TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting
05/06/2025 - 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 5:00 p.m.
Closed Session 5:05 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
Zoom Link: https://tamdistrict-org.zoom.us/j/95186458198?pwd=iMP4Ayvf1kp33hKp5lPNUwj1g8af5P.1
Webinar ID: 951 8645 8198 Passcode: 288205

Board of Trustees
Cynthia Roenisch, President
Kevin Saavedra, Clerk
Emily Uhlhorn
Ida Green
Jennifer Holden

Tara Taupier, Ed. D, Superintendent

Attendance

Voting Members
Cynthia Roenisch, Board President
Kevin Saavedra, Board Clerk
Emily Uhlhorn, Board Member
Ida Green, Board Member
Jennifer Holden, Board Member

1. Call Meeting to Order

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Kreps Conference
Room. 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): Existing Litigation

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

C. With Respect to Every Item of Business to be Discussed in Closed Session Pursuant to Gov Code §54957: Public Employee Appointment / Discussion

D. With Respect to Every Item of Business to be discussed in Closed Session Pursuant to Gov Code §54957: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release and/or Reassignment

E. With respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to Gov Code §54956.9(d): Conference with Legal Counsel

F. With respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to Gov Code §54956.95: Conference with Legal Counsel

G. With respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to Gov Code §54957.6: Conference with Labor Negotiator for TFT & CSEA

5. Reconvene Into Open Session

6. Announcement of Reportable Action Taken in Closed Session

Pursuant to Government Code §54957, the Board unanimously voted to approve the notice of intent to immediately suspend and dismiss and statement of charges related to employee number 102023, a permanent certificated employee who holds the position of teacher.

7. Approve Agenda and Review Norms

Dr. Tara Taupier, Superintendent, requested to table item 13E.

M/S/C (Saavedra/Holden), unanimously to approve the agenda with item 13E removed.

Trustee Saavedra read the board norms.

8. Public Comment on the Consent Agenda

There was no public comment.

9. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

10. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Public Comments:

- One public comment criticized the ethnic studies course, stating it is too much volume for 9th graders.
- One public comment urged the District to create a girls flag football team 2025/26 stating there was plenty of interest.
- Six public comments were emailed to express support for the formation of a girls flag football team at Redwood High School.

11. Student Trustee Reports

Cecilia Ferris, San Andreas High School Student Trustee, provided the following updates:

- All juniors wrapped up testing; rescheduling those who did not
- Testing incentive daily catered lunches; participating in lunch raffles; all academic assignments were excused to focus on testing. Additional office hours provided
- Student enrichment activities: Cinco de Mayo event today, May 6th
- Planning for upcoming year with rolling admissions
- Selecting COM courses: Cecilia is enrolling in 3 nursing classes
- Antiracist initiatives with Dr. Watson
- Collaboration with Lark Theater and Dr. Watson

Samantha Winslow, Archie Williams High School Student Trustee, provided the following updates:

- Thanked community for support following tragedy
- Beautiful remembrance event held Friday with poems, music, therapy dogs, and art stations
- Drama department completed "Hadestown" performances
- AP testing begun
- Prom at San Francisco City Hall on Saturday with leadership students as "safe leaders"
- Teacher Appreciation Week acknowledged

Emily Hitchcock, Redwood High School Student Trustee, provided the following updates:

- AP testing May 2-16
- Free sexual health clinic through May 16
- Redwood athletics banquet May 19 at Sam's Anchor Cafe
- Potential "Stop and Learn/Mindful Monday" on May 19 (TBD)
- Redwood Bark journalism banquet May 27
- Rising Senior Parent Night (Zoom) May 15 at 6pm
- College writing seminar May 20 at 6pm
- Giants alumni guest speaker May 23

Ruby Kosek, Tamalpais High School Student Trustee, provided the following updates:

- Students focused on AP testing
- Successful prom last weekend
- Less Stress group during AP testing
- Q Group for LGBTQ students meeting Friday
- Campus beautification Saturday for community service hours
- Teacher Appreciation Week notes in counselors' office
- Student concerns about delayed response to death of Zion (Tam graduate)
- Grief groups and grief camps now available on campus

12. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Tara Taupier, Superintendent:

Recognized Teacher Appreciation Week:

- Thanked teachers for tireless efforts in the classroom, field, arts
- Acknowledged their work shaping academic success, confidence, values, and aspirations
- Noted teachers continue to rise to challenges with creativity and compassion.
- Encouraged everyone to thank a teacher this week

Announced fifth and final Just Dinner event:

- Wednesday, May 14 from 6-8pm
- Martin Luther King Jr. Academy Phillips Campus, Marin City
- Sign-ups available or drop-ins welcome

Wished students well during AP testing weeks.

