director of Communications, Jorge Quintana. Furthermore, Superintendent Baker met with Roy Cloud School parents about the changes in administration. Superintendent Baker also attended a Cafecito at Orion School and commented it had been a well-attended meeting.

13. Information

None.

14. Correspondence

President Díaz-Slocum reported receiving emails from parents regarding Fair Oaks Community School.

15. Other Business/Suggested Items for Future Agenda

None.

16. Board Agenda Calendar

16.1 Changes to the Board Agenda Schedule

Superintendent Baker reported that the Curriculum update would be rescheduled for a future board meeting, in addition to the Roosevelt School report.

17. Adjournment (Action Required)

The board adjourned the meeting at 11:45 p.m. (Lawson/Paulson; 5-0).

Janet Lawson, Clerk