



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 20, 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. Joe Nava; Mr. Gary Knackstedt; and Mr. George Neely

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

Student Representatives: Emma Glanville, Bear Creek High School, was absent, and Haley Escorpiso, McNair High School, was 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

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)

Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

Reconvene Open Session

The meeting was reconvened at 7:09 p.m. and attendance was recorded. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Student Representative, Haley Escorpiso.

Closed Session

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

Closed Session Student Matters:

Mr. Neely motioned, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the placement of 2020-2021 Non-Public School New Student number 58.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Washer congratulated Lodi Middle School for placing 3rd in the H2O Hackathon and being awarded \$500. She commented that the H2O Hackathon is a community-supported event that taps into the technological and problem-solving skills of San Joaquin County students to help find solutions to the state's water issues. Dr. Washer said thirty-five teams of competitors in middle school, high school, and college divisions had six hours to build an application that could help protect waterways from harmful algae blooms. She stated that at the end of the day, one team from each division was named the winner and received the \$5,000 Cal Water Golden Spigot Award and the goal of the annual event is to challenge students to develop solutions for California's water issues and experience the real-

world applications of science, engineering, and other skills they are learning in school. Dr. Washer thanked the Nutrition Services department for all their hard work navigating through the challenges during the pandemic and for recently adding an additional location for Distance Learning students to pick up grab-and-go lunches, for a total of three locations, Ronald McNair High School; Lodi Middle School; and Delta Sierra Middle School.

Board Recognition

Elementary Science Olympiad Recognition

Scott McGregor, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education, introduced Dr. Sanaa Abdulgader, Science Olympiad Coach, Elkhorn Elementary, who spoke briefly about the program and read the names of students who placed.

Staff will recognize High School teams that placed in the top three in the Science Olympiad Competition

Jeff Palmquist, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education, introduced Eric Sandstrom, Principal, Tokay High School, who spoke briefly about the program and then introduced Dr. Kianna Cox, Science Olympiad Coach, Tokay High School, who thanked everyone involved in the program and named the winners in each category. Mr. Palmquist introduced Lisa Ing, Science Olympiad Coach, Lodi High School, who spoke about how different the year was due to COVID-19. She listed off the senior students and recognized the winners in each category.

Proclamation and Recognition of National Assistant/Vice Principals Week, April 5-9, 2021

Mr. Porter presented and read the proclamation and recognition of National Assistant/Vice Principals Week, April 5-9, 2021.

Reports

Update, Lodi USD Response to the Health Pandemic Including the Start of In-Person Instruction, Board of Education Meeting Structure, and County/State Information

President Freitas moved the Update, Lodi USD Response to the Health Pandemic Including the Start of In-Person Instruction, Board of Education Meeting Structure, and County/State Information report to before the Recognition of Lodi Unified School District Staff for Implementing a Full Return to In-Person Instruction.

Dr. Washer thanked the Board for their direction, vision, and consistent message from the beginning of the pandemic. She noted that Board's top priority was to have all students back in school, full-time, as soon as possible, with safety measures in place. She gave a brief update on the county tier status as of April 13, 2021, showing COVID-19 Case Rate at 9.9; Adjusted Case Rate at 9.6; Positivity Rate at 3.9%; and Health Equity Quartile Positivity Rate at 4.1%, keeping the county in the Red Tier. Dr. Washer stated on June 15, 2021, per the Governor's Beyond the Blueprint, California will fully reopen its economy across the state if certain conditions are met. She introduced Scott McGregor, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education; Jeff Palmquist, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education; and Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, Business Services, who each gave an update on the full in-person start and return to school from their respective departments. Dr. Washer spoke about the structure of Board Meetings moving forward and asked for the Board's direction. She suggested to start

including the public in-person at the May 4, 2021 Board Meeting, following health/safety measures per health guidance with limited capacity, spacing, masks, and temperature checks.

The Board thanked everyone involved in making the return to full in-person school a possibility.

The Board gave direction to open the meetings to in-person public attendance with all safety measures in place and to move the location from the scheduled Bear Creek High School location to the James Areida Education Support Center boardrooms.

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)

Recognition of Lodi Unified School District Staff for Implementing a Full Return to In-Person Instruction

President Freitas recognized each employee group for their efforts in implementing a full return to in-person instruction. The following representatives accepted and spoke briefly: Randy Cordoviz, President, California School Employees Association, Lodi, Chapter #77 (CSEA); Valerie McFee, Co-Chair, Confidential Employee Group; Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA); Dean Blount, President, Lodi Pupil Personnel Association (LPPA); Erik Sandstrom, President, LUSD Administrators Association (LUSDAA); and Cindy Oliver, President, Lodi Unified Supervisors Group (LUSG).

