

**Minutes of  
Regular Meeting of the Governing Board  
For Tracy Unified School District  
Held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022**

- 6:30 PM:** 1-3. President Alexander called the meeting to order and adjourned to closed session.
- Roll Call:** 4. Board: S. Abercrombie, A. Alexander, N. Erskine, Z. Hoffert, L. Souza  
Absent: A. Blanco, S. Kaur  
Staff: B. Stephens, R. Pecot, T. Jalique, J. Stocking, B. Etcheverry
- 7:00 PM** 5. President Alexander called the Tracy Unified School District Board of Education to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Closed Session:** 6a Report Out of Action Taken on Consider Paid Leave of Absence for  
3.3.1 Classified Employee #UCL-412, Pursuant to Article XXIII  
**Action:** Denied. **Vote:** Yes-5; No-0; Absent-2(Blanco, Souza)
- Minutes:** 7. **Approve Regular Minutes of January 11, 2022**  
**Action:** Abercrombie, Erskine. **Vote:** Yes-4; No-0 Absent-2(Blanco, Kaur); Abstain-1(Souza)
- Audience:** B. Ryan, R. Mahiddin, D. Reese, M. Stagnaro, T. Quintana, Z. Boswell, R. Soto, J. Lopez, R. Wasurick, E. Quintana, T. Salinas, M. Petty, B. Browne, B. Gonzalez, S. Hussim, N. Sandoval
- Student Rep Reports:** 8. **Tracy High:** Iliana Cashen reported that in December they had their Winter Formal with the theme “Stary Night”. Finals’ week was around the corner during the week of December 13<sup>th</sup> and students finished semester strong. They all needed the winter break. They held a second club rush week in January to give students an opportunity to join one or more of their 50 clubs. Winter sports are back in session. This week is the Hoopla spirit week, and the theme is “Blast off Bulldogs”. Activities include Senior night for girls on Wednesday and a boys’ game on Friday. Each day will have a special theme. Today was making the galaxy bright and wearing neon or white. There will be no school Friday, but they will still have the Dog Pound for basketball. At half-time, Mr. & Mrs. Bulldog will be announced who are voted on by teachers. Students are excited!
- Trustee Hoffert left the meeting at 7:03 p.m.  
Trustee Hoffert returned to meeting at 7:05 p.m.
- West High:** Lilly Banchemo and Kaitlyn Durant reported that they have been working hard during the last 3 months. At the end of October, they paid tribute to Bryan Redman, a former student who passed away in 2019. In his honor, students dressed in his favorite color. On November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> students celebrated the Day of the Dead. There were special performances, dances, decorations, music and art.

The annual canned food drive was held for those in need. The community came together to donate cans. The Class of 2022 is preparing for Grad Night at Disneyland and it has completely sold out. Preparation for the winter formal began in early December. The theme was Fire and Ice. It was refreshing to see everyone dressed up. Boys' varsity soccer is doing well with a recent win against Kimball. It is important that our pack family knows that they are not alone. They dedicated a leadership window to mental health awareness. Students have been preparing for Slam Jam the last few months. The theme was Marvel. Students came dressed for each of the spirit days. They were excited to celebrate at the rally.

**Kimball High:** Omed Akbari reported that UC applications were due at the end of November. Students are waiting to hear back from colleges. Cash for College workshops were given for students and parents with assistance of counselors. The Medical Academy received a grant for over \$11,500 for supplies, scrubs and other items. The MHSA club hosted a fundraiser, and they had a huge turnout. Local optometrist was the guest speaker who spoke about their daily tasks. They recently had their multi-cultural rally with performances from different clubs who showed their cultures and celebrations. Swoosh Jam will be in February with spirit days, rally and dance. The theme is called "Game On". Each class is a different group with dress up days planned. There will be a black light rally. The Red Cross Club had fundraiser on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> with a local restaurant. There will be a blood drive on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>. In sports, the Seniors will have nights to remember for their senior nights. They have been busy decorating the stands. Boys' soccer will have a game this Friday and the girls' team will be on next Tuesday. There will be many senior nights over the next few weeks.

