



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**
January 16, 2024
Closed Session 5:30 p.m. / Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.



Video
Recording

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

Board Member Absent: Mr. Joe Nava

Administrative Staff: Mr. Neil Young, Superintendent; Dr. Robert Sahli, Associate Superintendent, Education Services; and Mr. Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer

Student Representative: Ms. Jaesa Del Prato, Bear Creek High School; Mr. Lucas Goulart, Lodi High School; and Ms. Hajra Shaheen Ahmad, Middle College High School

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 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 made prior 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 Student Representative Lucas Goulart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session

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

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

Mrs. Macfarlane motioned, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted to approve claim #631121.01, as follows:

Ayes:	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Nava

Motion Carried

Mrs. Macfarlane motioned, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted to approve claim #631121.02, as follows:

Ayes:	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Nava

Motion Carried

Mrs. Macfarlane motioned, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted to approve claim #632116, as follows:

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

Dr. Bal motioned, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to reject claim #631895, as follows:

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

Ms. Alexander motioned, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted to reject claim #632467, as follows:

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

Comments from Student Representatives

Ms. Jaesa Del Prato, Bear Creek High School; Mr. Lucas Goulart, Lodi High School; Hajra Shaheen Ahmad, Middle College High School, presented reports from their respective schools.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Young spoke about attending the Governor's Budget Workshop and displayed the district's timeline for budget building and planning the 2024-25 Budget.

Comments from Employee Group Representatives

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA), spoke about needing to schedule more bargaining dates.

Comments from the Public

Casey Frederick, Parent, Lodi High School, and President, Lodi FFA Booster Organization, expressed her concerns of the proposed facility plans for a new performing arts complex to be built in the current location of the livestock barns.

Sandy Starr, Instructional Coach, spoke about the teacher contract and what qualifies as Personal Necessity (PN) and Compelling Personal Importance (CPI) and how restrictive it is for teachers.

Kelly Hansston, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary School, commented on Lincoln USD settling the teacher contract and her hopes that Lodi USD will start bargaining more kindly with teachers for a united goal of a better District.

Public Comments on Consent Agenda A

No public comments were received.

Consent Agenda A, Routine Business

Ms. Alexander pulled Item A-15.

- Item A-1 Changes to the Adopted Budget (Mr. Kahn)
- Item A-2 Contracts List (Mr. Kahn)
- Item A-3 Warrant Report (Mr. Kahn)
- Item A-4 Notice of Completion for Public Works Projects under the California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act (CUPCCAA) (Mr. Kahn)
- Item A-5 Donations (Mr. Kahn)
- Item A-6 Quarterly Report Pursuant to the Williams and Valenzuela Settlements (Mr. Warren)
- Item A-7 AP Precalculus Course of Study and Textbook Adoption (Dr. Sahli)
- Item A-8 Personal Financial Literacy Course of Study and Textbook Adoption (Dr. Sahli)
- Item A-9 Statistics College Preparatory (CP) Course of Study and Textbook Adoption (Dr. Sahli)
- Item A-10 Make an App for That! CTE Course of Study (Dr. Sahli)
- Item A-11 Computer Science Discoveries CTE Course of Study (Dr. Sahli)
- Item A-12 Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape CTE Course of Study (Dr. Sahli)
- Item A-13 Ornamental Horticulture Course of Study and Textbook Adoption (Dr. Sahli)
- Item A-14 Approval of Certificated and Classified Personnel Matters (Dr. Dosty)
- Item A-16 Resolution 2024-02 Authorization to Advertise and Solicit Bids for the Westwood Playground Replacement and Shade Structure Project No. 6128-4316 (Mr. Kahn)
- Item A-17 Resolution 2024-03 Authorization to Advertise and Solicit Bids for the Lodi High School Paving Project, Project No. 0825-8425-3 (Mr. Kahn)
- Item A-18 Resolution 2024-04 Notice of Completion for Vinewood Modification Project No. 0936-8236 (Mr. Kahn)
- Item A-19 Resolution 2024-06 Notice of Completion for Lodi High Fire Alarm Upgrade Project No. 0906-8206 (Mr. Kahn)
- Item A-20 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 12, 2023 (Mr. Young)

Dr. Bal moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to approve Consent Agenda A, Routine Business, as amended, as follows:

Ayes:	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Nava

Motion Carried

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

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

Item A-15 Elkhorn Modernization Project Proposal

Ms. Alexander asked about the change in the construction budget and how the district will define which project scope items will be removed to achieve the budget.

Mr. Kahn stated that the project scope likely will not need reduction due to the surplus in the construction program and Measure U Bond program.

Ms. Alexander moved, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item A-15 Elkhorn Modernization Project Proposal, as follows:

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

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Public Comments on Consent Agenda B

No comments were received for Consent Agenda B.

Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases

- Item B-1 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-9-39
- Item B-2 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-9-40
- Item B-3 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-12-41
- Item B-4 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-11-42
- Item B-5 Suspended Expulsion: Student # 23/24-10-43
- Item B-6 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-8-44
- Item B-7 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-7-45
- Item B-8 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-11-46
- Item B-9 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-3-47
- Item B-10 Revoke Suspended Expulsion: Student # 22/23-7-96

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

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

Other Action Items

Item OAI-1 Ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding with Lodi Education Association

Mr. Young presented Memorandum of Understanding with Lodi Education Association for Board consideration.

No Board or public comments were received.

Mr. Porter moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-1 Ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding with Lodi Education Association, as follows:

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

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Item OAI-2 Resolution 2024-01 for the Hiring of Short-Term Classified Employees

Mr. Young presented the resolution for the hiring of short-term classified employees to the Board for consideration.

Mr. Porter moved, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-2 Resolutions 2024-01 for the Hiring of Short-Term Classified Employees, as follows:

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

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Item OAI-3 Resolution 2024-05 Long Range Facilities Plan

Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, introduced Julian Watt, Studio Director, and Mariana Lavezzo, Director of School Planning, from LPA Design Studios, who presented updates on the Long Range Facilities Plan.

Mr. Porter asked if the Facilities Plan is a wish list or a need and what the timing is for the completion.

Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Macfarlane would like to ensure no schools are being left behind.

Public Comments

Kelly Hansston, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary School

Amanda Linn, Parent & Teacher, Lodi High School

Sandy Starr, Instructional Coach

Dr. Bal moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-3 Resolution 2024-05 Long Range Facilities Plan, as follows:

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

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Item OAI-4 Approval of Primary Logo for Tokay High School

Mr. Young presented the primary logo for Tokay High School for Board consideration.

Mrs. Macfarlane asked is the logo committee process was followed.

Chelsea Vongehr, Public Information Officer/Grant Writer, replied that the same rebranding process was followed with the logo committee and surveys as all other school sites.

Jeff Johnston, Athletic Director & Librarian, Tokay High School, spoke briefly of his excitement to keep the same logo design and not having to rebrand the sports facility and equipment.

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-4 Approval of Primary Logo for Tokay High School, as follows:

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

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Reports

Proposed Revisions to Board Policy and Rule 3270 Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies; Board Policy and Rule 3280 Sale, Lease, Rental of District-Owned Real Property; Board Policy 3290 Gifts, Grants and Bequests; Board Policy 3300 Expenditures/Expending Authority; Board Policy and Rule 3310 Purchasing; Board Policy and Rule 3311 Bids; Board Policy 3311.5 Conflicts-of-Interest Design-Build Projects; Board Policy and Rule 3312 Contracts; Board Policy and Rule 3314 Payment for Goods and Services; Board Policy 3315 Relation with Vendors; Board Policy 3323.1 Contracts for Personal Consulting Services; Board Rule 3440 Inventories; Board Policy and Rule 3560 Warehousing

Mr. Kahn presented the proposed revisions to Board for consideration. He explained the revisions are mostly technical, apart from Board Policy and Rule 3310.

Ms. Sherry Alexander thanked staff for the hard work.

No further Board or public comments were given.

American Rescue Plan (ESSER III) Update

Robert Sahli, Associate Superintendent, Education Services, presented the American Rescue Plan update to Board, explaining the status of ESSER III expenditures and the remaining planned expenditures under the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Dr. Sahli requested direction from the Board for the completion of the American Rescue Plan and the transition of some expenditures to other funding resource options.

Mr. Porter asked where the technology owls from distance learning are located now and if we can look at reselling.

Discussion ensued.

Proposed Valley Robotics Academy (VRA) / Independence 2024-2025 Re-Organization

Peter Lambert, Director, Area 2, introduced Eric Sandstrom, Principal, Independence School and Stacy Kahn, Principal, Valley Robotics Academy, who spoke about the re-organization. Brad Braden, Teacher, Independence School, and Ami Wilson, Teacher, Valley Robotics Academy, commented on their positive teaching experiences at their sites.

Ms. Alexander asked for clarification on reducing the custodial time.

Mr. Sandstrom stated that the custodial hours are being increased, not decreased.

Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Macfarlane stated her concern that the charm and personality of each school site might get lost as they merge together.

Public Comments

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)

Desiree Wise, President, California School Employees, Lodi Chapter #77

Board Member Advisory Committee Reports

Dr. Bal spoke about the Long Range Facility Plan Committee meeting held earlier today on January 16, 2024.

Mr. Knackstedt stated that the Superintendent’s Budget Review Committee met, and a full report will be presented to the Board soon showing that auditors had no findings.

President Knackstedt stated that the City of Lodi 2x2 2024 Committee members have changed from Ms. Alexander and Mr. Stroh, to Mr. Porter and Mr. Stroh.

Comments from the Board

Mr. Porter spoke about struggles he has heard of at Valley Robotics Academy and requested staff to ensure the sites are getting the support needed.

Ms. Alexander commented about the 2024 San Joaquin County High School Honors Concert. She thanked M&O staff for the quick response on fixing the heat at Lodi Middle School.

Mr. Knackstedt said he is honored to be president and would like to run efficient meetings, reminding staff to always include a one page executive summary

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Clerk of the Board

President of the Board