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

A. Adopt Resolution #24 -21 for Reduction in Certificated Staff Due to Particular Kinds of Service (6:21pm)

Wes Cedros, Assistant Superintendent of HR, presented a resolution addressing a reduction of 1.8 FTE certificated staff due to declining enrollment:

- Five affected employees notified by the March 15, 2025, deadline
- All waived their right to a hearing
- Resolution approves non-reemployment or reduction effective June 30, 2025
- Acknowledged dedication and thanked affected employees for service

There was no public comment.

Motion made by: Kevin Saavedra
Motion seconded by: Emily Uhlhorn
Voting:

Unanimously Approved

B. First Read of Integrated Math Pilot Course of Study (6:23pm)

Paula Berry, Senior Director of Curriculum & Instruction, and Julie Norwood, 28-year Redwood math teacher, presented:

Background:

- The Algebra Foundations course serves 7-10% of entering students (83-120 students annually).
- The current course is pre-grade level, non-UC approved.
- 53% of students starting in Foundations are not UC/CSU eligible based on math
- UC eligibility requires 3 years on-grade level math with C or better.
- Proposed Integrated Math Pathway:
- Two-year integrated sequence combining algebra and geometry
- Allows students to complete college-ready math in two years
- Students could then take Advanced Algebra (year 3) and potentially Statistics or Pre-Calc (year 4)
- Maintains a cohort model with smaller class sizes
- Continues support with para-educators and peer tutors

Julie Norwood emphasized that students can learn higher-level math with proper pacing and support, even if they need basic math support tools.

No action taken - first read only

There was no public comment.

C. Discuss Professional Services Analysis Report (6:43pm)

Kelly Lara, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, identified some services to be brought in-house for budget reduction.

Board discussion

- The Board questioned why Tenisha Tate contract was missing outcomes with metrics.
- Page 5 shows the desired outcomes/metrics that have been achieved so far for each contract.
- The BSST program creates intervention plans at the end of the grading period and identifies D/F/I students setting an action plan with teachers, students, and those that need more frequent monitoring. They review weekly/biweekly. The goal is to move off the DFI list by the next grading period.
- These tasks can be brought in house; right now they do require a consultant; there was a lot of pain at THS for the African American community. Needed community members to restore trust and need one more year to create a transfer plan to bring services in house.

- No one is saying services are not needed; every member of this board supports these services.
- Success metrics are hard to tell what the success is due to counselors, attendance deans, academic workshops, BSU, consultants, admin, teachers all have a piece of that success.
- Entering a time with little revenue, property taxes are not coming in at what we budgeted for.
- For the next meeting would like to see a transition plan, with recommendation of consulting contracts taking our finances into account.
    - Plan to transition in house after a year. What does that look like? Professional development, building a small learning community, partnership with College of Marin and CSU
    - Would love to see motivated teachers who want to take some of this on
    - 5/20 decision will look at the hourly rate of consultants vs. teachers

Public comments:

- One public comment stated it is a partnership that pushes me as a teacher and Dr. Watson connects students in a way they cannot; consideration for partnering with equity vision and non-negotiables. All aligned to equity vision; advocate for mental health

- Three public comments stated THS is much better this year, largely due to Tenisha Tate and Paul Austin through the BSU. Creating a welcoming space for students and putting them on the path to success. Black students have been forgotten for too long/not provided the support they need. Money is not the issue as a lot of money spent on other programs. They deserve to feel seen, heard. Please renew

- One public comment stated they are all for fiscal responsibility. Look at cutting costs not critical to LCAP programs to meet the needs of the most disadvantaged. Please support the BSST. These consultants help heal deeply fractured communities. $330k is an embarrassingly small investment for students that have been overlooked for decades.

