



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**
April 11, 2023
Closed Session 6:00 p.m. / Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

Administrative Staff: Mr. Neil Young, Associate Superintendent; Dr. Robert Sahli, Associate Superintendent; and Mr. Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer

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

Alisa Moland, Parent, spoke regarding a matter pertaining to her child who attends Ronald E. McNair High School.

Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

Reconvene Open Session

The meeting reconvened at 7:05 p.m. Attendance was recorded, and President Nava led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session

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

Student Matters

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Non-Public School Placement (New) number 47.

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Non-Public School Placement (Changes) number 104.

Conference with Legal Counsel

Dr. Bal motioned, Ms. Alexander seconded, and the Board voted to reject claim #620280, as follows:

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

Motion Carried

Recognition

Presentation of Resolution to Superintendent from Office of Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua
Xochitl Paderes, Representative from Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua's office, presented a proclamation and highlighted Superintendent Washer's career accomplishments.

Superintendent's Report

Associate Superintendent Young spoke about the upcoming Lodi USD/GOT Kids Spring Art Show taking place on April 15 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the San Joaquin County Historical Museum, Barn located at Micke Grove. Mr. Young displayed photos of students at the 6th grade science camp that took place at Camp Oski. He thanked Coordinator, Mariya Wharry for presenting another unique opportunity for Lodi USD students to participate. He announced that also taking place on Saturday will be the elementary school track meet at the Lodi High School track starting at 8:30 a.m. He gave kudos to the elementary school physical education teachers for putting on an amazing track meet for students. Mr. Young also reminded Board that the annual NorCal Science Festival is scheduled for April 21 and will take place at Tokay High School this year.

Superintendent Washer provided an update of the Giving Opportunities to Kids (GOT Kids) Foundation, which was recently named Non-profit of the Year by Assemblyman Heath Flora. Dr. Washer included the many unique educational opportunities and activities that GOT Kids provides for the students of the District in the report.

Comments from Student Representatives

Mr. Joseph Gardea, Ronald E. McNair High School and Ms. Alyssa Lussier, Tokay High School, presented reports from their respective schools.

Comments from the Public

Stephanie Hixson, Special Education Teacher, explained her role as a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing in the District. She addressed concerns with the proposed memorandum of understanding (MOU) for special education classroom teachers that would exclude her position for a stipend, as her position is itinerant.

George Neely, Community Member and retired School Board Member, spoke of the need to continue to work on the achievement gap. He suggested forming a committee of teachers and administrators to for this purpose.

Report

Review Board for Excellence in Teaching (RBET) Report

Associate Superintendent Sahli explained to Board that this is the annual report of the Review Board for Excellence in Teaching (RBET).

George Neely, retired Board Member, began the report item by providing a history of the inception of the committee, noting that no other district has anything similar and asked for Board consideration to renew the memorandum of understanding to continue the work of the committee.

RBET Committee members presented a comprehensive overview of committee activities and accomplishments. Individual committee members provided specific information regarding several key aspects of their works. Committee member, Jen Cassel, explained that the committee works best when all partners are working together – committee, leadership, and Board. She would like to see that inclusiveness return. Committee member, Colleen Guidi, added that it would be helpful to sometimes be asked to take part in District/LEA bargaining to add clarification as to the vision of the committee.

Discussion ensued regarding the teacher evaluation pilot, the current teacher evaluation process, status of the Individual Professional Development (IPD) Handbook, and information related to master teachers.

President Nava commented that he will speak with Mr. Young regarding Board involvement, and he would like a progress report at a future Board Meeting.

Public Comments on Consent Agenda A

No public comments were received.

Consent Agenda A, Routine Business

- Item A-1 Changes to the Adopted Budget
- Item A-2 Contracts List
- Item A-3 Resolution 2023-29 Authorizing Filing of the Notice of Completion for the Shade Structure At Lincoln Technical Academy, Project No. 0948-8248
- Item A-4 Shade Structure at Lincoln Technical Academy Deductive Change Order
- Item A-5 Resolution 2023-30 Authorization to Advertise and Solicit Bids for the Lakewood Elementary Fending, Project No. 0921-8221 and 8150-5830-5
- Item A-6 Resolution 2023-33 finding that Board Member Susan Macfarlane was Absent from the Regular Board Meeting of March 28, 2023 Due to Illness
- Item A-7 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 28, 2023

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

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases

- Item B-1 Expulsion: Student # 22/23-7-71
- Item B-2 Expulsion: Student # 22/23-7-72
- Item B-3 Expulsion: Student # 22/23-11-73
- Item B-4 Expulsion: Student # 22/23-9-74

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

Other Action Items

Item OAI-1 AB1200 documents for Lodi Unified School District Employee Group: Classified School Employees Association (CSEA)

Adina Andris, Director of Budgets, presented the AB1200 form for Board consideration. Mrs. Andris stated the ongoing cost of the agreement is \$4.9 million.

