



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 16, 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 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 6:00 p.m. via YouTube and GoToWebinar.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association
Doug Zuehlke, Music Teacher

Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

Reconvene Open Session

The meeting was reconvened at 7:10 p.m. and attendance was recorded. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Student Representative, Emma Glanville.

Closed Session

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

Public Hearings

Lodi Pupil Personnel Association (LPPA) Re-opens for the 2020-21 Year. On February 2, 2021 the Board of Education acknowledged receipt of the 2020-21 re-opener for Lodi Pupil Personnel Association

President Freitas declared open the Public Hearing: Lodi Pupil Personnel Association (LPPA) Re-opens for the 2020-21 Year.

No Board or public comments were received.

President Freitas declared the Public Hearing closed.

Recognition

Proclamation and Recognition of National School Counseling Week, February 1-5, 2021

Courtney Porter, Board Clerk, presented the proclamation in recognition of National School Counseling Week.

President's Award(s)

Mr. Freitas presented Rajan Nathaniel, Policy Advisor to Stockton Mayor Kevin J. Lincoln and Bear Creek High School alumni, with the President's Award for displaying exceptional leadership and service to the Lodi and Stockton communities. Mayor Lincoln spoke and recognized Mr. Nathaniel's accomplishments.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Washer congratulated Rajan Nathaniel for receiving the President's Award. She recognized the counselors and their creativity, showing unique student engagement techniques during the pandemic. Dr. Washer thanked Dr. Maggie Park, County Public Health Officer, San Joaquin County Public Health Services, and the staff at San Joaquin County Office of Education for the quick start on the vaccination rollout. She announced that Middle College High School won top overall team placing 1st at the 40th Annual San Joaquin County Academic Decathlon. Dr. Washer showed a clip of our students and staff at George Washington Elementary, Oakwood Elementary, and Westwood Elementary, live on Good Day Sacramento highlighting their involvement in the Great Kindness Challenge. She stated they completed the challenge with over 15,600 total acts of kindness and collected 573 pounds of coffee that was donated to 1st of the 143rd Artillery Battery/40th Cavalry Regiment, 40th Infantry Division.

Comments from Student Representatives

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

Comments from the Public

Shannon Rodriguez, Teacher, Lodi Middle School, spoke about compensation for middle school department chairs.

Branda Delatorre, Parent, spoke about starting in-person classes after the county reaches the red tier.

Kimberly Freeberg, Teacher, Lockeford School, spoke about settling the 2019/2020 teacher contract.

Consent Agenda A, Routine Business

Ms. Orgon pulled Item A-2, Mr. Kahn pulled Item A-6, and Mr. Heberle pulled Item A-9 and A-10 from Consent Agenda A for discussion.

- Item A-1 Warrant Report
- Item A-3 Purchase Order Detail Report
- Item A-4 Annual Renewal of Services: Super Co-Op, A California USDA Foods Cooperative for the School Year 2021-22
- Item A-5 Approval of 2019-20 School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs), Published During 2020-21
- Item A-7 Resolution 2021-12 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Kitchen Renovation at Houston/Serna Project No. 0803-8103
- Item A-8 California Studies Course of Study and Textbook Adoption

- Item A-11 Essentials of English Language Arts Course of Study
- Item A-12 Essentials of Health and Family Living Course of Study
- Item A-13 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 2, 2021

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

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

Item A-2 Contracts List

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association, questioned the following contracts: (3) Agreement with Platinum Teletherapy; to provide speech services for Lodi Unified School District students in grade K-12; for 2020/2021; for \$68,400 and (4) Agreement with The Ron Clark Academy; to provide virtual professional development for Live Oak Elementary School for 2020/2021; for \$50,000.

Mr. Nava motioned, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item A-2 Contracts List.

The student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Item A-6 Resolution 2021-11 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Fire Alarm Replacement Project at Needham Elementary School No. 0917-8217-7

Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, tabled Item A-6 Resolution 2021-11 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Fire Alarm Replacement Project at Needham Elementary School No. 0917-8217-7.

