



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
January 19, 2021  
Closed Session 6:00 p.m./Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

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**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 and Mr. Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer

**Student Representative:** Emma Glanville, Bear Creek High School, and Haley Escorpiso, Ronald McNair High School, were present.

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

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. via YouTube and GoToWebinar.

**Public Comment on Closed Session Items**

Kimberly Freeberg, Teacher, Lockeford Elementary School  
Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

**Adjourn to Closed Session**

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

**Reconvene Open Session**

The meeting was reconvened at 7:18 p.m. and attendance was recorded. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Student Representative, Haley Escorpiso.

**Closed Session**

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

**Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Special Education Para Educator from Ansel Adams, Carrie Song, who passed away on Saturday, January 2, 2021.

**Recognitions**

**Recognition of Colleen Guidi for her accomplishment of becoming a National Board Certified Teacher**

Superintendent Washer spoke about Colleen Guidi and her accomplishment of becoming a National Board Certified Teacher. Board members congratulated and thanked Ms. Guidi for her hard work. Lodi Education Association (LEA) representative, Lori Celiz, virtually presented Ms. Guidi with her National Board Certified Teacher pin.

### **School Board Recognition Month**

Dr. Washer presented a proclamation to honor Lodi USD Board of Education Members for School Board Recognition Month.

### **Public Hearings**

#### **California School Employees Association (CSEA) Re-opens for the 2020-23 Successor Agreement**

President Freitas declared open the Public Hearing: California School Employees Association (CSEA) Re-opens for the 2020-23 Successor Agreement.

No Board or public comments were received.

President Freitas declared the Public Hearing closed.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Washer thanked the Lodi Rotary Club and Stockton Elks Club for gifting the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students with dictionaries. She commented that GOT Kids foundation is continuing to serve students with the "Keeping Kids Connected" campaign and thanked everyone who has donated. Dr. Washer spoke about the purple tier being split into deep purple and purple, with San Joaquin County being in the deep purple tier. She stated vaccines for the education sector are being coordinated by the San Joaquin County Office of Education and should be available sometime early February through mid-March.

### **Comments from the Public**

Julie Childress, Teacher, Clairmont Elementary School  
Kimberly Freeberg, Teacher, Lockeford Elementary School  
Estela Oshalim, Teacher, Morada Middle School  
Dana Nelson, Teacher, Lodi Middle School  
Jamie Anaforian, Teacher, Tokay High School  
Maria Smith, Teacher, John Muir Elementary School  
Tara Spagnola, Teacher, George Washington Elementary School  
Amy Borland, Teacher, Larson Elementary School  
Anne Swehla Garcia, Teacher, Julia Morgan  
Jen Cassel, Teacher, Teacher, Tokay High School  
Jen Vasques, Teacher, Ansel Adams Elementary School  
Jenna Gonzales, Teacher, Podesta Ranch Elementary School  
Rebecca Pisano, Teacher, Creekside Elementary School  
Brandy De Alba, Parent

### **Board President Message**

President Freitas thanked his fellow Board members for giving him the honor of serving as Board President. He spoke about his priorities as president with the number one priority of getting students back to campuses for in-person instruction; secondly, advocating for increased public school funding; and third, working together with the community for what is best for our students.

Mr. Freitas presented three Board President Awards:

- Trudie Burt, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student, Erma B. Reese Elementary, for displaying exceptional service to the community and great leadership through the A.C.T. Project, that assisted local sheltered animals.
- Anne Swehla Garcia, teacher, Julia Morgan School, for displaying great leadership and exceptional service to the community by raising \$8,890 to purchase more than 500 turkeys for the Emergency Food Bank's Thanksgiving food giveaway.
- Debra Ladwig, CSEA leader, for displaying exceptional dedication and service during her terms as President of the California School Employees Association, Lodi, Chapter #77.

### **Comments from Board Members**

Mr. Neely stated his concerns about the upcoming February deadline for Governor Newsom's proposal and spoke about the achievement gap and making it a priority.

Mrs. Macfarlane thanked Mr. Kahn and his team for the comprehensive First Interim Budget report and the positive certification the report received.

Mr. Porter congratulated the President Award recipients. He commented about outsourcing and preferably keeping funds in our community.

Mr. Nava stated he agreed with President Freitas' priorities and can't wait to get kids back to in-person instruction.

Mr. Heberle commented on the difficulties of Distance Learning and the mixed messages from the government on the budget.

