



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**
November 19, 2024
Closed Session 6:00 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. Joe Nava; and Mr. Courtney Porter

Board Member Absent: Mr. Jeff Stroh

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

Student Representatives: Ms. Margaret Machado, Tokay High School; Ms. Lexi Thor, Bear Creek High School; and Ms. Selene Wang, 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 6:00 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 7:05 p.m. Attendance was recorded and Board President Knackstedt lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session

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

Placement of Non-Public School Students (New)

Mr. Nava motioned, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted to approve the placement of new non-public school students numbers 35, 129, and 130, by the following vote:

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

Personnel Matters

Mr. Nava motioned, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to approve the appointment of Cynthia Warmerdam as Middle School Vice Principal, location and effective date, to be determined, by the following vote:

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

Mr. Knackstedt read the following statement from closed session:

“Per Section 10 of the Superintendent’s Contract, the Lodi Unified School District Board of Education completed the Superintendent’s written evaluation for the 2023/2024 year. The Board deemed the Superintendent’s performance as progressing acceptably or better, in all areas. As such, this is notification that the Superintendent’s Contract was extended by the Board for one additional year (July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027).”

Recognition

2025-2026 Classified Employee of the Year

Amber Jager, Director of Personnel, and Eric Collins, Director of Personnel, presented the Classified Employee of the Year awards to Raul Garcia, Head Custodian, Borchardt Elementary; Narey Soy, Principal Secretary I, Westwood Elementary; Merlin Watkins, Paraeducator/Severely Handicapped, John Muir Elementary.

2025-2026 School Counselor of the Year

Mr. Collins introduced Aisha Brice, Program Coordinator, Positive School Climate, who presented the School Counselor of the Year award to Sandra Warmerdam, Plaza Robles High School.

Public Hearing

The public hearing “Lodi Unified Board of Education will officially receive the Charter School Renewal Petitions from Aspire Benjamin Holt College Preparatory Academy, Aspire Benjamin Holt Middle School, Aspire Vincent Shalvey Academy, and Aspire River Oaks Charter School which seeks to renew the charters from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2030” was declared open.

No Board or public comments were received. The public hearing was declared closed.

Comments from Student Representatives

Ms. Margaret Machado, Tokay High School; Ms. Lexi Thor, Bear Creek High School; and Ms. Selene Wang, Middle College High School, presented reports from their respective schools.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Young presented Mr. Knackstedt with a Disney themed necktie embossed with Lodi USD logo for his year of service as the 2024 Board President and a crystal apple award for his eight years of service to the Board of Education.

President Knackstedt expressed his thanks and spoke of his time as a teacher, coach, and Board member with Lodi USD.

Comments from Employee Representatives

Rodrigo Contreras, President, California School Employees Association (CSEA), Lodi Chapter #77, thanked Board for progress during negotiations, stating CSEA is looking forward to solving many issues.

Selene Wang, Middle College High School, Student Representative, excused herself from the meeting.

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA), spoke about LEA elections and possible controversy with non-LEA members influencing the votes.

Comments from the Public

Tony Solina, Executive Director, Aspire Public Schools, spoke about the charter school renewals, stating they are grateful for the long partnership with Lodi USD.

Araceli Ramirez, Teacher, McNair High School, spoke about her concerns with possibly removing the block schedule at McNair High School.

Joseph Gardea, Community Member, congratulated Mr. Nava on his re-election to Board.

Erin Chester-Bradt, Teacher, McNair High School, spoke about her positive experiences with the block schedule and concerns about removing it.

Tammy Williams-Ankorn, Teacher, John Muir Elementary School, thanked Board for having substitutes for the new data input and for a part-time teacher for SIPPS. She suggested technology figure out a way to pull data more efficiently from all the different applications.

Public Comments on Consent Agenda A

No public comments were received.

Consent Agenda A, Routine Business

Mr. Macfarlane pulled Item A-4 and Mr. Porter pulled item A-5.

- Item A-1 Contracts List (Mrs. Juarez)
- Item A-2 Warrant Report (Mrs. Juarez)
- Item A-3 Approval of Certificated and Classified Personnel Matters (Mrs. Church)
- Item A-6 Resolution 2024-130 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Vinewood Elementary Modernization Phase III Project No. 0936-8236-340-17 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-7 Resolution 2024-119 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Bear Creek High School Gym Lockers Replacement - Project No. 0871-8871-500-1 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-8 Resolution 2024-124 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Christa McAuliffe Re-roof Repair Project 0825-8425-400-1 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-9 Resolution 2024-125 Authorizing Filing of the Notice of Completion (NOC) for the Lodi High School Demolition and New Flooring in Six Classrooms - Project No. 0825-8425-4 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-10 Resolution 2024-126 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Bear Creek High School Repair and Refinish Gym Floor Project No. 0825-8425-500-6 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-11 Resolution 2024-127 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Lodi High School Repair and Refinish Gym Floor Project No. 0825-8425-560-5 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-12 Resolution 2024-128 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Lakewood Elementary School Modernization Phase III Project No. 0921-8221-200-16 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-13 Resolution 2024-132 – Authorization to Advertise and Solicit Bids for the Parklane Flooring 2025, Project No. 0825-8425-280-24 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-14 Resolution 2024-134 Authorizing Declaring the Futility of Bidding for Work and Approving That Work for the Lakewood Elementary School Modernization Phase II Project No. 0921-8221-1 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-15 Resolution 2024-135 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the JAESC Fencing Project 0879-8079-800-7 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-16 Lodi Pupil Personnel Association (LPPA) Re-opens for the 2024-25 Year (Mrs. Church)
- Item A-17 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 5, 2024 (Mr. Young)