**Alternative Ed Campus:** A representative was unable to attend tonight.

## **Recognition & Presentations:**

### **9.1 George Kelly School Presentation**

Principal, Brittani Ryan and Assistant Roya Mahiddin, along with students, presented a power point on how they foster relationships to support a positive academic learning environment for staff and students. They start their day greeting students and families in the car line. Teachers check in with their students with morning circles and mental health check in. They showed a video clip of students in their morning routines. They have DARE for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who participated in a park cleanup. For their canned food drive, students collected 2449 canned goods and 77 toys. As a reward, they participated in a dance and got to spray paint a teacher's hair. STEM units are being implemented working with the ICLE rigor rubric. This has been a great way for students to build repour in the classroom. The Tracy Police Department stopped by to speak with students and show them their drone connecting science to the community. They held their first music concert, attended the play "ELF" at Kimball High and some participated in AgVenture. They also enjoyed holiday drive-by parades. Administration has been fostering relationships through their big brother program. This has helped 4 and 5 graders as leadership students have been mentoring them and are playing games together and having lunch together. Counselors have started groups with Second Step to support SEL. On Wednesdays is "College Wednesday" and that highlight colleges that staff members have attended. The lunch time raffle is also new and students get raffle tickets if they are displaying good character. Students Hitika

Singh and Sunjum Saini spoke about leadership. They help with lunchtime, recycle and give announcements at school. They help with Kindergartners, plan school events and spirit weeks. They thanked staff and the district for their support.

**Information &  
Discussion Items:**

**10.1 Administrative & Business Services:** None.

Lady was asked to leave who wasn't wearing mask

**10.2 Educational Services:**

**10.2.1** Receive Report on COVID 19 Updates

Director of Curriculum & Accountability, Dr. Zachary Boswell, presented a power point which showed there are still several cases however, not as deadly. San Joaquin County has 214 cases per 100,000, however that is now starting to come down. California has 215 per 100,000. We are hoping these numbers continue to fall. Across the nation rapid tests are becoming harder to get. Sometimes we only have PCR tests available. On Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> and Mar 4<sup>th</sup> there will be clinics at Central School for vaccines and boosters.

**10.2.2** Receive Report from Ryan Wasurick to the Board on Attending and Presenting at the NSTA Portland Regional Conference in Portland, OR on October 27- October 30, 2021

Ryan Wasurick, a physics teacher at Tracy High. He attended and presented some of his work with LLNL to develop more modern, rigorous and relevant curriculum for our students. He has been working on "phone physics" over the past 2 years. He was unanimously accepted to present this at the conference and had the opportunity to present this to over 100 teachers. The presentation was well received, and they spoke with him afterwards and wanted to use his curriculum. He benefited greatly in his classroom by attending also and learned about making notebooks. He enjoyed the workshop and brought it back to his classroom. He also enjoyed other workshops that he brought back to the classroom. He has shared this information with teachers at the other high schools. He also ran the buyback day workshop and teachers were trained by him and the LLNL. The curriculum has been implemented at the middle school level and it worked great.

**10.2.3** Receive Report on STEM Implementation in TUSD

Director of STEM, Dean Reese, presented a power point on Prek-12 STEM and AdvanceSTEM which we received an award in October for. Prek-12 was the grant we received from the U.S. Department of Education and funded our development of 52 Prek-12 STEM units and also provided funding to support teachers in the district. Our teachers developed the STEM units. The goal to increase equitable access for all students. He reviewed the Logic Model which starts with 3 key components: Developing and delivering curricular units; providing

field-based learning experiences; and providing teachers with support. We are in year 4 of this 5-year STEM initiative. He reviewed the changes that were proposed to provide rich STEM experiences and the expected outcomes of increased achievement in English, math and science and increased enrollment in IB/AB and A-G courses. He showed a graph of project progression. We are at a mid-way point. Currently we have 12 treatment sites and 5 comparison sites because this is a research grant. This was the first year we brought on 6-12 math and science sites. By the end of the next 2 years, we will have all 17 sites involved. We now have 52 STEM units. Each has engineering, computer science, math, science and literacy connections. There are assessment tools which is helpful for the teachers. For every unit we have purchased materials and supplies for an engineering design challenged provided by the grant. Last year there was development to provide distance learning modifications.

