TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting
04/30/2024 - 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 4:40 p.m.;
Closed Session 4:45 p.m.;
Regular Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
Zoom Link: https://tamdistrict-org.zoom.us/j/99749688907?pwd=WFYxcFZXZGJvRE1XZTVvQlRKd3lDZz09
Webinar ID: 997 4968 8907; Passcode: 954397

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 4:49 p.m. A quorum was declared present.

2. Approval of Closed Session Agenda

M/S/C (Roenisch/Saavedra), 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 Ed Code §35146

1. Appeal of denial of an Interdistrict Transfer Request (0430-1) - Student A

2. Request for Waiver of Graduation Requirement - Student B

B. With Respect to Every Item of Business to be discussed in Closed Session Pursuant to Gov Code §54957(b)(1): Evaluation-Superintendent

C. With Respect to Every Item of Business to be discussed in Closed Session Pursuant to Gov Code 54956.9(b): Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation

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

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

F. 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 6:15 p.m.

6. Announcement of Reportable Action Taken in Closed Session

Ms. Harlander read the following in open session:

"In regard to Item 4.A.1., the board met in closed session to discuss the appeal of the denial of the interdistrict transfer for Student A. The board took action to uphold the denial of interdistrict transfer, unanimously."

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

There was no other reportable action taken in closed session.

7. Approve Agenda and Review Norms

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

Student Trustee, Mila Mincy, read the board norms.

8. Public Comment on the Consent Agenda

There was no public comment on the consent agenda.

9. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

10. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

The following public comments were submitted to the board via email prior to the meeting:

- Shannon Gillmore wrote that she was disappointed that the district was unable to find an instructor for Architecture and Engineering at Tamalpais High School for another year, and seemed to be unwilling to continue the search. She stated that other schools in the district do not seem to have a problem offering these courses, and thought there should be consistent course offerings across the school district. She said it's a shame that kids who are interested in STEM, want to use their hands, and are genuinely interested in these professional fields are not given the opportunity at Tam High.
- Robin and Tom Engelman, incoming Tamalpais High School parents, wrote about their disappointment that the architecture class at Tamalpais was canceled for their incoming freshman. They acknowledged that it's difficult to find staff, but said that they know some local architects who would be happy to help. They suggested that it seems like a solvable problem if "we put our heads together".
- Byron Nelson, PE Teacher at Redwood High School, wrote about the district's refusal to fund PE uniforms. He said that the lack of PE uniforms has made a significantly negative impact on PE classes, and most PE teachers strongly disagree with it. Mr. Nelson stated that athletic activities require proper attire for the range of activities performed in class, and if such clothing is required, it should be provided by the school, similar to supplies for art or microscopes for science. He said that the current dress code is not working, and PE uniforms are needed for reasons such as equity, motivation, hygiene, class management and culture, teacher comfort and a safe work environment. He requested that the district reevaluate funding for PE uniforms for next school year.

Public comments at the Board meeting included the following parents and students who spoke about their disappointment over the cancelation of the engineering and architecture classes at Tamalpais High School, and the fact that current freshmen would not be able to fulfill the 3-year engineering and architecture pathway:

- Susanne Croley, Tamalpais High School parent and graduate
- Nancy Bloch, Tamalpais High School parent
- Steve Bowen, Tamalpais High School parent
- Meghan Keeffe, Tamalpais High School parent
- Mary Rossington
- 5 Students (names not provided)

Additional public comments:

- Jeff Leh, Redwood High School incoming parent, said that he helped organize a network of parents in Kentfield to defeat Measure A, because they felt that $500M is too big, and the district should pursue a pared down, more reasonable version.
- Damian Morgan, Tamalpais High School graduate, stated that there are more racial issues at Tamalpais than any other school in northern California. He asked why white kids from Mill Valley are so angry that they have to attack Black students over and over again. He claimed that racial terror, bigotry and racism are ignored, and when Black kids react, they get suspended. He said he is advocating for black families to bring lawsuits against the district.

