

**Minutes of
Regular Meeting of the Governing Board
For Tracy Unified School District
Held on Tuesday, October 21, 2021**

- 6:15 PM:** 1-3. President Kaur called the meeting to order and adjourned to closed session.
- Roll Call:** 4. Board: S. Abercrombie, A. Alexander, A. Blanco, N. Erskine, S. Kaur, L. Souza
Absent: Z. Hoffert
Staff: B. Stephens, R. Pecot, T. Jalique, J. Stocking, B. Etcheverry
- 7:00 PM** 5. President Kaur called the Tracy Unified School District Board of Education to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Closed Session:** 6a Action Taken on Finding of Facts: 21/22#10, 21/22#11, 21/22#12,
3.2.1 21/22#14
Action: Abercrombie, Souza. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Hoffert)
6b Report Out of Action Taken on Reinstatements: AR#20-21/#04
3.2.2
Action: **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Hoffert)
- Minutes:** 7. Approve Regular Minutes of September 28, 2021
Action: Abercrombie, Souza. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Hoffert)
- Audience:** B. Silver, M. Strelka, E. Quintana, C. Munger, D. Reese, E. Quintana, T. Brown, K. Jacobs, D. Reese, A. Brown, R. James, E. Cabral, H. Muncy, Z. Boswell, T. Stutz
- Student Rep Reports:** 8. Tracy High FFA Speakers: Danielle Francis reported as Hayden Andrade was unable to attend tonight's meeting. She thanked the board for allowing her to update them. She introduced new teachers and said it was fun to have new ideas. The hen laying egg enterprise has sold 500 eggs so far. This past week they did well in their competition with many students receiving awards. It was a great experience. The second chapter meeting will be held on October 21st with fun Halloween activities and a raffle. They will have a virtual pumpkin carving competition. The annual patch cancelled due to COVID concerns. Three of their officers will be attending the national convention. It will be a great experience. The degree ceremony will be held in November. They will also be hosting a canned food drive for those in need. They are looking forward to the rest of the year.
- West High FFA Speakers: Rylee Towle and Michelle Hernandez are excited to be back in person. Last year, the Ag Pest Control Team won 1st place at state finals. Students won many awards with one of the projects on market chickens. They took care of them every day and compared which feed was the best. The annual fall festival will be held on Oct. 16th from 11:00-3:00 with games. face painting,

pumpkin decorating and petting zoo with goats, a horse and rabbits. This is a fundraiser and will cost \$5.00 for each person who would like a pumpkin. They introduced their new teachers and gave a little background on each of them. They also introduced Mr. Dajani and Ms. Hepner who coached their winning team and finalist.

Recognition & Presentations:

9. Monte Vista Middle School Presentation

Principal, Barbara Silver, Assistant Principal, Meagan Strelka and teachers, Erika Cabral and Heather Muncy, presented a power point on the Inclusion Program. She reviewed the names and positions of each person on the team. There are 9 teacher inclusion teams with each team containing a special ed expert teacher and a content expert teacher. She reviewed the history of transitional to the inclusion model. Starting in 2021-22 there are no longer special ed students. They are receiving total access to all curriculum. In a typical class there are 20 general ed and 10 special ed students. There are 2 credentialed teachers in each section with one content expert and one special ed expert. Teachers and counselors work hard to make sure they have a common prep for planning, testing and collaboration. They are seen as equal partners. Students are not labeled. They are in classrooms with everyone else. Both teachers teach all students and use many diverse teaching strategies. Both do interventions with all students. Everyone is in the least restrictive environment, there is no added stigma of being different. There is full and equitable access to curriculum, and they receive maximum in class support. They have baseline Fastbridge data and will give that test again in a few months. They also have the DnA benchmark exams which are periodic. In Spring, there will be SBAC and ELPAC data. Other than during COVID, their test scores increase every year. They also have teacher assessment.

Teachers, Erika Cabral and Heather Muncy, then explained more about their teaching. In past they had push in model. Now, it's the one class and one subject. In their classroom, they have various co-teaching strategies. – teach & debate – one large group, on focus a variety of ways to teach. They help all students with participation and engagement, and they share them equally. Some of the challenges are to help certain students focus, be motivated and complete their work. Successes include all students benefit from the supports, RSP students tend to participate more and volunteer in discussions, and engagement and student participate has increased. Then they reviewed student data. The average score is very similar to non-inclusions classes, which is how they know it is working. They showed pictures of students working together very easily. They also shared some responses from the students about what they like about the class. They like their teachers and their humor and feel that they get more help with 2 teachers and learn more.