Item A-9 Cultural Studies Course of Study

Mr. Heberle stated he pulled Item A-9 Cultural Studies Course of Study so he could vote on it separately from Consent Agenda A – Routine Business.

Mr. Porter and Mrs. Macfarlane stated their concern that the same course should be taught at all high schools. Discussion ensued.

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

Mr. Porter motioned, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded and the Board approved Item A-9 Cultural Studies Course of Study by the following vote:

Ayes: Freitas; Knackstedt; Macfarlane; Nava; Neely; Porter

Noes: Heberle

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion Carried

No student vote was taken.

Item A-10 Essentials of Literature and Expository Writing Course of Study

Mr. Heberle stated he didn't understand how the credits were earned and wanted Robert Sahli, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment, to explain.

Dr. Salhi explained that these are the last three courses in a series of essential courses to help deliver a pathway for certain students who can meet standards, through accommodations and teacher support, a pathway to a diploma instead of a certificate.

Mr. Heberle motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item A-10 Essentials of Literature and Expository Writing Course of Study.

No student vote was taken.

Other Action Items

Item OAI-1 Eligibility

President Freitas moved Item OAI-1 to after the Athletics Update Report.

Item OAI-2 The Aspire River Oaks Charter School - Elementary Petition is presented for Board consideration. The petition seeks to renew the charter from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2028.

Scott McGregor, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, presented the Aspire River Oaks Charter School – Elementary Petition for Board consideration.

Mr. Knackstedt clarified that the petition is for current charter schools we already have, not new ones.

Mr. Neely stated that Aspire Charter schools have been great to work with and understands why the Board is apprehensive to approve new charters because it takes funds away from Lodi Unified School District. He commented the only way to not have them, is to make them unnecessary and stated that Lodi USD should take a closer look into what they offer and raise Lodi USD quality and offerings.

No further Board comments received.

Public Comments

Tony Solina, Superintendent, Aspire Public Schools, Central Valley Area

Mr. Nava motioned, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded and the Board approved Item OAI-2 The Aspire River Oaks Charter School - Elementary Petition is presented for Board consideration. The petition seeks to renew the charter from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2028, by the following vote:

Ayes: Freitas; Heberle; Knackstedt; Macfarlane; Nava; Neely

Noes: Porter

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion Carried

The student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Item OAI-3 The Aspire Ben Holt - Middle School Petition is presented for Board consideration. The petition seeks to renew the charter from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2028.

Mr. McGregor presented the Aspire Ben Holt – Middle School Petition for Board consideration.

No comments were received.

Mr. Knackstedt motioned, Mr. Neely seconded and the Board approved Item OAI-3 The Aspire Ben Holt - Middle School Petition is presented for Board consideration. The petition seeks to renew the charter from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2028, by the following vote:

Ayes:	Freitas; Heberle; Knackstedt; Macfarlane; Nava; Neely	
Noes:	Porter	
Abstain:	none	
Absent:	none	Motion Carried

The student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Item OAI-4 2021 California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly Election
The ballot for the 2021 Delegate Assembly, Subregion 8-A, San Joaquin County, is presented.
Board may vote for up to two (2) candidates. Candidates from Subregion 8-A are George Neely, Lodi USD; Christopher "Kit" Oase, Ripon USD; Courtney Porter, Lodi USD.

Mr. Freitas presented the ballot for the California School Boards Association 2021 Delegate Assembly, Subregion 8-A, San Joaquin County, to the Board for action.

No comments were received.

Mr. Freitas moved, Mr. Nava seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to cast their vote for the following two (2) candidates on the CSBA Delegate Assembly ballot for Sub region 8-A: George Neely, Lodi USD and Courtney Porter, Lodi USD.

The Student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Personnel Matters

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

No comments were received.

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

Reports

Athletics Update

Jeff Palmquist, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education, stated California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) updates their guidance weekly and direction is evolving with input from multiple agencies. He commented CIF has authorized the following leagues to begin practice and competition for purple tier sports: cross country; golf; skiing/snowboarding; swimming/diving; tennis; and track & field all with no spectators or volunteers. Mr. Palmquist stated that competitions, meets, races, or similar events are authorized only if (a) both teams are located in the same county and the sport is authorized, or (b) teams are located in immediately bordering counties and the sport is authorized in both counties. He commented that Lodi Unified School District has held seven CPR/First Aid trainings for District employees, including coaches.

