



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**
February 6, 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. Courtney Porter; and Mr. Jeff Stroh

Board Member Absent: Mr. Joe Nava

Administrative Staff: Mr. Neil Young, Superintendent; Dr. Robert Sahli, Associate Superintendent, Education Services; Dr. Allen Dosty, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel; and Mr. Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer

Student Representative: Mr. Joseph Gardea, McNair High School and Mr. Logan Sweetman, Tokay High School

Meeting Recorder: Mrs. Michelle Armstrong, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 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 made prior to Closed Session.

Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

Reconvene Open Session

The meeting reconvened at 7:07 p.m. Attendance was recorded, and Student Representative Logan Sweetman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session

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

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

Mrs. Macfarlane motioned, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted to approve amended claim #631121.01, as follows:

Ayes:	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh	
Noes:	None	
Abstain:	None	
Absent:	Nava	Motion Carried

Dr. Bal motioned, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted to approve claim #631121.03, as follows:

Ayes:	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh	
Noes:	None	
Abstain:	None	
Absent:	Nava	Motion Carried

Mr. Stroh motioned, Ms. Alexander seconded, and the Board voted to approve claim #633432, as follows:

Ayes: Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Nava
Motion Carried

Mr. Porter motioned, Ms. Alexander seconded, and the Board voted to approve Case: SPE2024-01, as follows:

Ayes: Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Nava
Motion Carried

Student Matters

Dr. Bal motioned, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted to approve placement of non-public school students (new) #28 and #31, as follows:

Ayes: Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Nava
Motion Carried

President Knackstedt read out the following statement:

The Board has tentatively determined the following in Closed Session: (1) Improvement to management salary schedule to reflect salary improvement in alignment with the district's proposal to other employee groups for the 2023/2024 school year; (2) The district proposes the following effective July 1, 2023: 5% on-schedule salary, and master's/doctoral stipend to equal that of the Lodi Education Association; (3) In addition; one-time off salary schedule payment of \$1,097,528 to be divided equally amongst all management employees; (4) A formal action item will be brought forward at the February 20, 2024 meeting.

Comments from Student Representatives

Mr. Joseph Gardea, McNair High School and Mr. Logan Sweetman, Tokay High School, presented reports from their respective schools.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Young congratulated McNair High School for a second-place win and Middle College High School for winning first-place overall team and county champions of the 43rd Annual San Joaquin County Academic Decathlon. Superintendent Young spoke about the kickoff of the Kindness Challenge in K-8 schools district wide. He commented on the Coffee with the Superintendent events he has been holding across the district at different local coffee shops. He stated it's been a great opportunity to connect with a wide range of people.

Comments from Employee Group Representatives

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA), spoke about her frustrations with the district and ongoing bargaining issues.

Desiree Wise, President, California School Employees Association, Lodi Chapter #77, commented on the action taken in Closed Session with management receiving a one-time off salary schedule payment and how the amount doesn't seem equitable.

Comments from the Public

Becky Freeman, Teacher, Tokay High School, spoke about the success and growth of the Ag program at Tokay. She spoke about not being allowed to have a petting zoo on campus during FFA Week but then stated the problem was addressed and it is now allowed. Ms. Freeman spoke about complications with transportation forms needed for field trips and course offerings for seniors.

Nolan McKeown, Teacher, Tokay High School, continued to read Ms. Freeman's comments, stating that there has been changes to course offerings for seniors, thus creating complications for being a continued member of the Ag program.

Cora Duncan, Freshman Student, Tokay High School, and FFA Greenhand Officer, spoke about her desire to participate in all FFA activities and fears what else might be taken away from FFA after the petting zoo situation.

Savanna Bristow, Senior Student, Tokay High School, and FFA Reporter/Mother Load Sectional Sentinel, expressed her concern of the recent petting zoo issue and would like students to be made a part of future decision making that impacts Tokay FFA.

Sandra Vargas, Community Member, and Founder/CEO of Central Valley Arts and Culture, spoke about why it's important to fully fund the FFA program and how important it is to the community.

Karen Minick, Teacher, Bear Creek High School, spoke about the relationship between the teachers and the district. She commented on the McNair power outage and how it's effecting teachers and students.

Shelley Liechty, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary, spoke about her experiences as a 3rd grade teacher and how teachers feel disrespected during the bargaining process.

Yadina Pena, Parent, Tokay High School, spoke about being a FFA mom and the positive experiences it gives her daughter.

Susan Heberle, Community Member, spoke about equality for all students, no matter the color of their skin.

