

**Minutes of
Special Meeting of the Governing Board
For Tracy Unified School District
Held on Tuesday, October 20, 2023**

1. 3:06 pm. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call – Establish Quorum Board: S. Abercrombie, O. Alexander, R. Fagin, L. Hawkins, N. Kahlon, J. Silcox
Absent: Z. Hoffert
Staff: R. Pecot, J. Stocking, D. Schneider S. Smith
Facilitator: D. Williams, T. Tran, D. Black

3. Audience Bobbie Etcheverry

4. Hearing of Delegations None.

5. Workshop 3.1 Ethnic Studies Workshop

Board introductions were made. Trustee Abercrombie introduced Dominique Williams and Tuyen Tran, with UC Davis and the CA History-Social Science Project, who facilitated the meeting along with Dawniell Black, Program Specialist with Elk Grove Unified School District. EGUSD has been offering ethnic studies courses for four years.

Today is part of a series of training dates that have occurred for Tracy Unified. There is a course proposal submitted for Ethnic Studies to be offered as an elective for the next school year. AB101 mandates Ethnic Studies as a graduation requirement beginning the 2029-30. TUSD has a contract with UC Davis to provide course development for the implementation of the Ethnic Studies elective.

The Board received an introduction to Ethnic Studies.

Some of the key points discussed included:

- The importance of teacher and student agreements requiring them to be centered on students, open to learning, listening to hear, not to respond, and to lean into discomfort and not be afraid to ask questions.

Trustee Fagin left the room at 4:00 p.m.

Trustee Fagin returned to the room at 4:01 p.m.

- There are misconceptions of Ethnic Studies; that it may be focused only on one race, that it may teach students to hate other groups of people, and that students may not be interested in taking the class.

A short break was taken at 4:17 p.m
The meeting reconvened at 4:31 p.m
Trustee Hawkins returned from break at 4:40 p.m

- The definition of Ethnic Studies and how it differs dependent on its origin. Per San Francisco State University, Ethnic Studies provides safe academic spaces for all to learn the histories, cultures, and academic traditions of Native Peoples and communities of color in the U.S. in the first person and also practice theories of resistance and liberation to eliminate racism and other forms of oppression.
- A reflection on everyone’s educational journey and background was shared via round table discussion.
- The TUSD course approval process starts with the teachers developing the course. Next it is reviewed by the site department chair committee, reviewed by the principal with site management team, then by the Ed Services team, with Cabinet making a final decision.

Trustee Silcox left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

- The state mandates four core academic disciplines must be included: American Indian/Native American Studies, African-American Studies, Latinx/Chicanx Studies, and Asian American Studies (including South Asian, Central Asian, and Arab-American Studies).

Trustee Fagin left the meeting at 5:52 p.m.
Trustee Fagin returned at 5:54 p.m.

6. Adjourn

5:58 p.m.

Clerk

Date