



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 5, 2020
Closed Session 6:00 p.m./Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. Joe Nava, President; Mr. Ron Freitas, Vice President; Mrs. Susan Macfarlane, Clerk; Mr. Ron Heberle; Mr. Gary Knackstedt; Mr. George Neely; and Mr. Courtney Porter

Administrative Staff: Dr. Cathy Washer, Superintendent; Mr. Mike McKilligan, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel; and Mr. Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer

Meeting Recorder: Dr. Cathy Washer, Superintendent

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. via YouTube and GoToWebinar.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association, commented regarding lack of employee group participation in administrative interviews and also commented regarding labor negotiations.

Kimberly Freeberg, Teacher, Lockeford Elementary School, spoke regarding the current state of negotiations and the cost of living adjustment.

Douglas Zuehlke, Music Teacher, Washington Elementary School, discussed the cost of living adjustment for employees and noted that the District has already received this increased income.

Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

Reconvene Open Session

The meeting was reconvened at 7:10 p.m. Attendance was recorded and President Nava led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session

President Nava reported the following action was taken in Closed Session:

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

Mr. Knackstedt motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board voted to approve Case No. SPED2020-01 by the following vote:

Ayes: Freitas; Heberle; Knackstedt; Macfarlane; Nava and Neely
Noes: Porter
Absent: None
Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Closed Session Personnel Matters:

Mr. Freitas moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Robert Sahli as Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, effective date July 1, 2020.

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Porter seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Janee Waters as Adult Ed/CTE Vice Principal, Lincoln Technical Academy, effective date July 1, 2020.

Mr. Freitas moved, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Gary Mohr as Elementary Principal, location to be determined, effective date July 1, 2020.

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Knackstedt seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Gina Azevedo as Elementary Principal, location to be determined, effective date July 1, 2020.

Mr. Heberle moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Elizabeth Horton as Elementary Principal, location to be determined, effective date July 1, 2020.

Recognitions

California Day of the Teacher Proclamation – May 13, 2020

President Nava read the proclamation that designates May 13, 2020 as California Day of the Teacher in Lodi Unified School District.

2020-2021 Teacher of the Year

Hillary Harrell, Principal, Bear Creek High School, introduced Laura La Rue, as the 2020-2021 Lodi Unified School District Teacher of the Year. Ms. Harrell congratulated Ms. La Rue and complimented her on her professionalism, excellence in teaching, and leadership. Ms. La Rue thanked the Board for the recognition.

Proclamation to Designate the Week of May 17-23, 2020 as Classified School Employee Week in Lodi Unified School District

Mr. Freitas read the proclamation designating the week of May 17-23 in recognition of the contributions of the CSEA classified employees in the District.

Proclamation to Designate the Week of May 4-8, 2020 as School Nutrition Employee Week in Lodi Unified School District

Mrs. Macfarlane presented the proclamation designating the week of May 4-8 to honor the contributions of the employees in the District's Nutrition Services Department.

National School Nurse Day Proclamation – May 6, 2020

Mr. Neely read a proclamation designating May 6, 2020, as National School Nurse Day. Mr. Neely and Mr. Nava thanked school nurses for the services they provide, especially during this time of crisis.

Principals' Day Proclamation – May 1, 2020

Mr. Knackstedt read a proclamation designating May 1, 2020, as Principals' Day in Lodi Unified School District. Mr. Nava thanked District principals for their continued leadership.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Washer thanked Board members for recognizing staff. She informed Board that the District is working on a unifying vision for early college opportunities, including moving forward with a new cohort of 9th graders next year who can take classes at San Joaquin Delta College after school hours, Valley Robotics Academy has met enrollment goals, and we have expanded Middle College High School to include more students. She stated that staff is looking closely at budget issues and will be very careful, as we expect reductions. Dr. Washer thanked the community for purchasing GOT Kids T-shirts to help provide resources for students and noted that the T-shirts are currently sold out, with over 500 purchased since Friday.

Comments from the Public

No comments were received from the public.

Comments from Board Members

Mr. Neely shared his amazement at what is going on with Distance Learning and thanked staff. He stated that Board Meetings have been going very well. He noted he has talked with Board Members from other districts and learned that others are having difficulties with the process. He thanked Edith Holbert, Director of Technology, for her efforts.

Mr. Heberle congratulated Ms. La Rue on being named Lodi Unified Teacher of the Year and thanked all other employees for their work. He let staff know that they are noticed and appreciated.

Mr. Knackstedt expressed concern that a lot of students are not buying into Distance Learning due to the hold harmless approach. He stated that teachers are learning how to use a variety of new online platforms and some say that it is like being a new teacher all over again. He has heard that teachers like Google and Zoom depending on the use and would like more training on virtual labs, science and CTE. Mr. Knackstedt noted he is interested in conversations about planning for the next school year, which looks like it could be a hybrid model. He added that teachers are missing the face-to-face interactions with students.

Mrs. Macfarlane thanked Chelsea Vongehr, Public Relations Officer, and staff for the videos that are posted to social media.

Mr. Porter congratulated Ms. La Rue on being named LUSD Teacher of the Year and thanked her for her excellent work. He also thanked District staff and gave appreciation for their work. He thanked Mr. Nava for doing an excellent job with the virtual Board Meetings, giving everyone a voice, being a mentor and for all he has done for the community. Mr. Porter stated that there is anxiety from the uncertainty; however, we need to work together as a team, look at what we do, and reset what is effective. He noted education will look different and we need to look at what works and make a clean, effective system with site-based decision making with all groups involved. He commented that we will come out stronger and more cohesive, thus providing the best learning for students.

