TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting
02/06/2024 - 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 4:55 p.m.;
Closed Session 5:00 p.m.;
Regular Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
Zoom Link: https://tamdistrict-org.zoom.us/j/97568373273?
pwd=RkdSdFhGc0s1Zy9sekcwTEpYRGFhUT09(https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com//SU/slshslshuXKH0BEVsGd1Qh7XZmbg==)
Webinar ID 035923; Passcode 975 6837 3273

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

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 4:58 p.m. A quorum was declared present.

2. Approval of Closed Session Agenda

M/S/C (Loebbaka/Roenisch), 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 §54956.95

B. With Respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to Gov Code §54957

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

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

5. Reconvene Into Open Session

The meeting reconvened into open session at 6:02 p.m.

6. Announcement of Reportable Action Taken in Closed Session

There was no reportable action taken in closed session.

7. Approve Agenda and Review Norms

Ms. Loebbaka read the board norms.

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

8. Public Comment on the Consent Agenda

There was no public comment on the consent agenda.

9. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

10. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Michael Ardito, Sir Francis Drake High School alumni and Class of 1971 Vice President, emailed a letter to the board claiming that the "new values" that were adopted by the board in 2020-21, and the actions of administrators and site council members, resulted in "the destruction or removal of treasured art, erasing and falsely revising history, voter suppression, and a lack of accountability", among other claims. He said that they are caretakers and failed to recognize that the school belongs to the community and taxpayers. He also stated that the new values are not the values of Archie Williams, who was his algebra teacher and track coach. He said that Mr. Williams has not been inducted into the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame since its inception in 1980, and it will be a happy day when he is added.

There was no other public comment.

11. Student Trustee Reports

Kiera Lensing, Redwood High School, reported on Redfest, a lunchtime celebration with food, games and activities designed to create student unity at school, Valentine's spirit week, TUPE presentations for the PTSA and MCOE, the start of spring sports, the drama department's production of "The Farm", which recently won a prestigious award at the Lenaea Festival, and will have performances this week, Peer Resource presentations on sex education, the Student-Led Anti-Racist Movement's (SLAM's) Black History Month activities and upcoming Redwood TV segments and posters dedicated to Black History Month.

There were no other Student Trustee reports.

12. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Tara Taupier reported on the following:

- Black History Month events at the school sites, coordinated by student groups, with help from the Deans of Student Success and Dr. Jeanine Evains-Robinson, Sr. Director of Student Services.
- The newly created Cultural Heritage Series Events Calendar, which shows cultural events at schools each month, inclusive of many ethnicities, cultures and religions. The calendar is linked to the homepage of the district website.
- Tamalpais High School won the national College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award in 2023. Dr. Taupier said that Computer Sciences teacher, Kelly Kennedy, has made great efforts to recruit and retain young women in Computer Sciences and the department is currently running more than 7 sections of the course.
- The Tamalpais High School Mock Trial team won the Marin County competition and are headed to the state competition in March.
- Tamalpais High School is hosting an incoming 9th grader enrollment and information event at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Academy on February 7th.

13. Trustee Considerations (Please note that times listed for each item are estimated and actual times will vary)

A. Take Action on Revised Course of Study for Community & Consciousness (Ethnic Studies) (6:12 p.m.)

Kelly Lara, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, and Paula Berry, Sr. Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the revised course of study for the proposed 9th grade Community & Consciousness (Ethnic Studies) course. Ms. Berry said that after the January 23rd board meeting, the course design team met to discuss board feedback. Ms. Lara explained that the course is an interdisciplinary study of race, ethnicity, and other identities, focusing on people's lived experiences and perspectives, based on the California Department of Education model curriculum. Ms. Berry said that the team addressed board feedback by updating the course introduction, making the focus of the course the "Four Foundational Disciplines" (African American, Chicana/o/x and Latina/o/x, Native American and Asian American and Pacific Islander),

reordering the lessons, using language from the model curriculum and adding more explicit citations to the model unit. She said that other identities are still included in the context of students exploring their identities, co-learning and collaboration among groups' organization and solidarity, and the intersectionality of identities.

One board member did not think the course of study was aligned to the state model curriculum, but acknowledged that the model curriculum is so broad that it could include many approaches. Some other board members stated that they appreciated the revisions, and felt that their feedback was addressed, but were still concerned with the bleed-in from the preceding Social Issues course. One board member asked if Social Issues could be taken after Community & Consciousness, and Ms. Lara and Ms. Berry replied that the topics covered in Social Issues were essential for new 9th grade students' health and safety, so it could not be delayed.

Some board members asked about the timeline required to launch the course in 2024-25. Ms. Lara stated that the course needed to be approved now in order to start teacher professional development next month and launch the pilot of the course next year. She also noted that they need to submit the course of study to obtain University of California Subject A - Social Science credit approval before the end of the 2023-24 school year.

Another board member said that she didn't have a problem with the initial course of study and appreciated the work it took to incorporate the board's feedback. She said that she wished it could be a year-long course and agrees that it should be piloted now in order to incorporate feedback and professional development.

