



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
April 2, 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. Joe Nava; and Mr. Courtney Porter

**Board Member Absent:** Mr. Jeff Stroh

**Administrative Staff:** Mr. Neil Young, Superintendent; Dr. Robert Sahli, Associate Superintendent; and Dr. Allen Dosty, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel

**Student Representatives:** Ms. Jaesa Del Prato, Bear Creek High School; Mr. Lucas Goulart, Lodi High School; and Ms. Hajra Shaheen Ahmad, Middle College High School

**Meeting Recorder:** Mrs. Valerie McFee, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

### 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

Valerie McFee, Member, Confidential Unit, spoke regarding Board's consideration for an increase to the current health benefit allowance for Confidential Unit members. Members of the Confidential Unit that were present introduced themselves to the Board.

### Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

### Reconvene Open Session

The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m. Attendance was recorded noting that Board Member Jeff Stroh was absent. Student Representative Jaesa Del Prato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Closed Session

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

#### Personnel Matters

Dr. Bal motioned, Mr. Nava seconded, and the Board approved the appointment of Jennifer Huiras as Elementary Principal effective 2024-25 school year, as follows:

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

Motion Carried

Superintendent Young clarified that Mrs. Huiras requested to be part of the elementary team and be placed at Parklane School. She is interested in supporting Parklane School and assisting to build that school community up. Mr. Young added that her current position at the district office will be unfunded.

**Conference with Legal Counsel**

Mr. Porter motioned, Mr. Nava seconded, and the Board voted to reject claim #636210, as follows:

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

Motion Carried

**Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Young explained that protective eyeglasses will be going out to students in preparation for the solar eclipse happening on April 8. He noted that this is a great learning opportunity for students, as a total eclipse does not come around that often.

**Comments from Student Representatives**

Ms. Hajra Shaheen Ahmad, Middle College High School; Ms. Jaesa Del Prato, Bear Creek High School; and Mr. Lucas Goulart, Lodi High School; presented reports from their respective schools.

**Comments from Employee Representatives**

Desiree Wise, President, California School Employees Association, Lodi, Chapter #77, responded to an earlier comment regarding traffic on Elm Street near Lodi High School by noting that she believes there is an open position for a school crossing guard at that intersection. She stated that the CSEA unit had a tentative agreement, although not what she was hoping for, adding that it will be ratified by the unit on April 11. She asked about the administrative position that is to be vacated by Jennifer Huiras.

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association, noted that the district and LEA will be meeting tomorrow, and she extended an invitation for Board Members to attend. She expressed displeasure with Superintendent Young for a recent letter that was sent to teachers. She spoke of specific language that LEA would like added to their collective bargaining agreement.

**Comments from the Public**

Anne Swehla Garcia, Teacher, Julia Morgan, spoke regarding the needs of teaching staff including moving up on the pay scale, longevity, and COLA. She voiced concern with current policies for teachers getting their professional growth approved by the Personnel Department.

Student Representative Ahmad exited the meeting.

**Public Comments on Consent Agenda A**

Edith Holbert, Director, Technology Services, asked to remove Item A-2 and Board Member, Sherry Alexander asked to remove Item A-7.

**Consent Agenda A, Routine Business**

- Item A-1 Changes to the Adopted Budget
- Item A-3 Resolution 2024-35 Establishing the Enterprise Fund (Fund 63) Beginning Fiscal Year 2024-25
- Item A-4 Resolution 2024-36 Award of Contract Outdoor Learning Shelter (8 Sites) Project No. 3213-4416
- Item A-5 Resolution 2024-37 Notice of Completion for Lodi High Inc. 1
- Item A-6 Approval of Certificated and Classified Personnel Matters

- Item A-8 Proposed Revision to Board Policies 3553 Free and Reduced Price Meals; 5111 Admission; 5111.1 District Health Care and Emergencies; 5141.52 Suicide Prevention; 5145.6 Parent/Guardian Notifications; 5145.13 Response to Immigration Enforcement; and 5146 married/Expectant/Parenting Students
- Item A-9 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 19, 2024

Mr. Nava moved, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted to approve Consent Agenda A, Routine Business, as amended, as follows:

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

Motion Carried

Student Representatives Goulart and Del Prato voted aye.

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

#### **Item A-2 Contracts List**

Edith Holbert, Director, Technology Services, asked to pull item #1 (Merrimac Energy) from the Contracts List and asked for an amended motion to accept the remaining items on the Contracts List of April 2, 2024 be considered.

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Mr. Nava seconded, and the Board voted to approve the Contracts List with the exception of Merrimac Energy (Item #1), as follows:

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

Motion Carried

Student Representatives Goulart and Del Prato voted aye.