Laura Mulcahy, Parent & Community Member, distributed a handout with excerpts from a book titled "Push" that contains profane language and graphic depictions of adults raping and molesting a minor. She stated that it was given as a reading assignment at Lodi High and would like the book banned because of the extreme inappropriate material.

Board took a brief recess.

Other Action Item

Item OAI-1 Measure U Bond Oversight Committee Annual Report to Keep the Public Informed of Measure U Bond Expenditures

Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, introduced Michael Mark, Chair for Measure U Citizen's Oversight Committee. Mr. Mark stated he has been a part of the committee since the formation in 2017 and explained that most Measure U projects stayed under budget, enabling more projects to be added over the years. Mr.

Mark stated the committee failed to meet in fiscal year 2021-2022 as they struggle to retain the required members to meet quorum and are now looking to fill two open committee seats. He explained that the average annual tax per \$100,000.00 of assessed property value for the year ending 2020-2021 was \$56.40. Unfortunately, for the year ending 2021-22, the county over collected for Measure U at a rate of \$68.70 and to fix this issue the following year, 2022-23, the rate dropped to \$33.50 per \$100,000. Mr. Mark stated that Measure U Citizen's Oversight Committee members have concluded Lodi Unified to be in compliance with the requirements set forth by the Measure U Bond election and its bylaws.

Ms. Alexander and Mr. Porter expressed interest in posting larger Measure U signage at sites utilizing Measure U funds.

Discussion ensued.

Public Comments

Susan Heberle, Community Member

Dr. Bal moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-1 Measure U Bond Oversight Committee Annual Report to Keep the Public Informed of Measure U Bond Expenditures, as follows:

Ayes:	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Nava

Motion Carried

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Public Comments on Consent Agenda A

Lana Gentry, Teacher, Bear Creek High School, commented on Item A-2 Contracts List. She spoke about the amended agreement with Kingsley Bogard LLP, stating the \$150,000 could be saved and not spent on lawyers.

Desiree Wise, President, California School Employees Association, Lodi Chapter #77, commented on Item A-6, Authorization to Advertise and Solicit Bids for Security Guard Services. She stated that CSEA has campus security officers and with a well laid out plan, CSEA classified members could provide the service.

Joseph Gardea, Student Representative, McNair High School, commented on Item A-6. He asked if we moved forward with contracting a security guard service would the existing campus security guards be affected.

Mr. Young replied stating this would not affect the campus supervisors, it is for emergencies in the middle of the night and such.

Kelly Hansston, Julia Morgan Elementary School, asked if the public will be able to speak after each agenda item.

Mr. Young explained the process of the public comments during a Board meeting.

Consent Agenda A, Routine Business

Mr. Porter pulled Item A-1 and A-6.

- Item A-2 Contracts List (Mr. Kahn)
- Item A-3 November 2023 Purchase Order Detail Report (Mr. Kahn)
- Item A-4 December 2023 Purchase Order Detail Report (Mr. Kahn)
- Item A-5 Approval of Certificated and Classified Personnel Matters (Dr. Dosty)

- Item A-7 Resolution 2024-08 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Phase 1 Flooring Replacement at Multiple School Sites - Project No. 3213-4416-6 (Mr. Kahn)
- Item A-8 Resolution 2024-09 Authorization to Request Proposals – Dairy Products (Mr. Kahn)
- Item A-9 Resolution 2024-10 Revised Notice of Completion Vinewood Modification Project No. 0936-8236 (Mr. Kahn)
- Item A-10 Resolution 2024-11 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Bear Creek High School Site Work Agriculture Complex Project No. 0819-8019-1 (Mr. Kahn)
- Item A-11 Approval of 2022-2023 School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs) Published During 2023-2024 (Mr. Kahn)
- Item A-12 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 16, 2024 (Mr. Young)

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

Ayes: Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Nava
Motion Carried

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

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

Item A-1 Changes to the Adopted Budget

Mr. Porter mistakenly pulled Item A-1. He intended to pull Item A-2.

Mr. Porter moved, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item A-1 Changes to the Adopted Budget, as follows:

Ayes: Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Nava
Motion Carried

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Mr. Porter moved, Ms. Alexander seconded, and the Board voted to approve pulling Item A-2, Contracts List, from already approved Consent Agenda A, Routine Business, as follows:

Ayes: Alexander, Bal, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh
Noes: Knackstedt
Abstain: None
Absent: Nava
Motion Carried

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Item A-2 Contracts List

Mr. Porter spoke about the amended agreement with Kingsley Bogard LLP and feels that lawyers do not need to be at negotiations, but available for advisement. He would like the district to look at getting bids from other legal firms.

