



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 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 (via teleconference)

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

Student Representatives: Grace Gremel, Bear Creek High School and Britany Yepez-Tafolla, Lodi 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 Educational Support Center, 1305 East Vine Street, Lodi, CA 95240, Royal Sonesta Kaua'i Resort Lihue, 3610 Rice Street, Lihue, Hawaii, 96766, and broadcast on YouTube.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

The parents of a student spoke concerning their child's discipline case that would be discussed in Closed Session.

Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

Reconvene Open Session

The meeting was reconvened at 7:00 p.m. and attendance was recorded. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Student Representatives Britany Yepez-Tafolla.

Closed Session

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

Closed Session Student Matters:

Mr. Knackstedt motioned, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Placement of 2020-2021 Non-Public School New Student number 102.

President Freitas conducted a moment of silence for Don Mortensen, Resource Specialist Program Teacher, at several school sites and most recently teaching at Clairmont and Parklane elementary schools, who passed away November 13, 2021.

Public Hearings

Lodi Unified Supervisorial Group (LUSG) Re-opens for the 2021-22 Year

President Freitas declared the Public Hearing "Lodi Unified Supervisorial Group (LUSG) Re-opens for the 2021-22 Year" open. Amber Jaeger, Director, Personnel, presented the public an opportunity for discussion. No comments were received from the Board or the public. The hearing was declared closed.

California School Employees Association (CSEA) Re-opens for the 2021-22 Year

President Freitas declared the Public Hearing "California School Employees Association (CSEA) Re-opens for the 2021-22 Year" open. Amber Jaeger, Director, Personnel, presented the public an opportunity for discussion. No comments were received from the Board or the public. The hearing was declared closed.

Spotlight

Parklane School: Building Positive Connections Between Students and Staff

The spotlight was not presented due to the loss of Parklane, RSP Teacher, Don Mortensen.

Millswood Middle School: The Benefit of Clubs on Campus

Erin Lenzi, Principal, Millswood Middle School, presented a short video created by the student leadership class showcasing Millswood's 18 different afterschool clubs. Millswood students, Cassandra Maldonado, Logan Davidson, Mahnoor Khan, Emily Sauseda, and Sienna Aitken, introduced themselves and spoke briefly about the after-school clubs.

Recognition

Golden Quill Award: Wes Bowers, *Lodi News-Sentinel*

President Freitas presented Wes Bowers with the Lodi USD Golden Quill Award.

Golden Quill Award: Will Heryford, in Remembrance of His Work at KCRA

President Freitas presented (posthumously) the award to Will Heryford in remembrance of his work within the Lodi Unified School District community and for his lifetime dedication to photojournalism.

Elkhorn School: Named a Top Middle School in California

Neil Young, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education, introduced Pat White, Principal, Elkhorn School, who spoke briefly about the structure, passion and sense of community that makes Elkhorn so special.

Veterans Day: Video Honoring Lodi Unified Veterans

A Veterans Day video created by Chelsea Vongehr, Public Information Officer/Grant Writer, was presented honoring Lodi Unified Veterans.

Proclamation

California Sikh Awareness & Appreciation Month

President Freitas presented the California Sikh Awareness & Appreciation Month Proclamation to community members, Dr. Devinder Grewal and Mr. Manjit Singh.

Comments from Student Representatives

Grace Gremel, Bear Creek High School and Britany Yopez-Tafolla, Lodi High School, presented reports from their respective schools.

Board President Freitas dismissed the Student Representatives.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Washer announced that Joey Travolta's Inclusion Films movie premiere of "Lost Luggage" will be presented on December 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Hutchins Street Square. She recognized the Measure U construction progress and completion at Tokay High School and Needham Elementary. Dr. Washer acknowledged and thanked San Joaquin A+ for a new program they launched for preschool age children to receive a savings account with \$750, which will grow to approximately \$1800 upon high school graduation. She commented on the afterschool clubs and the new Spin Class and Ping Pong Class clubs starting at Tokay High School. Dr. Washer spoke about the challenging staffing situation due to the current pandemic and how Lodi USD employees are stepping up and doing extra work daily. She thanked all employees for their hard work in such challenging times.

Comments from the Public

President Freitas extended the time for Comments from the Public from twenty to thirty minutes.

