



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**May 18, 2021**  
**Closed Session 6:00 p.m./Special 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. Gary Knackstedt; Mr. Joe Nava; and Mr. George Neely

**Administrative Staff:** Dr. Cathy Washer, Superintendent and Mr. Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer

**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 via YouTube and GoToWebinar.

**Public Comment on Closed Session Items**

President Freitas informed the audience that the timeframe for comments prior to Closed Session would not exceed twenty minutes.

Lori Buckland, School Site Secretary, Wagner-Holt Elementary School, spoke regarding contract negotiations for the classified employees who are members of the California School Employees Association (CSEA), Lodi, Chapter #77.

Sue Fowler, Bus Driver, Transportation Department, spoke about the reduction of days for school bus drivers due to the loss of twenty days of extended school year (transportation) and limited trips (extra-curricular activities). She asked the Board to consider what the CSEA bargaining team is proposing.

Kimberlie Johnson, Bus Driver, Transportation Department, asked the Board to consider a proposal for CSEA members that presents an equal compensation ratio similar to what was agreed on for the Lodi Education Association members.

Desiree Wise, Administrative Secretary III, Secondary Education, spoke of impacts and effects of COVID-19 and the full return of students, equality for all employees regarding contract settlements and extra pay (as compared to the LEA agreement) for the CSEA members working extended school year assignments. She added that morale among the CSEA members is low, as many feel overworked and underappreciated.

Tamathy Braden, Paraeducator, Wagner-Holt Elementary School, spoke of unsafe working conditions, employees working out of their respective classifications, and paraeducators working over the daily allotted contract time to assist teaching staff.

**Adjourn to Closed Session**

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

### **Reconvene Open Session**

The meeting was reconvened at 7:14 p.m. Attendance was recorded and President Freitas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Closed Session**

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

#### **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation**

Mr. Nava moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the settlement agreement of OAH Case No. 2021040004.

### **Moment of Silence**

President Freitas acknowledged Officer Jimmy Inn of the Stockton Police Department, who was shot and killed in the line of duty on May 11, 2021. Officer Inn was a former student of Morada Middle School and a 2015 graduate of Ronald E. McNair High School. A moment of silence was observed in his honor and condolences expressed for his family and colleagues.

### **Order of Agenda**

President Freitas changed the order of the agenda items.

### **Other Action Items**

#### **(Item OAI-3) Ratification of the Tentative Agreement with Lodi Education Association**

Superintendent Washer presented the tentative agreement for Board consideration and thanked the LEA team for their assistance in the ratification process.

#### **Public Comments**

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association, thanked the Board for the time and diligence it took to reach this agreement and expressed that the LEA members are happy with the agreement.

#### **Board Comments**

Mr. Neely commented that he is in favor of multi-year agreements and stated that it is his intention and the intention of the Board that all units receive this same kind of raise.

Mr. Freitas thanked the LEA team.

Mr. Knackstedt moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously, by voice vote, to approve Item OAI-3 Ratification of the Tentative Agreement with Lodi Education Association.

#### **(Item OAI-2) AB1200 Documents for Lodi Unified School District Employee Group: Lodi Education Association (“LEA”)**

Superintendent Washer noted a point of order, as the AB 1200 document needed to be considered prior to the ratification of the tentative agreement. Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, explained that having the item posted to the agenda satisfies the requirement of public disclosure and the actual voting process is a formality.

Mr. Nava suggested that the Board proceed with action on Item OAI-2.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Heberle seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-2 AB1200 Documents for Lodi Unified School District Employee Group: Lodi Education Association (“LEA”).

## **Discussion**

### **Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and LCAP Federal Addendum**

Superintendent Washer explained that this item is a continuation of the ongoing process with the next step being a presentation of the final version at a Board Meeting in June.

Robert Sahli, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, commented on the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) document, explaining how funds from the state meet the requirements of specific funding sources and how the plan aligns with Board goals.

Rafael Ceja, Coordinator, Education Support Services, presented an overview and fielded questions.

Mr. Heberle inquired as to the percentage a school must attain to be qualified for free/reduced lunch funding. Dr. Ceja explained the multiplier that is employed to attain the percentage. Dr. Washer noted that a different format would have eliminated some schools from receiving the funding.

Mr. Heberle asked how new personnel could be added after the LCAP is completed. Dr. Sahli explained how that might be achieved.

Mr. Neely began a discussion related to the academic standard percentages of Title 1 and non-Title 1 school sites. He presented charts, as examples of the disparities of test scores.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Neely would like this to be an ongoing Board agenda item.

### **Public Comments**

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

### **Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant**

Dr. Sahli presented the Expanded Learning Opportunity (ELO) grant for discussion noting that the application is due by June 1 and the grant would run through August 2022. The grant is one-time funding that will provide supplemental instruction and support for students who have faced adverse learning and social-emotional circumstances as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

Dr. Ceja detailed the seven allowable use categories of the grant opportunity. The grant would earmark a specific amount restricted to use with paraprofessionals and an amount specifically to address the needs of homeless students.

All Board Members commented in support of the grant opportunity. Mr. Neely inquired as to the potential need to hire a director to coordinate the grant.

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Public Comments

Branda Delatorre, Parent

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

Lisa Wilkins, Teacher, Morada Middle School

Maria Smith, Teacher, John Muir Elementary School

Kimberly Freeberg, Teacher, Lockeford School

**(Item OAI -1) Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant**

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Knackstedt seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-1 Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

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Clerk of the Board

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President of the Board

*Note: Lodi Unified School District Board of Education Meetings will return to in-person only meetings beginning with the June 15 meeting.*