

APPROVED MINUTES
FENTON CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 13, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fenton Charter Public Schools was held on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. in the FCPS Business Office Boardroom and via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87479668758>).

I. PRELIMINARY

A. Call to Order – Chairperson of the Board – Joe Lucente

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m. by the Board Chair, Joe Lucente.

B. Roll Call – Secretary of the Board – Irene Sumida

Board Members Present

Yvette King-Berg, *Community Representative*
10660 White Oak Avenue, Granada, Hills, CA 91344
Joe Lucente, *Community Representative*
Erin Studer, *Community Representative*
Carrie Wagner, *Community Representative*

Board Members Not Present

Daniel Laughlin, *Parent Representative*
Jed Wallace, *Community Representative*
Walter Wallace, *Community Representative*

C. Flag Salute – Chair Lucente

Chair Lucente led the Board and the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of the Agenda – Chair Lucente

On **MOTION** of Carrie Wagner, **SECONDED** by Erin Studer, and **CARRIED** by a vote of 4 (YES) and 0 (NO), the Agenda (Item I.D.) was approved as presented.

Aye: (4) Yvette King-Berg, Joe Lucente, Erin Studer, Carrie Wagner
Nay: (0)
Abstentions: (0)

E. Approval of Minutes of Previous Regular Meeting – Chair Lucente

On **MOTION** of Erin Studer, **SECONDED** by Carrie Wagner, and **CARRIED** by a vote of 4 (YES) and 0 (NO), the minutes of the June 15, 2023 Regular Meeting (Item I.E.) were approved as presented.

Aye: (4) Yvette King-Berg, Joe Lucente, Erin Studer, Carrie Wagner
Nay: (0)
Abstentions: (0)

II. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Presentations from the Public – Chair Lucente

Irene Sumida, Executive Advisor, shared how impressed she has been with the work of Dr. Riddick and Mr. Gonzalez, particularly as to how seriously they consider and act upon staff concerns and requests. From the across-the-board salary increases recommended this year to the continued stipend for efforts to accelerate student learning, Dr. Riddick and Mr. Gonzalez always put “children first” which both executives understand requires ensuring an outstanding certificated and classified staff.

Mrs. Sumida additionally brought the board’s attention to Item IV.C. on the action agenda: the expenditures for Salesforce and Elevation Solutions. Both items have been extensively researched by the CEO and COO as a mechanism for assisting teachers with Independent Study efforts while ensuring accurate and total compliance which will meet state standards for full funding. Offering and completing Independent Study documentation has been an area of concern expressed by classroom teachers for at least the past school year, if not longer, and the concern has weighed heavily on both executives. Salesforce and Elevation Solutions will offer significant assistance to classroom teachers for this very important, but time-consuming effort. Dr. Riddick and Mr. Gonzalez are acutely aware that the responsibility for reaching the goal of 98.5% Average Daily Attendance for purposes of receiving adequate school funding rests on the shoulders of register-carrying staff (classroom teachers). This is also the reason for their recommendation to add illness hours to the cumulative illness bank of those teachers who reach or exceed the ADA goal.

Dr. Riddick and Mr. Gonzalez are also to be commended for their thorough consideration and review of all possible compliance requirements. Although the State has given assurance there will be no audit of the ELO-P program, there is no guarantee that audits will not be conducted in the future. Any audit finding would necessitate reimbursement of funding, including full reimbursement of past payments, if requested. Their caution regarding not only the present fiscal situation of the organization, but also the future, speaks to their concern for the well-being of all employees and the health of the Fenton Charter Public Schools overall.

B. Public Hearing – Independent Study – California Education Code (EC) Section 51747

A notice of public hearing regarding *California Education Code (EC) Section 51747, Independent Study*, was posted on the Fenton website beginning on July 1, 2023. The Board encouraged participation from parents, teachers and community members prior to the adoption of written policies related to independent study to be implemented at the Fenton schools beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. *There were no presentations from the public.*

C. Committee/Council Reports

Committee and Council reports for meetings conducted since the official start of the 2023-2024 school year will be posted in the September agenda.

