



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 19, 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. Gary Knackstedt; Mr. Joe Nava; and Mr. George Neely (via teleconference)

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

Student Representatives: Grace Gremel, Bear Creek High School and Britany Yepez-Tafolla, Lodi High School.

Meeting Recorder: Mrs. Valerie McFee, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Call to Order

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

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

No comments were received prior to the Board adjourning to Closed Session.

Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

Reconvene Open Session

The meeting was reconvened at 7:03 p.m. Attendance was recorded and Student Representative Grace Gremel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session

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

Personnel Matters

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Mr. Knackstedt seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Robert Hoffman as Middle School Vice Principal, effective 2021/2022 school year, location to be determined.

Recognition

National School Bus Safety Week – October 18-22, 2021

President Freitas read and presented a proclamation to Annette Galindo, Director of Transportation, and Randy Cordoviz, School Bus Driver and President of California School Employees Association (CSEA), Lodi, Chapter #77, in recognition of National School Bus Safety Week.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Washer commented (and presented a newsclip) that the student film camp, under the direction of Inclusion Films and Joey Travolta, was in session over the two-week break and is now rapping up the production. The film camp is comprised of students with special needs who learn all phases of film making and acting on camera. She stated that the film premier event will be scheduled in December. Dr. Washer announced that LUSD was highlighted by the California School Boards Association (CSBA), showcasing how the District used video stories in English and Spanish to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month. Dr. Washer reported that legislation will alter the start times for middle schools to start no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and high schools to start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. beginning next school year. As transportation routes need to be considered, there may be some effect on elementary school schedules as well. Different plans are being discussed with more information to follow.

Comments from Student Representatives

Grace Gremel, Student Representative, Bear Creek High School, and Britany Yepez-Tafolla, Lodi High School, presented reports from their respective schools.

Comments from the Public

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

Susan Heberle, Community Member, presented her opinion that the state's Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is the opposite of local control, as she would like to see a better utilization of funds to benefit all students and projects, not as specified under LCFF requirements.

Danielle Elias Cardinalli, Community Member, would like to partner with the District to protect students and staff from toxic technologies, including cellular towers. She distributed information to Board regarding this issue.

Rod Woznick, Community Member and former Lodi USD Teacher, spoke regarding his commitment to the District with regards to his teaching legacy and commented that three of his children currently work for the District. Mr. Woznick spoke against mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations.

Kaleb Hogan, Student, stated he will not choose to be vaccinated. He will choose freedom and so will his parents.

Austyn Christensen, Community Member, asked the Board to advocate for children not to have to wear masks while at school.

Brooke Shamhart, Teacher, Borchardt Elementary School, stated that teachers should not be discriminated against based on their vaccination status. She asked that parents say no to government overreach.

Greg Williams, Parent, explained the process that led to his child being excluded from Reese Elementary School for not wearing a mask.

Emily Mahoney, Paraeducator, Lawrence Elementary School, voiced frustration with the orders/mandates related to the pandemic and medical confidentiality issues regarding distribution of COVID-19 testing kits at school sites.

Scott Woznick, Special Education Teacher, spoke of a recent San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors' resolution to not enforce COVID-19 vaccinations and asked that the Lodi USD Board consider similar action.

Aracely Flores, Community Member, stated her opinion that vaccine does not prevent the transmission of the COVID-19 virus and asked the Board to consider the information she has emailed going forward when decision making.

Jim Hicks, Community Member, asked the Board to consider the medical aspects and side effects to children wearing masks when going forward with decision making.

Jenessa Weller, Paraeducator, Victor Elementary School, voiced concern regarding medical privacy with COVID-19 testing materials being distributed to personnel at school sites. She commented on the recent San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors resolution regarding COVID-19 vaccination requirements.

Consent Agenda A, Routine Business

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association, pulled Item A-4.

- Item A-1 Contracts List
- Item A-2 Quarterly Report pursuant to the Williams and Valenzuela Settlements
- Item A-3 Lodi Unified School District Contract Re-openers with Lodi Pupil Personnel Association (LPPA) for the 2021-22 Year
- Item A-5 Lodi Unified School District Contract Re-openers with California School Employees Association (CSEA) for the 2021-22 Year
- Item A-6 Lodi Unified School District Contract Re-openers with Lodi Unified Supervisorial Group (LUSG) for the 2021-22 Year
- Item A-7 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 5, 2021

Mrs. Macfarlane 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-4 Lodi Unified School District Contract Re-openers with Lodi Education Association (LEA) for the 2021-22 Year

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA), pulled the item to thank the Board for sunshining their re-openers for LEA and for all the bargaining units. She stated LEA looks forward to a quick and collaborative process.

Public Comments

No Board or public comments were received.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Lodi Unified School District Contract Re-openers with Lodi Education Association (LEA) for the 2021-22 Year.

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Other Action Items

Item OAI-1 Resolution 2021-56 Declaring the Need for Emergency Procurement

Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, explained that the resolution is needed so that the staff of Technology Services may purchase services or components needed that may exceed bid limits.

Mr. Kahn noted that San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools, Troy Brown, has given his approval regarding this emergency process.