A couple of board members suggested scheduling a workshop to discuss the ethnic studies course further, but the board agreed that it would be hard to find a time when everyone could meet. One board member stated that it was not in the board's purview to write the course and said that they should not delay the vote. Other board members agreed to vote on the course of study.

There was no public comment.

M/S/C (Loebbaka/Uhlhorn), 4 ayes, 1 no.

B. Take Action on Resolution No. 23-12 Finding Wright Contracting, LLC (Wright) as the Best Value Contractor for the Redwood HS FASCD Building Replacement Project and Approving the Award of the Lease-Leaseback (LLB) Agreement with Wright Contracting, LLC (6:44 p.m.) - ROLL CALL VOTE

Mike Woolard, Sr. Director of Facilities Planning, presented Resolution No. 23-12 Finding Wright Contracting, LLC (Wright) as the Best Value Contractor for the Redwood HS FASCD Building Replacement Project and Approving the Award of the Lease-Leaseback (LLB) Agreement with Wright Contracting, LLC. He explained that the district followed the established scoring matrix to determine the best value contractor, including pre-qualifying all the contractors to ensure they were in line with district requirements, forming an interview committee, interviewing 10 contractors and scoring them based on pre-established criteria. He said that all the contractors were highly qualified, and Wright Contracting, LLC won the bid by a thin margin. He said that the LLB agreement includes a $20,000 Preconstruction Services fee.

One board member asked what the interview committee appreciated about the contractor. Mr. Woolard said that the contractor had a wealth of experience in school construction in Marin and had the best price of all the contractors evaluated.

Mimi Willard, Director and Board President of COST, asked why the district was pursuing lease-leaseback financing, and how it would flow into the potential bond. Ms. Harlander and Mr. Elsen replied that the lease-leaseback had been discussed at length and approved at the October 24, 2023 board meeting and that they would provide her with clarifying documentation upon request.

There was no other public comment.

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

C. Take Action on Resolution No. 23-13 Finding Lathrop Construction Associates, Inc. (Lathrop) as the Best Value Contractor for the Tamalpais HS STEAM Building Replacement Project and Approving the Award of the Lease-Leaseback (LLB)

Agreement with Lathrop Construction Associates, Inc. (6:52 p.m.) - ROLL CALL VOTE

Mike Woolard, Sr. Director of Facilities Planning, presented Resolution No. 23-13 Finding Lathrop Construction Associates, Inc. (Lathrop) as the Best Value Contractor for the Tamalpais HS STEAM Building Replacement Project and Approving the Award of the Lease-Leaseback (LLB) Agreement with Lathrop Construction Associates, Inc. He said that the same ten contractors that applied for the Redwood project applied for the Tamalpais High School project, and the district followed the same protocols to identify the best value contractor. He said that the Lathrop LLB Agreement includes a $50,250 Preconstruction Services fee. He explained that preconstruction costs are higher than the Redwood project because of the complexity of the Tamalpais site, including the slope, flood plain and bay mud. He said that Lathrop was chosen because it has more experience with these types of complex projects. Mr. Elsen added that Lathrop's project Superintendent is well-known and is renowned for his work in Marin.

One board member asked about the timeline of the preconstruction services if approved, and Mr. Woolard said they will start site utility surveys within a week and look at the architectural design. However, he explained that Lathrop will not prepare a cost estimate until the architectural designs receive full DSA approval.

Mr. Elsen reminded the board that the district is saving approximately $28M by using the LLB method, since it allows them to start preconstruction early.

There was no public comment.

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

D. Take Action on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Draft Initial Study (IS) / Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) Document for the Redwood HS FASCD Building Replacement Project (7:00 p.m.)

Mike Woolard, Sr. Director of Facilities Planning, presented the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Draft Initial Study (IS) / Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) Document for the Redwood HS FASCD Building Replacement Project. Mr. Woolard showed the board the CEQA decision tree and said that the Redwood HS FASCD project had a potentially significant environmental impact in 7 areas. He shared the MND document that showed the mitigation measures that will reduce the impact in those areas to "less than significant" or "no impact". He stated that the protection of tribal cultural resources is of particular importance to the district, due to the rich history of the area, so the district plans to have an archaeologist on standby during construction, so that if anything is unearthed, construction will be paused immediately for archaeological review. Mr. Woolard also stated that if approved, a 30-day public comment period will begin, and the document will come back to the board for a vote.

There was no public comment.

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

E. Take Action on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Draft Initial Study (IS) / Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) Document for the Tam High STEAM Building Replacement Project (7:05 p.m.)

Mike Woolard, Sr. Director of Facilities Planning, presented the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Draft Initial Study (IS) / Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) Document for the Tamalpais HS STEAM Building Replacement Project. Mr. Woolard showed the board the CEQA decision tree and said that, similar to the Redwood HS FASCD project, the Tamalpais HS STEAM project had a potentially significant environmental impact in 7 areas. He shared the MND document that showed the mitigation measures that will reduce the impact in those areas to "less than significant" or "no impact".