D. Financial Business Manager’s Report

Erik Okazaki, Financial Business Manager of the FCPS, will report on changes and necessary revisions to the 2023-2024 approved budgets at the August meeting.

E. Directors’ Reports

Directors’ reports will resume in September. The Directors and their respective schools are listed below:

Fenton Avenue Charter School (FACS) – *Ms. Monica Castañeda*

Santa Monica Boulevard Community Charter School (SMBCCS) – *Mr. Cary Rabinowitz*

Fenton Primary Center (FPC) – *Mrs. Sirui Thomassian*

Fenton STEM Academy (STEM) – *Mrs. Jennifer Miller*

Fenton Charter Leadership Academy (FCLA) – *Mrs. Jennifer Miller*

Community Schools (FCPS) – *Mr. Richard Parra*

Special Education (FCPS) – *Mrs. Kristine Khachian*

F. Chief Operating Officer’s Report

Fenton Charter Public Schools (FCPS) – Mr. Jason Gonzalez, Chief Operating Officer, and Mr. Richard Pearson, IT Manager, reported.

G. Chief Executive Officer’s Report

Fenton Charter Public Schools (FCPS) – Dr. David Riddick, Chief Executive Officer, reported.

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. Recommendation to approve the 2023-2024 Board Resolution regarding council and committee responsibilities and membership

On **MOTION** of Yvette King-Berg, **SECONDED** by Carrie Wagner, and **CARRIED** by a vote of 4 (YES) and 0 (NO), the recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda (Item III.A.) was approved as presented.

Aye: (4) Yvette King-Berg, Joe Lucente, Erin Studer, Carrie Wagner

Nay: (0)

Abstentions: (0)

IV. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION

A. Recommendation to approve slate of FCPS Board Officers for the 2023-2024 school year

On **MOTION** of Carrie Wagner, **SECONDED** by Erin Studer, and **CARRIED** by a vote of 4 (YES) and 0 (NO), the recommendation to approve the slate of FCPS Board Officers for the 2023-2024 school year (Item IV.A.) was approved as presented. *Joe Lucente will continue as Chairman of the Board and Yvette King-Berg will continue as Vice Chair.*

Aye: (4) Yvette King- Berg, Joe Lucente, Erin Studer, Carrie Wagner

Nay: (0)

Abstentions: (0)

B. Recommendation to approve Independent Study Agreement for 2023-2024 school year

On **MOTION** of Erin Studer, **SECONDED** by Carrie Wagner, and **CARRIED** by a vote of 4 (YES) and 0 (NO), the recommendation to approve the Independent Study Agreement for the 2023-2024 school year (Item IV.B.) was approved as presented.

Aye: (4) Yvette King-Berg, Joe Lucente, Erin Studer, Carrie Wagner

Nay: (0)

Abstentions: (0)

C. Recommendation to approve expenditures for items above the spending authority of the Chief Executive Officer

On **MOTION** of Yvette King-Berg, **SECONDED** by Carrie Wagner, and **CARRIED** by a vote of 4 (YES) and 0 (NO), the recommendation to

approve expenditures for items above the spending authority of the Chief Executive Officer (Item IV.C.) was approved as presented. *Specific expenditures approved:*

Think Together: \$1,140,828.52 (FCPS) - Fenton will contract again with Think Together to provide After School Education and Safety (ASES) services across all of the Fenton schools and non-instructional day services for the 2023-2024 school year as listed below through ELO-P funds. The specific expenditures per site are listed below:

Think Together: \$144,981.52 (FCLA ASES Grant) - This contract will enable Think Together to provide After School Education and Safety (ASES) Services to all of the Fenton Charter Public Schools. Fenton Charter Leadership Academy (FCLA). FCLA's FRM percentage increased to 77.92% and was awarded an ASES award of \$152,612.13. This amount will be paid through the ASES grant FCLA received from the California Department of Education.