AdvanceSTEM follows on the heels of that grant. We are continuing to provide equitable access to high quality instruction. This has been one of the most challenging years in education. This is centered around developing talent, performance-based awards, increasing workforce diversity in TUSD and increasing STEM achievement and instructional quality. There isn't anything new for teachers to take on but building on what they already are doing. This grant provides a focus for the principal to be the instructional leader. We rely heavily on teacher leaders. The performance-based rewards can be awarded to principals, teachers or ILTs have to be at a treatment site. Awards come from specific categories instructional practices and student achievement. The maximum award for a teacher is \$2500. Partial awards are also given. The Instructional Leadership Teams can also receive an award for instructional practice, student achievement and role fulfillment. The maximum award under this category is \$4000. There is no double dipping and cannot be eligible for both awards. The principal award is based on instructional practice and student achievement. The maximum award for a principal is \$4,000. This grant also targets the increased recruitment of teachers and students of color and female STEM teachers. We are in a launch month right now. In spring there will be CIR walk-through observations for our eligible teachers, implementation of Spring STEM units, district assessments, instructional leadership support, implementation of the principal tool, up to 2 site ERMs per month focused on STEM instruction and student achievement and continued ILT support. The whole goal is to provide success for our teachers and principals which leads to higher quality instruction and student achievement.

#### **10.2.4** Receive Report on Latino Literacy Program

Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, Julianna Stocking, Presented a power point on the Latino Literacy Program. The program goals are to establish and support a family reading routine, improve English language skills and strengthen parent/child interaction. This

program will be implemented in K-5 and K-8 schools. The program includes meeting with parents for 6-10 weeks, class time of 1.5 to 2 hours and parent/guardian participants of 20 per group. She showed a video on the program overview to include parental involvement. The number of ELL's in the country have more than doubled. The Latino Family Literacy Program has books that are bilingual with an engaging story. Parents are taught how to read aloud and establish a home reading routine. Parents are provided an opportunity to practice in a classroom setting before bringing the book home. They are provided with easy tips. Each week, the parent takes a new book home to read with their children and work on a literacy activity. Each teacher receives competency training to understand Latino parents. Staff development will provide online training, remote programs, district training and program materials. She passed out book samples to the Board. This is additional support to target the needs of our diverse community. Online training will be in February or March and will include 2 trainers per site and will work with parent liaisons and library staff for support. This will be accessible for all K-5 and K-8 and we will look to expand to our middle and high schools.

## **Hearing of Delegations**

11. Samantha Naval has 4 kids in Tracy Unified. She demands an end to mask mandate and the upcoming vaccine mandate. She doesn't understand why we are still masking. She feels we need to push back on unconstitutional mandates that are causing harm to students. She feels these are unnecessary. She asked anyone to contact her if they are interested in becoming involved.

Zoho Rajput speaking on behalf of her mother-in-law. She urged the board to review the expulsion and suspension policies. She feels that the District lacks a positive discipline structure and depends on punitive measures. She also believes that TUSD discipline is archaic because they justify student expulsions and suspensions. She wants academic and behavioral interventions interwoven. She made many suggestions such as discipline matrix, restorative justice, information included in handbook and to reengage students. She believes the district discipline are detrimental and ineffective. She also suggested bringing in outside consultants.

Brisa Gonzalez commented that her son was involved in an altercation at West High. She does not deny that or condone it. She is concerned in the way the discipline was handled. She believes the practices are outdated and does not help students succeed. She stated various research regarding being suspended versus keeping them in school. When COVID hit she believes that students are struggling and are not receiving support. She was disappointed that there was not a positive alternative to discipline. She encouraged the Board to consider the outdated practices and how they are not reflective on current research. She also believes that a "one size fits all" approach to discipline is counter productive to student achievement and disproportionately affects students of color or with disabilities.

Ashlee Smead turned in a yellow card but left the meeting when asked to wear a mask.

