



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
April 25, 2023  
Closed Session 6:00 p.m. / Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

**Board Member Absent:** Mr. Courtney Porter

**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**

Ms. Maria Solis, Parent, spoke regarding a student matter and requested Board to consider a suspended expulsion versus an expulsion for her child.

### **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 President Nava led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Closed Session**

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

#### **Personnel Matters**

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted to approve the appointment of William Brown as High School Principal, effective 2023/2024 school year, location to be determined, by the following vote:

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

Motion Carried

Mr. Stroh moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to approve the appointment of Jesus Marron as High School Principal, effective 2023/2024 school year, location to be determined, by the following vote:

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

Motion Carried

Dr. Bal moved, Mr. Knackstedt seconded, and the Board voted to approve the appointment of Marina Berry as Elementary Vice Principal, effective 2023/2024 school year, location to be determined, by the following vote:

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

Ms. Alexander moved, Mr. Knackstedt seconded, and the Board voted to approve the appointment of Robert Hoffman as Elementary Vice Principal, effective 2023/2024 school year, location to be determined, by the following vote:

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

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Ms. Alexander seconded, and the Board voted to approve the appointment of Brenda Luna as Elementary Vice Principal, effective 2023/2024 school year, location to be determined, by the following vote:

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

**Conference with Legal Counsel**

Dr. Bal motioned, Ms. Alexander seconded, and the Board voted to approve claim #620579, as follows:

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

Mrs. Macfarlane motioned, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted to approve OAH Claim #2023030645, as follows:

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

Associate Superintendent Young announced that newly hired administrators will be introduced at the next Board Meeting taking place at Bear Creek High School on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Spotlight**

**Wagner-Holt Elementary School – Taiko Drummers**

Student Taiko drummers performed under the direction of Teacher, Karen Schroeder.

## **Recognition**

**Middle College High School Academic Decathlon**

**Elkhorn School Science Olympiad and Math Tournament**

**High School Teams That Placed in the Top Three in the Science Olympiad Competition**

**High School Teams That Placed in the Top Three in the Science Bowl Competition**

### **2023-2024 Teachers of the Year**

Debra Crawford, Wagner-Holt Elementary School - Pre-K - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Nicole Combs, Lockeford School - 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Lynette Lewis, Liberty High School - 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **2023-2024 Classified Employee of the Year**

Pete Lilienstein, Mechanic III, Maintenance & Operations, Lodi USD Classified Employee of the Year

### **2023-2024 School Counselor of the Year**

Erica Contreras-Suarez, Lodi USD and San Joaquin County Office of Education

School Counselor of the Year

### **Proclamation: National School Principals' Day – May 1, 2023**

#### **Presentation of Resolution to Superintendent from Office of Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman**

Zenet Negron, Representative from Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman's office, presented a proclamation and highlighted Superintendent Washer's career accomplishments.

#### **Recognition of Superintendent**

Board Members recognized and shared comments to retiring Superintendent, Cathy Nichols-Washer.

#### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Washer shared a final report detailing the highlights of her 15 years as superintendent of Lodi Unified School District.

#### **Comments from Student Representatives**

Mr. Jonah Wong (substitute), Lodi High School and Ms. Jaesa Del Prato, Bear Creek High School, presented reports from their respective schools.

#### **Comments from the Public**

Julia Zimmerman, Paraeducator, Live Oak Elementary School, shared her pay warrant as an example of her personal monthly pay to expense ratio and asked that Board consider this example when negotiating a pay raise for classified employees represented by California School Employees Association next year.

Alisa Moland, Parent, Ronald E. McNair High School, stated she has addressed the Board previously; however, she has yet to resolve an issue pertaining to her daughter, and is still awaiting a response from District staff. She wished Superintendent Washer well on her pending retirement.

Alayssia Townsell, Ronald McNair Graduate and Former Student Board Representative (2018-2019), stated she was glad to see the Board Members, staff, Dr. Washer, and Mr. Freitas. Ms. Townsell apprised the Board that she is graduating this week from University of California, Los Angeles with a B.A. in Public Affairs. She will soon

start an internship at the Los Angeles City Hall and has future plans to pursue law school and would like to also pursue a PhD. in board policy. Ms. Townsell wished Dr. Washer well on her retirement.

Ron Freitas, San Joaquin County District Attorney and Former Lodi USD School Board Member, presented a video clip titled One Pill Can Kill. The video featured information of the dangers of Fentanyl. Mr. Freitas reported that five hundred Californians die each month from Fentanyl overdoses. Six out of ten pills contain a lethal dose and fake pills are made to look like candy to attract children. He would like to conduct a rally at an upcoming District event to share the message about the dangers of Fentanyl. Mr. Freitas also shared information about an upcoming youth leadership academy and noted that additional information and applications can be found on the San Joaquin County District Attorney website.

