San Pasqual Union School District

The Little School in the Valley

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BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at San Pasqual Union School

- Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm to allow public comment on closed session agenda items. Board Members Goe, Gourley, Merz, Redmond, and Murray were present. Superintendent Burroughs and recording secretary Jenny Grassy were also present.

  Adjournment at 4:31 p.m. for closed session.

Regular Session

- Meeting reconvened at 5:48 pm
- Public was welcomed. The flag salute was recited.
- Report from closed session: No action taken
- Hearing of the Public: No one addressed the Board
- Member Merz motioned to approve the current agenda and minutes from the June 25, 2025, regular meeting. Member Gourley seconded the motion. Motion passed 5/0.
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Action/Discussion Items

- SPETA president Jolene Mallory presented the SPETA report. Mrs. Mallory expressed optimism for a great year ahead, appreciation for the early release of the teacher handbook, and enthusiasm for collaboration.
- Mr. Burroughs presented the Sunshine of Contract openers for the 2025-26 school year. District will open jointly on negotiation procedures, and also open on Evaluations, Hours and Adjunct Duties, Health and Welfare Benefits, and salary.
- Mrs. Zunich presented a curriculum report and the AP report (see attached)
  - Curriculum Report and AP Report
- Mr. Burroughs presented the Superintendent's report:
  - Writing Program Update
    - Special thanks to Ms. Cottam for leading the effort in writing the program.
  - Facilities & Safety Update
    - Positive progress on bike path and crosswalk request
    - Crosswalk has started
    - City acknowledged liability for the broken fence and has promised repairs soon.
    - Appreciation to Joe Garcia for his support and follow-up.
  - Community & Government Engagement

        - Reached out to Supervisor Desmond's office to build relationships and discuss ongoing challenges, particularly those related to SPA.
    - Back-to-School (BTS) Planning & Campus Update
        - Custodial crew and office staff have worked hard all summer to prepare the campus for students, staff, and families.
        - Fiber optic cabling project completed this week—significantly faster internet now available to support teaching and learning.
        - Solar project groundbreaking has been delayed to avoid disruption at the start of school
        - Summer school was successfully led by Mrs. Jackson and her team throughout July
    - Back-to-School Activities & Student Return
        - TK Round-Up held Monday and Tuesday—nearly full attendance from incoming TK students
        - Saints Day (Tuesday): Over 60% of families have already completed registration.
        - First Day of School: Wednesday, August 20, 2025.
- Mr. Burroughs presented the amendments to the 2025/26 LCAP connected to required metrics. Updated plan posted on website.
- Member Gourley motioned to approve Prop 28 plan. Member Merz seconded the motion. Motion passed 5/0.
- Member Gourley motioned to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Vallecitos School District to establish a limited English proficient student program consortium. Member Merz seconded the motion. Motion passed 5/0.
- Member Merz motioned to approve the Infrastructure and Cloud services agreement. Member Gourley seconded the motion. Motion passed 5/0.
- Member Gourley motioned to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with SDCOE to provide Desktop Support services for the 25-26 school year. Member Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed 5/0.
- Member Gourley motioned to approve the purchase of 20 Chromebooks. Member Redmond seconded the motion. Motion passed 5/0.
- Member Gourley motioned to approve Resolution R#25-26-01 regarding elective credentialing. Member Redmond seconded the motion. Motion passed 5/0.
- Member Gourley motioned to approve the Classified Substitute Rates of Pay. Member Merz seconded the motion. Motion passed 5/0.
- Member Merz motioned to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Escondido Union School District to provide visual impairment, orientation and mobility, and adaptive physical education services for the 2025-26 school year. Member Gourley seconded the motion. Motion passed 5/0.
- Member Murray motioned to approve the Recommended Policy Manual Changes to the Board Policy 1330. Member Redmond seconded the motion. Motion passed 5/0.
- Policy discussion regarding the Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5121, grades/evaluation of student achievement.
    - Discussion initiated around grading changes.
    - Initial focus is on a potential change to the +/- points weighing for letter grades.
    - Feedback from staff and Board will be gathered before making a formal proposal.

    - The long-term objective is to improve fidelity and consistency in middle school grading.
    - Board Member Discussion:
        - Member Murray: Asked how fidelity and accuracy in grading are being addressed; recommended the school consider adopting standards-based grading across all grade levels.
        - Member Gourley: Agreed with Murray, emphasizing the need for consistency in middle school and the importance of students understanding the path to success; supports moving toward standards-based grading next year
    - Next steps: With Board permission, the topic will be brought back for further discussion at the next Board meeting
- First read of June Policy updates.

Consent Agenda

- Member Merz made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Member Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed 5/0

Comments by Trustees:

- **Member Gourley:** Gourley expressed her delight that the writing program continued throughout the summer, noting that students received writing prompts even during the break. She shared her excitement about the momentum building around curriculum work, that these efforts are not going unseen and are critically important. She welcomed all the exciting initiatives ahead.
- **Member Merz:** Acknowledged the excitement surrounding all the developments taking place. Remarked that the school year is off to a great start.
- **Member Murray**: Shared her enthusiasm about the beginning of the school year. As someone who values data, she also emphasized the importance of teacher feedback in guiding decisions. She praised the thoughtfulness behind the curriculum work and noted that teachers are aligned with the new materials and looking forward to their implementation.
- **Member Redmond:** Reminded everyone that the work being done is ultimately for the benefit of the students. She recognized that every initiative discussed has been thoughtfully chosen with student success in mind. She expressed appreciation for the significant effort that has gone into the process—from research and vendor discussions to learning from other districts and preparing teachers for implementation. She shared her gratitude for this work and noted that the direction the school is heading is both encouraging and beneficial for the entire community. As student success grows, she said, it reflects the strength of the school and makes it a special place to be
- **Member Goe:** Reflected on a meeting held earlier that morning with a visitor seeing the school for the first time. She shared how powerful it was to watch someone new take in everything that makes SPU special. She expressed her love for change and her excitement for the many positive developments expected this year. She appreciated the enthusiasm and momentum on campus and mentioned how fun it was to see the new Saints arriving. She closed by thanking everyone for the incredible work completed over the summer.

Regular meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 9, 2025 - 4:30 p.m.
(At 4:30 p.m. there will be an open session to allow for public comment on the closed session agenda items, followed immediately by a closed session.)