Mr. Nava thanked Mr. Porter and Board for their comments.

Mr. Freitas acknowledged May 13 as the Day of the Teacher and thanked Ms. La Rue for doing an outstanding job. He thanked all groups for an amazing job. Mr. Freitas thanked Mr. Porter for recognizing Mr. Nava and noted that serving as president during this time is not an easy job and Mr. Nava does it with grace. He recognized McNair High School for the video about the May 1 college signing day. He thanked the superintendent for selling the GOT Kids T-shirts and stated that the foundation has spent \$10,000 on the *Keep The Kids Connected* effort to provide tools and supplies to keep students motivated. He added that donations to GOT Kids are still needed.

Mr. Nava acknowledged that teachers are very valuable. In reference to the current crisis, he mentioned a Stanford University study that says children are very resilient and heal quickly. He said that education will be very different, as it will include social distance spacing and other modifications. Mr. Nava expressed that he has a good feeling that by August school will start almost in a normal setting. Mr. Nava congratulated Ms. La Rue from Bear Creek High School for being named the Lodi Unified Teacher of the Year.

Report

Staff will Provide Information in Relation to National and State Economic Uncertainty and School Finance and the Impact on School Districts as a Result of the Global Health Crisis

Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, presented a report about anticipated reductions in school district revenue from state and federal levels. He shared information about the current economic environment including unemployment. Mr. Kahn stated that District revenue will fall significantly and that the state may impose deferrals of May and June apportionments, which will impact the District's cash flow. He stated, that according to FCMAT (Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team), the cost of living adjustment (COLA) could be in the range of -2% to -10% next year. Mr. Kahn explained that this level of funding drain is unprecedented.

Public Comments
None

Consent Agenda A, Routine Business

The following items were pulled from Consent Agenda A: Item A-5 and Item A-6.

- Item A-1 Changes to the Adopted Budget
- Item A-2 Contracts List
- Item A-3 Notice of Completion for Public Works Projects under the California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Act (CUPCCAA)
- Item A-4 Resolution 2020-42 Authorizing the Filing of the Notice of Completion (NOC) for the Joe Serna Relocation Project No. 0033-8040 & 0841-8040
- Item A-7 Resolution 2020-44 Specifications of Election Order
- Item A-8 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 7, 2020
- Item A-9 Minutes of the Study Session Meeting of April 14, 2020
- Item A-10 Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 14, 2020

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Knackstedt seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda A, Routine Business, as amended.

Individual Action on Items Pulled from Consent Agenda A – Routine Business
Item A-5 Resolution 2020-43 Certifies the Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Valley Robotics Extension Road – Project No. 0826-8426

Mr. Porter asked for information about the proposed fire lane for the Valley Robotics Academy site. Mr. Kahn explained that this section of the property does not currently have a fire lane and now that we are using the space for a school, a fire lane is needed for emergency response vehicle access.

Mr. Porter moved, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda A, Item A-5 Resolution 2020-43 Certifies the Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Valley Robotics Extension Road – Project No. 0826-8426.

Item A-6 Purchase Order Detail Report

Mr. Porter requested information regarding several items on the report. Mr. Kahn explained that the District is listed on some of the items because we do not yet have a specific vendor identified and the purchase orders will be updated once vendors are determined. Mr. Kahn noted he would look into item 6241 (Keenan & Associates) and will provide information to Board.

Mr. Porter moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda A, Item A-5 Purchase Order Detail Report.

Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases

Item B-1 Expulsion: Student #19/20-7-52

Mr. Heberle moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda B, Student Discipline Cases, as presented.

Personnel Matters

Mike McKilligan, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel, presented Personnel Matters for Board consideration.

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Personnel Matters, as presented.

Communications

Comments from Employee Group Representatives

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association, thanked Board for recognizing the Teacher of the Year. She made comments about Distance Learning not being ideal, the memorandum of understanding not making all teachers whole (preschool teachers), teachers who do not have internet access needing hotspots, and the need for procedures for teachers to go to schools to finish up the year (while following health guidelines). She read the names of the teachers who are retiring this year.

Comments from the Superintendent

Dr. Washer informed Board that there will be an alternative way to celebrate all retirees this year, as we cannot conduct the usual event.

Other Action Items

Item OAI-1 Joe Serna, Jr. Charter School Renewal

Scott McGregor, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education, presented the renewal petition to extend the Joe Serna, Jr. charter from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2025.

Public Comments
None

Mr. Neely moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Joe Serna, Jr. Charter School renewal petition for an additional five years.

Item OAI-2 Athletic Protocols for Student Eligibility of Fall Sports 2020-2021

Jeff Palmquist, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education, presented the action item as a follow-up to the information presented at the Board Meeting on April 21, 2020.

Public Comments
None

Mr. Porter moved, Mr. Knackstedt seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Athletic Protocols for Student Eligibility of Fall Sports 2020-2021.

Item OAI-2 High School Graduation Requirements for the Senior Class of 2020

Jeff Palmquist, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education, presented the action item as a follow-up to the information presented at a previous Board Meeting.

Mr. Freitas stated he is glad that we are not harming students and still meeting state requirements.

Mr. Nava acknowledged Mr. Palmquist for working on this issue and stated that some districts are lowering graduation requirements to below the minimum.

Public Comments
None

Mr. Freitas moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve High School Graduation Requirements for the Senior Class of 2020.

Board Advisory Committee Reports

No reports were presented.

Adjourn

Mr. Porter moved, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Clerk of the Board

President of the Board