President Freitas inquired as to when Board would approve the possible expenditures. Mr. Kahn explained that they would be approved via the contracts list approval process.

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, LEA, thanked Board and staff for keeping employees apprised of the situation. She requested the District provide information about the investigation related to concerns about employee and student information that may have been compromised.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-1 Resolution 2021-56 Declaring the Need for Emergency Procurement.

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Item OAI-2 American Rescue Plan (ARP)/Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III) Expenditure Plan

Robert Sahli, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, presented the final draft of the ESSER Plan that was presented at the previous Board Meeting and an accompanying budget document. He asked for Board approval.

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association, voiced concern with the math component, as the California framework for math has not yet been completed.

Mr. Heberle stated he has spoken to Dr. Sahli regarding the math adoption and noted he does not believe that common core math is successful. Mr. Heberle asked if the math component could be separated from the plan, if not, he would vote no.

Mr. Knackstedt moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-2 American Rescue Plan (ARP)/Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III) Expenditure Plan by the following vote:

Ayes: Freitas; Knackstedt; Macfarlane; Nava; Neely; and Porter

Noes: Heberle

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Personnel Matters

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

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

Reports

Proposed Revision to Board Policy and Rule 6158 Independent Study to be in Compliance with AB 167

Superintendent Washer explained that Board Policy and Rule 6158 were revised earlier in the year; however, due to additional legislative changes it will need to be looked at again. She added that staff will meet with employees, as it is understood that revisions will impact some employees and some logistics don't need to be in the policy. Staff will follow up and bring revisions back for Board action.

Scott McGregor, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education, thanked Dominee Muller-Kimball, Principal, Independence School, and Allen Dosty, Coordinator, Child Welfare & Attendance, for their assistance with the revisions due to passage of AB 167. He noted that bargaining units will be asked for their input and the revisions will return to a future Board Meeting for consideration.

Mr. Neely asked who wrote the revisions and if there was a California School Boards Association (CSBA) sample policy. Mr. McGregor responded that he, Dr. Muller-Kimball, and Dr. Dosty worked on the revisions and that CSBA has yet to post a revision to Board Policy and Rule 6158 since the last revision in July 2021.

Mrs. Macfarlane asked that Board be made aware when potential concerns arise.

Mr. Heberle noted that sometimes the District is presented with challenges and we will work collaboratively to address the concerns.

Public Comments

Michael Heberle, Lead Negotiator, Lodi Education Association and Teacher, Bear Creek High School

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

Communications

Comments from Employee Group Representatives

Dean Blount, President, Lodi Pupil Personnel Association (LPPA), thanked Board for presenting the District's re-opener. He stated LPPA is looking forward to the negotiation process. Mr. Blount stated he met with Mr. McGregor regarding the change to school start times and noted it was a productive meeting. He also met with Dr. Ceja to discuss the Recovery Plan and noted that too was a successful meeting.

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association, voiced concern regarding the recent network challenges and thanked Mr. Kahn, Dr. Washer, and Ms. Holbert for getting out daily updates for teachers regarding network abilities. She gave a shout out to the CSEA employees in the Technology Department for working the entire weekend to get ready for school to resume on Monday. She noted that she heard

there were 700 calls today to the District's Support Desk for technical assistance and she appreciates their efforts to get students back to class. She voiced concerns for student and employee data safety. Ms. Orgon noted appreciation towards staff for getting the Needham School classrooms ready by the move-in date and that she looks forward to her future classroom (#15) at the site. She voiced appreciation for communication, transparency, and timeliness of call backs during the last two weeks.

Comments from the Board

Mr. Nava thanked the Student Representatives for their awesome reports and information. He added that the Board never underestimates their leadership and abilities.

Mr. Heberle also thanked the Student Representatives for their reports. He asked Mr. Kahn to extend a heartfelt thanks from the Board to the Technology Department employees. Mr. Heberle commented that he is glad the District is getting an early start on the planning for altering school start times for next year. He gave thanks to those working to keep the various Measure U projects moving, as he notices improvements to many schools. He thanked the public for voting for Measure U and for having faith in the District to do the best job we can financially for the schools, students, and employees.

Mr. Freitas joined Mr. Nava in his appreciation of the Student Representatives and added that the Board gains much from the information that they share and that they are very much appreciated. Mr. Freitas stated he appreciates that Mr. Heberle gave the public recognition for voting to pass Measure U and that he is looking forward to attending all the ribbon cutting ceremonies for all the future completed construction projects.

Mrs. Macfarlane thanked Edith Holbert and the Technology staff. She said when she calls the Support Desk, she can feel the smile through the phone. She thanked principals, administrators, and school site staffs for their continued efforts. She commented that the pandemic is not over, and it is very taxing on our principals and school sites. She thanked the principals who are weathering the storms in uncharted territory.

President Freitas noted that he and other staff members toured the Oasis City Center today and he displayed photos from the tour. The community center, made possible by a \$5 million endowment, offers a full gym, daycare center, tutoring for students, and an open food bank for those in need. Mr. Freitas noted that it is a safe place for our students to go for tutoring and physical education. The tour was organized by California Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua.

Comments from the Superintendent

Dr. Washer had no further comments.

Board Member Advisory Reports

No reports were offered.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.