There were no other public comments.

11. Student Trustee Reports

Kiera Lensing, Redwood High School, reported on the ROP construction class at Redwood High School, open house, prom, AP tests and the upcoming "Paint the Town Red" celebration for seniors in downtown Larkspur.

Mila Mincy, Tamiscal High School, shared the takeaways of anti-racism discussions at Tamiscal, thanked the district for inviting renowned author Ibram X. Kendi to lead a webinar discussion with students, and suggested that the board communicate the actions they are taking to eradicate hateful racist behavior with the district community. She also stated that there should be more communication about what consequences apply when students perpetrate racist behavior. She asked the board to continue communicating with compassion and clarity.

Lyla MacRae, Tamalpais High School, reported on prom, AP testing, the upcoming AAPI Heritage Month Movie Night on 5/17, senior farewell rally and senior spirit week, the Tam High mountain bike team placed 3rd in their division I competition, and spring sports are wrapping up.

Gia Debok, Archie Williams High School (read by Lyla MacRae), reported on ASB elections, the Earth Day celebration, Archie Williams' bands winning 1st and 2nd place at the San Anselmo Battle of the Bands, Prom Pop-up ending, the Peer Resource middle school outreach program, the Arab American Heritage celebration, and planning fo the Jewish Heritage month celebrations. In sports, spring sports are ending: girls lacrosse - 1st round of NCS, track and field - MCAL finals, volleyball - 1st round of NCS, and baseball and softball are wrapping up their regular seasons.

12. Superintendent's Report

This agenda item was moved after agenda item #13, Trustee Considerations.

Dr. Tara Taupier, Superintendent, reported on the following:

- May is Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Jewish American Heritage Month and Mental Health Awareness Month. Each school site will be hosting different events to celebrate cultural heritage.
- May 6-10 is Teacher Appreciation Week
- Kelly Lara, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, secured Professor Ibram X. Kendi for a district-wide webinar on raciscm and racial equity on May 21st, which will be moderated by Ms. Lara and a student from the Tamalpais High School BSU. Student and faculty representatives from each school site are working on creating pre- and post-learning activities and questions for Dr. Kendi.
- The district is considering a "district read" of a book by Dr. Kendi. A committee has been formed to develop the guidelines of a "district read".
- The district is continuing to meet with the Marin City Coalition, and has expanded participation to include more Marin City residents, including staff members and parents.
- The district is planning to host a presentation by the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Islamic Network Group, who are collaborating on a program called "Countering Islamaphobia and Anti-Semitism in Education".
- Redwood has surpassed the 95% participation rate for its CAASPP exams, with 98% participation in Math. Archie Williams is very close to 95%, and Tamalpais is following up with students who missed the exams, and will achieve 95% participation soon.

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

A. TUHSD Board Policy Manual Update (6:53 p.m.)

Dr. Tara Taupier, Superintendent, informed the community and board about proposed updates to the TUHSD Board Policy Manual. She shared that the district has been working with the California

School Board Association (CSBA) since October 2023 to update every board policy, administrative regulation and exhibit to ensure that they're in alignment with the law and district policies. She said that the updated policy manual (except for sections 5000 and 6000) is attached to the agenda item for the board and public review. She said that the revised manual will be presented for the first reading at the June 11, 2024 meeting, and will be brought for global adoption at the June 25, 2024 board meeting. She stated that she hopes to have sections 5000 and 6000 completed by early fall. She thanked Karmela Cleary, Exec. Assistant to the Superintendent, for initiating and facilitating the updates with CSBA.

Dr. Taupier clarified that the board could start reviewing the updated manual, in preparation for the first discussion at the June 11, 2024 board meeting.

There was no public comment.

