

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION July 16, 2024



Closed Session 5:30 p.m. / Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. Gary Knackstedt, President; Dr. Rommel Bal, Vice-President; Ms. Sherry Alexander, Clerk; Mr. Joe Nava; Mr. Courtney Porter; and Mr. Jeff Stroh

Board Member Absent: Mrs. Susan Macfarlane

Administrative Staff: Mr. Neil Young, Superintendent; Dr. David Horton, Associate Superintendent; Mrs. Edith Holbert, Executive Director, Operations; and Mrs. April Juarez, Executive Director, Fiscal Services

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 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 reconvened at 7:06 p.m. Attendance was recorded and President Knackstedt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session

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

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

Ms. Alexander motioned, Mr. Nava seconded, and the Board voted to approve Claim #639188 as follows:

Ayes:	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Nava, Porter, and S	troh
Noes:	none	
Abstain:	none	
Absent:	Macfarlane	Motion Carried

Student Matters

Mr. Nava motioned, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted to approve the placement of non-public school students (new) numbers 13, 29, 86, 127, and 128 as follows:

Ayes:	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Nava, Porte	er, and Stroh
Noes:	none	
Abstain:	none	
Absent:	Macfarlane	Motion Carried

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted to approve the placement of non-public school student (changes) number 75 as follows:

Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Nava, Porter,	and Stroh
none	
none	
Macfarlane	Motion Carried
	none

Recognitions

Lodi High School Aquatic Center Project - Keenan Safety Award Recipients: Diede Construction, Inc.; Lodi USD; and Roebbelen Construction Management Services

Comments from Employee Representatives

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA), spoke about concerns with the 2023/2024 LEA agreement, certificated substitute pay rate, and her frustrations about more district office jobs being created. She questioned the details of the book review committee being disbanded and commented on the new process for comments from the public.

Desiree Wise, President, California School Employees Association, Lodi Chapter #77, stated she is looking forward to bargaining starting for the new school year and that the library media assistants are attending tonight's meeting to discuss the impacts to their jobs with the Fiscal Services and Operations Department proposed restructure.

Comments from the Public

President Knackstedt announced that in order to provide equal access, public comment slips will be randomly selected, rather than heard in the order received. He stated slips will be accepted until the public comment time period begins, and a constituent's time cannot be deferred to another speaker.

Hollie Joy Mueller, Community Member/Retired Teacher, spoke about limiting access to sexually explicit books to safeguard students.

Wende Berry, Community Member, spoke about the revision of policy 1312.2 and how she feels the recent district correspondence regarding the review committee does not address the proper procedure for handling complaints and book challenges. She requested the Board revise policy 1312.2 and referenced a document that was handed to Board titled "Proposed Statement and Motion to Revise."

Lisa McBride, Community Member, spoke about how students should have equal access to age-appropriate materials. She requested the Board revise policy 1312.2.

Terry Welch, Community Member, stated that her two children graduated from Lodi High and complimented the Lodi High staff, thanking them for a wonderful experience. She continued to read from the same speech as the two previous speakers, requesting changes to be made to policy 1312.2.

Pete Rodriquez, Community Member, spoke about his issues with what he feels is being taught in the classroom and would like for LGBQ sexually explicit books to be restricted from school libraries.

Public Comments on Consent Agenda A

Lisa Wilkins commented on Item A-9. She asked what happens to the extra money after the flooring estimate came in lower.

Mrs. Holbert stated the funds go back into the resource that paid for it, making it available for additional projects.

Consent Agenda A, Routine Business

- Item A-1 Changes to the Adopted Budget (Mrs. Juarez)
- Item A-2 Contracts List (Mrs. Juarez)
- Item A-3 Donations (Mrs. Juarez)
- Item A-4 Warrant Report (Mrs. Juarez)
- Item A-5 Approval of Certificated and Classified Personnel Matters (Mr. Young)
- Item A-6 2024-2025 The Arts and Music in Schools Funding (AMS) Plans Proposition 28 (Dr. Horton)
- Item A-7 2024-2025 Non-Public School Master Contract (Mr. Warren)
- Item A-8 Declaration and Approval of Disposal of An Obsolete Vehicle (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-9 Phase 3 Flooring Replacement at Multiple School Sites Project 3213-4416-9 Deductive Change Order 1 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-10 Resolution 2024-65 Ansel Adams Elementary School Head Start Program Playground & Shade Structure Project Award (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-11 Resolution 2024-68 Authorization to Advertise and Solicit Bids for the Lodi High Breezeway Repair (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-12 Resolution 2024-73 Authorization to Advertise and Request for Qualifications for the McNair Storm Pump Project No. 0866-8866-520-1 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-13 Resolution 2024-74 Authorization to Advertise and Request for Qualifications for District Facility Consultants (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-14 Resolution 2024-75 Notice of Completion for the Lodi High Aquatics Project No. 0919-8219-1 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-15 Resolution 2024-76 Authorizing Filing of the Notice of Completion for the Phase 3 Flooring Replacement at Multiple School Sites - Project No. 3213-4416-9 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-16 Resolution 2024-77 Nutrition Services Extension Contracts 2024-25 School Year (Mrs. Juarez)
- Item A-17 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 18, 2024 (Mr. Young)
- Item A-18 Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 25, 2024 (Mr. Young)

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted to approve Consent Agenda A, Routine Business, as presented, as follows:

Ayes:	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Nava, Porter, a	and Stroh
Noes:	none	
Abstain:	none	
Absent:	Macfarlane	Motion Carried

Public Comments on Consent Agenda B

L'oreal Carter-Dennis spoke on behalf of Student #23/24-10-89.

Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases

Item B-1 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-10-89

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted to approve Consent Agenda B, Student Discipline Cases, as presented, as follows:

Ayes:	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Nava, Porter, a	nd Stroh
Noes:	none	
Abstain:	none	
Absent:	Macfarlane	Motion Carried

Other Action Items

Item OAI-1 Approval of Primary & Secondary Logos for School Readiness and Preschool

Superintendent Young commented that Lisa Lopez, Director, School Readiness and Preschool, is in the audience, should Board have any questions related to the updated logo.

Mr. Nava moved, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-1 Approval of Primary & Secondary Logos for School Readiness and Preschool, as follows:

Ayes:	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Nava, Porter, and Stroh	
Noes:	none	
Abstain:	none	
Absent:	Macfarlane	Motion Carried

Item OAI-2 Resolution 2024-72 for the Hiring of Short-term Classified Employees

Superintendent Young presented Resolution 2024-72 for Board approval.

Mr. Porter moved, Mr. Nava seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-2 Resolution 2024-72 for the Hiring of Short-term Classified Employees, as follows:

Ayes:	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Na	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Nava, Porter, and Stroh	
Noes:	none		
Abstain:	none		
Absent:	Macfarlane	Motion Carried	

Item OAI-3 Provisional Internship Permit and Approval

Superintendent Young presented the Provisional Internship Permit for Board approval.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-3 Provisional Internship Permit and Approval, as follows:

Ayes:	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Nava, Porter, and	nd Stroh
Noes:	none	
Abstain:	none	
Absent:	Macfarlane	Motion Carried

Reports

Student Mobile Device Use in Schools

Mark Dawson, Area 1 Director, stated that Assembly Bill 3216 was proposed in February of this year and would require school districts to limit or prohibit the use of smartphones. He noted that the assembly bill effective date was amended from July of 2025 to July of 2026. Mr. Dawson spoke about some resolutions that other districts are implementing to restrict the use of cell phones. He stated that staff is planning on gathering data from Millswood Middle School and feedback from school sites, families, staff, and students to see what our policy might look like.

Mr. Nava and Mr. Porter spoke about their support in the matter and look forward to receiving more information as the data is gathered.

Public Comments Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association Desiree Wise, President, California School Employees Association, Lodi Chapter #77

Fiscal Services and Operations Department Proposed Restructure

Superintendent Young stated the report has returned addressing the concerns and requested changes from Board and staff. He introduced Mrs. Holbert and Mrs. Juarez to go over the details of the proposed restructure. Mrs. Juarez explained the changes within the fiscal services area and Mrs. Holbert went over the changes to the operations department.

Mr. Porter thanked the library media assistants for speaking and for all the work they do.

Mrs. Alexander stated she noticed there were no changes to purchasing or risk management departments and her concern about the turnaround time for purchase orders.

Public Comments

Desiree Wise, President, California School Employees Association, Lodi Chapter #77 Sherry Kelly, Library Media Assistant, Lodi High School Maricela Sandoval Espinoza, Library Media Assistant, Tokay High School Amy Conyers, Library Media Assistant, Live Oak Elementary School Megan Goudie, Library Media Assistant, Liberty High School Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association Bryan Pilkington, Retired Teacher, John Muir Elementary School

Title and Job Description Change for Public Information Officer/Grant Writer to Director of Communications

Superintendent Young stated that a title and job description change to the district's public information officer (PIO)/grant writer is to allow the supervision of the district's web master and .50 confidential clerical support to better provide direction on the district website and communications strategies. Mr. Young stated that there is not an increase in pay and no cost associated with the change.

Public Comments

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association Desiree Wise, President, California School Employees Association, Lodi Chapter #77

Proposition 28 Annual Report

Mark Dawson, Area 1 Director, stated that California Department of Education (CDE) requires local educational agencies to submit an annual Board report and post to the LEA's website. He explained the report includes the number of full-time equivalent teachers, classified personnel, and teaching aides; the number of pupils served; and the number of school sites providing arts education programs with Arts and Music in School (AMS) funds.

Dr. Bal spoke about her disappointment on not being able to fill the art and music teaching positions and hopes to see that change.

Proposed Revision to Board Policies 5144 Discipline; and 5145.2 Freedom of Speech/Expression

Dr. Horton presented the proposed board policy revisions for Board review.

Public Comments Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association

Board Member Advisory Reports

No reports were given.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Young congratulated Chelsea Vongehr, PIO/Grant Writer; Janette Jimenez, Administrative Secretary, Superintendent's Office; and DJ Rabang, Webmaster, for receiving three national awards from National School Public Relations Society. He acknowledged Jennifer Tillet, Program Coordinator, for her work on the New Teacher Bootcamp, which started today and runs through Thursday. Mr. Young invited Board to the Classified Job Fair being held at the District Office, July 17.

Comments from Board Members

Ms. Alexander welcomed Dr. Horton and wished Dr. Bal a happy early birthday. She spoke about the excitement of the start of the new school year and wish staff luck as they prepare.

Mr. Porter welcomed Dr. Horton. He thanked Mr. Young for answering his many questions and appreciates his transparency and good dialogue.

Dr. Bal spoke about attending Elkhorn's Summer Program and her concerns on the overlap with other summer sessions. She thanked the Technology Department for their assistance fixing her laptop. She requested a City of Stockton 2x2 meeting to discuss the unfinished library in front of McNair High School.

Mr. Stroh thanked Mr. Young for helping him with his laptop.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Clerk of the Board

President of the Board