TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting
12/12/2023 - 06:00 PM
Kreps Conference Room
395 Doherty Drive, Larkspur, California, 94939
Phone (415) 945-1020; www.tamdistrict.org

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order at 4:45 p.m.;
Closed Session 4:50 p.m.;
Regular Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
Zoom Link: https://tamdistrict-org.zoom.us/j/98749937139?pwd=MEJlOEFVTlRVd3FRRllyVGZXVmgwZz09(https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com//SU/AxFIT10NkslshffEiAoTYmrEA==)
Webinar ID 987 4993 7139; Passcode 331954

Board of Trustees
Karen Loebbaka, President
Leslie Harlander, Clerk
Cynthia Roenisch
Kevin Saavedra
Emily Uhlhorn

Tara Taupier, Ed. D, Superintendent

Attendees

Voting Members
Karen Loebbaka, Board Member
Leslie Harlander, Board President
Cynthia Roenisch, Board Member
Kevin Saavedra, Board Member
Emily Uhlhorn, Board Clerk

1. Call Meeting to Order

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Tamalpais Union High School District (District) was called to order in the Kreps Conference Room at 4:46 p.m. A quorum was declared present.

2. Approval of Closed Session Agenda

M/S/C (Saavedra/Uhlhorn), unanimously.

3. Public Comments on Closed Session Agenda

There were no public comments on the closed session agenda.

4. Recess to Closed Session in the Superintendent's Office

A. With Respect to Every Item of Business to be discussed in Closed Session Pursuant to Gov Code §54956.9 (a)

1. Take Action on Settlement Agreement for Pending Litigation

2. Update on Pending Litigation for Confidential Special Education Student Matters

B. With respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to Ed Code §35146

C. With respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to Gov Code §54956.95

D. With Respect to Every Item of Business to be discussed in Closed Session Pursuant to Gov Code §54957

E. With respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to Gov Code §54957.6

5. Reconvene Into Open Session

The meeting reconvened into open session at 6:03 p.m.

6. Announcement of Reportable Action Taken in Closed Session

In regard to Item 4. A. 1., the Board approved the confidential settlement agreement for District case number #2023-11-17 for $7,605 per month for up to 13 months, or a maximum of $98,865.

There was no other reportable action taken in closed session.

7. Approve Agenda and Review Norms

Mr. Saavedra read the board norms.

M/S/C (Uhlhorn/Harlander), unanimously.

8. Public Comment on the Consent Agenda

There was no public comment on the consent agenda.

9. Approval of Consent Agenda - ROLL CALL VOTE

Board members requested items 13. C., D. and K. be pulled from the consent agenda for further review and discussion.

Motion made by: Kevin Saavedra
Motion seconded by: Leslie Harlander
Voting:
Karen Loebbaka - Yes
Leslie Harlander - Yes
Cynthia Roenisch - Yes
Kevin Saavedra - Yes
Emily Uhlhorn - Yes

10. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Greg Wilker, TUHSD Racial Justice Task Force Member, spoke about racism and the diversity, equity and belonging work being done in the district. He said that real change is a profound and uncomfortable undertaking, and he hopes that upgrading all the schools' infrastructure will create opportunities for change that will positively affect people in the school environment. He claimed that the United States at its core is racist, and the status quo is not working. He wants TUHSD to think in imaginative ways and be an example for the country where things can change for the best.

Clayton Smith said that taxpayers face volatility and uncertainty with poorly managed property tax laws don't take into consideration the depreciation of assets for public agencies, so that there is no sufficient funding for replacement and maintenance projects. He claimed that this creates a periodic crisis in infrastructure funding, such as the $1B bond.

Dr. Taupier clarified that the bond is $517M, not $1B.

There was no other public comment.

11. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Taupier provided an update on the anti-racist work that is happening across the district. She shared a draft of the Tamalpais High School Anti-Racism Strategic Plan that will address the events that occurred at the high school, and will be shared across the district. She said that the plan focuses on supports, education, outreach and engagement for students, staff and parents. The plan includes community building events, parent outreach events, and additional Stop and Learns, that will also be shared with parents, to build the ability to engage in cross-difference dialogue. Dr.

Taupier also discussed support for victims, including Black student affinity group meetings, Wise Girls meetings and a staff/student of color affinity retreat in the Spring.

Kelly Lara, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services, discussed upcoming Tamalpais teacher and staff education events titled "Courageous Conversations About Race", which helps to build cultural competency and how to apply the instructional practices in the classrooms.

Dr. Taupier referenced an article on restorative justice and said that the district is working to implement restorative practices across the district, and emphasized that they don't replace consequences, but are designed to bring a culture back together. She said it takes a long time to be done properly, and all sides must be in agreement about what the shared outcome should be. Dr. Taupier stressed that restorative practices can be harmful if not done properly, and that successful resolutions require a lot of time and preparation work.