B. Adopt Resolution No. 23-17: National Day of the Teacher and Teacher Appreciation Week - ROLL CALL VOTE (6:57 p.m.)

Wes Cedros, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, shared Resolution No. 23-17, which acknowledges the contributions of teachers and designates May 7, 2024 as National Day of the Teacher and May 6-10, 2024 as National Teacher Appreciation week.

The board shared their support for the resolution.

There was no public comment.

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

C. Adopt Resolution No. 23-18: Classified School Employees Week - ROLL CALL VOTE (7:00 p.m.)

Wes Cedros, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, shared Resolution No. 23-18, which acknowledges the contributions of classified staff and designates May 19-25, 2024 as Classified School Employees Week.

The board shared their support for the resolution.

There was no public comment.

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

D. Public Hearing and Take Action to Approve the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Final Initial Study (IS) / Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Tam High STEAM Building Replacement Project (7:04 p.m.)

The Board recessed at 7:03 p.m. for a public hearing on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Final Initial Study (IS) / Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Tam High STEAM Building Replacement Project .

There was no public comment.

The Board reconvened at 7:04 p.m.

Mike Woolard, Sr. Director of Facilities Planning, reviewed the process and timeline for the CEQA Final Initial Study (IS) / Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Tam High STEAM Building Replacement Project. He said that all public comments were addressed and the study was updated for clarification. However, none of the mitigation measures changed.

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

E. Public Hearing and Take Action to Approve the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Final Initial Study (IS) / Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Redwood High School FASCD Building Replacement Project (7:08 p.m.)

The Board recessed at 7:07 p.m. for a public hearing on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Final Initial Study (IS) / Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Redwood High School FASCD Building Replacement Project.

There was no public comment.

The Board reconvened at 7:08 p.m.

Mike Woolard, Sr. Director of Facilities Planning, reviewed the process and timeline for the CEQA Final Initial Study (IS) / Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Redwood High School FASCD Building Replacement Project. He said that all public comments were addressed and the study was updated for clarification. However, none of the mitigation measures changed.

There was no 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

F. Discuss and Identify Funding Amount(s) for Community Polling for Potential Facilities Bond Measure (approx. 7:10 p.m.)

Corbett Elsen, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, and Charles Heath, Partner of Team CivX, brought forth two funding options for community polling and related projects for a potential facilities bond measure. Mr. Elsen said that the team examined the critical needs and priorities outlined in the Facilities Master Plan (FMP) and the current assessment of facility conditions. He stated that the team also considered community feedback while maintaining the focus on parity of facilities across the sites.

Option #1 $440M - same facilities projects with some reductions and alternative approaches.

Option #2 $517M – same funding and facilities projects as Measure A.

Mr. Elsen shared the specific facilities projects that would be reduced in scope, deferred or approached alternately under Option #1 as compared to the Option #2 Measure A projects. He explained that both options would address the most critical facilities needs, and all schools would benefit from the upgrades. He said that all the same projects identified at Archie Williams would be covered under both proposals with some additional enhancements to the Archie Williams theater, music and drama classrooms. He stated that Archie Williams has 10 more classrooms with about 375 fewer students than Tamalpais, which is the reason that the six unusable Archie Williams Creekside classrooms do not need to be replaced. He stated that a school facilities bond is a once-in-a-generation community endeavor and is needed to ensure parity across all sites, which is not currently the case. He clarified that bond funding can only be used for facilities, and that the bond supports education and safe learning environments, and goes hand in hand with a high quality education.

Board members thanked Mr. Elsen and asked questions about the needs at each high school, and how the proposed plans would impact the students.

Mr. Elsen said that Redwood High School needs more kitchen, serving and sheltered eating spaces, due to the large number of students who eat lunch on campus daily. He stated that roughly 800 meals are now served per day, compared to 350 meals served a few years ago, due to the new state-mandated two free meals per day for all students. He emphasized that Redwood is different from the other schools, because students are not allowed to drive off campus during lunch, and there is no grocery store and few restaurants within walking distance. He said that the current cafeteria is not big enough to fit all the students who get lunch, and is now primarily used as a queue for students lining up to get lunch. Therefore, most students eat lunch in their cars in the parking lot. He stated the lack of sheltered eating areas is particularly problematic during the rainy winter months, smokey days and hot school days. He added that the Redwood cafeteria was built when the school opened in the 1950s and remains on the same footprint today.

