



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 2, 2021
Closed Session 6:00 p.m./Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

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

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

Student Representatives: Marissa Duterte, McNair High School and Taylor Willis, Tokay High School

Meeting Recorder: Mrs. Michelle Armstrong, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the James Areida Educational Support Center, 1305 East Vine Street, Lodi, CA 95240 and broadcast on YouTube.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

No public comments were received prior to Closed Session.

Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

Reconvene Open Session

The meeting was reconvened at 7:01 p.m. and attendance was recorded. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Student Representatives, Marissa Duterte.

Closed Session

President Freitas reported that no action was taken in Closed Session.

Public Hearings

Lodi Unified School District Contract Re-opens with Lodi Education Association (LEA) for the 2021-22 Year, which proposes an improvement of 5.07% to the total compensation (salary and benefits)

President Freitas declared the Public Hearing "Lodi Unified School District Contract Re-opens with Lodi Education Association (LEA) for the 2021-22 Year, which proposes an improvement of 5.07% to the total compensation (salary and benefits)" open. Mr. McKilligan, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel, presented the public an opportunity for discussion. No comments were received from the Board or the public. The hearing was declared closed.

Lodi Unified School District Contract Re-opens with California School Employees Association (CSEA) for the 2021-22 Year, which proposes an improvement of 5.07% to the total compensation (salary and benefits)

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Lodi Unified School District Contract Re-opens with Lodi Pupil Personnel Association (LPPA) for the 2021-22 Year, which proposes an improvement of 5.07% to the total compensation (salary and benefits)

President Freitas declared the Public Hearing "Lodi Unified School District Contract Re-opens with Lodi Pupil Personnel Association (LPPA) for the 2021-22 Year, which proposes an improvement of 5.07% to the total compensation (salary and benefits)" open. Mr. McKilligan, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel, presented the public an opportunity for discussion. No comments were received from the Board or the public. The hearing was declared closed.

Recognition

National School Psychology Week – November 8-12, 2021

President Freitas read and presented a proclamation to Dean Blount, President, Lodi Pupil Personnel Association (LPPA), in recognition of National School Psychology Week. Mr. Blount introduced Cheryl Rothe, Lead School Psychologist, who spoke briefly about how the group will be celebrating the week.

President Freitas recognized that November is National Native American Heritage Month and California Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month.

Spotlight

Lodi Middle School: PBIS/Advisory Program & Mini Grant/STEM Enrichment

Scott McGregor, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education, introduced Cassandra Iwamiya, Principal, Lodi Middle School, who spoke briefly about the last few challenging years, starting the "house system" at Lodi Middle School, and the positive social-emotional affect it has on students and staff. She introduced Paige Blevins, Teacher, Lodi Middle School, who spoke about the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)/Advisory Program activities that the "houses" are participating in. Dan Taylor, Teacher, Lodi Middle School, spoke about the STEM Enrichment activities in his computer-based/3D printer class.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Washer shared that most of the Lodi High School sport teams made the playoffs this fall. She spoke about Red Ribbon Week and the schools participating in drug prevention activities and lessons and thanked everyone involved. Dr. Washer displayed pictures of the County Superintendent, Troy Brown, visiting Lakewood Elementary School, touring the school site and a transitional kindergarten classroom.

Comments from Student Representatives

Marissa Duterte, McNair High School and Taylor Willis, Tokay High School, presented reports from their respective schools.

President Freitas conducted a moment of silence for Debbie Plinski, Typist Clerk, Oakwood Elementary School, who passed away October 28, 2021.

Comments from the Public

President Freitas extended the time for Comments from the Public from twenty to thirty minutes.

DeLonna Lindsey, Parent, requested more security at the high schools, particularly at Bear Creek and McNair high schools. She spoke about her daughter's experience witnessing fights at school.

Scott Woznick, Teacher, Special Education, thanked Mr. Heberle for his willingness to collaborate and speak with the San Joaquin County Liberty Coalition. Mr. Woznick spoke about his opinion of the teacher's union during the pandemic.

Dave Andrews, Community Member, spoke about the COVID-19 vaccine and his opinion of the possible effects on students.

Luke Rickman, Parent, spoke about the student mask mandate and his children's experience at school while wearing masks.

Gayle Barnett, Community Member, commented on COVID-19 cases in children and vaccine side effects.

Elizabeth Davis, Parent, spoke on her background in the medical industry and asked the Board to meet with her to discuss COVID-19 vaccine reports and facts.

Debbie Wheeler, Parent, spoke about the mask mandate and her reason for pulling her children from the District.

Tye Brockmeier, Parent, stated that Galt and Valley Springs school districts rejected the COVID-19 vaccine mandate. He requested Board to have an open session regarding mask and vaccine mandates.

Emily Mahoney, Teacher, spoke about California Teacher Association's involvement with the mask mandate and requested they stand up for teachers' rights.

Danielle Doble, Parent, requested the Board to take a stance for medical freedom.

Alex Aliferis, Substitute Teacher, stated he will not take the COVID-19 vaccine and spoke on his views regarding the mandate.

