San Pasqual Union School District

The Little School in the Valley

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BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at San Pasqual Union School

- Meeting called to order at 4:34 pm to allow public comment on closed session agenda items. Board Members Gourley, Merz, and Murray were present. Superintendent Burroughs and recording secretary Jenny Grassy were also present. Members Goe and Redmond are not present.
- Mrs. Lynch (teacher) addressed the Board and requested professional development for the new math curriculum to ensure successful implementation.

Adjournment at 4:37 p.m. for closed session.

Regular Session

- Meeting reconvened at 5:16 pm
- Public was welcomed. The flag salute was recited.
- Hearing of the Public: No one requested to speak
- Member Merz motioned to approve the current agenda and minutes from the 4/08/2025 Board meeting. Member Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.
- SPETA president Jolene Mallory discussed upcoming SPETA negotiations, emphasizing the hope for continued transparency and a focus on fair pay, health, and benefits. She also handed SPETA negotiation openers to the school board members.
- Mrs. Zdunich delivered the Assistant Principal Report (see attached)
    - *Goal 1: Increasing Academic Achievement*
        - Continued progress in academic engagement through Kagan Cooperative Learning Structures, enhancing student collaboration, communication, and problem-solving skills.
        - Teachers actively participated in Internal Observation Days, leading peer-led classroom demonstrations, and sharing insights that foster professional learning and confidence.
    - *Goal 2: Championing Student Wellness*
        - Kagan structures creating supportive classroom environments where students feel heard, valued, and respected, contributing to their overall well-being.
        - Positive feedback from teachers highlights increased student engagement, collaboration, and the development of respectful conflict-resolution skills
- Mr.. Burroughs gave an update on San Pasqual Academy.
    - Our school is facing significant challenges due to changes at San Pasqual Academy, which is now licensed as a Short-Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP).

    - This new license has led to statewide recruitment for high-needs students.
    - Despite our recommendations, SPA recently accepted two students with needs that cannot be met on our campus.
    - We are currently seeking alternative placements.
    - We are engaging with legal counsel to issue a strongly-worded letter asserting that such placements are inappropriate and harmful for both the students placed and the current students of San Pasqual Union.

- Mr. Burroughs asked Matt VanNote from Baker Electric to provide an update to the solar project.
    - Baker is proposing changes to the agreement, including new PPA rate is $0.244/kWh with a 2% annual escalator over 25 years.
        - **Gourley:** If we had a contract, why do we need to amend it?
          Matt: We need to amend the contract because the relocation of the placement impacted the project cost.
        - **Gourley:** Is there an option to pay the difference upfront and not change the term of the agreement?
        - **Matt:** That's a good question. I'll ask, but I doubt it's an option.
        - **Murray:** I agree. I'd like to see both options as well.

- Mr. Burroughs also provided the following updates:
    - Electric Bus Update:
        - If funded, two bus proposals will likely be presented to the Board: one for an electric bus and one for a diesel bus, as 2 of 3 buses in our current fleet are very old and diesel buses will soon be unavailable for purchase.
        - Given the likelihood of new buses, we are holding off on upgrading our bus communication systems; if they don't come with the new buses, we will plan to upgrade at that time.
    - Facility Updates:
        - North Coast Church and their Serve Your City initiative beautified campus. Mr. Burroughs visiting their church on Mother's Day to personally thank them.
        - Mr. Sifuentes will present a proposal next month for summer projects, including carpet replacement in the preschool, OT, and Middle School Resource rooms, with quotes just under $20k; approval is needed to order materials now for summer completion, primarily funded by the preschool account. Board expressed support for this project.
    - Staff Recognition:
        - Congratulations to Grano for receiving the ASCA Region 18 Leadership Award
        - Congratulations to Jamie Holtkamp for being honored with the Excellence in Special Education Award from our SELPA, NISER

Action/Discussion Items

- Mr. Burroughs discussed the 2025-2026 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Plan.

  LCAP Goal #1 (Board Goals #1 & 2)

  - Ongoing professional development for teachers (Kagan, OG, math if approved)
  - Focus on data to guide instructional decisions
  - Maintain EL and Reading intervention support (possible reductions at budget time)
  - Potential new math curriculum and PD for teachers

  LCAP Goal #2 (Board Goal #3)

  - Maintain PE for TK-8
  - Develop and implement a Wellness Plan (education, food, classroom policies)
  - Replace COVID-funded SEAL program with Prop-28-funded arts program
  - Eliminate COVID-funded Social Worker position, potentially replace with counselor/behavior specialist
  - Implement Digital Citizenship education for all grades
  - Transition from CHKS to 1 internal survey

  LCAP Goal #3 (Board Goal #4)

  - Improve school website and communication methods
  - Increase engagement for elementary students

- Member Merz made a motion to approve Resolution Number R#24-25-08. Resolution supports SSDA efforts to reduce duplicative paperwork in public education reporting requirements.. Member Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.

- Mrs. Zdunich presented proposal to adopt *iReady Classroom Mathematics* and the *iReady* assessment tool for Tk-8th grade students. Presentation attached Member Murray made a motion to approve the Adoption of the TK-8th Grade Math Curriculum. Member Merz seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.

- Mr. Burroughs presented options for an arts program using Prop 28 funds. See attached. Board discussed options, including performing, visual, and technical arts programs. No action taken.

- Mr. Burroughs proposed adding a director/teacher position, explaining that it would increase responsibilities and compensation for a preschool teacher. Member Merz made a

motion to approve the Preschool Director/Teacher Position. Member Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.

- Mrs. Zdunich presented options for a transitional kindergarten plan to provide early release for kindergartners for the 1st 4 weeks of school. Member Murray made a motion to approve the Kindergarten Transition Plan. Member Merz seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0. (See presentation)

- Mr. Burroughs presented results of mascot survey. (See presentation). Discussion on school mascot included:
    - Murray:
        - Supports student-driven initiatives—when students are passionate about something, pursuing it is not an issue.
        - Praises the committee for making a strong start on the areas.
        - Emphasized the importance of being careful and research-driven when integrating culture, particularly Indigenous culture.
        - Appreciates the committee's thoughtful approach to decision-making.
    - **Gourley & Merz:** Agreed with Murray's thoughts on student-driven work and the need for careful, research-based decisions regarding cultural integration.
    - Board supportive of forming a committee to help recommend next steps.
    - No formal action taken.

- Member Merz made a motion to approve the Policy Manual Changes. Member Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.

Consent Agenda

- Member Murray made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Member Merz seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.

Comments by Trustees:

- **Member Murray:**
  Expressed excitement about the investments being made and the staff-driven initiatives. She specifically highlighted the math pilot program and the Kindergarten presentation on the 4-week early dismissal as positive developments. She also praised the North Coast Community Project, noting that it was community-driven and serves as a great example of the district's strong community engagement.

- **Member Merz:**
  Seconded all of Murray's comments.

- **Member Gourley:**
  Shared that he was impressed to see the North Coast event in action, noting that as the day got longer and hotter, the community continued to work hard. She appreciated Mr. Burroughs's representation and involvement with the community. Gourley also thanked the foundation for organizing the Scramble of the Saints event and expressed gratitude to the new PTO board. She congratulated teachers Grano and Holtkamp for receiving awards and expressed excitement for all the upcoming events.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:27 pm.

NEXT MEETINGS:
June 24, 2025