Dr. Bal moved, Ms. Alexander seconded, and the Board voted to approve Consent Agenda A, Routine Business, as amended, by the following vote:

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

Student Representatives voted unanimously aye.

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

Item A-4 Resolution 2024-131 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Lodi Middle School Modernization Phase I (Interior Concrete) Project No. 0949-8429-440-15

Mrs. Macfarlane asked for clarification on the phrase “blacktop”. Mrs. Holbert stated that it is for interior concrete work, inside of the campus area only.

Ms. Alexander asked when the project will start. Mrs. Holbert replied stating the work will begin next summer.

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Mr. Nava seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item A-4 Resolution 2024-131 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Lodi Middle School Modernization Phase I (Interior Concrete) Project No. 0949-8429-440-15, by the following vote:

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

Student Representatives voted unanimously aye.

Item A-5 Resolution 2024-137 Award of Contract and Authorization to begin work for the Tokay High School Baseball Fields Project No. 0800-5800-600-001

Mr. Porter asked if the fields will be competition size fields that meet all the regulations. Mrs. Holbert stated the fields will meet CIF specifications for daytime play only because lighting is not included in the bid award. Discussion ensued.

The Board choose not to take action and would like for the Long-Range Facility Plan Committee to meet and discuss Board’s concerns.

Public Comments:

Rodrigo Contreras, President, California School Employees Association (CSEA), Lodi Chapter #77
Anne Swehla Garcia, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary

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 # 24/25-8-08
- Item B-2 Expulsion: Student # 24/25-10-09
- Item B-3 Expulsion: Student # 24/25-10-10

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

Ayes:	Alexander; Bal; Knackstedt; Macfarlane; Nava; Porter
Noes:	none
Abstain:	none
Absent:	Stroh

Motion Carried

Other Action Items

Item OAI-1 AB1200 Documents for Lodi Unified School District Employee Group: Lodi Unified Supervisor's Group ("LUSG")

Mrs. Juarez presented the LUSG AB1200 documents that states 1) the salary schedule shall be increased by 1.07% on-going for LUSG bargaining group; and 2) Health and welfare premiums have increased for 2024/25 school year and to mitigate these increases, the District shall provide a one-time supplemental allocation (\$100,800) to LUSG for distribution to unit members.

Mr. Nava moved, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-1 AB1200 Documents for Lodi Unified School District Employee Group: Lodi Unified Supervisor's Group ("LUSG"), by the following vote:

Ayes:	Alexander; Bal; Knackstedt; Macfarlane; Nava; Porter
Noes:	none
Abstain:	none
Absent:	Stroh

Motion Carried

Student Representatives voted unanimously aye.

Item OAI-2 Ratification of the Tentative Agreement with Lodi Unified Supervisorial Group

Mrs. Church presented the ratification of the tentative agreement with LUSG for Board review.

Public Comments:

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association

Mr. Nava moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-2 Ratification of the Tentative Agreement with Lodi Unified Supervisorial Group, by the following vote:

Ayes:	Alexander; Bal; Knackstedt; Macfarlane; Nava; Porter
Noes:	none
Abstain:	none
Absent:	Stroh

Motion Carried

Student Representatives voted unanimously aye.

Item OAI-3 Expanded Learning Opportunities

Dr. Horton presented the Expanded Learning Opportunities Plan for Board approval after the report on November 5.

Public Comments:

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association

Mr. Nava moved, Ms. Alexander seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-3 Expanded Learning Opportunities, by the following vote:

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

Student Representatives voted unanimously aye.

Item OAI-4 Approval of a Counselor on Special Assignment and Program Coordinator of College and Career

Dr. Horton stated as a follow-up to the November 5, 2024, Board Study Session meeting, staff is recommending the placement of a counselor on special assignment and to hire a program coordinator assigned to oversee the college and career initiative.

Ms. Alexander commented that she likes how things are moving forward quickly and asked about funding and grants. Discussion ensued.

Public Comments:

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-4 Approval of a Counselor on Special Assignment and Program Coordinator of College and Career, by the following vote:

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

Student Representatives voted unanimously aye.

Board Member Advisory Reports

No reports were shared.

Comments from Board Members

Board members thanked Mr. Knackstedt for his eight years of service to the Board and his year of Presidency.

Dr. Bal spoke about being a practicing Sikh and thanked the District for acknowledgement of California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

Mr. Knackstedt stated he has no interest in eliminating the block schedule.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.