



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 30, 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. Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer

Student Representatives: 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 6:03 p.m. via YouTube and GoToWebinar.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association
Christopher Funge, Teacher, Ellerth E. Larson Elementary School
Carole Funge, Teacher, Tokay High School
Kimberly Freeberg, Teacher, Lockeford School

Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

Reconvene Open Session

The meeting was reconvened at 7:22 p.m. and attendance was recorded. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board member, Mr. Neely.

Announcement

Closed Session

President Freitas announced that all students, Kindergarten thru 12th grade will return to full-time, five days a week, Monday, April 12, 2021 and that bargaining units will be given the opportunity to negotiate the impacts and effects of the decision.

Closed Session Personnel Matters:

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Brian Heck as Elementary Principal, effective 2021/2022 School Year, location to be determined.

Mrs. Macfarlane motioned, Mr. Heberle seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Jamie Moso as Elementary Principal, effective 2021/2022 School Year, location to be determined.

Mrs. Macfarlane motioned, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Sarah Santana as Elementary Principal, effective 2021/2022 School Year, location to be determined.

Mr. Neely motioned, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Alyssa Barban as Elementary Vice Principal, effective 2021/2022 School Year, location to be determined.

Mr. Porter motioned, Mr. Heberle seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Phillip Jay as Elementary Vice Principal, effective 2021/2022 School Year, location to be determined.

Mr. Nava motioned, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Arminah Zarif as Elementary Vice Principal, effective 2021/2022 School Year, location to be determined.

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Heberle seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Melissa Zermeno as Elementary Vice Principal, effective 2021/2022 School Year, location to be determined.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Washer apologized for reading a public comment statement with inaccurate information at the last meeting. She stated public comments will no longer be read aloud at Board meetings but may be submitted to the Superintendent's office for distribution to each Board member. Dr. Washer stated Board gives opportunity for public input at meetings, via email and through the "contact us" link on the District website, as well as by contacting Board members directly. She asked that communication at District meetings and social media platforms be kept respectful. She thanked Lodi USD school nurses and all of the nurses throughout San Joaquin County for their work at the vaccination clinics. Dr. Washer thanked Lodi Walgreens for offering an additional vaccine clinic to District employees and extended thanks to Chelsea Vongehr for coordinating the Walgreen clinic. She thanked the student government classes at Tokay High School and Bear Creek High School for their time and effort in speaking with her about current District issues. She commended Board for the direction given tonight to start full time, in-person learning for all students.

Board Recognition

President Freitas recognized Lynn Aebi for her exceptional dedication and service as the outgoing Executive Director of Giving Opportunities to Kids Foundation (GOT Kids) and introduced Janelle Barsetti, the new Executive Director of GOT Kids. He recognized the Middle College High Academic Decathlon Team and the Division 1 Team for their accomplishments at the state competition.

The Board took a short break due to technical issues.

Comments from Student Representatives

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

Report

Update on the Start of In-Person Instruction

President Freitas moved the Update on the Start of In-Person Instruction report to after student comments.

Dr. Washer shared pictures from school sites highlighting the first day of in-person learning. She gave an update on COVID-19 rates for San Joaquin County: Case Rate 10; Adjusted Case Rate 10.2; Positivity Rate 4.4 (Red Tier); and Health Equity Measure 4.8 (Orange Tier). Dr. Washer commented that San Joaquin County is still in the Purple Tier. She stated that the San Diego court case hearing date has moved from April 1 to April 8. She commented that the District Safety Plans were submitted to the county public health department on March 25 for review and to the state, March 29. Dr. Washer spoke a little about the Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant and the plans for how the money will be spent. She commented on current issues with the start of in-person learning including: technology and internet connection issues; opportunities for COVID-19 testing; and after school programs.

Mr. Neely commented on the Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant and suggested that extending instructional learning time should be a priority this summer.

Discussion ensued.

Student Representatives Emma Glanville and Haley Escorpiso, both voiced their concerns about returning to in-person learning, stating they would prefer to continue Distance Learning but noted the positive points such as, seeing their fellow students and teachers, and being able to take part in graduation. Student representatives were dismissed after their comments.

Public Comments

Tom Moccia, Parent

Lisa Wilkins, Teacher, Morada Middle School

Branda Delatorre, Parent

Aaron Lange, Parent

Andrea Moccia, Parent

Becky Harper, Parent

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

Harmandeep Batth, Student, Tokay High School

Comments from the Public

Lisa Wilkins, Teacher, Morada Middle School, spoke about settling the Lodi Education Association (LEA) 19/20 contract.