Comments from Student Representatives

Haley Escorpiso, McNair High School, presented her report. Emma Glanville, Bear Creek High School, was absent.

President Freitas dismissed Ms. Escorpiso after her report.

Comments from the Public

Michael Cazale, Teacher, Lodi Middle School, spoke about middle school department chair stipends.

Maria Smith, Teacher, John Muir Elementary School, spoke about technology glitches with student Chromebooks and about settling the Lodi Education Association (LEA) 19/20 contract.

Lisa Wilkins, Teacher, Morada Middle School, spoke about the LEA 19/20 contract and cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).

Elizabeth Ing, Teacher, Lodi High School, spoke about the LEA 19/20 contract, COLA, possible student survey on return to school, and student food distribution.

Rebecca Bratcher, Teacher, Beckman Elementary School, thanked the District for the recent MOU. She commented about settling the LEA 19/20 contract and book distribution for her special day class.

Christy Dougherty, Teacher, Lawrence Elementary School, spoke about a fair contract and competitive wages for teachers.

Lana Gentry, Teacher, Bear Creek High School, commented on settling the LEA 19/20 contract, COLA, competitive wages for classified employees, and recognized Robert Raymos, Maintenance & Operations, Heating & A/C Technician, for his great work.

Jen Vasques, Teacher, Ansel Adams Elementary School, acknowledged the positive steps towards recognizing the challenges teachers face with teaching both in-person and Distance Learning. She spoke about settling the LEA 19/20 contract and COLA.

Kimberly Freeberg, Teacher, Lockeford School, spoke about keeping Board meetings virtual when in-person meetings resume, Board communication, settling the LEA 19/20 contract and COLA.

Consent Agenda A - Routine Business

Mr. Porter pulled Item A-2 Contracts List from Consent Agenda A for discussion.

- Item A-1 Warrant Report
- Item A-3 Changes to the Adopted Budget
- Item A-4 Purchase Order Detail Report
- Item A-5 Quarterly Report Pursuant to the Williams and Valenzuela Settlements
- Item A-6 Donations
- Item A-7 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 6, 2021

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

Items Pulled From Consent Agenda A

Item A-2 Contracts List

Mr. Porter commented on the Lozano Smith Attorneys at Law new contract total and questioned why the District does not review exactly what the law firms, including Kingsley Bogard, do each year and what services they provide.

President Freitas requested they vote on A-2 Contracts List and discuss Mr. Porter's requested change in policy at a later time.

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Knackstedt seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item A-2 Contracts List.

Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases

- Item B-1 Expulsion: Student # 20/21-6-02
- Item B-2 Expulsion: Student # 20/21-6-03
- Item B-3 Readmission: Student # 19/20-5-48
- Item B-4 Reinstatement: Student # 19/20-10-38

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda B, Routine Business, as presented.

Other Action Items

Item OAI-1 504 Data Management Program – Frontline

Dr. Washer stated the District has time sensitive compliance issues with 504 plan student data tracking. She explained the Frontline product would assist in ensuring that appropriate timelines are maintained. She introduced Paul Warren, Administrative Director, Student Services/SELPA, who spoke about Frontline, an electronic database that will consolidate student data and will help fulfill 504 plan compliance.

No Board comments were received.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Neely seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-1 504 Data Management Program – Frontline.

Personnel Matters

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

No Board or public comments were received.

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Knackstedt seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Personnel Matters.

Reports Continued

Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Actions and Services

President Freitas moved the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Actions and Services to a future meeting.

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)

Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Stakeholder Input

President Freitas moved the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Stakeholder Input to a future meeting.

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)

Communications

Comments from Employee Group Representatives

Randy Cordoviz, President, California School Employees Association, Lodi, Chapter #77 (CSEA), stated that classified employees are experiencing anxiety due to increased workloads and requested Board offer compensation to show respect towards CSEA members.

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA), spoke about District communication, the LEA MOU, food distribution for Distance Learners, how students can get COVID-19 tests through the District, and safety plan protocols.

Comments from Board Members

Mr. Neely requested that the District re-evaluate vice principal and principal assignments.

Mr. Knackstedt requested the next Board meeting not be open to in-person public attendance; however, he would like seating available for the employee group representatives.

Mr. Porter stated the pandemic has exposed some areas of weakness and moving forward he would like the District to move away from “us vs them” and come together more collaboratively.

Comments from the Superintendent

Dr. Washer had no further comments.

Board Advisory Committee Reports

No reports were presented.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Clerk of the Board

President of the Board