"Our Community is Committed to Success for Every Child, Every Day"

HAPPY VALLEY Est.1954 UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Happy Valley Elementary School District
Board of Trustees

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2024
Happy Valley Principal's Office – Closed Session – 5:00 p.m.
Happy Valley Elementary School Cafeteria – Open Session - 6:00 p.m.
17480 Palm Avenue, Anderson, CA 96007

OPEN SESSION – 5:00 PM Elementary Principal's Office

1.0 Call to Order @ 5:02 p.m.

2.0 Roll Call – Nate Echols, Jodi Shearman, Cheryl Best, Billy Soksoda – Present

3.0 Approval of Closed Session Agenda

On a motion by Cheryl Best, seconded by Jodi Shearman, the board voted 4-0 to approve the closed session agenda.

4.0 Public Comment on Closed Session

The public is invited to address the Board regarding items that are listed under the closed session agenda. Speakers are limited to three minutes each. The Board is not allowed under law to act on matters that are not on the Agenda.

4.1 Public Comment Session Opened @ 5:02 p.m.
4.2 Person wishing to address the Board – Items in Closed Session – None

On a motion by Cheryl Best, seconded by Jodi Shearman, the board voted 4-0 to adjourn Open Session and convene Closed Session at 5:02 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION - 5:05 PM Elementary Principal's Office

6.0 Closed Session

6.1 Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal Release (§54957)

7.0 Adjourn Closed Session and Convene Open Session

On a motion by Cheryl Best, seconded by Jodi Shearman, the board voted 4-0 to adjourn Closed Session and convene Open Session at 5:45 p.m.

OPEN SESSION – 6:00 PM Elementary Cafeteria

8.0 Call to Order at 6:00 p.m.

9.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Nate Echols

10.0 Report from Closed Session – No report

11.0 Approval of Open Session Agenda –

On a motion by Jodi Shearman, seconded by Cheryl Best, the board voted 4-0 to approve the open session agenda.

12.0 Presentation – None

13.0 Information/Discussion Items

13.1 Community/Staff/District (suggested 2 minutes maximum per presenter)

a) Community – None
b) Certificated Staff – None
c) Classified Staff – None
d) Board Members –
Billy Soksoda mentioned the West Valley girl's tennis team went to San Jose for a tournament; Cheryl Best reported 4-H will be incorporating cooking and arts & crafts this year and mandarins will be for sale again after taking a year off due to bad crops in 23/24.
e) Primary Site Update – Gina Murphy reported the following: beginning of the year assessments are wrapping up; second and third grade have started reading groups; there was a school-wide popcorn party for all students returning their field trip forms and tutoring and cross country have both started this week.
f) Elementary Site Update – Chris Nelson commented on the following: a school-wide invitation went out for the Grandparents Breakfast sponsored by the PTO; clubs are underway and sports have started; the PTO will be meeting next Tuesday; planning for the Harvest Festival has started; the students remembered 09/11 today.

14.0 Communications to the Board – None

15.0 Public Comment – Public Session Items not on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of this body, may be addressed at this time or be submitted to the Superintendent in writing for Board consideration as an agenda item. Items not on the agenda are restricted in response and action by the Board and its members. A three-minute limit is set for each speaker on all items. The total time for public input on each item is limited to 20 minutes (Government Code 54952). In order to protect the rights of all involved, complaints about employees should be addressed through the District complaint process. Speaking about a personnel issue at a Board meeting may prevent the Board from being able to act on it. Please see an administrator to initiate the complaint process.

15.1 Public Comment Session Opened @ 6:05 p.m.
15.2 Items on the Agenda – None

15.3 Items not on the Agenda – None
15.4 Public Comment Session Closed @ 6:05 p.m.

16.0 Consent Agenda - Consent Agenda items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. They will be acted upon by the Board at one time without discussion. **Board Members may request that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for later discussion.**

16.1 Approval of Minutes for Regular Board Meeting August 16, 2024
16.2 Approval of Warrants August 9 – September 6, 2024

Jodi Shearman mentioned she had questions in regards to the warrants and asked they be moved to Discussion/Action Item #9.10.

On a motion by Cheryl Best, seconded by Jodi Shearman, the board voted 4-0 to approve the Consent Agenda with the warrants moved to Discussion/Action Item #9.10.

17.0 Personnel:

17.1 Approve Personnel Action Report

On a motion by Jodi Shearman, seconded by Cheryl Best, the board voted 4-0 to approve the the Personnel Action Report.

18.0 PUBLIC HEARING:

Public Hearing Regarding Sufficiency of Instructional Materials

Comments from the Community – Any persons wishing to address the board on the Sufficiency of Instructional Materials, may do so at this time. The Board limits the time allotted to each speaker to three (3) minutes.

18.1 Public Comment Session Opened @ 6:07 p.m.
18.2 Persons Wishing to Address the Board - None
18.3 Public Comment Session Closed @ 6:07 p.m.

19.0 Discussion/Action Items

19.1 Discussion/Action: Approve Resolution #25-05 – Approve Resolution Regarding Sufficiency of Instructional Materials for Fiscal Year 2024-25

On a motion by Cheryl Best, seconded by Jodi Shearman, the board voted 4-0 to approve Resolution #25-05.

19.2 Discussion/Action: Approve 2023/2024 Unaudited Actuals

Beth Roberts informed the board this closes the 23/24 fiscal year and the district ended up positive. There were some restricted funds that carried over to the 24/25 school year. She also reported there are several positions the district has yet to fill.