Information & Discussion Items:

10.1 Administrative & Business Services: None.

10.2 Educational Services:

- 10.2.1** Receive Report on COVID 19 Updates
Director of Curriculum & Accountability, Dr. Zachary Boswell, presented a power point on the latest COVID information. San Joaquin County continues to go down with 15.5 cases per 100,000. For the State of California, there are 12.2 cases per 100,000. Staff testing is fully implemented. The sites principals and secretaries are doing a great job. We also have implemented a no-cost student/family testing through Heal 360 and they are currently at the TISCS campus, Kimball High and Tracy High. There is a one-time registration. We have had about 330 in the last week test. There are others that have tested, but we only get the information on the student or staff testing. We also have our substitutes and district office staff testing through this company to see if they can handle it, they run 2 tests, the rapid and the PCR which is 98.5% accurate. Heal 360 is free to us so would be a cost savings to us.

Hearing of Delegations

11. Chris Munger, TEA president, commented that he is pleased that the district received the TSL grant. He wrote a letter of support and believes it will be beneficial to students and teachers in the area of STEM education. He hopes that TEA and TUSD can collaborate and develop a unified vision. He received an invite to a consult meeting with the George Kelly team that piloted the report card change for grades 4 and 5. He was impressed by what he saw and commends Kelly teachers who piloted and hopes their vision will be shared at the district ERM and all 4-5th grade teachers can create a unified vision and receive proper training and support. Lastly, he has serious concerns about the health and welfare of our district. He wants to talk to each one of the board members and gave them his cell number of him. He asked them to call him.

Tina Brown, a 2nd grade teacher in her 25th year. She is extremely frustrated over the lack of planning in rolling out the new assessments for 2nd and 3rd grade. She feels it should have been ready to go and completed before school began. She is upset that it is all being done online and wants direct teacher on how to administer them. There has been some progress made, but she doesn't feel it should be coming from principals. The training she received was a computer simulation and it was very difficult. She is trying to lead new teachers and is struggling so she believes that new teachers are extremely overwhelmed. They were given updated information today and grading window opens in 2 days. There was also a massive shift in math as well. She found out from a TOSA that they were supposed to be giving assessments online, but later changed to a choice of paper/pencil or online. She also has concerns why they were not allowed to make copies through Fedex. It took 6 weeks for funds to be released. Also, she was told that they will be charging \$9.99 delivery fee for every order sent to Fedex. She asked the board to check out the assessment system.

Kimberly Jacobs commented that she sent the board an email. Fastbridge is still a problem and believes the reports are worthless. Teacher get reports but it isn't clear. She said they still have to do paper/pencil in order to group the kids to find out what they don't understand. She thinks it's a waste of time. She's concerned that ELD students are taking the test. This test was given to English speakers only

and that is not our population. She doesn't understand why we are giving it to high school students. Another issue, the SPED director knew teachers were over their caseload. A teacher she is helping has 49 on her caseload. It is impossible for her to get everything done and illegal. All teachers are overworked. Teachers at Kimball High are so concerned that they took a 120 so they give up their prep and take the work home. Teachers are leaving because they think they are lied to and taken advantage of. She feels that students do not feel successful because of testing, scoring and labeling them. They know teachers don't have time to listen, prepare or answer questions.

Andrea Brown, a mother of 2 students in TUSD. She was born and raised in Tracy and attended TUSD schools and graduation from Tracy High. She is a behavioral therapist for children with autism. She maintained 4.0 GPA in high school. She believes she is standing up and doing what is right. She thinks some of the best teachers she has encountered work for TUSD and some have become like family to her. She is concerned and asked to unmask the kids and let it be the family's choice to decide what's best. She is shocked how far this whole thing has gotten. When her son got sick, she went to get him tested and encountered a nurse who was wearing full PPE, an oxygen tank on her back. She asked her why she was wearing all of that and stated to protect herself from COVID. When asked why she didn't just wear a mask, her response was that they don't work. She talked about Steven Petty's YouTube video that states that the masks we use is inefficient and does more harm than good. She also feels that the younger students should be able to see their teacher's mouths while teaching. If you think she's wrong, then show her.