Mr. Knackstedt moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-1 AB1200 documents for Lodi Unified School District Employee Group: Classified School Employees Association (CSEA).

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Item OAI-2 Ratification of the Agreements with California School Employees Association

Allen Dosty, Principal, Bear Creek High School/Successor Assistant Superintendent, Personnel, presented the ratified agreement with the classified employees represented by California School Employees Association to the Board.

Public Comments

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

The Student Representative preferential vote was as follows:

Representative Gardea: Abstain

Representative Lussier: Aye

Student Representative Lussier excused herself from the remainder of the meeting.

Item OAI-3 Proposed Special Education Restructure to Align with Lodi USD Educational Services Areas and Provide California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Support and Guidance to School Sites

Paul Warren, Area Director, Special Services/SELPA, presented the follow-up action item to the report item that was presented at the last Board Meeting. He stated that one existing coordinator position would be converted to a director position at an annual cost of \$14,000. He directed Board to the attached presentation for review of the benefits of the proposal.

Board Member Alexander asked for a listing of the duties of a program specialist.

As a response to a question, Associate Superintendent Young clarified that the restructure would not increase administrative staffing, it would change a current administrative position.

Public Comments

Alisa Moland, Parent, McNair High School

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association

Mr. Porter moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-3 Proposed Special Education Restructure to Align with Lodi USD Educational Services Areas and Provide California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Support and Guidance to School Sites.

Student Representative, Joseph Gardea voted yes.

Item OAI-4 2023 California School Board Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly Run-off Election

President Nava explained that the recent CSBA delegate election resulted in a tie in subregion 8-A. Due to the tie, a run-off election was ordered. Board was instructed that they could nominate one candidate for this special election.

Mr. Porter moved, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to nominate Board Member Susan Macfarlane as their candidate for the election.

Student Representative, Joseph Gardea voted yes.

Item OAI 5 Resolution 2023-31 Teacher Residency Implementation and Expansion Grant Application Approval

Dr. Sahli explained that staff is seeking approval to apply for this grant that would provide funding to local education agencies for the purpose of creating, implementing, or expanding existing teacher residency pathways.

Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Mrs. Alexander seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI 5 Resolution 2023-31 Teacher Residency Implementation and expansion Grant Application Approval.

Student Representative, Joseph Gardea voted yes.

Item OAI-6 Resolution 2023-32 U.S. Department of Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities Grant Application Approval

Mr. Kahn asked Board for approval to apply for this grant and noted that most chief business officers in the state are looking at this grant as an avenue to provide EV (electric vehicle) chargers for their districts.

Mr. Knackstedt moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-6 Resolution 2023-32 U.S. Department of Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities Grant Application Approval.

Student Representative, Joseph Gardea voted yes.

Personnel Matters

Allen Dosty, Principal, Bear Creek High School (Successor Assistant Superintendent, Personnel), presented Personnel Matters for Board consideration.

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Mrs. Alexander seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Personnel Matters, as presented.

Communications

Comments from Employee Group Representatives

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association, commented on the current status of negotiations, including various memorandums of understanding. She stated that LEA would like to start the bargaining process immediately for non-monetary items, as their current contract will end on June 30, 2023. She said the fall is too late to start this process.

Comments from the Board

Mr. Knackstedt noted that he asked at the last Board meeting for a school site safety report. He has since received a reporting of strategies designed to keep students and staff safe and thanked staff for providing the information.

Mr. Porter issued an apology to Mr. Warren and noted that in future situations when he needs additional information, he will email and schedule a meeting to discuss. Mr. Porter asked Board to look at the achievement gap and be the voice for the voiceless. He said Board needs to look at A-G requirements as well as preparing students for UC and CSU admissions.

Ms. Alexander noted that she would be attending the District's safety meeting this week. She stated it was nice to hear about the positive things that are going on in the District, including the RBET update. Ms. Alexander stated she attended her first ever volleyball game, Bear Creek vs. McNair boys' teams. She bragged on the accomplishments and activities of our high school students and noted she would be attending the GOT Kids Art Show, and the Lodi Teen Poetry Slam at Hutchins Street Square on April 21.

Mr. Stroh commented he had received information from Kelly Collins, Principal of Lawrence Elementary School, outlining achievements of her students and staff. Ms. Stroh reported that he will be attending the Math Olympiad on Saturday taking place at Tokay High School from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

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Mr. Nava thanked the RBET Committee members and staff for the presentation of the RBET update. He stated that the committee is going in the right direction. He explained his main concern is the students and working to increase their academic opportunities and learning experiences.

Comments from the Superintendent

Mr. Young had no further comments.

Board Member Advisory Reports

No reports were given.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.


Clerk of the Board


President of the Board