Item OAI-1 Eligibility

Mr. Palmquist stated that at the May 5, 2020 Board Meeting, the Board approved a one-time probationary period for fall sports that set aside the eligibility criteria so that more students could be eligible to compete. He noted that at the February 2, 2021 Board Meeting, Board requested to discuss eligibility again.

Mr. Porter asked if all freshman students have a one-time waiver.

Michael Holst, Athletic Director, Tokay High School, stated that the freshman waiver would have expired at the end of the first quarter. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Macfarlane asked if the attendance policy will be in place.

Mr. Holst stated that direction was never given to stop the attendance policy and they will continue running attendance reports.

Mr. Knackstedt asked if the CPR/First Aid classes were approved by the California Interscholastic Federation and stated that it takes a large group of coaches, parents, and volunteers to put on a track meet and he would like to know how that was going to work with the purple tier restrictions. Discussion ensued.

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Neely seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-1 Eligibility, by the following vote:

Ayes: Freitas; Heberle; Knackstedt; Macfarlane; Nava; Neely

Noes: Porter

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion Carried

The student representatives were dismissed, and Board took a short break.

Elementary Education Summer Learning Opportunity

Scott McGregor, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education, shared a survey that was conducted showing that 64 teachers would be interested in Distance Learning summer school and 57 teachers would be interested in In-person summer school, which would give a 15:1 ration with 810 students enrolled or 20:1 with 1080 students enrolled if a total of 54 teachers sign up. He stated in the Distance Learning and In-person formats, the teachers would teach one of three subjects: English Language Arts; math; and science, and the students would be split into three groups and rotate.

Mr. Neely asked how students will be selected and the possibility of offering a second session.

Mrs. Macfarlane stated she was concerned about teachers having enough recovery time before starting the new school year, but was in favor of offering a second session.

Mr. McGregor stated because of the program capacity limitation, students would either need to be selected by teachers and invited or it would be a first-come, first-serve basis.

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

Jen Dietrich, Parent

Proposed Board Policy Revisions from the School Climate & Compliance Department

Mr. Palmquist presented proposed Board policy revisions from the School Climate & Compliance Department for Board consideration.

No Board comments were received.

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

The required school safety plans per California Education Code Sections 32280-32288 have been updated to meet compliance requirements and are submitted for Board review

Dr. Washer stated that the safety plans are provided to Board for informational purposes only and they will be sent next to the San Joaquin County Office of Education.

No Board or public comments were received.

Communications

Comments from Employee Group Representatives

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA), thanked counselors for everything they do. She spoke about special education teachers and the drop in special education enrollment.

Dean Blount, President, Lodi Pupil Personnel Association (LPPA), thanked the Board for the Proclamation and Recognition of National School Counseling Week, stating it has been a difficult year for counselors. He commented about negotiations and LPPA's recent input on the Local Control and Accountability Plan. Mr. Blount stated they are looking forward to the upcoming Board Study Session.

Comments from Board Members

Mr. Heberle acknowledged students and staff for the Kindness Campaign and Middle College High on placement at the 40th Annual San Joaquin County Academic Decathlon. He expressed his appreciation to counselors. Mr. Heberle spoke about incoming freshman having to sign up for sophomore physical education and his discussion with Superintendent Washer.

Mr. Porter spoke about activism and the importance of communication from employee groups.

Comments from the Superintendent

Dr. Washer had no further comments.

Board Advisory Committee Reports

No reports were presented.

Adjourn

The meeting closed at 10:33 p.m. to be continued on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Porter moved, Mr. Heberle seconded and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. to continue Closed Session.

Continuance of Adjourned Meeting

The Board reconvened at 6:01 p.m. on Thursday, February 18, 2021 for continued discussion of Closed Session items. No action was taken in the continued Closed Session and the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Clerk of the Board

President of the Board