- One public comment stated increasing learning and outcomes, academics and attendance intervention seem to be a core function and should be addressed by staff.
- 20 public comments were emailed expressing their support for the Black Student Success Team and other marginalized student support programs. They argued it has an impact and urged the Board to continue to support and fund these efforts.

D. E-bike Registration Implementation and Update (7:39pm)

Dr. Tara Taupier, Superintendent, provided an e-bike update

- Reminder there are 3 different types of e-bikes. Class 2 e-bikes cause the most problems as the engines are larger.
- Safe routes to school
    - Law enforcement continues to see accidents: going very fast, no helmets at 40 miles per hour; a bike helmet is not sufficient.
    - There are lots of good resources for buying guides for parents to review.

- Updated laws

    - The county passed an ordinance that anyone under 16 cannot ride throttle-powered; class 2 must wear a helmet; anyone under 16 cannot ride a throttle-assist ebike.
    - Each town needs to approve this ordinance for consistency.
    - Passengers are allowed if built for it, but still require a seat and helmet.
    - Safe routes to school will no longer allow super 73s in e-bike safety classes
    - Having the throttle decommissioned/still cannot register it
    - With new ordinances there will be stronger compliance.
    - Cannot park illegal e-bikes on campus
    - Fines imposed would likely be larger if cities imposed

- Narrative in community we are not doing enough

    - Outreach to parents
    - Instill info to students
    - Annual parent update
    - Registration process this year (not perfect/solved about 75% of problems)
    - Parents made serious investments in e-bikes

- Its a community problem. We need a community solution

    - Keeping abreast of all the new models is challenging.
    - Have not had the level of cooperation from students and parents hoped for
    - Superintendents are discussing whether towns should take over the registration process, especially as they have the legal backing.

Public comment:

- One public comment this will not go into effect until 7/1/25 with a 2-month grace period before enforcement. A student riding a bike who looks under 16, not reason enough to pull them over, will not see officers enforcing.

E. Take Action on Resolution No. 24-20 Approving the Phase 2 (Increments 1 & 2) Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) in the Lease-Leaseback (LLB) Agreement with Lathrop Construction Associates, Inc. (Lathrop) for the Tamalpais HS STEAM Building Replacement Project

(Removed from Agenda)

This item was removed from the agenda.

F. Take Action to Approve Project Budget Increase and Award of the Redwood HS Ghilotti Field Re-Turf Project for the Renovation Work Only Contract to Bauman Landscape & Construction (7:56pm)

Mike Woolard, Senior Director of Facilities Planning presented.

- Ghilotti field bids came in at over $500k. We went back out to bid; they came back $200k still over the approved budget.
- $220k already approved
- The lowest responsible bid is $364k; requesting additional funds of $115k to the project budget from the Measure B program contingency.
- Seeking approval for increased budget and award to Bauman Landscape and Construction.

M/S/C (Saavedra/Uhlhorn) unamiously.

There was no public comment.

14. Consent Agenda

A. Ratify Batch and Warrant Details- April 2025

B. Approve Personnel Summary for May 6, 2025

C. Approve Draft Minutes of the December 3, 2024 BOT Meeting

D. Approve Global Studies Field Trip- London, U.K. and Venice, Italy - Tamalpais Union High School

15. Trustee Reports

Trustee Roenisch

- Attended AWHS Hadestown performance last week, which was incredible.

Trustee Uhlhorn

- Happy teacher appreciation week to all teachers.
- Attended the remembrance ceremony at AWHS last week which was very nicely done. Principal Jacob Gran closed the ceremony inviting all to come again to make art, sign a book.

- Attended a Coalition meeting where they discussed Tam Jam: an opportunity for 8th grade Sausalito Marin City students to learn about THS, AVID, and attend a class connected with an older student.
- Ms. Tate just met with the counseling team and community school director and dean to dig deep into incoming freshmen academic/social profiles to help the admin team be better prepared to serve students.

Trustee Holden

- She also attended the AWHS remembrance last week and found it to be very meaningful.
- Thank you to all teachers, Falcon staff

16. Conclusion

Trustee Saavedra reflected on the board norms.

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.