One board member commented about the no-fly zone for birds.

There was no public comment.

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

F. Take Action on Change Orders #1, #2, #3 and #4 to Construction Contract with Engie Services U.S. (Engie) to Construct Solar Canopy Structures at Archie Williams HS, Redwood HS & Tamalpais HS (7:07 p.m.)

Mike Woolard, Sr. Director of Facilities Planning, presented Change Orders #1, #2, #3 and #4 to Construction Contract with Engie Services U.S. (Engie) to Construct Solar Canopy Structures at Archie Williams HS, Redwood HS & Tamalpais HS. Mr. Woolard said that progress is being made on the Archie Williams HS project, but that an issue came up on the Tamalpais HS project, because contractors unexpectedly hit rock at 45-feet when drilling the 60-foot pilings. He reminded the board that they had approved a project budget of up to $10.66M, including a construction contingency of $942,232. Change orders #1-4 were for a total of $84,100, leaving $842,131 remaining in the construction contingency fund. He said that he would be presenting additional change orders to the board as they come up.

One board member said that they appreciated that Mr. Woolard is keeping the board updated with documentation of changes, so that they can fulfill their duties as stewards of public funds. Another board member asked for more information about the issue at Tamalpais HS. Mr. Woolard stated that contractors had tested the soil in several areas and drilled to 60-feet with no issues, but that they unexpectedly hit rock in the exact location of the piling. He said that they would have to move the hole for the piling to another spot, which would create another, more costly change order.

A member of the public named Cory claimed that change orders #3 and 4, to raise the height of the solar canopies at Archie Williams and Tamalpais, should be on the contractor, and that the contractor should have known about the minimum height requirements. Mr. Woolard said that the initial design met the minimum height requirements, but that the district decided to raise it above the minimum requirements to reduce potential damage from large delivery vehicles.

There was no other public comment.

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

G. Take Action on CSEA Employee Reclassification (7:15 p.m.)

Corbett Elsen, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, presented the 2024 CSEA employee reclassification recommendations from the Reclassification Committee. Mr. Else explained that the CSEA reclassification process, as outlined in the CSEA bargaining agreement, allows employees to submit reclassification requests due to changes in work duties. The reclassification committee then reviews those requests based on the reclassification criteria outlined in the agreement. He stated that, based on their review, the reclassification committee recommended approval of the grounds position reclassification, due to the addition of turf fields, which require different responsibilities and classification (including turf certification) for maintaining those fields. Mr. Elsen explained that they did not approve the reclassification for the Electrician/HVAC at this time, because the request was made for future work on solar power from the canopies that are under construction, and he stated that reclassifications are only approved based on current work.

One board member stated that she wanted to recognize the significant contributions of classified employees, and another stated that she likes the reclassification process.

There was no public comment.

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

H. Board Governance Handbook Discussion (7:19 p.m.)

The board discussed updates to the Governance Handbook, focusing on topics #1 and 2 - Meeting Agenda Development and Meeting Preparation and Attendance. They discussed the timing of one-way communications and questions to/from the board before meetings, and agreed to continue going through governance topics at each meeting, as time allows. Ms. Loebbaka said that she'd like to review the board norms at the next meeting.

There was no public comment.

14. Consent Agenda

A. Approve Draft Minutes of the January 23, 2024 BOT Meeting

B. Approve Personnel Summary for February 6, 2024

C. Approve Marin Center for Independent Living (MCIL) and Tamalpais Adult School MOU

D. Approve Purchase Orders over $40,000 List No. 12

E. Approve Contracts over $40,000 - February 2024

F. Ratify Batch and Warrant Details - January 2024

G. Approve High Risk Field Trip - Mountain Biking Club - Redwood High School

H. Approve High Risk Field Trip - San Quentin State Prison - Redwood High School

I. Approve High Risk Field Trip - San Quentin Rehabilitation Center - San Andreas

J. Supplementary Book Approval

15. Board Communications

16. Trustee Reports

Mr. Saavedra said that he's looking forward to the Archie Williams HS vs. Redwood HS basketball playoff game.

Ms. Roensch said that she'd like to hear an update on the anti-racist work across the district and more about opportunities with the Marin City Coalition. She also discussed the statewide Black Student Union (BSU) conference and suggested that TUHSD principals should consider having their BSUs apply to the event next year.

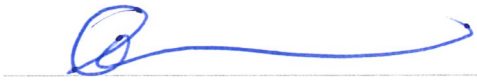
Ms. Uhlhorn discussed the Marin County School Board Association (MCSBA) meeting and said that she heard one of the best public speakers she's ever heard talk about school financing and bonds. She also discussed the Marin City 80 exhibit at MCOE and the second district meeting with Marin City Coalition, which she attended. She said that the meeting was foundational to establish what everyone needs to move forward. She also discussed the Mill Valley Black History month celebration, which she said was very well done, and is a good example of what can be done through community partnerships.

17. Conclusion

Ms. Loebbaka reflected on the board norms.

18. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Board Clerk