JessaLee Goehring, Parent, thanked the Board for the discussion to open schools for in-person learning and stated the focus should be the students' social and emotional well-being.

Kimberly Freeberg, Teacher, Lockeford School, spoke about the technology issues during class.

Christi Thomas, Teacher, Borchardt Elementary School, commented on student Distance Learning scheduling issues.

Marielle Petricevich, Music Teacher, spoke about the technology issues during class.

Consent Agenda A, Routine Business

- Item A-1 Contracts List
- Item A-2 Changes to the Adopted Budget
- Item A-3 Purchase Order Detail Report
- Item A-4 Warrant Report
- Item A-5 Resolution 2021-16 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Ronald McNair High School Jive Wiring Infrastructure Project
- Item A-6 Resolution 2021-22 Authorizing Certain Employees to Sign Orders Drawn on School District Funds
- Item A-7 Resolution 2021-23 Authorizing Lodi Unified School District To Apply for \$180 million In Grants Under the Low or No Emission Grant Program
- Item A-8 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 2, 2021
- Item A-9 Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 9, 2021
- Item A-10 Minutes of the Study Session Meeting of March 9, 2021

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

Other Action Items

Item OAI-1 Class of 2021 Graduation Requirements

Jeff Palmquist, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education, presented a report at the March 2nd Board Meeting, which outlined a proposal to reduce the current District graduation requirement of 230 credits, which exceeds the state minimum, to 210 credits for 2021. He also recommended the Board reduce the four-year English requirement, to three years which is the state minimum requirement. This served as a follow up action item to formally consider the proposal.

Discussion ensued.

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

Mr. Nava moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-1 Class of 2021 Graduation Requirements.

Consent Agenda B - Student Discipline Cases

Revoke Suspended Expulsion: Student # 19/20-7-32

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

Personnel Matters

Personnel Matters were presented for Board consideration.

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

The Board took a short break.

Reports (continued)

Turner Expansion Proposal

Paul Warren, Administrative Director, Student Services/SELPA, introduced Marie Caffese, Program Coordinator, Special Education, to present the Turner Academy expansion proposal. Mrs. Caffese gave a brief background on Turner Academy, explaining it was opened to try and prevent students from needing to be placed in a non-public school. She stated, currently, there are 28 students housed in the 3 classrooms (K-3rd, 4th-6th, and 7th-8th), with total capacity of 36 students on campus. Mrs. Caffese commented that a strict 4:1 student/teacher ratio is enforced at Turner Academy for the safety of everyone. She stated, on average, they have about two referrals a year for placement at a non-public school from Turner Academy. She explained the intent is to create a Kindergarten through 12th grade continuum of service for emotionally, behaviorally and academically challenged students to bring back and prevent students from attending schools out to the District by providing better services and reducing the cost to the District. Mrs. Caffese reported that currently the District has 18 students at non-public schools with at an annual cost of \$993,640, with the average cost per student placed being \$55,202. She explained an avenue for adding 11th and 12th grade classrooms and seeking WASC accreditation as a route to a diploma pathway.

Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, commented on possible locations for an alternative campus and associated site development costs.

Discussion ensued.

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

Proposal to Increase School Bus Drivers to 1.00 FTE (8 hrs/day)

Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, presented a report to increase partial day bus drivers to 1.0 full-time equivalent employee for Board consideration.

Discussion ensued.

The Board stated they are in favor of increasing the school bus drivers to 1.0 FTE.

No public comments were received.

Communications

Comments from Employee Group Representatives

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA), congratulated and thanked Lynn Aebi, former Executive Director of GOT Kids. She announced that LEA is accepting student scholarship applications for students who are interested in becoming a teacher. Ms. Orgon spoke about the District's mission statement and about the public comment that was read at the last Board meeting. She spoke about communication and requested that District staff and Board members be visible during Board meetings.

Comments from Board Members

Mr. Knackstedt shared that Robert Winterhalter, Athletic Director, Lodi High School, created a patch with the phrase "2020 Athlete 6 Feet ahead of the competition COVID-19" for all student athletes who participated and completed a sport.

Mr. Freitas wished everyone a happy Caesar Chavez day.

Mr. Porter referenced Mr. Palmquist's graduation requirement report and requested changes and information on: adding on to high school periods; further review of graduation requirements; increasing dual-enrollment opportunities; a summer school update; review of current grading, attendance and homework policies; and information about adjusting to the needs of Distance Learning.

No further Board comments were given.

Comments from the Superintendent

Dr. Washer had no further comments.

Board Advisory Committee Reports

No reports were presented.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

Clerk of the Board

President of the Board