Think Together: \$359,672 (ELO-P) - Think Together will accommodate up to 220 additional students at across three school sites (FPC, FACS, SMBCCS) in selected 21st CCLC and/or ASES programs for the 2023/24 school year over 184 school days as listed below. Think Together will hire additional Program Leaders to supervise the additional students, at a ratio of 1:20, and assign them accordingly under the supervision of 21st CCLC and/or ASES Site Coordinator(s). This amount will be paid through ELO-P funds.

- **Fenton Primary Center (\$119,674):** *Serving 80 students*
- **Fenton Avenue Charter School (\$69,614):** *Serving 40 students*
- **Santa Monica Blvd. Community Charter School (\$170,384):** *Serving 100 students*

Think Together: \$636,175 (Non-Instructional Days (NID) (ELO-P) - Think Together will provide non-instructional day services for the 2023-2024 school year as listed below. Think Together will provide six hours a day for 9 program days in June 2024 after Fenton's Summer Academy (4 hours) to ensure students receive at least a full nine-hour day. In addition, Think Together will provide at least 21 program days at nine hours a day. Think Together will assign Program Leaders to deliver the services at a supervision ratio of not more than one staff member to 20 students (1:20). The project will be managed by a Quality Assurance Coach. Think Together will pay for all curricular materials, field trip experiences and consumable supplies required to deliver the services. Think Together will apply a 15% administrative fee. These expenses will be paid for exclusively out of the ELO-P budgets for each school.

- **Fenton Primary Center (\$180,053)**: Serving 160 students, six hours a day for nine program days and nine hours a day for 21 program days.
- **Fenton Ave Charter School (\$124,620)**: Serving 100 students, six hours a day for nine program days and nine hours a day for 21 program days.
- **Santa Monica Blvd. Community Charter School (\$211,476)**: Serving 200 students, six hours a day for nine program days and nine hours a day for 21 program days.
- **Fenton STEM Academy (\$60,013)**: Serving 50 students, six hours a day for nine program days and nine hours a day for 21 program days.
- **Fenton Charter Leadership Academy (\$60,013)**: Serving 50 students, six hours a day for nine program days and nine hours a day for 21 program days.

Salesforce: \$119,475 (FCPS) - Fenton will contract with Salesforce to meet the critical needs of our students, parents, and teachers for attendance and scheduling purposes in ELO-P programs and with the completion of Independent Studies. The Independent Study format will be similar to Illuminate, but will allow for a feature to have parents provide a digital signature from their phone or digital device. The following is the breakdown in the annual cost between ELO-P funds and ESSER III funds.

- **\$84,037.50** - ELO-P
- **\$35,437.50** - ESSER III

Elevation Solutions: \$129,375 (FACS and SMBCCS) - Elevation Solutions is a consultant with Salesforce and will be responsible for creating the After School Enrollment & Portal program along with the Independent Study portal. The following is the breakdown of the one-time set up cost between ELO-P funds and ESSER III funds.

- **\$91,001.06** - ELO-P
- **\$38,373.94** - ESSER III (SMBCCS and FACS)

Victorious R.E.D Inc. \$71,371 (FACS)

Asbestos abatement necessary for facility renovations at Fenton Avenue Charter School (FACS). Asbestos abatement is required for the removal of VCT vinyl flooring in the auditorium, staff cafeteria, and the following classrooms (#3, #34, #35).

Aye: (4) Yvette King-Berg, Joe Lucente, Erin Studer, Carrie Wagner
 Nay: (0)
 Abstentions: (0)

V. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR INFORMATION

A. LCAP Update and instructional Report

This was an information item and no action was taken.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fenton Charter Public Schools will be held on Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. in the FCPS Business Office Boardroom and via Zoom.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS

August 17, 2023
September 21, 2023
October 26, 2023
December 7, 2023
January 25, 2024
March 7, 2024
April 11, 2024
May 16, 2024
June 13, 2024

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Irene Sumida
Secretary of the Board