



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

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

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

No comments were received prior to the Board adjourning to Closed Session.

Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

Reconvene Open Session

The meeting reconvened at 7:04 p.m. Attendance was recorded and Student Representative Logan Sweetman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

President Knackstedt shared that Lori Celiz teacher at Ansel Adams Elementary School had recently passed away. Board extended their condolences to the Celiz family, her long-time teaching partner, her many colleagues and friends in the district, the students and staff of Ansel Adams Elementary School, and to all who were impacted by her throughout her career.

Closed Session

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

Personnel Matters

Mr. Nava motioned, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of April Juarez as Executive Director, Fiscal Services, effective 2024-25 school year.

Mrs. Macfarlane motioned, Ms. Alexander seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Edith Holbert as Executive Director, Operations, effective 2024-25 school year.

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Knackstedt seconded, and the Board voted to approve claim #634840, as follows:

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

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

Dr. Bal motioned, Mr. Nava seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to reject claim #636755.

Student Matters

Mr. Porter moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the placement of Non-Public School Students (new) numbers 40 and 103.

Recognition

Recognition of the Following Educators for Attaining National Board Certification:

Laurie Jones, Millswood Middle School, certified in Early Adolescent English Language Arts
Kim Nickel, Reese Elementary School, certified in Early and Middle Childhood Literacy
Lindsey Vaccarezza, Larson Elementary School, certified in Middle Childhood Generalist

2024-2025 Teachers of the Year

Andrea Ames, Teacher at Educational Support Services: Pre-K to Grade 5
Julie Carniglia, Teacher at Lodi Middle School; Grades 6-8
Shannon Hagan, Teacher at McNair High School; Grades 9-12

Comments from Student Representatives

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

Comments from Employee Representatives

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association, explained that district and LEA negotiations are scheduled for Friday and invited Board members to attend. President Lennon-Wilkins honored the life and legacy of Lori Celiz by providing insight into Lori as a servant leader and highlighting her many accomplishments and attributes.

Comments from the Public

Michael Hunting, Systems Analyst, Technology Department, shared that Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), a non-profit group that is an inclusive community pursuing research and re-creation of pre-seventeenth century skills, arts, combat, and culture will host an event at American Legion Park in Lodi on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Maggie Ellis, Teacher, reported that the situation with her daughter at Lodi High School has improved and announced that her daughter has received a scholarship to the University of Santa Barbara. She invited Board and staff to visit the co-teaching program at Delta Sierra Middle School.

Karen Minick, Teacher, Bear Creek High School, shared that the California Legislative Office published a report noting that costs in the state have risen by twenty percent since 2020. She asked that the district be responsible and fair when considering a cost-of-living adjustment to recruit and retain teachers.

Kelly Hansston, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary School, spoke of the value of relationships and explained that teachers work tirelessly to give their best to their students and in return they would like to see some movement by the district in negotiations.

Public Comments on Consent Agenda A

Desiree Wise, President, California School Employees Association, Lodi, Chapter #77, spoke to Item A-1 Contracts List, with concerns regarding the contract with Wind Walker Security, noting that she is saddened that the district does not want to utilize classified employees for this work. She added that the district needs its own security department. She spoke to Item A-2 and asked for an explanation of the ending balance for classified salaries in Fund 01. Mr. Kahn stated he would research the question and get back to Mrs. Wise.

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association, spoke to Item A-2 and inquired as to the balance related to certificated salaries. She also addressed Item A-7 asking why the district is asking for a waiver of attendance. Mr. Kahn responded to the inquiry.

Mr. Porter asked to remove Item A-2 and Ms. Alexander asked to remove Item A-11.

Consent Agenda A, Routine Business

- Item A-1 Changes to the Adopted Budget
- Item A-3 Warrant Report
- Item A-4 Donations
- Item A-5 Quarterly Report Pursuant to the Williams and Valenzuela Settlements
- Item A-6 Notice of Completion for Public Works Projects under the California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act (CUPCCAA)
- Item A-7 Approval to file Form J-13A Request for Allowance of Attendance Because of Emergency Conditions
- Item A-8 Approval of Certificated and Classified Personnel Matters
- Item A-9 Resolution 2024-38 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Phase 2 Flooring Replacement at Multiple School Sites (Re-Bid) – Project No. 3213-4416-7
- Item A-10 Resolution 2024-39 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Delta Sierra Middle School Paving Replacement Project No. 8150-5830-7
- Item A-12 Resolution 2024-41 Rejection of Bids for the Sutherland Head Start Portable Relocation Project No. 5870-6123
- Item A-13 Resolution 2024-42 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Westwood Elementary Playground Replacement & Shade Structure Project No. 6128-4316
- Item A-14 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 2, 2024

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

Student Representatives voted unanimously aye.

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

Item A-2 Contracts List

Mr. Porter questioned the funds for books and supplies totaling \$97M, certificated salaries, and employee benefits totaling \$48M.

Mr. Kahn stated he would provide a report to Board detailing the restricted, unrestricted, and budgets using ESSER funds.

Mr. Porter moved, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda A, Item A-2 Contracts List.

Student Representatives voted unanimously aye.

Item A-11 Resolution 2024-40 Authorization to Advertise and Solicit Bids for the Lodi High School Ball Field

Ms. Alexander inquired as to why the Board item only included ball fields for Lodi High School. She stated both Lodi and Tokay need work to their ball fields.

Mr. Kahn offered an explanation of the status of the ball fields at both Lodi and Tokay high schools.

Mrs. Macfarlane stated a Board report spoke of needs for the two Lodi schools and then the resolution comes back for only one school. She noted the Board wants to see movement on all schools, equally.