At Tamalpais High School, Mr. Elsen explained that the auto shop course has only about 50 students (approx. two sections) signed up. Additionally, Dr. Taupier said that the current teacher has been teaching for 40 years, and it will be hard to find a replacement for him by the time a new auto shop is built. Mr. Elsen said that College of Marin and Terra Linda High School offer similar courses and recently-built facilities that are available to TUHSD students through a consortium, similar to the Construction Technology class at Redwood.

Mr. Elsen also commented that all the portable classrooms at Tamiscal and some at San Andreas

need to be replaced as well. He said that many of the portables are more than 40 years old, well beyond their designed lifespan, and came from another feeder school district.

The board asked district staff for their recommendation on whether the $440 amount would address the most pressing facilities needs of the district. Staff replied that, while not all needs can be addressed with that amount, they are confident that the most critical needs can be addressed, and others would have to wait until another time. Mr. Elsen added that the district is pursuing matching state facilities funding, which may help narrow the difference between the two amounts.

After much discussion, the board agreed that they should only offer the $440M option for polling. Ms. Harlander also added that the survey should ask people what elements of the bond projects they are willing to give up with the lower funding amount.

A community member said that she wished more people were at the meeting to hear this information.

There was no other public comment.

G. Governance Handbook Discussion (8:30 p.m.)

The board discussed scheduling a governance handbook workshop to update the handbook, instead of trying to incorporate it into board meetings.

There was no public comment.

H. Discussion on Community Engagement (8:39 p.m.)

The board discussed establishing a subcommittee to discuss strategies for sharing information and opening two-way communication with the school and greater communities. Ms. Harlander and Ms. Roenisch agreed to serve on the subcommittee with Dr. Taupier and Karmela Cleary, Communications Specialist.

There was no public comment.

I. Review and Discuss the Governance Calendar (8:44 p.m.)

This agenda item was tabled.

14. Consent Agenda

A. Approve Draft Minutes of the April 16, 2024 BOT Meeting

B. Approve Personnel Summary for April 30, 2024

C. Approve Request for Waiver of Graduation Requirement - Student B

D. Accept Williams Quarterly Report - No Complaints Filed (Quarter Ending March 31, 2024)

E. Ratify Contracts under $40,000 - April 30, 2024

F. Approve Purchase Orders over $40,000 - List No. 16

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

H. Declare as Surplus and Authorize - Double Stack Ovens - Archie Williams High School

I. Declare as Surplus and Authorize - Arm Chair- Redwood High School

15. Board Communications

16. Trustee Reports

Ms. Harlander reported that she received positive feedback on the music program at Tamalpais High School and attended the most recent Marin City Coalition Meeting and Mill Valley School District meeting.

Ms. Roenisch reported that she attended a keynote presentation by Angela Davis in Alameda that was put on by the Alameda High School Black Student Union. Additionally, she shared feedback from a Tamalpais district teacher about period absences and requested that district staff drill down on that in the next attendance update.

Ms. Uhlhorn reported that she has been spending time at district high schools and feeder districts to discuss feedback about the bond measure, and she attended the Marin City Coalition Meeting.

Mr. Saavedra reported that he has gotten involved in the music program at Sausalito Marin City School District and said that he plans to create performance opportunities with students from Sausalito Marin City and Mill Valley School Districts.

Ms. Harlander requested information on the following at future board meetings:

- When does the district consider growing a program which is something we and the community value (and for how long)?
- How do we handle electives we can no longer offer?
- SAT and ACT Hosting

17. Conclusion

Ms. Harlander reflected on the board norms.

18. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Superintendent