### **Public Comments on Consent Agenda A**

Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, pulled Item A-6 from Consent Agenda A.

### **Consent Agenda A, Routine Business**

- Item A-1 Contracts List
- Item A-2 Warrant Report
- Item A-3 Donations
- Item A-4 Purchase Order Detail Report
- Item A-5 Quarterly Report Pursuant to the Williams and Valenzuela Settlements
- Item A-7 Resolution 2023-33 Authorization to Advertise and Request for Qualifications for Fire Protection Engineering Services for Plaza Robles High School Fire Alarm
- Item A-8 Approval of Salary Schedule for Classified Substitutes
- Item A-9 Lodi Unified School District Successor Agreement Opener with Lodi Education Association
- Item A-10 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 11, 2023

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

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

### **Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases**

Mrs. Macfarlane asked to pull Item B-4 from Consent Agenda B.

- Item B-1 Expulsion: Student #22/23-9-75
- Item B-2 Expulsion: Student #22/23-10-76
- Item B-3 Expulsion: Student #22/23-7-77
- Item B-5 Expulsion: Student #22/23-9-79
- Item B-6 Suspended Expulsion: Student #22/23/7/80

Dr. Bal moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to approve Consent Agenda B, Student Discipline Cases, as amended, as follows:

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

## **Items Pulled from Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases**

### **Item B-4 Suspended Expulsion: Student #22/23-9-78**

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Ms. Alexander seconded, and the Board voted to change the suspended expulsion to an expulsion for student #22/23-9-78, by the following vote:

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

Motion Carried

## **Other Action Items**

### **Item OAI-1 Approval to Increase Teacher Substitute Budget by 30% to Reflect a 30% Bonus for Teacher Substitutes Based on Their Daily Substitute Pay From July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024**

Associate Superintendent Young asked for Board consideration to continue the thirty percent boost to substitute teachers through June 30, 2024.

#### **Public Comments**

Lisa Lennon- Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted to approve an Increase to the Teacher Substitute Budget by 30% to Reflect a 30% Bonus for Teacher Substitutes Based on Their Daily Substitute Pay From July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, by the following vote:

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

Motion Carried

### **Item OAI-2 Approval to Return Merchant Credit Card Funds Deposited in Error to Lodi USD Bank Account**

Edith Holbert, Director, Technology Services, explained that due to an error by the credit card company, rSchool Technology, funds intended for Lodi Unified Wisconsin were deposited into our account. The purpose of this action would be to reimburse the Lodi school district in Wisconsin the amount of \$112,274.73 that is currently in our possession.

Mr. Stroh moved, Ms. Alexander seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-2 Approval to Return Merchant Credit Card Funds Deposited in Error to Lodi USD Bank Account, as follows:

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

Motion Carried

## **Personnel Matters**

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

Mr. Knackstedt moved, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted to approve Personnel Matters, as presented, as follows:

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

Motion Carried

## Communications

### Comments from the Board

Mr. Knackstedt shared that on Saturday he attended the District-wide Elementary School Track Meet, the Elementary Math Tournament, and the Lodi USD/GOT Kids Foundation Art Show. He stated it is the best time of the year, as we get to see the accomplishments of the students.

Ms. Alexander stated she was inspired by the wonderful show of student achievement during the meeting. She attended the Poetry Smash at Hutchins Street Square, and she hopes that this event will continue in the coming years. She attended the NorCal Science Festival and enjoyed that Lodi High School hosted it this year.

Mr. Stroh attended the Math Tournament and the GOT Kids Art Show and enjoyed both. He noted there are different ways to define success – from Japanese drumming to an art show participant.

Dr. Bal attended the NorCal Science Festival and visited Larson Elementary School to participate in The Great Shake event. She asked Mr. Kahn about the status of District compliance regarding electric vehicle conversion. Mr. Kahn noted that the roll out plan takes effect by 2030, the District will work towards managing an EV fleet by this deadline.

Mr. Nava congratulated all of the award winners.

### Comments from Employee Group Representatives

Desiree Wise, President, California School Employees Association, Lodi, Chapter #77, thanked paraeducator, Julia Zimmerman, for sharing her personal story during public comments and noted that it is not an easy task to do so. She asked Board to remember Ms. Zimmerman's story when the District and CSEA resume negotiations.

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association, stated she is hearing a lot from her members about safety, as there were a couple of incidents at various campuses this week. She would like to see a protocol that includes teachers, and she would like more transparency about safety issues.

### Comments from the Superintendent

No further comments were received.


## Board Member Advisory Reports

President Nava inquired as to the status of meetings for the various Board committees.

## Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

  
Clerk of the Board

  
President of the Board