



**Board Members Present:** Dr. Rommel Bal, President; Ms. Sherry Alexander, Vice-President; Mrs. Susan Macfarlane, Clerk; Mrs. Victoria Lenderman; Mr. Joe Nava; Mr. Courtney Porter; and Mr. Jeff Stroh

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

**Student Representatives:** Ms. Katelyn Gauna, Lodi High School; Mr. Raphel Aseron, McNair 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 presented.

## **Adjourn to Closed Session**

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

## **Reconvene Open Session**

The meeting reconvened at 7:09 p.m. Attendance was recorded, and Student Representative Aseron led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Closed Session**

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

### **Student Matters:**

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Ms. Alexander seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the placement of non-public school students (new) numbers 34, 132, 133, 134, and 135.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the placement of non-public school students (changes) numbers 37 and 41.

## **Spotlights**

### **Lodi High School Choir Under the Direction of Karol Kellar**

The choir treated the audience to two selections.

### **Lodi High School Speech and Debate 2024-25 Year in Review**

The overview was provided by Lodi High School Speech and Debate Coach, Kyle Shallcross.

## **Recognitions**

### **Staff Recognitions**

Haley Rhoads, Coach/Teacher, Tokay High School, was recognized for receiving the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) 2024-25 Sac-Joaquin Section Model Coach Award.

Vinewood Elementary School was recognized for achieving the 2025 California Distinguished School Award.

### **2024-2025 Student Representatives to the Board of Education**

On behalf of the Board and district, President Bal acknowledged the Student Representatives to the Board present this evening, Katelyn Gauna and Raphel Aseron for their year of service and contributions made as representatives.

### **Comments from Student Representatives**

Ms. Katelyn Gauna, Lodi High School; Mr. Raphel Aseron, McNair High School, presented reports from their respective schools.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Young announced that the Lodi Unified and GOT Kids Foundation's annual Spring Art Show will be this Saturday, April 19 at the James Areida Education Center.

### **Public Comments on Consent Agenda A**

Anne Swehla Garcia, Vice President, Lodi Education Association, commented on Items A-1 and A-8.

### **Consent Agenda A, Routine Business**

Board Member Porter pulled Item A-1 Contracts List.

- Item A-2 Purchase Order Detail Report - March 2025, FY 24/25 (Mrs. Juarez)
- Item A-3 Warrant Report (Mrs. Juarez)
- Item A-4 Donations - The attached listing itemizes donations for Lodi Unified School District from January 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025 (Mrs. Juarez)
- Item A-5 Resolution 2025-42 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Leroy Nichols Elementary School Modernization Project No. 0927-8227-260-35 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-6 Resolution 2025-43 Super Co-Op Administrative Services & USDA Direct Delivery Contract Extension (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-7 Approval of Certificated and Classified Personnel Matters (Mrs. Church)
- Item A-8 Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 6158 Independent Study (Mr. Lambert)
- Item A-9 SJCOE Quarterly Report Pursuant to the Williams and Valenzuela Settlements (Mr. Warren)

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Porter 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-1 Contracts List**

Mr. Porter asked why the district does not take legal services out to bid. He referenced item number four on the Contracts List, KB Legal.

Mrs. Holbert pointed out that the Board will be voting on the corrected version of the Contracts List, which is attached to the agenda.

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Mr. Nava moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to unanimously approve Item A-1 Contracts List (corrected), as follows:

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

Motion carried

## **Public Comments on Other Action Items**

No public comments were received.

## **Other Action Items**

### **Item OAI-1 Provisional Internship Permit and Approval**

Mrs. Church presented a provisional internship permit to approve the placement of an education specialist at Morada Middle School for the 2025-26 school year.

The student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-1 Provisional Internship Permit and Approval.

## **Board Organization - Board Committee Appointment**

President Bal asked for nominations for the newly formed Board Policy Review Committee. Mrs. Lenderman, Ms. Alexander, and Dr. Bal will comprise the committee.

## **Board Member Advisory Reports**

No reports were given.

## **Comments from the Public**

Rebecca Pisano, Teacher and Parent, Creekside Elementary School, shared what is going on at Creekside School including a recent trip to the zoo. She asked about the portables that remain at the site from the digital academy. She thanked Dr. Bal and Mrs. Alexander for their support of the Board policy for lactating employees.

Teresa Hernandez, Teacher, Joe Serna Jr. Charter School, voiced concern about working conditions and lack of staff at Joe Serna, and shared reasons that staff are leaving the site.

Christopher Anderson, Community Member, spoke about the statewide Day of Action: Fight Back Against Federal Attacks on Our Schools! rally on Saturday, May 17 at Cesar Chavez Plaza in Sacramento.

Sara M. Ramirez, Spanish Paraeducator, Joe Serna Jr. Charter School, shared that even as a five-year employee, she feels like a second-class worker. She stated the Joe Serna workers would like a better contract and benefits. She explained that the reason workers are leaving the school site is because of the unsatisfactory working conditions.

Bill Yates, Parent/Teacher, spoke about how he and fellow teachers researched and created the special education MOU that was presented.

Teresa Mendieta, Administrative Assistant, Joe Serna Jr. Charter School, spoke about the lack of equity and equality at Joe Serna, poor working conditions, and the need for the school to refocus on student enrichment.

Silvia Jacobo, Yard Duty Assistant, Joe Serna Jr. Charter School, explained her experiences at Joe Serna, including the erosion of a daily stipend incentive to the eventual layoff of a half hour per day. She states that after working at the school site for twenty years, she is still paid minimum wage. She asked for Board consideration towards better working conditions at Joe Serna School.

### **Comments from Employee Group Representatives**

Anne Swehla Garcia, Vice President, Lodi Education Association, explained that it is wonderful to see colleagues shine in the spotlight and gave accolades to district teachers by highlighting their daily contributions and successes.

Rodrigo Contreras, President, California School Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter #77, noted that the negotiation team is working collectively with Mrs. Church and her team and have signed four memorandums of understanding and a tentative agreement to take to the membership. Mr. Contreras explained that Joe Serna CSEA Chapter #665 members could not be included in Chapter #77 because they are a charter school. He asked that the Board work with Chapter #665 so those members could achieve better working conditions.

### **Comments from Board Members**

Mr. Nava noted he enjoyed hearing and seeing all the positive recognitions and the spotlights from the evening.

Mrs. Macfarlane thanked the Student Representatives for the time and effort they put in this year.

Ms. Alexander thanked the Board Student Representatives for their year of service and spoke about the Music in Our Schools concerts.

Mr. Stroh stated how nice it was to see all the positive spotlights this evening and expressed his enjoyment of the music selections from the choir.

Mr. Porter thanked Dr. Bal for having spotlights at meetings again and noted that the musical selections of the choir brought back special memories for him. He addressed concern for the Joe Serna worker who spoke during public comments and is making minimum wage after 20 years of service. He also spoke of landscaping concerns at Lodi High School and the need for adequate maintenance now and when the new ballfields are completed.

Dr. Bal shared her feelings and hopes for students and staff of the Special Education Department. She noted that she asked for spotlights to return to the Board agendas to reflect and showcase the good things that are going on in the district.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.