

Board Meeting 02/27/2025

This survey will be turned off at 3:00pm 02/27/2025, no late entries will be accepted.

Name:

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Address/Affiliation:

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Is this for Open Session or Closed Session?

☒ Open Session

☐ Closed Session

What is the agenda item(s) you would like to discuss?(To comment during the meeting, you must first complete a speaker card.)

Discipline

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Comments:

I want to comment on the school culture at SSFHS, specifically regarding its principal. As a community member currently pursuing a Ph.D. in education and someone who knows several current students at SSFHS, I have been researching restorative justice extensively. Based on what I've heard from students, the disciplinary approach at SSFHS does not align with restorative justice principles.

Many students have described Principal Lothschutz as having a punitive and intimidating presence, showing a tendency to suspend students quickly rather than focusing on restorative practices. I've also been told that he struggles to empathize with students or understand their perspectives—both of which are critical to fostering a supportive school environment. Effective discipline should reduce suspensions and address the school-to-prison pipeline, but what I'm hearing from students suggests the opposite.

In reviewing district presentations across the Bay Area, I've seen a clear emphasis on innovative approaches to implementing restorative justice. However, the feedback from students at SSFHS paints a very different picture—one where outdated, punitive discipline remains the norm. Research has consistently shown that mentorship and reflection-based disciplinary practices are more effective in reducing repeat offenses. Yet, it does not appear that these methods are being implemented or even considered under the current leadership.

What concerns me even more is that students feel they have no voice in this matter. When I suggested that they bring their concerns to the school board or district leadership, they all said it would be pointless because no one would listen. This is a stark contrast to last year's principal, whom some students described as more open to feedback and not always a negative presence.

School leadership should not only implement evidence-based disciplinary practices but also create an environment where students feel heard and valued. Right now, that does not seem to be the case at SSFHS, and I urge the district to take a closer look at how discipline is being handled under the current administration.

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Name:

Student

Address/Affiliation:

Ssfhs

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Closed Session

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Info for immigrants

Comments:

How can you get my school to support immigrant students and there families better? It's been just over a month since the Trump unleashed ICE. There has been nothing but a link being sent out since the ICE has started their raids. Does the school not know that not all people have an email or wifi access? Is the school going to send physical copies of important info that people can refer in case ICE tries to question them? Is the principal aware that students are worried for their friends and family? A underclassmen tried to talk to him about this issue a while ago but he walked away as if he had better things to do.

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Reorganization

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Comments:

In light of the ongoing reorganization, the board should carefully reconsider the composition of hiring panels and evaluation committees for all district positions, including the superintendent. Many current district office positions appear out of touch with the realities of student life, the ways students learn, and how to effectively support and engage with staff. For positions that involve direct interaction with teachers or students, it's crucial to include a diverse group of teachers on the hiring panel. Teachers bring valuable insights into the day-to-day needs and dynamics of the classroom, helping to ensure candidates are equipped to meet the unique challenges faced by both educators and students. Including teachers in the hiring and evaluation process also fosters stronger collaboration between staff and district administration, contributing to a more unified and effective team overall.

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Bully Free ssfhs

Comments:

Make ssfhs a bully-free zone. Lothschutz is a professional bully the shuts down any real collaboration under the threat of his authority and his obsession with being right. Successful schools treat the frontline workers as experts to collaboratively make decisions with how to meet the needs of the students. Lothschutz does not and has not fostered this culture at ssfhs. Suggestions for change is swiftly shot down with no real logic or valid rationale, simply because he thinks his point is somehow always more important. Any evidence of leadership that encourages collaboration is merely a performance meant to fool his supervisors and maintain his position at ssfhs. Staff suggestions are never actually implemented. It's time to move on to another administrator that actually knows the community and respects staff. He can find employment at another private school that allows him to silence staff and stroke his ego. Ssfhs is not the place for that.

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Comments:

Is it true that teachers are going to leave ssfhs if principal Lothschutz stays? What is happening at ssfhs? This was never an issue with principal Asbra. I remember one year when there was no science teacher. This can't happen again.

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Comments:

I want to address comments made by President Anthony during the last board meeting. When she stated, "You believe that you have union representation. That is where the teacher voice comes in. You should be speaking to your union..." in response to teachers expressing concerns about the new plan, it was dismissive and disrespectful. Are teachers only allowed to voice concerns through union representatives? Are we not permitted to speak at a public forum? The board should be willing to listen to the many teachers who have serious concerns about the strategic staffing plan. This is in alignment with our union president's comments. Dismissing public comments and telling teachers to go through the union sends a clear message that our voices are not valued.

Additionally, President Anthony's comments reveal a lack of understanding of what teachers do and how tosas support them. She stated that the board had heard negative feedback about the math pilot and math tosas but was now hearing positive feedback. The comments that evening were on tosa positions being cut—Technology, Social Science, and EL— which are from entirely different departments that have nothing to do with the math pilot. The fact that board members fail to distinguish between these roles shows a lack of awareness of many roles that are not directors or cabinet level. This disconnect suggests that the board is not seeing the "bigger picture" from those directly impacting students. Instead, it appears they are listening only to the cabinet and the superintendent while ignoring the voices of teachers—the very people working in classrooms every day.

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Name:

Tina Jang

Address/Affiliation:

Patent of Los Cerritos Elementary School

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What is the agenda item(s) you would like to discuss?(To comment during the meeting, you must first complete a speaker card.)

Comments:

I have concern about what is happening in Los Cerritos Elementary School.

The staff morales is awful right now and parents are worried that there will be lots of turnover with teachers.

Last school year, Los Cerritos lost 2 principles within the same year; a 3rd grade class did not have a permanent or not even a long-term substitute teacher for 3 quarter of the year; there were 2 families in that class transferred to different schools because of that reason. And now this is happening again this year.

Parents are very concerned how this will impact the kids.

The students at Los Cerritos deserve stability and consistency. I worry the turnover will impact the kids and the remainder of the year will be challenging. Without stability in the classroom and at school, the students are losing valuable opportunities to learn.

The district needs to be more actively involved and hear from the parents and school community.

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Cody Jang

Address/Affiliation:

Los Cerritos ES

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What is the agenda item(s) you would like to discuss?(To comment during the meeting, you must first complete a speaker card.)

Challenges at Los Cerritos

Comments:

Los Cerritos is again suffering with staffing challenges. Staff morale is awful right now and parents are worried that there will be lots of turnover and how it will impact the kids. The district needs to be more actively involved.

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Comments:

Based on the comments made by Amanda Anthony at the last board meeting, it seems pointless to submit a board comment as it feels like the board does not listen to teachers. I am not questioning anyone's intelligence or questioning the difficult decisions made by our district leadership. I am simply BEGGING cabinet and the board to listen to teachers. Get to know your teachers or get feedback from teachers across the district, not just the loudest voices. Telling teachers that their voice is heard through the CTA, sounds like you don't want to hear from teachers. Please listen to teachers with an open mind and truly hear what teachers are asking for. People at the district office or the board are not affected by decisions that you all make while teachers are working hard everyday to put constant changes into place. Please include the voices of teachers in your decision making. Thank you.

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