#### **Item A-7 Proposed Revisions to Board Policies: 3110 Transfer of Funds; 3230 Federal Grant Funds; 3260 Fees and Charges; 3316 Purchases of Equipment by Student Organizations; 3320 Claims Against the District; 3325 Conferences/Meals/Travel Expenditures; 3330 Use of District Funds for Payment of Meals and/or Refreshments at District Functions; 3400 Management of District Assets/Accounts; 3430 Investing; 3452 Student Activity Funds; 3460 Financial Reports and Accountability; 3470 Debt Issuance and Management; 3470.1 Fraud; 3515.4 Recovery for District Property Loss or Damage**

Board Member, Sherry Alexander asked for additional information related to some of the policies revised by the Business Services Department, as she has yet to receive the information requested, she asked to pull the following proposed revisions pending the receipt of the information requested:

- 3230 Federal Grant Funds
- 3320 Claims Against the District
- 3452 Student Activity Funds
- 3515.4 Recovery for District Property Loss or Damage

Mr. Nava moved, Mrs. Alexander seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item A-7, as amended to read: Proposed Revisions to Board Policies: 3110 Transfer of Funds; 3260 Fees and Charges; 3316 Purchases of Equipment by Student Organizations; 3325 Conferences/Meals/Travel Expenditures; 3330 Use of District Funds for Payment of Meals and/or Refreshments at District Functions; 3400 Management of District Assets/Accounts;

3430 Investing; 3460 Financial Reports and Accountability; 3470 Debt Issuance and Management; 3470.1 Fraud, as follows:

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

Motion Carried

Student Representatives Goulart and Del Prato voted aye.

## Other Action Items

### Item OAI-1 Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Lodi Education Association: School Closure Due to State of Emergency

Superintendent Young presented the memorandum of understanding for Board consideration.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-1 Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Lodi Education Association: School Closure Due to State of Emergency, as follows:

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

Motion Carried

Student Representatives Goulart and Del Prato voted aye.

## Reports

### Increasing the Number of High School Students Participating in A-G

Mark Dawson, Area 1 Director, and Peter Lambert, Area 2 Director, brought forward the following staff members to discuss the topic of increasing student participation in A-G courses and the discussion of alternative schedules for the comprehensive high schools. Shannon Hagan, Teacher/English Chairperson, McNair High; Nicole Vertar, Principal McNair High; Jesus Marron, Principal, Lodi High; and Beth Oesterman, Teacher, Lodi High; and Sherri Carson, Teacher, Bear Creek High.

Representatives from McNair outlined the positive aspects of having 90 minute class blocks. The Lodi High speakers discussed their goals of addressing aspects of a recent WASC study, increasing time for A-G and electives, and increasing data scores.

Also discussed was the memorandum of understanding with the Lodi Education Association and the eighty percent passing vote needed to make schedule changes.

Student Representative Goulart stated he has had conversations with students about scheduling and he noted he thought it would benefit students needing credit recovery and those wanting more A-G courses. Regarding alternative scheduling, he believes staff should encourage students to utilize extra periods to do something they enjoy and not add more advanced placement classes.

Discussion ensued.

## Public Comments

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association

### **Teacher Residency Program**

Jennifer Tillett, Coordinator, Professional Development, Alyssa Erickson, Teacher, Oakwood School, and Joie Sousa, Davis School, presented the report.

Ms. Tillett shared an overview of the Teachers College of San Joaquin's (TCSJ) Residency Program, which offers a pathway to earn a teaching credential. Lodi Unified has been working with TCSJ to build teachers within our community. Candidates receive grants for tuition, mentoring, and a small living stipend.

Ms. Erickson and Ms. Sousa both shared their experiences of being first year teachers.

### **Formation of the Extension Road Complex Naming Committee**

Peter Lambert, Area 2 Director, Erik Sandstrom, Principal, Independence High School, and Robert Woodfork, Teacher, Independence High School, asked for Board direction to form a committee tasked with finding a name for the complex that currently houses Valley Robotics Academy and Independence High School.

Mr. Lambert noted that the committee will adhere to the guidelines set forth in Board policy 7310.

Dr. Bal thought it was a great way to put the two schools under one umbrella. She offered the names of Thrive Complex and Success Complex for consideration.

Mrs. Macfarlane asked that the committee do homage to our community.

Mr. Knackstedt extended the Board's consensus for them to move forward with the committee.

### **Formation of the Lodi High School Pool Naming Committee**

Peter Lambert, Area 2 Director, Dr. Jesus Marron, Principal, Lodi High, and George Duenas, Athletic Director, Lodi High, asked for Board direction to form a committee to name the new Lodi High aquatics center and pool. The committee will be coordinated by Mr. Duenas, who is a former student and now a teacher at the school. The committee will be made up of students, staff, alumni staff, administrators, and community members.

Dr. Marron thanked the staff at Tokay High School for hosting Lodi High water sports while the Lodi High School pool was under construction.

Mr. Nava said he was happy that they are naming the facilities. He requested that when they select students for the committee that they select two non-athletes, one male and one female and two students that are involved in athletics, both a male and a female.

Mr. Porter asked that the pool have one name and the aquatics facility another name.

Board consensus was to move forward with the committee.

### **Comments from Board Members**

Mr. Porter saluted the teachers and administrators for bringing forward the A-G summary noting that we want to get ahead of the county and state. Mr. Porter explained that the traffic on Elm street (which was addressed earlier by Student Representative Goulart) is bad and the City of Lodi has issues that are affecting our schools.

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Ms. Alexander noted she has received several emails about teachers having problems getting units approved and stated she will talk to Mr. Young and Dr. Dosty to seek some resolve to the issue. She stated she was very pleased to hear about the tentative agreement with CSEA.

### **Board Member Advisory Reports**

No reports were given.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

  
Clerk of the Board

  
President of the Board