Dean Reese, Director of STEM and Local Assessment and also a parent in the district with his daughters attending Southwest Park and Monte Vista. He is here to introduce himself. He was a teacher for 17 years at Tracy High and was the Science Department Chair. He then was hired by SJCOE as the STEM Coordinator. When this position opened, he applied and is excited to be in this role. He is a teacher at heart and respects the work that they do. He looks forward to working with teachers and students. He would like to share a few things about Fastbridge and DnA Illuminate. Fastbridge is a universal diagnostic screening tool. It allows us to screen students for deficits in reading, math and social academic and emotional behavior. This data provides teacher data, grade level data and district data. We have not had that before. It is very important to be able to understand and know what interventions we can use to bring students to grade level. He is happy to share with the board what the administration of these assessments looks like. He had the opportunity to show Trustee Abercrombie and Trustee Erskine and welcomes that opportunity to any other trustee who wants to learn more about it. In 2 weeks, he would like to give a presentation to the board about Fastbridge and also, he will be sharing the great news about receiving the TSL grant. He welcomes any input from teachers, administrators in terms of local assess and stem work moving forward.

Robert James has been a math teacher since 1996. The first 2 weeks of the school year are critical to establishing relationships with students. The number of sections given to each high school and the number of schedule changes that have been made for the past 5 years, cause classes of 40 students which is untenable and

bad for students. He suggested to look at enrollment in July to help. He also thanked Dr. Pecot for looking into a concern of the vans for TYAP.

Public Hearing:

12.1 Administrative & Business Services: None.

Consent Items:

13. Board approval of any agenda item requiring insurance is conditioned upon acceptance of appropriate insurance accepted by Tracy Unified.

Action: Approved all with Item #13.3.2 as amended.

Abercrombie, Souza. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Hoffert)

13.1 Administrative & Business Services:

13.1.1 Accept the Generous Donations from the Various Individuals, Businesses, and School Site Parent Teacher Associations Listed Herein with Thanks and Appreciation from the Staff and Students of the Tracy Unified School District

13.2 Educational Services:

13.2.1 Approve Funding Increase to Existing Master Contract (MC) for Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School (NPS) Services with Creative Alternatives

13.2.2 Approve Funding Increase to Existing Master Contract (MC) for Nonpublic, Nonsectarian Agency (NPA) Services with Educational Professionals of Central California

13.2.3 Approve Funding Increase to Existing Master Contract (MC) for Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School (NPS) Services with Point Quest Education

13.2.4 Approve Funding Increase to Existing Master Contract (MC) for Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School (NPS) Services with Sierra Vista

13.3 Human Resources:

13.3.1 Accept the Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence for Certificated, Classified and/or Management Employees

13.3.2 Approve Classified, Certificated and/or Management Employment

13.3.3 Approve a Declaration for a Provisional Internship Permit

13.3.4 Approve Student Teacher Fieldwork Agreement with Mills College

Action Items:

14.1 Administrative & Business Services:

14.1.1 Adopt Resolution No. 21-04 to Excuse Meeting Absence of Board Member

Action: Abercrombie, Souza. **Vote:** Yes-5; No-0; Absent-1(Hoffert); Abstain-1(Blanco)

14.1.2 Approve Agreements for Employee and Student COVID-19 Testing Services

Action: Abercrombie, Souza. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Hoffert)

Board Reports:

Trustee Souza passed. Trustee Erskine thanked the students, families, educational partners, school services and everyone who responded to COVID issues. Because of COVID, teachers' efficiency has been affected, but all have done their best to put the pieces together. It has been a great interruption to day to day operations. She would like to stress inclusion and collaboration. She thanked all who

presented. Trustee Alexander thanked everyone who came to the meeting. This district represents something special and he wants to see one of our facilities named after Dr. Martin Luther King. Trustee Blanco thanked all who came out. She would like Mr. Reese's presentation about Fastbridge to include the validity of the measures used to evaluate. She also agrees with Dr. Alexander for a school to be named after Dr. Martin Luther King. She commented that we should celebrate Delores Huerta. Her celebratory day is April 10th. She is an amazing activist and we should have our children learn about her. Trustee Abercrombie reported that 38 DARE students came out on Saturday to help with a great effort by the Sikhs and Southside Communities to clean up the city. Three of his students picked up 237 cigarette butts. They had a great day and loaded up to dumpsters with trash. Trustee Kaur thanked all who came out. She wanted to reiterate that it is against board bylaws to respond to items not on the agenda. If anyone has questions or concerns, they can always email her. On October 24th the Sikh Temple is hosting a professional day on engineers. Families are invited from 10:00-2:00 pm.

**Superintendent
Report:**

Dr. Stephens commented that Dr. Silver and her team should be very proud of her inclusion model. He visits each school about every 6 weeks. If any board members would like to go and join him, they can contact Bobbie and we will schedule it.

Adjourn: 8:18 pm.

Clerk

Date