Dr. Taupier reported on the first meeting with the Marin City Coalition and said there is another meeting in January, where they will meet to set goals and desired outcomes for the taskforce. She also shared that the district will start offering AP African American Studies and the newly required 9th grade Ethnic Studies courses next school year.

She thanked Kelly Lara for putting together the comprehensive strategic plan and said that they will continue to give updates as they move forward through the work.

Board members asked questions and made comments about the strategic plan, including the extent of ongoing staff development and whether staff at other schools would be included. They also asked about professional facilitation of restorative justice practices, and board participation in Marin City Coalition meetings.

Dr. Taupier and Ms. Lara replied to board member questions and discussed additional elements of the strategic plan.

12. Trustee Considerations

A. Nominate and Elect the 2024 President of the Board of Trustees (6:27 p.m.)

The board elected Leslie Harlander as the President of the Board of Trustees for 2024.

M/S/C (Loebbaka/Roenisch), unanimously.

B. Nominate and Elect the 2024 Clerk of the Board of Trustees (6:37 p.m.)

The board elected Emily Uhlhorn as the Clerk of the Board of Trustees for 2024.

M/S/C (Loebbaka/Saavedra), unanimously.

C. Discuss and Take Action on the 2024 Trustee Committee Assignments (6:38 p.m.)

The Board discussed and agreed on trustee committee assignments for 2024. See attached supporting document.

D. Discuss and Take Action on the 2024-25 Board Meeting Calendar (6:42 p.m.)

The Board approved the Board Meeting calendar for the 2024-25 school year, including the annual organizational meeting.

There was no public comment.

M/S/C (Harlander/Saavedra), unanimously.

E. Discuss the District Cell Phone Survey Results and Next Steps (6:44 p.m.)

Dr. Jeanine Evains-Robinson presented a summary of research and staff, student and community feedback to inform revisions to the district cell phone policy. She shared that approximately 90% of students surveyed overwhelmingly voted "no" to having teachers collect cell phones during class. She said that approximately 70% of teachers and parents surveyed voted "yes" to having teachers collect cell phones during class, but they had concerns about teachers and administrators following and enforcing the policy. Based on this data, Dr. Evains-Robinson recommended keeping the current policy, with revisions, and not to require teachers to collect cell phones. She

advised that the next step should be to form a taskforce with teachers and students to write a new policy that all stakeholders will buy into. She explained that teachers need to form a consensus and buy into the policy before it's implemented, so they will be more likely to enforce it.

Board members asked questions about how teachers and administrators would enforce the new policy. Dr. Taupier said she supported the recommendation to form a taskforce. Dr. Evains-Robinson also explained that the taskforce should create a progressive discipline chart to go with the policy.

Board members said that the research overwhelmingly supports a policy to turn in cell phones during class, and noted that teachers and parents overwhelmingly voted "yes" to this policy. They stated that although teacher buy-in is important, a taskforce would postpone the implementation. They said that this policy is the best for students based on the research available, and should be implemented immediately.

The Board directed the Superintendent to come back with a draft policy and implementation plan that requires students to turn in cell phones during class by the second meeting in January.

Francie Salle, a teacher in the district, said that as a teacher who has collected cell phones for the past four years, she supports a district policy to have students turn in their phones during class. She reported that collecting phones is easy and it changes student actions. She implored board members and administrators to visit classes where phones are collected and where they are not, to witness what happens. She said that she agrees with board members' concerns that they shouldn't delay creating the policy because they think that teachers won't enforce it.

There was no other public comment.

F. Review Community Facilities Rental Policies and Practices per AR 1330 (7:15 p.m.)

Chris McCune, Director of Community Programs, provided his annual review of the TUHSD community facilities rental policies and practices per AR 1330. He said that his job is to encourage and provide opportunities for district and community groups to utilize TUHSD facilities in a respectful and safe manner. He presented the renting prioritization guidelines and how he handles multiple groups requesting the same space. He said that encourages groups to "give back what they don't need" and he keeps a waitlist in order to accommodate as many groups as possible.

Mr. McCune shared an update on the new Red Hill Community Park and discussed plans to accommodate water polo teams and community pool users during the Redwood pool resurfacing project in the fall of 2024. He stated that College of Marin, Terra Linda and San Rafael High Schools are also shutting down their pools at the same time for renovation projects, so it will be challenging to find alternate locations. He also said that the Ghillotti Field turf replacement project at Redwood is scheduled for the summer of 2024, which will displace some summer programs.

