

**Minutes of  
Special Meeting of the Governing Board  
For Tracy Unified School District  
Held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022**

- 5:45 PM:** 1. President Alexander called the meeting to order and adjourned to closed session.
- Roll Call:** 2. Board: S. Abercrombie, A. Alexander, A. Blanco, Z. Hoffert, S. Kaur, L. Souza  
Staff: R. Pecot, T. Salinas, T. Jalique, J. Stocking, S. Smith  
(There is currently one vacancy on the board)
- 6:00 PM** President Alexander called the Tracy Unified School District Board of Education to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Closed Session:** 3. No action taken.
4. Adjourn to Open Session
5. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- Audience:** Jason Noll, Susan Hawkins, Joyce Hawkins, Erin Quintana, Jacqui Nott, Mary Petty, Sam Strube, Pia De Rosa, Bob Brownne/Tracy Press, Mercedes Silveira-Gouveia, Miyoko Masuda, Kaleigh Felisberto, Tom Ringe, Lietta Celestine.
- Hearing of Delegations** 6. None.
- Action Items:** 7.1 **Administrative & Business Services:**
- 7.1.1 Conduct Interviews and Approve Provisional Appointment of Board Member for Unexpired Two Year Term  
Each member was asked the following two questions and given up to three minutes to respond to each.
- Question 1:** Please describe your work experience or background that has prepared you to serve as a board member for Tracy Unified.
- Question 2:** What are two of the most important issues the district is facing that are unique to our district? What recommendation would you make to address it?
- Candidate Cynthia Wedel
1. Cynthia Wedel had been a teacher for 23 years with TUSD. Once her children were older, she returned to TUSD. At that time, she was newly widowed and had to consider her position within the district. She went to Lammersville District which, at the time, offered more security. As a parent and community member, she has seen the ups

and downs of the decisions being made and feels she has good insight. She has participated in many committees, is a good communicator, and would like to convey how much it means to her to give back to her community. She hopes to be a mediator, bringing different parties together.

2. Before applying, she did a lot of research. Initially she thought the infrastructure was aging but has found it to be kept up to date. A concern is being able to accommodate the Ellis and Tracy Hills students. Declining enrollment is a concern and what we plan to do to keep the schools functioning. She is concerned with the loss of staff and the teacher shortage. Looking at the current conditions with the covid funding, would like to make sure we have a good plan to follow to retain staff.

#### Candidate Carrie Grover

1. She has four children, two who have graduated from Kimball and West High School, and children currently attending West High and Williams Middle School. She is a Director at Tracy Interfaith with experience volunteering at her church, children's schools and within the community. She has a great passion for children, parents, and the community. She would like to make Tracy education the best for kids and the best place to be a teacher. Working on the board at Tracy Interfaith, she makes sure they have the interest of everyone at heart. She has experience with committee negotiations, working with different groups of people, parents, students, and community members. She was a music teacher for many years. She volunteered for the Kelly School art program and assisted first grade students with reading. Overall, she is committed to education and families and would like to be a representative because she is a parent and provides a unique perspective and has lived in Tracy for 20 years.
2. Of first importance is the need to improve communication within all the groups; school board, parents, teachers, and students. As a parent she can see from the outside that communication can be improved. If you don't hear about the issues, there is no way to make them better. She wants to make this a district people want to come to and would love to see Tracy be a place people want to work and want to have their students at school in this district. She feels this is a great district and there are things we can do to advertise the great programs offered, such as, ROTC, FFA, the medical academy, and AVID. These are all great programs, and we can present this in a way to make it desirable for parents.

#### Candidate Walter Gouveia

1. Combined Pre-K through Adult School, he has 45 years working in within a school district; 35 of these years in TUSD. He was a guidance counselor, taught coursework at Delta College and worked with vocational education, and independent studies. He has had a wide range of different aspects of education and knows the great California plan, going back to 1950, in education. Walter is a person that can speak multiple languages, he comes from a multi-ethnic background
2. A major issue that TUSD is facing is rebounding from the pandemic and all the aspects of its effects on students and staff. How do we close the achievement gap? When he was on the board of education, this was something they always strove for, moving in that direction can open doors for people. You must listen with your heart. There are different forms of communication, with social media, but when he sits down with people, if you can see a person is being honest, you know you can move forward. It takes time to do that, and you make the time.

#### Candidate Lynn D. Hawkins

1. He was born and raised in Tracy. He worked for a pipe company for two years, from there he was voted in as bargaining representative. He went to the University of Colorado and started working for TUSD in 1996 as a security guard. During the summer, he would work as a custodian and in grounds. He went back to college and earned his degree then applied to be a teacher. He was a teacher at Willow School for five years. Next, he earned a master's in education and became the Assistant Principal at Tracy High where he worked for the last 15 years.
2. This problem is not unique, but safety is huge. In all his years of service, safety has been a big issue and it is getting more out of control. He believes having SROs on campus is a good thing and that we need one on each high school campus and two additional to take care of the K-8's. In his high school experience, they try to prepare, but if you just read the manual, it doesn't include all that can happen, we need the ability to adjust. The next is the need for teachers. When we look at this, it isn't a budget change, teachers will be an issue for TUSD because of the buildings going up around us. Surrounding communities are absorbing the teachers. We need more diversity in our schools. The students don't have the mentoring we need, there is a culture issue, we need more teachers of color, but right now we need to focus on obtaining teachers in general.

**Action:** Trustee Souza indicated her first choice as Mr. Hawkins. Trustee Kaur's first choice is Mr. Hawkins. Trustee Blanco picked Mr. Hawkins. Trustee Abercrombie choice Mr. Hawkins as his first choice. Trustee Hoffert selected Ms. Wedel as his first choice. Trustee Alexander indicated his first choice to be Mr. Hawkins.

**Action:** Abercrombie, Kaur. **Vote:** Yes-5; No-1 (Hoffert).

Superintendent, Dr. Pecot, administered the oath to Lynn Dell Hawkins.

**Adjourn: 6:29 p.m.**

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Clerk

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Date