Lisa Wilkins, Teacher, stated she admired the protestors' passion but would like to see them protest before state legislatures who have the authority to make a change.

Board took a brief recess.

Consent Agenda A, Routine Business

Michelle Orgon pulled Item A-1, Mr. Porter pulled Items A-2 and A-4 from Consent Agenda A for discussion.

- Item A-3 Purchase Order Detail Report
- Item A-5 Donations
- Item A-6 Intent to Hold Annual Organizational Meeting as Required by Education Code 35143
- Item A-7 California School Employees Association (CSEA) Re-openers for the 2021-22 Year
- Item A-8 Lodi Unified Supervisorial Group (LUSG) Re-openers for the 2021-22 Year
- Item A-9 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 19, 2021

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

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Individual Action on Items Pulled from Consent Agenda A – Routine Business

Item A-1 Contracts List

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA), asked about contract (1) agreement with Jump Into Math (JIM) Enterprises and asked how many students or schools it will cover.

Robert Sahli, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment, stated JIM is at capacity with 320 parents participating.

No Board or public comments were received.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Neely seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item A-1 Contracts List.

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Item A-2 Warrant Report

Mr. Porter pulled the Warrant Report because of a conflict of interest.

No Board or public comments were received.

Mr. Nava moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item A-2 Warrant Report, by the following vote:

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

Motion Carried

The student preferential vote was aye.

Item A-4 Changes to the Adopted Budget

Mr. Porter pulled Item A-4 Changes to the Adopted Budget to question item (3) the realignment of the Valley Robotics Academy budget to allow for 1.125 FTE campus security. He asked if it was needed, especially when other larger school sites are in need of more security.

Dr. Washer replied, stating security is needed at all school sites.

Mr. Kahn explained that each school is allocated a budget based on student enrollment and that this is the way Valley Robotics Academy chose to spend it.

Discussion ensued.

No public comments were received.

Mr. Nava moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item A-4 Changes to the Adopted Budget, by the following vote:

Ayes:	Freitas; Heberle; Knackstedt; Macfarlane; Nava; Neely	
Noes:	Porter	
Abstain:	none	
Absent:	none	Motion Carried

The student preferential vote was aye.

Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases

(Item B-1) Expulsion: Student # 21/22-11-13

(Item B-2) Expulsion: Student # 21/22-7-14

(Item B-3) Reinstatement: Student # 19/20-10-40

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Knackstedt 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.

No Board comments were given.

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)

Mr. Knackstedt moved, Mr. Heberle seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Personnel Matters.

Board President Freitas dismissed the Student Representatives.

Reports

Update on Houston School Enrollment and Discussion of Potential Program Options

Neil Young, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education, spoke about the declining enrollment at Houston School; currently at 144 students. He spoke about the staffing costs and how students are in combination classes for most, if not all, of their K-6 education. Mr. Young presented possible options for the school site such as, developing a school focus area (STEM, visual and performing arts, career exploration); explore support structures (additional staffing); adjusting attendance boundaries; and keeping the current structure and continuing to monitor enrollment.

Mr. Nava asked how the parents currently feel about the combination classes.

Dr. Washer stated the parents have conveyed in the past that the setting and love for the school outweighs the dislike of the combination classes.

Discussion ensued.

The Board was unanimous on giving direction to staff on keeping the current structure in place at Houston School and to allocate additional staffing, if possible.

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

Lisa Graci, Parent

Angela Lyndsi, Teacher, Houston School

Amy Goggin-Durnell, Teacher, Houston School

Communications

Comments from Employee Group Representatives

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA), passed out copies of the letter from the District's attorney to LEA with LEA's response about the recent cyber security breach at Lodi USD. She requested the District to share what information was accessed and to give more details to employees. She commented on the migrant issue at Live Oak School and hopefully giving them a voice.

Comments from Board Members

Mr. Heberle spoke about campus security and does not want middle school security to be overlooked. He requested information from staff to discuss adding additional FTE for security.

Mr. Neely asked if there has been an increase in violence on campus and if so, he would like to see more security in place. He asked if staff could follow up on a public comment about students wearing masks during PE and to review the formula on how vice principals are allocated to elementary sites.

Mr. Knackstedt spoke about a teacher at Creekside Elementary School who is contracted at 80% and would like to find a way to increase his contract to 100%.

Mr. Porter announced that teachers should place orders for standing workstations to Mr. Kahn for approval. He expressed the need for more security at high school sites and requested staff to provide a report on SB 328 Pupil Attendance: School Start Time.

Mrs. Macfarlane stated she would like more campus security but does not want it to be blindly done across the whole District but investigate where it is needed.

Mr. Freitas displayed a picture from the Aspiring Administrators meeting at the District Office and recognized the upcoming Veterans Day and requested a resolution for next meeting to recognize Lodi USD Veterans.

Comments from the Superintendent

Dr. Washer had no further comments.

Board Advisory Committee Reports

Mr. Neely stated he attended the California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly meeting and will prepare a more detailed report for a later time.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Clerk of the Board

President of the Board