Board members discussed community feedback about why programs are offered at some pools but not others. Mr. McCune said that district facilities are available to everyone in the community, regardless of where they live. He said that family swim used to be offered at Tamalpais, but was canceled due to lack of interest. He reported that family swim is currently offered at Archie Williams, but it is not as popular as lap swimming. He reported that the district has partnered with a group that offers free swim lessons at Tamalpais and Redwood, and other community groups and programs use the Archie Williams pool for swim lessons as well. He said that lap swim is not offered at Redwood because the pool is fully occupied by the school and existing community groups, and lap swim is available at the other two district pools, which are both within a few miles.

Sally Marshall, a swim coach at Redwood, said that the district needs to offer lap swim at Redwood, because there are not enough public pools in the area, and people don't want to travel to Mill Valley or San Anselmo to swim. She stated that Mt. Tamalpais Racquet Club is being rezoned for housing and there will no longer be a pool there. She claimed that there are enough lanes that lap swim can be shared with other programs. Ms. Marshall stated that adult lap swim should have priority over other programs, and that some of the competitive swim groups should go to Tamalpais High School, where there is more room.

Bonnie Paige, a retired Twin Cities PD and Tamalpais graduate, said that the Redwood pool should be available for public use. She said she was glad that swim lessons are being offered for free, as they are a life-saving skill. She said that the Redwood pool is a valuable resource that should be open to everyone in Larkspur, Corte Madera and Greenbrae.

There was no other public comment.

G. Discuss and Take Action on Proposal to Reduce Tamalpais Adult School (TAS) Graduation Credit Requirements (7:44 p.m.)

Jaemi Naish and Sue Hall, Director and Assitant Director of Tamalpais Adult School (TAS), presented a proposal to reduce graduation requirements for adult learners. They reported that the 200 credits required for an adult school diploma is excessive and maintains barriers to college and career pathways. They said that in high school, the students' main job is school, whereas adult learners work 2-3 jobs, take care of family and often take public transportation to school. They reported that adult learners only take approximately 10-15 credits per year. The proposed 150 credits represents a reduction of 24 elective, 10 language arts, 10 mathematics, 5 social studies and 1 social issue credits from the current requirements, and aligns more closely with California Department of Education requirements and other Bay Area and northern region schools. They estimated that the reduction in credits could reduce the amount of time students spend at TAS by 2-3 years, which will accelerate their career and college advancement opportunities.

The Board asked questions about the average time students attend TAS and the proposed requirements.

There were no public comments.

M/S/C (Roenisch/Uhlhorn), unanimously.

The Board recessed at 8:07 p.m. and reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

H. Take Action on the 2023-24 First Interim Budget Report with Positive Certification (8:12 p.m.)

Corbett Elsen, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, presented the 2023-24 First Interim Budget. Mr. Elsen reported on actual financial activity from July 1 - October 31, 2023 and projected activity through June 30, 2023. He discussed the budget reporting cycle, revenue sources, expenditures and key financial indicators that impact them. Mr. Elsen reported that the first interim projected 2023-24 operating deficit is approximately $122K less than projected in the June 2023 adopted budget, and reported that TUHSD is projecting balanced budgets in the official 3-year Multi-Year Projections. Mr. Elsen recommended that the board approve the district's self-certification as "positive".

There were no public comments.

M/S/C (Saavedra/Harlander), unanimously.

I. Public Hearing on 2022-23 Developer Fee Accounting and Take Action on Resolution No. 23-09 - ROLL CALL VOTE (8:35 p.m.)

The Board recessed at 8:38 p.m. for a public hearing on the 2022-23 Developer Fee Accounting.

There were no public comments.

The Board reconvened at 8:39 p.m.

Corbett Elsen, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, presented Resolution 23-09: Developer Fee Accounting and accompanying financial statements for 2022-23.

There was no public comment.

Motion made by: Emily Uhlhorn
Motion seconded by: Kevin Saavedra
Voting:
Karen Loebbaka - Yes
Leslie Harlander - Yes
Cynthia Roenisch - Yes
Kevin Saavedra - Yes

Emily Uhlhorn - Yes

J. Take Action on Resolution No. 23-10 to Reinstate Fund 17 (Special Reserve - Other Than Capital Outlay Projects Fund) - ROLL CALL VOTE (8:39 p.m.)

Corbett Elsen, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, presented Resolution No. 23-10: Reinstate Fund 17 (Special Reserve - Other than capital outlay projects fund). Mr. Elsen explained that the purpose of the reserve is to set aside funds for future predicted enrollment growth. If approved, the district will start requesting funding for the reserve next year.

The Board praised the foresight and said that funding decisions can be made each year, based on enrollment projections. Mr. Elsen said that the district has a long runway to predict accurate enrollment numbers, based on feeder school enrollment and birth rates.

There was no public comment.