Steve McGill, Community Member, spoke about being released as an employee of Lincoln Unified and Delta College for his unwillingness to be tested for COVID-19. He read a sample proclamation opposing the vaccine COVID-19 mandate.

Kenny Wheeler, Community Member, spoke about his personal experience with vaccine side effects. He stated that schools are not flying flags and shared his political views.

Pete Valdez, Community Member, spoke about his religious views regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Anne Rogers, Parent, spoke about a previous Board meeting when the Board unanimously opposed masks. She shared a poster that her son made about people having vaccine as a personal choice.

Ashlan Hogan, Paraeducator, spoke about leaving the District if the vaccine is mandated for employees.

Alex Aliferis, Substitute Teacher, stated he will not take the COVID-19 vaccine and spoke about his views regarding the vaccine mandate.

Aracely Flores, Community Member, gave her opinion on the COVID-19 vaccine and possible adverse reactions.

Maya Aguirre, Parent, voiced her opposition of the COVID-19 vaccine mandate and asked Board to consider the implications of enforcing the mandate.

Ashley Herzick, Speech Language Pathologist, commented on a District employee who was put on unpaid leave for mask mandate disobedience. She stated that staff are overworked and some speech therapy sessions are being taught over the computer with masks on.

Tye Brockmeier, Parent, spoke about possible adverse reactions to the COVID-19 vaccine. He requested Board to give people the choice to vaccinate.

Consent Agenda A, Routine Business

- Item A-1 Contracts List
- Item A-2 Warrant Report
- Item A-3 Changes to the Adopted Budget
- Item A-4 Purchase Order Detail Report
- Item A-5 Approval of Salary Schedule for Classified Substitutes
- Item A-6 2021-2022 Consultant Services Agreement
- Item A-7 Resolution 2021-57 Award of Contract Lunch Shelters Heritage and Morada Middle
- Item A-8 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 2, 2021

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

Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases

- (Item B-1) Expulsion: Student # 21/22-9-15
- (Item B-2) Expulsion: Student # 21/22-9-16
- (Item B-3) Expulsion: Student # 21/22-9-17
- (Item B-4) Expulsion: Student # 21/22-9-18
- (Item B-5) Expulsion: Student # 21/22-11-19
- (Item B-6) Expulsion: Student # 21/22-11-20
- (Item B-7) Readmission: Student # 17/18-7-11

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

Other Action Items

(Item OAI-1) Revision to Board Policy and Rule 6158 Independent Study to be in Compliance with AB 167

Scott McGregor, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education, presented the revisions to Board Policy and Rule 6158 Independent Study for consideration.

Mr. Knackstedt asked how teachers are assigned to teach independent study classes.

Dr. Washer stated that independent study teachers are from Pearson, which is different from Independence School.

Mr. Porter asked what Pearson is.

Mr. McGregor explained it is an outside agency that helps staff the District's need for independent study teachers.

Discussion ensued.

Public Comments

Lisa Wilkins, Teacher, Morada Middle School

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Knackstedt seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-1 Revision to Board Policy and Rule 6158 Independent Study to be in Compliance with AB 167, by the following vote:

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

Motion Carried

(Item OAI-2) Resolution 2021-58 Authorization of Emergency Repairs - Bear Creek High School Library

Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, presented Resolution 2021-58 Authorization of Emergency Repairs at Bear Creek High School Library. He explained there was extensive damage in a small area of the library due to the large amounts of rain on October 24, 2021.

Mr. Freitas asked what the time frame of the project would be.

Mr. Kahn estimated the project completion to be before winter break and that insurance will cover the cost after a possible deductible.

No public comments were given.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Heberle seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-2 Resolution 2021-58 Authorization of Emergency Repairs - Bear Creek High School Library.

(Item OAI-3) Approval of Construction Project Change Order #3 - Tokay High School Increment 1 Site Work Project Number 0947-8247-1

Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, presented a construction project change order for the Tokay High School project. He stated that the whole project is well under budget and hopes to be completed by mid-December.

Mr. Heberle questioned what the delay is with pouring concrete.

Discussion ensued.

No public comments were given.

Mr. Heberle moved, Mr. Knackstedt seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-3 Approval of Construction Project Change Order #3 - Tokay High School Increment 1 Site Work Project Number 0947-8247-1.

Personnel Matters

Amber Jaeger, Director, Personnel, presented Personnel Matters for Board consideration.