Dr. Bal moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item A-2 Contracts List, as follows:

Ayes: Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, and Stroh
Noes: Alexander, Porter
Abstain: None
Absent: Nava
Motion Carried

The Student Representative preferential vote was, as follows:

Ayes: Sweetman
Noes: Gardea

Item A-6 Resolution 2024-07 – Authorization to Advertise and Solicit Bids for Security Guard Services at all 53 Lodi USD sites, Project No. 8150-5830-8

Mr. Porter requested that staff try to fill the need of the security guard services from within our district.

Mr. Young stated he will meet with Mr. Kahn to investigate what options are available and will provide Board with an update.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Alexander moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted to table Item A-6 Resolution 2024-07 – Authorization to Advertise and Solicit Bids for Security Guard Services at all 53 Lodi USD sites, Project No. 8150-5830-8, as follows:

Ayes: Alexander, Bal, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh
Noes: Knackstedt
Abstain: None
Absent: Nava
Motion Carried

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Public Comments on Consent Agenda B

No comments were received for Consent Agenda B.

Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases

- Item B-1 Suspended Expulsion: Student # 23/24-11-48
- Item B-2 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-6-49
- Item B-3 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-7-50
- Item B-4 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-8-51
- Item B-5 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-10-52
- Item B-6 Revoke Suspended Expulsion: Student # 22/23-7-82
- Item B-7 Revoke Suspended Expulsion: Student # 22/23-7-89

Mr. Porter moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to approve Consent Agenda B, Student Discipline Cases, as presented, as follows:

Ayes: Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Nava
Motion Carried

Other Action Items

Item OAI-2 Approval of Primary Logos for Erma B. Reese and George Washington Elementary Schools

Mr. Young presented the primary logos for Erma B. Reese and George Washington elementary schools for Board consideration.

Mr. Stroh commented about speaking with Gina Lopez, Principal, George Washington Elementary School. She stated the students are very excited for their new logo.

No public comments were received.

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-2 Approval of Primary Logos for Erma B. Reese and George Washington Elementary Schools, as follows:

Ayes:	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh	
Noes:	None	
Abstain:	None	
Absent:	Nava	Motion Carried

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Item OAI-3 Proposed Revisions to Board Policy and Rule 3270 Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies; Board Policy and Rule 3280 Sale, Lease, Rental of District-Owned Real Property; Board Policy 3290 Gifts, Grants and Bequests; Board Policy 3300 Expenditures/Expending Authority; Board Policy and Rule 3310 Purchasing; Board Policy and Rule 3311 Bids; Board Policy 3311.5 Conflicts-of-Interest Design-Build Projects; Board Policy and Rule 3312 Contracts; Board Policy and Rule 3314 Payment for Goods and Services; Board Policy 3315 Relation with Vendors; Board Policy 3323.1 Contracts for Personal Consulting Services; Board Rule 3440 Inventories; Board Policy and Rule 3560 Warehousing

Mr. Kahn presented the Board policies and rules for Board consideration.

Dr. Bal moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-3 Proposed Revisions to Board Policy and Rule 3270 Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies; Board Policy and Rule 3280 Sale, Lease, Rental of District-Owned Real Property; Board Policy 3290 Gifts, Grants and Bequests; Board Policy 3300 Expenditures/Expending Authority; Board Policy and Rule 3310 Purchasing; Board Policy and Rule 3311 Bids; Board Policy 3311.5 Conflicts-of-Interest Design-Build Projects; Board Policy and Rule 3312 Contracts; Board Policy and Rule 3314 Payment for Goods and Services; Board Policy 3315 Relation with Vendors; Board Policy 3323.1 Contracts for Personal Consulting Services; Board Rule 3440 Inventories; Board Policy and Rule 3560 Warehousing, as follows:

Ayes:	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh	
Noes:	None	
Abstain:	None	
Absent:	Nava	Motion Carried

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Item OAI-4 2024 California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly Election

Mr. Young introduced Mrs. Macfarlane who is currently holding a CSBA Delegate seat. Mrs. Macfarlane stated she knows all three (3) candidates: Cecilia Mendez, Stockton USD; Kate Powell, Escalon USD; Marla Sousa Livengood, Linden USD, and would like to vote for each of them.