On a motion by Jodi Shearman, seconded by Cheryl Best, the board voted 4-0 to approve the 2023/2024 Unaudited Actuals.

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19.3 Discussion/Action: Approve Updated Board Policies

Jodi Shearman told the board members that she would like to see the district get rid of board policies that do not apply to the district. She stated many of the policies are geared towards larger school districts rather than smaller, rural school districts.

Jodi also gave a recommendation sheet to the board members on the updated policies. She asked Mrs. Murphy to look over BP 4121 to make sure that it aligned with the bargaining agreements.

On a motion by Jodi Shearman, seconded by Cheryl Best, the board voted 4-0 to approve the updated board policies with the recommendations presented.

19.4 Discussion/Action: Approve Updated Board Bylaw 9270 – Conflict of Interest

On a motion by Jodi Shearman, seconded by Cheryl Best, the board voted 4-0 to approve the updated Board Bylaw 9270.

19.5 Discussion/Action: Approve Resolution #25-06 – Conflict of Interest Code

On a motion by Jodi Shearman, seconded by Cheryl Best, the board voted 4-0 to approve Resolution #25-06.

19.6 Discussion/Action: Approve Resolution #25-07 – Gann Limit

On a motion by Jodi Shearman, seconded by Cheryl Best, the board voted 4-0 to approve Resolution #25-07.

19.7 Discussion: 2023/2024 Education Protection Act Expenditures

19.8 Discussion/Action: Interview Governing Board Candidates

Bridgette Soksoda and Mike Arey submitted letters of interest in regards to the open board seat.

Both applicants were invited to the board meeting to interview with the board.

The candidates answered questions given to them by the board members. Each candidate were asked the same questions. After interviews by board members was completed the board then opened up questions and comments to the public.

Corey Francescut and Joey Weekley spoke in support of Mike Arey. Corey thanked both candidates for being willing to step up to fill the position. He expressed to the board that he has been impressed by Mike's desire to want the district and the students to flourish.

Joey Weekley expressed concern that Bridgette is the wife of a current board member and that she will also be on the November ballot. He stated that in his opinion there should not be a husband and wife team on the board.

Jodi Shearman thanked Bridgette for her interest and commented to her that she had

great answers to the board's questions. With that being said, she has concerns with a married couple being on the board together. Jodi also stated she had conversations with the district's attorney and the elections office regarding Bridgette submitting her letter of interest for the provisional appointment and qualifying to be on the November ballot. She stated both offices recommended not appointing someone who is running for election and who has applied for the provisional appointment.

Nate Echols stated that he agreed with Jodi in regards to spouses being on the board together. In speaking generally about the position of a board member he stated the position requires neutrality, and making decisions that might not be popular.

Billy Soksoda stated that Bridgette is an educator and he would like to see an educator on the board. He commented that no one knows what will happen in the election in November and he might not win his seat back. By choosing Bridgette it would guarantee that an educator would remain on the board.

Cheryl Best said she knows of both candidates and she thinks either one of them would make excellent board members.

19.9 Discussion/Action: Appoint New Governing Board Member

On a motion by Jodi Sherman to appoint Mike Arey, seconded by Cheryl Best the board voted 3-1 to appoint Mike Arey to the open provisional board seat.
JS CB NE – Aye BS - Nay

After the vote, Gina Murphy swore in Mike Arey and he took his seat at the board table.

19.10 Discussion/Action: Approval of Warrants August 9 – September 6, 2024 **(Moved from the Consent Agenda)**

Jodi Shearman asked why the district had spent $5,000 to wrap one of the district's new vans. Gina and Beth commented the district was reimbursed the cost through the community grant.

On a motion by Jodi Shearman, seconded by Cheryl Best, the board voted 5-0 to approve the warrants for Aug. 9 – Sept. 6, 2024.

20.0 Superintendent Update – Gina Murphy commented on the following: the TK/K facility grant plans have gone to DSA for approval; the New Superintendent's Series will kick off starting tomorrow (Sept. 12th); an air conditioning unit was replaced at the primary site; evacuation practices for TK students will be refined for the next school year.

21.0 Business Manager Update – Beth Roberts reported the following: closing is complete; she is working to finalize the audit; Julie has completed her work for the district; Marjorie will be working through the end of September on health & welfare reconciliation; the updated LCAP should have been on this board agenda but it slipped through the cracks. We will need to hold a quick 10-minute special board meeting to approve it as it is due before the next regular board meeting. She asked the board members what their schedules looked like in order to schedule the meeting.

After discussion the board decided on Friday September 20th at 4:00 p.m. at the district office.

22.0 Enrollment Update as of September 6, 2024 – 468 Students including Community Day School and Independent Study

23.0 Next Meetings

October 9, 2024
November 13, 2024
December 17, 2024

Board Meeting Times:
5:00 p.m. – 5:05 p.m. – Open Session – Community Comments on Closed Session – Elementary Principal's Office
5:05 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Closed Session – Elementary Principal's Office
6:00 p.m. – Open Session – Regular Board Meeting – Elementary Cafeteria

24.0 Adjourn Regular Board Meeting

On a motion by Cheryl Best, seconded by Jodi Shearman, the board voted 5-0 to adjourn open session @ 7:07 p.m.

Approved October 9, 2024

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Clerk of the Board