San Pasqual Union School District

The Little School in the Valley

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BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – ORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR MEETINGS

Monday, December 9, 2025, at San Pasqual Union School

Regular Meeting

- Organizational Meeting called to order at 4:32 p.m.
- Board Members Goe, Gourley, Merz, Murray, and Redmond were present. Superintendent Burroughs and recording secretary Jenny Grassy were also present.
- The public welcomed and the pledge of allegiance recited.
- Election of Officers
    - Gourley motioned to nominate Goe as Board President. Redmond seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.
    - Merz motioned to nominate Gourley as Board Vice President. Goe seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.
    - Redmond motioned to nominate Murray as Board Secretary. Gourley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.
- Calendar
    - Member Gourley motioned to approve Board meeting dates and times as reflected on the *Draft Meeting Dates*. Member Merz seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. (see attached)

Regular Meeting

- Meeting reconvened at 6:00 pm
- Report from closed session: No action taken
- Hearing of the Public: Mrs. Mallory spoke to the Board regarding agenda Item R.
- Member Gourley moved to amend the agenda by moving Item K to Item G; Member Merz seconded. The amended agenda and minutes passed 5/0.
- Mrs. Zdunich presented the AP report (see attached)
- Mrs. Grano reported on attending an EL Kagan conference and shared that collaborating with colleagues in her field was highly valuable. She described how Kagan strategies provide structured, interactive supports that help EL students more effectively engage with and access the curriculum. Mrs. Mallory also shared an overview of BRISK, describing how the approach functions in the classroom and supports student learning (see attached).
- Amy Moss presented the Curriculum Report. Amy presented on the new "Sensory Gym" in Trussell Hall, explaining how the space supports emotional regulation for younger students and outlining student needs and her planned programming (See attached)
- Mr. Burroughs presented on the California Dashboard: (Slide 2 attached here)

    - Mr. Burroughs gave a brief overview of the 2025 California Dashboard, highlighting SPU's overall outcomes and key performance indicators.
- San Pasqual Academy Update given by Mr. Burroughs: (Slide 3 attached here)
    - The County Board of Supervisors approved a six-month review to gather community feedback on repurposing the SPA facility; leadership has since engaged with Supervisor Desmond's office, Rite of Passage, and County Superintendent Ciriza to advocate for appropriate educational options for middle school students residing at SPA.
    - Eleven middle school students are currently residing at SPA; only five attend SPU, many of whom struggle with regular attendance.
    - 2 students placed in SEAS programs in other school districts. They are also chronically absent.
    - Three students are enrolled in a JCCS (ECS) program due to expulsions and/or challenging behaviors that prevent SPU from safely serving them; SPU has urged the County to avoid placing students at SPA whose needs cannot be safely met at SPU campus.
    - Out-of-district placements remain costly, with overall annual expenditures continuing to rise.
    - After substantial discussion, the Board expressed a desire to take action and begin involving the broader community in the next steps.
- Mr. Burroughs presented the Superintendent's report: (see attached)
    - Solar Update:
        - A site walk-through with the architect, inspectors, and builders is scheduled for Monday, with updated logistics and scheduling expected afterward.
        - The project continues to face major challenges, most notably DSD's delay in releasing funds.
        - If the project is not completed by mid-March, the district risks losing Net-Metering 2.0 benefits.
        - The district is still awaiting a response from DSD regarding next steps.
    - Digital Citizenship:
        - All K–8 students completed their first Common Sense Media lesson last month, and parent communication was sent; an annual plan overview is attached here.
    - Say Something:
        - On December 17, all middle school students will be trained on the Say Something anonymous reporting tool, including how to identify concerns and how to report them. (See Attached)
    - Mascot Discussion:
        - Nearly 300 students, staff, and parents participated in the mascot-naming survey. Staff and parents favored *Trussell* and *Pasqual* (each ~30%), while students most frequently selected *Trussell* (~21%), with additional suggestions including *Rocky* and *Barney*.

- The Board decided to proceed by allowing students, through ASB leadership, to choose the new mascot name from the top options (Trussell, Pasqual, Rocky).

Action/Discussion Items

- Member Gourley motioned to approve the First Interim Budget Report. Member Merz seconded the motion. Motion passed 5/0. (See attached)
- Member Gourley motioned to approve the Annual and Five-Year Developer Fee Resolution, R#25-26-04. Member Merz seconded the motion. Motion passed 5/0.
- Mr. Burroughs presented the School Community Survey and sought the Board's input on the questions. Member Gourley suggested adding an item to gauge participants' perceptions of the Board and to assess whether all focus groups share the Board's core values.
    - Member Murray recommended removing the Yes/No format from the student questions.
- Member Merz motioned to approve the Multitudes Dyslexia Screening Tool. Member Redmond seconded the motion. Motion passed 5/0.
- Member Merz amended the proposed Resolution R#25-26-05, establishment of Certificated Seniority Tie-Breaker Criteria to reflect a switch between items 2 and 3 to reflect total years at SPU over total years of teaching. Member Gourley seconded the amended motion. Motion passed 5/0.
- After Board discussion regarding possible language, Member Murray made a motion to table the Policy Manual Update, awaiting a third read. Member Merz seconded the amended motion. Motion passed 5/0.
- Member Goe left the meeting and Member Gourley assumed the role of chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Consent Agenda

- Member Merz made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Member Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed 4/0

Comments by Trustees:

- **Member Redmond:** Member Redmond noted that the board heard a great deal of information tonight and expressed that she is continually impressed and excited by what she sees from the district—our students, teachers, and schools. Member Redmond acknowledged upcoming challenges, including budget concerns, but emphasized that the board is here for the students.
- **Member Murray:** Member Murray observed a consistent pattern throughout the evening of hearing from people who are passionate about their work. Member Murray highlighted the Brisk presentation, the TA program, the SPA discussion, and the budget discussion, noting that passion was evident across all areas.

- **Member Merz:** Member Merz described the evening as an emotional rollercoaster and praised the high points of the meeting, noting the student presentation was especially impressive.
- **Member Gourley:** Member Gourley commented that the board doesn't hear from students often enough and shared that the student's presentation was a highlight. Member Gourley was also deeply impressed by Amy Moss's work, noting that emotional regulation is challenging even for adults and expressing appreciation for efforts to provide tools and reduce stigma. Member Gourley appreciated seeing the Kagan methodology in action.

Regular meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:
January 13, 2026