Ms. Alexander moved, Mr. Nava seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item A-11 Resolution 2024-40 Authorization to Advertise and Solicit Bids for the Lodi High School Ball Field.

Student Representatives voted 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 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-12-67
- Item B-2 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-12-68
- Item B-3 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-9-69
- Item B-4 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-12-70
- Item B-5 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-10-71
- Item B-6 Suspended Expulsion: Student # 23/24-10-72
- Item B-7 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-10-73
- Item B-8 Suspended Expulsion: Student #23/24-10-74

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

Student Representative Sweetman left the meeting.

Other Action Items

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

Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, presented the AB1200 form for the classified employees represented by California School Employees Association.

Public Comments

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

Mr. Nava moved, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-1 AB1200 Documents for Lodi Unified School District Employee Group: California School Employees Association (CSEA).

Student Representative Gardea voted aye.

Item OAI-2 Approval of the Tentative Agreement with California School Employees Association (CSEA)

Erin Church, Director, Personnel Department, presented the tentative agreement for Board approval.

Public Comments

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

Mr. Nava moved, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-2 Approval of the Tentative Agreement with California School Employees Association (CSEA).

Student Representative Gardea voted aye.

Item OAI-3 Approval of Primary Logos for Live Oak & Borchardt Elementary Schools

Superintendent Young presented the revised logos for Live Oak and Borchardt schools.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-3 Approval of Primary Logos for Live Oak & Borchardt Elementary Schools.

Student Representative Gardea voted aye.

Item OAI-4 Approval of a Job Description for Alternative Program Vice Principal

Erin Church, Director, Personnel Department, presented the newly developed job description for vice principal of an alternative program.

Student Representative Gardea asked what the position entailed.

Superintendent Young noted that this position is the vice principal that would work under the principal that would administer both Valley Robotics Academy and Independent Study.

Mr. Porter asked why the position was a vice principal and not an assistant principal. Mr. Young clarified that the assistant principal position is only utilized at the high school level.

Mr. Porter questioned the history of a vice principal position at the two sites and asked about funding. Mr. Young noted that this position was approved with the reorganization plan.

Mr. Nava moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-4 Approval of a Job Description for Alternative Program Vice Principal.

Student Representative Gardea voted aye.

Reports

Revisions and Deletions to Board Policies: 5131.1 Bus Conduct; 5131.2 Video Camera Surveillance; 5131.3 Bullying; Policy 5145.9 Hate-Motivated Behavior; Policy 5145.3

Nondiscrimination/Harassment

Robert Sahli, Associate Superintendent, noted that the revisions and deletions were warranted due to changes in the California Education Code, Federal Program Monitoring recommendations, and California School Boards Association's recommended updates. He clarified that some of the deletions are because the information is now contained in another policy and/or rule.

Student Representative Gardea noted that he was glad the district was modernizing policies.

Ms. Alexander voiced concerns with the updates to policies 5131.2 and 5145.9, as the original policies included discipline for bullying behavior and harassment.

Public Comments

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association

Revision to Board Policy 5131.9 Academic Honesty

The following team of teaching coaches presented a report on artificial intelligence as it relates to the school setting and explained the process that was utilized to update this policy: Savina Thompson; Alyson Mettler, and Cindy Mettler. It was noted that Sean Campbell and Elizabeth Wright also contributed to the report.

Discussion ensued.

Board members thanked the team for the research they conducted to present the report and revise the Board policy.

Public Comments

Kelly Hansston, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary School

Board Member Advisory Reports

No reports were given.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Young commented how proud he was of everyone that rallied to assist the Ansel Adams School community in the wake of the news of Lori Celiz's passing. Everyone from the principal, counselors, mental health therapists, substitutes, and others who were a testament to the amazing people in our district.

He commented that artificial intelligence is an interesting new reality and noted we have an opportunity for parents to utilize it as a tool; parents are the next level to bring into the loop. He issued an invitation to the annual Lodi USD/GOT Kids Spring Art Show that is happening on Saturday, April 27 at the district office.

Comments from Board Members

Mr. Porter shared his experience of visiting Heritage Elementary School on April 11th to read to Carla Price's 4th grade students. He was able to meet with Principal David Gutierrez-Cabrera, speak to teachers, and to view, firsthand, the day-to-day life of an elementary teacher. He gave kudos to Mrs. Price for 30 years of quality work.

Mr. Nava shared that he and Mr. Knackstedt presented awards at the Elementary Math Tournament.

Mr. Knackstedt also commented about the Elementary Math Tournament and the achievements of the winners. He thanked Superintendent Young for the comments about district staff rising to the occasion when needed.

Ms. Alexander commented that she would like to hear updates and feedback from teachers about the various programs the Board has approved through contracts; programs such as Sweat III, AVID Ignite Conference, PLCs, and others. She attended the San Joaquin County Office of Education's awards dinner that recognized counselors, teachers, and classified employees. Ms. Alexander summed up that our hearts are heavy this week.

Mr. Stroh visited four schools last week and will be returning to Live Oak Elementary School tomorrow. When he visited Lockeford K-8 he was able to observe the involvement and collaboration of the Lockeford community, including groups like the Lockeford Lion's Club, with the school site.

Dr. Bal attended the Collective Concert at Bear Creek High School and commented on the talented student musicians that took part. She encouraged continued support of district programs for art and music.

Student Representative Gardea thanked Board for the respect and attention given to him during his year of service as a representative. He hopes to continue his participation as a community member.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.


Clerk of the Board


President of the Board