## **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:** On all items, except 13.2.3. Abercrombie, Erskine.

**Vote:** Yes-5; No-0; Absent-2(Blanco, Kaur)

**Action** on Item 13.2.3. Abercrombie, Erskine.

**Vote:** Yes-5; No-0; Absent-2(Blanco, Kaur)

**13.1 Administrative & Business Services:**

**13.1.1** Approve Accounts Payable Warrants (December 2021)  
(Separate Cover Item)

**13.1.2** Approve Entertainment, Assembly, Service, Business and Food Vendors

**13.1.3** 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

**13.1.4** Approve Payroll Reports (December 2021)

**13.1.5** Approve Revolving Cash Fund Reports (December 2021)

**13.1.6** Authorize Associate Superintendent of Business Services to Enter into Agreement to Dispose of Damaged, Obsolete and Surplus Furniture, Computers, and Equipment through Disposal Service

**13.2 Educational Services:**

**13.2.1** Receive Update on Quarterly Williams Uniform Complaint Report for the Quarter ending January 15, 2022.

**13.2.2** Approve Overnight Travel for 3 Advisors and 12 Students of West High FFA to Attend the State FFA Leadership Conference in Sacramento, Ca. on March 25-29, 2022

**13.2.3** Approve all Tracy Unified School District School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs) for the 2020-21 school year  
(Separate Cover Item)

**13.2.4** Approve Tracy Independent Study Charter School (SARC) School Accountability Report Card for the 2020-21 school year  
(Separate Cover Item)

**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

**Action Items:**

**14.1 Administrative & Business Services:**

**14.1.1** Adopt Resolution No. 21-10 to Excuse Meeting Absence of Board Member

**Action:** Abercrombie, Hoffert. **Vote:** Yes-5; No-0; Absent-2(Blanco, Kaur)

**14.2 Educational Services:**

**14.2.1** Adopt Revised Board Policy and Acknowledge Administrative Regulation 6173 Education for Homeless Children (First Reading)

**Action:** Abercrombie, Erskine. **Vote:** Yes-5; No-0; Absent-1(Blanco, Kaur)

**14.2.2** Adopt Revised Board Policy and Acknowledge Administrative Regulation 6173.1 Education for Foster Youth (First Reading)

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

**Board Reports:**

Trustee Souza attended the City’s Parks and Rec meeting a few weeks ago. The multi-gen center has been pushed up to get started sooner than later. There is \$22 million that will be dispersed out to multiple projects. Trustee Abercrombie stated that we recently celebrated Martine Luther King, Jr., birthday, who was a great role model and leader. He shared some of his quotes. “Life’s most persistent and urging question is what are you doing for others, “Whatever your life’s work is, do it well. A man should do his job so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn, could do it no better”, and lastly, “Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education”. Trustee Erskine gave kudos to the students and their advisors who helped with the MLK Day of Service. She should a few pictures of them in action. They worked in collaboration with TUSD who sponsored the lunch. Several district administrators and city officials also attended. Today, she participated in a virtual presentation called “Transformation in Action”. This involved a group of youth with diversified backgrounds who joined together for transformation of schools. The emphasis was on a case study called “Nothing About Us, Without Us”. She believes that this is a good project that we should look into in support of our youth. It showed how the East Side Union High School in San Jose leveraged student voice to drive a more equitable outcome to achieve the goals of their LCFF. It was good to see youth became active contributors as a driving force. She also stated that there is an increase for African America youth facing a higher rise than normal of depression, anxiety and suicide. It is important for students voices in transformation. Trustee Hoffert thanked all who came out and those who gave presentations. On Thursday January 27<sup>th</sup>, was International Holocaust Remembrance Day. He stated that our teachers are on a breaking point and feels that in addition to the COLA we should consider giving a bonus to teachers and support staff. He asked to have a discussion on that. Trustee Alexander thanked everyone for coming out tonight. We don’t want to close down a meeting for not wearing a mask, so please wear your mask if you come to our meeting. He congratulated Dr. Stephens on his award of Professional of the Year and also congratulated Julianna Stocking. He stated that the MLK Day of Service was attended by many officials. He appreciated TUSD’s participation and monetary contribution to the even. Many homeless people were served with clothes, food and other items. They had to transport the items to the park to get to them. He also thanked Audrey Harrison for putting everything together and everyone who participated.

**Superintendent Report:**

Dr. Stephens thanked everyone for speaking tonight. The last 4 weeks have been challenging. He congratulated West High teacher, Tom Haim, who was chosen as Educator of the Year. We are lucky to have him.

**Adjourn: 8:58**

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Clerk

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Date