No Board or public comments were given.

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

Reports

2021-2022 School Plans for Student Achievement

Robert Sahli, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment, spoke briefly and then introduced Rafael Ceja, Coordinator, Educational & Support Services, who thanked the 25 principals for their hard work on completing each of their Title 1 school plans.

President Freitas recognized and thanked the Title 1 principals.

Mrs. Macfarlane stated her only concern is to ensure there is enough staff to execute each of the plans.

Mr. Heberle asked principals to communicate with Board on what they can do to help.

No further Board comments were made.

Lodi Unified School District Equity Statement

President Freitas presented the equity statement to the Board.

Mr. Heberle stated it is well written but would like the Board to stick with the District's current mission, vision and goals document.

Mrs. Macfarlane stated she would like to show it through District actions instead of an additional document.

Mr. Knackstedt and Mr. Porter stated that they agree with the statement and feel we can't say it enough.

Mr. Nava thanked Mr. Freitas for putting together a well written statement.

Mr. Neely thanked the Board for their comments.

President Freitas stated the equity statement will be brought as an action item to the next meeting.

Public Comments

Lisa Wilkins, Teacher, Morada Middle School

Parent and Family Engagement Policies: District Level and School Level

Robert Sahli, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment, presented the Parent and Family Engagement Policies from the District level and school level for Board consideration.

No Board or public comments were received.

Educator Effectiveness Funds (EEF)

Robert Sahli, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment, explained the proposed local plan for the EEF and how it identifies new and current activities intended to enhance educator effectiveness within Lodi USD. He stated that some current activities are included to stabilize and ensure funding through 2026 and the new activities are included to enhance services and supports for teachers, administrators, student services staff, and paraprofessionals in both academic and social-emotional areas. Dr. Sahli stated the plan provides for additional staff, as well as services for staff.

Mr. Freitas confirmed that the funding amount is seven million dollars over the next five years.

Discussion ensued.

The Board thanked Dr. Sahli and his staff for their work.

Public Comments

Lisa Wilkins, Teacher, Morada Middle School

Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Updates and Discussion Including the New Expanded Learning Opportunities Program

Robert Sahli, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment, and Rafael Ceja, Coordinator, Educational & Support Services, presented the LCAP updates and the new Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Program. Dr. Sahli spoke about the ELO Program, state funding, program planning, and possible growth opportunity.

Dr. Ceja gave an LCAP update and spoke about the requirements of AB 130. He commented on the new requirements for the 2022-2023 LCAP which includes, the District write LCAP goals for two student groups: students with disabilities, and homeless students. He stated Assembly Bill 1835, which passed in January 2020, will require school districts to identify unspent supplemental and concentration grant funds.

Mr. Freitas thanked Dr. Sahli, Dr. Ceja, and staff for their work.

Mr. Heberle spoke about the opportunities the LCAP and ELO presents and commented about the need for additional staff to make it work. He commented on possible ideas for a math camp at multiple sites and about purchasing STEM equipment.

Public Comments

Lisa Wilkins, Teacher, Morada Middle School

Communications

Comments from Employee Group Representatives

Lisa Wilkins, Teacher, Morada Middle School, thanked the Board for recognizing the passing of the Parklane Elementary School teacher and mentioned the Employee Assistance Program that is available for staff. She spoke about Lodi Education Association looking forward to bargaining and about possible safety concerns at high school sites.

Comments from Board Members

Mr. Knackstedt asked about the shortage of speech language pathologists.

Amber Jaeger, Director, Personnel, stated it is a challenging area and position to fill.

Mr. Nava stated the fall sports season has ended and congratulated all teams who participated in playoffs.

Mr. Porter commented that while refereeing up and down the San Joaquin Valley at various other districts and after observing many events within Lodi USD, he is able to say that Lodi USD is doing a good job.

Mrs. Macfarlane thanked Mr. Kahn for meeting with the Go Green club from Lodi High School.

Mr. Freitas announced that November is Homeless and Runaway Youth Awareness Month and shared information on the Project Green Light through the Women's Center - Youth and Family Services of San Joaquin County. He thanked the Lao Family Community Empowerment, Inc. for inviting him to the Hmong New Year celebration.

Comments from the Superintendent

Dr. Washer had no further comments.

Board Advisory Committee Reports

No reports were presented.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Clerk of the Board

President of the Board