### **Comments from Student Representatives**

Emma Glanville, Bear Creek High School, and Haley Escorpiso, Ronald McNair High School, presented reports from their respective schools.

### **Board Organization**

#### **Board Safety Committee**

Mr. Heberle, Mrs. Macfarlane, and Mr. Freitas were appointed to the Board Safety Committee.

### **Consent Agenda A, Routine Business**

- Item A-1 Warrant Report
- Item A-2 Contracts List
- Item A-3 Changes to the Adopted Budget
- Item A-4 Purchase Order Detail Report
- Item A-5 Donations
- Item A-6 Addition of Haynes Family of Programs to the 2020-2021 Non-Public Agency Master Contract
- Item A-7 Quarterly Report Pursuant to the Williams and Valenzuela Settlements.
- Item A-8 Approval of Construction Project Change Order 1 - Tokay High School Increment 1 Site Work Project Number 0947-8247-1
- Item A-9 Approval of Construction Project Change Order 1 - Heritage Parking Lot & Paving Project at Heritage Elementary No. 0916-8216.
- Item A-10 Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of December 15, 2020

Mr. Nava moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda A, Routine Business, as presented.

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

Consent Agenda A, Routine Business, was approved as presented.

### **Other Action Items**

#### **Item OAI-1 Resolution 2021-01 for The Hiring of Short-term Classified Employees**

Dr. Washer presented resolution 2021-01 for the hiring of short-term classified employees for Board consideration.

No Board or Public comments were received.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-1 Resolution 2021-01 for The Hiring of Short-term Classified Employees.

#### **Item OAI-2 Resolution 2021-02 for The Hiring of Short-term Classified Employees**

Dr. Washer presented resolution 2021-02 for the hiring of short-term classified employees for Board consideration.

No Board or Public comments were received.

Mr. Nava moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-2 Resolution 2021-02 for The Hiring of Short-term Classified Employees.

#### **Item OAI-3 Resolution 2021-03 the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA) establishes a Farm to School Program in order to assist eligible entities, through grants and technical assistance, in implementing farm to school programs that improves access to local foods in eligible schools**

Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, stated that the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act is a five-million-dollar annual grant for Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade on a competitive basis. He stated that staff will request \$50,000 and the District will be requested to match, accordingly. Mr. Kahn stated the resolution is to authorize staff to pursue the grant.

No Board or Public comments were received.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Heberle seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-3 Resolution 2021-03 the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA) establishes a Farm to School Program in order to assist eligible entities, through grants and technical assistance, in implementing farm to school programs that improves access to local foods in eligible schools.

#### **Item OAI-4 Declaration of Obsolete Textbooks**

Robert Sahli, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, presented the declaration of obsolete textbooks in accordance with state education codes and District policies.

No Board or Public comments were received.

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Nava seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-4 Declaration of Obsolete Textbooks.

### **Personnel Matters**

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

#### Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

Amanda Linn, Teacher, Millswood Middle School

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

### **Reports**

#### **Governor's Proposals/Plans: CA Safe Schools for All Plan; Budget Trailer Bill including In-Person Instruction Grants**

Superintendent Washer shared information and details about the governor's proposal. She stated that if the Board is interested in moving forward with applying for the grant, they would need to adopt a resolution acknowledging the effort of moving forward with the grant.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Freitas proposed a Special Meeting be conducted to study and consider the governor's proposal.

#### Public Comments

Kimberly Freeberg, Teacher, Lockeford Elementary School

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

#### **Social-Emotional Support for Students; A Proposal for Identification and Intervention Tools from Panorama**

Jeff Palmquist, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, spoke briefly about the report and introduced Paul Warren, Administrative Director, Student Services/SELPA, who spoke about Panorama, a universal screener tool for social-emotional support for students. Aisha Brice, Program Coordinator, Instructional Services, spoke in more detail about the universal screener playbook and was available for questions.

Discussion ensued.

#### Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

### **Communications**

#### **Comments from Employee Group Representatives**

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association, spoke about the recent retirements and resignations and asked that Board and staff speak to retiring employees to ask why they are leaving. She commented about the COVID-19 notifications and self-assessment questionnaire. Ms. Orgon spoke

about negotiations, middle school department chairs, and commented that she hopes to come together on an agreement to recruit and retain teachers.

**Comments from the Superintendent**

Dr. Washer stated that California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) has put out a schedule for sports, based on the tiers, but if our county is under a stay-at-home order sports cannot start.

**Board Advisory Committee Reports**

No reports were presented.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

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Clerk of the Board

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President of the Board