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Ms. Alexander seconded, and the Board approved three (3) candidates: Cecilia Mendez, Stockton USD; Kate Powell, Escalon USD; Marla Sousa Livengood, Linden USD, to be voted on the 2024 California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly Election ballot, as follows:

Ayes:	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh	
Noes:	None	
Abstain:	None	
Absent:	Nava	Motion Carried

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Item OAI-5 Valley Robotics Academy (VRA) / Independence 2024-2025 Re-Organization

Peter Lambert, Director, Area 2, presented the Valley Robotics Academy (VRA) / Independence 2024-2025 Re-Organization for Board consideration.

No Board or public comments were given.

Mr. Porter moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-5 Valley Robotics Academy (VRA) / Independence 2024-2025 Re-Organization, as follows:

Ayes:	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh	
Noes:	None	
Abstain:	None	
Absent:	Nava	Motion Carried

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Item OAI-6 Lodi Middle School Design Proposal

Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, presented the Lodi Middle School design proposal for Board consideration.

Ms. Alexander asked about the timeline for construction to begin.

Mr. Kahn explained the process leading up to construction would take approximately 10 months.

Public Comments

Susan Heberle, Community Member

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)

Ron Heberle, Community Member/Formal Board Member

Ms. Alexander moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-6 Lodi Middle School Design Proposal, as follows:

Ayes:	Alexander, Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Porter, and Stroh	
Noes:	None	
Abstain:	None	
Absent:	Nava	Motion Carried

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Reports

Proposed Revisions to Board and Rule 3513.3 Tobacco-Free Schools; Board Policy and Rule 3514 Environmental Safety; Board Policy and Rule 3514.1 Hazardous Substances; Board Rule 3514.2 Integrated Pest Management; Board Policy and Rule 3515.2 Disruptions; Board Policy and Rule 3515.5 Sex Offender Information; Board Policy, Rule and Exhibit 3515.21 Unmanned Aircraft Systems/Drones; Board Policy and Rule 3516 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan; Board Policy and Rule 3516.1 Fire Drills and Fires; Board Rule 3516.3 Earthquake Emergency Procedure System; Board Policy 3516.5 Emergency Schedules; Board Policy and Rule 3517 Building Security; Board Policy and Rule 3530 Risk Management/Insurance

Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, presented the proposed revisions to Board for review.

Public Comments

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)

Proposed Board Policy and Rule 1113 District and School Websites

Superintendent Young presented the proposed Board Policy and Rule 1113 for Board review.

Ms. Alexander asked about the management of the school site website information.

Public Comments

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)

Local Control Accountability Update (LCAP) Mid-Year Update

Robert Sahli, Associate Superintendent, introduced Jennifer Huiras, Program Coordinator, Educational Support Services, who presented the LCAP mid-year update.

Sherry Alexander asked if the money rolls over into the next year, if not used.

Dr. Sahli stated it would be considered fall out and roll into the next year's budget.

Mr. Porter asked for clarification on Goal 1 Metrics.

Discussion ensued.

Public Comments

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)

Desiree Wise, President, California School Employees, Lodi Chapter #77

Proposed Reorganization of the Business Services Department

Mr. Young presented an option for Business Services reorganization with the impending retirement of the district's current Chief Business Officer (CBO) at the end of June 2024. Mr. Young suggested eliminating the Chief Business Officer position, creating a Fiscal Services Department under the direction of a new Executive Director of Fiscal Services position, and Creating an Operations Department under the direction of a new Executive Director of Operations.

Discussion ensued.

The Board gave direction to move forward with bringing the reorganization as action to the next Board meeting.

Public Comments

Anne Swehla Garcia, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)

Board Member Advisory Committee Reports

No reports were given.

Comments from the Board

Mr. Stroh spoke about his recent visits to school sites, sharing some site staff feedback.

Mr. Porter spoke about Becky Freeman being a great teacher, who runs a great program. He commented on his frustration with the teachers not being able to teach from home when the transformer blew at McNair.

Dr. Bal spoke about visiting school sites and GATE classes. She expressed her disappointment that all the students from the Tokay High FFA program did not get to speak. She would like a better solution for the teachers trying to teach on distance learning.

Ms. Alexander spoke about her experiences while going through distance learning and thanked everyone for the extra effort during the difficult time at McNair over the last week.


Mr. Knackstedt requested more information on why seniors are not allowed to enroll in CTE classes.

Jospeh Gardena, spoke about how the students are handling the school closure and stated that there has not been any communication on the shutdown.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.


Clerk of the Board


President of the Board