Motion made by: Cynthia Roenisch
Motion seconded by: Emily Uhlhorn
Voting:
Karen Loebbaka - Yes
Leslie Harlander - Yes
Cynthia Roenisch - Yes
Kevin Saavedra - Yes
Emily Uhlhorn - Yes

K. Take Action on Resolution No. 23-11 Designation of District Representatives and Authorization to File Applications for State Allocation Board Administered Programs - ROLL CALL VOTE (8:51 p.m.)

Corbett Elsen, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, presented Resolution No. 23-11: Designation of District Representatives and Authorization to File Applications for the State Allocation Bard (SAB) administered programs. Mr. Elsen explained that with the expected facilities needs ahead, the resolution will authorize district administrators to submit applications to file SAB programs in order maximize state funding.

There were no public comments.

Motion made by: Leslie Harlander
Motion seconded by: Emily Uhlhorn
Voting:
Karen Loebbaka - Yes
Leslie Harlander - Yes
Cynthia Roenisch - Yes
Kevin Saavedra - Yes
Emily Uhlhorn - Yes

L. Discuss and Take Action on the Proposed Schematic Design (SD) for the Redwood HS Pool Replastering, Deck Replacement and Solar Heating Project (8:54 p.m.)

Mike Woolard, Sr. Director of Facilities Planning, presented the schematic design for the Redwood High School replastering, deck replacement and solar heating project. Mr. Woolard discussed the programming and design process, schematic design views, projected budget and timeline. He presented two options for solar panels but said that he didn't have the cost/benefit analysis available for the solar panels yet. The projected maximum budget for the project is $3.3M, but it could be less.

Board members asked questions about the impact of the construction timeline on the water polo season. Mr. Woolard explained that summer is the best time to start the project, and they would do their best to complete the project as quickly as possible. The Board agreed to wait to vote on the solar heating options until more information is available.

There was no public comment.

M/S/C (Uhlhorn/Harlander), unanimously.

M. Review and Take Action on the Marin County Interdistrict 5-year Agreement to Use Updated Interdistrict Transfer Form (9:12 p.m.)

Dr. Tara Taupier presented the Marin County 5-year agreement and updated Interdistrict Transfer Form.

There was no public comment.

M/S/C (Roenisch/Saavedra), unanimously.

N. Discuss and Take Action on Updated 2024-25, 2025-26 & 2026-27 School Year Calendars (9:15 p.m.)

Dr. Tara Taupier presented the updated 2024-25, 2025-25 and 2026-27 school year calendars. She said that the 2024-25 calendar was updated to reflect the correct date of the Jewish holiday on October 3. She explained that the calendars were compliant with union contracts and the MCOE Superintendent Calendar Committee worked together to align major breaks across Marin County school districts.

There was no public comment.

M/S/C (Uhlhorn/Roenisch), unanimously.

13. Consent Agenda

The board discussed items 13. C., D., and K., which were pulled from the consent agenda for further review and discussion.

13. C. & D - Ms. Harlander asked if the two contracts for E3 on the over and under $40K list were for two different contracts, and Kelly Lara confirmed that they were.

M/S/C (Harlander/Saavedra), unanimously.

13. K. - Mr. Saavedra expressed concern that the proposed Tamalpais music field trip to New York City was not a reputable festival and would not be a good educational experience because students would only play 3.5 hours of music over 5 days. He said that there are other festivals closer to the school that are more beneficial. Board members had questions about the cost of the trip and if it included all students, why deposits were made for the trip prior to board approval, and the amount of time students would miss school. The Board deferred a vote on item 13. K., pending additional information from the trip organizer.

Deborah Miller, a Tamalpais High School parent, agreed that there are excellent opportunities in the area, but said that this trip has been done 6-7 times before and there is a precedent. She said students have been talking about it for a year, and have already paid deposits, so it would be destructive to cancel at this point. She said that all students were included.

A. Approve Draft Minutes of the 11/14/2023 BOT Meeting

B. Approve Personnel Summary for December 12, 2023

C. Approve Contacts over $40,000 - December 2023

D. Ratify Contracts under $40,000 - December 2023

E. Approve Purchase Orders over $40,000 - List No. 09

F. Ratify Batch and Warrant Details - November 2023

G. Approve District Certificated Seniority List 2023-24

H. Approve Extension of the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources contract for a 3-year term beginning on July 1, 2024

I. Approve Extension of the Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations Contract for a 3-year term beginning on July 1, 2024

J. Third Reading and Approve Revisions to BP 5116.1, AR 5116.1 and Exhibits 5116.1 E(1) & E(2) with CSBA Edits

K. Approve Out of State Field Trip - New York City - Tamalpais High School

14. Trustee Reports

Kevin Saavedra reported on the winter music concert at Archie Williams, and said the event had nice energy. He said that the new music teacher is collaborating with White Hill, and is looking forward to the next few years.

15. Conclusion

Mr. Saavedra reflected on the board norms.

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Superintendent