



**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; Dr. Allen Dosty, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel; and Mr. Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer

**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**

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 7:02 p.m. Attendance was recorded and President Knackstedt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Closed Session**

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

#### **Personnel Matters**

Mr. Nava motioned, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the appointment of David Horton as Associate Superintendent, effective 2024-25 school year.

Dr. Bal motioned, Ms. Alexander seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Eugene Christmas as Continuation High School Principal, effective 2024-25 school year.

#### **Conference with Legal Counsel**

Mr. Nava motioned, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve OAH 2024020317.

Ms. Alexander motioned, Mr. Nava seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to reject Claim #634754.

Mr. Nava motioned, Dr. Bal seconded, and the Board voted to approve Case G.S. v. Lodi, by the following vote:

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

Motion Carried

## Recognitions

### 2024 Student Academic Board Recognitions

**Proclamation: National School Nurse Day – May 8, 2024**

**Proclamation: National Speech-Language Pathologist Appreciation Day, May 18, 2024**

**Proclamation: Classified School Employee Week, May 19-25, 2024**

**Proclamation: California Day of the Teacher, May 8, 2024**

## 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

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association, thanked the Board for recognizing the teachers for California Day of the Teacher. She explained the many roles that teachers are expected to fill, the responsibilities under their control, and responsibilities they cannot control. She noted the number of teacher resignations and retirements over the year. She asked for assistance, as the teachers need resolution to negotiations.

Desiree Wise, President, California School Employees Association, Lodi Chapter #77, thanked the Board for the proclamation recognizing Classified School Employees Week; however, she stated it is ironic as the proclamation says we have earned your respect. She stated what is currently happening between CSEA and the district does not reflect respect.

## Comments from the Public

Susan Heberle, Volunteer Coach, spoke of the importance of math skills and explained that knowing math builds confidence for students. She would like the basic math extended for all students by providing them with additional materials.

Ron Heberle, Community Member, explained that the current math curriculum has many holes in it and teachers are trying to make it make sense. He stated he believes that common core math is a failure, as evidenced by the data. He asked that maybe until math curriculum can be changed, that the district could dovetail in more traditional math lessons so kids can do math.

Anne Swehla Garcia, Teacher, Julie Morgan School, asked for donations for the students that will be attending the National Invention Convention. She spoke about expectations and trust and asked that the district trust the teachers by allowing them the ten days that they are asking for in negotiations.

Janice Vanderlans, Principal Secretary I, spoke regarding the summer school secretarial posting and explained conflicts, such as the posting is for less requirements (no typing certificate) than a current principal secretary I and the pay is higher than their current pay. She also shared that for the past two years, she and her elementary school secretary counterparts have been asking for consideration for a reclassification request, as

both principal secretary I and principal secretary II job descriptions are identical except that one is for elementary sites and the other for middle school sites and there is a two-range difference.

Jackie Fry, Teacher, John Muir School, thanked the parents and teachers that have donated so that students can attend the National Invention Convention. She noted that the group is still \$3,000 short of their goal. She asked that in the future the district budget this program so that it can continue to be an opportunity for students. She also asked that the district settle the contract with the teachers.

Alyssia Moland, Parent, stated she came to the Board meeting to reference a complaint; however, upon listening to the meeting progress, she was compelled to speak on common core math, and the importance of school site secretaries.

Michelle Wolf, Teacher, Lodi High School, stated she no longer feels supported as a teacher and explained the reasons that have led her to the decision to turn in her resignation from the teaching position she has maintained at Lodi High School since 2002.

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

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association, asked about Item A-10 and what the district is spending \$2M on for the CalSHAPE program.

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

- Item A-1 Contracts List
- Item A-2 Warrant Report
- Item A-3 Approval of Certificated and Classified Personnel Matters
- Item A-4 Addition of Capitol Academy to the 2023-24 Non-Public School Master Contract
- Item A-5 Advanced Retail Floral Design Course of Study
- Item A-6 CIF School Representative to Leagues
- Item A-7 Proposed Revisions and Deletions to Board Policies: 5131.1 Bus Conduct; 5131.2 Video Camera Surveillance; 5131.9 Academic Honesty; 5145.9 Hate-Motivated Behavior; 5145.3 Nondiscrimination/Harassment
- Item A-8 Resolution 2024-43 Award of Request for Proposal for Dairy Products
- Item A-9 Resolution 2024-344 Authorization to advertise for Request for Proposals – Commercial Equipment and Refrigeration Preventative Maintenance and Repair
- Item A-10 Resolution 2024-45 Award of Contract CalSHAPE
- Item A-11 Resolution 2024-46 Specifications of Election Order
- Item A-12 Resolution 2024-48 Piggyback Contract Lakeshore Leaning Materials
- Item A-13 Resolution 2024-49 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Fire Alarm Inspections & Testing at 53 Sites Project 8150-5830-4
- Item A-14 Resolution 2024-50 Authorization to Advertise Ansel Adams Elementary School Head Start Program Playground & Shade Structure Project No. 5870-6122
- Item A-15 Resolution 2024-51 Rejection of All Bids for Tokay High Ball Field Project
- Item A-16 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 16, 2024

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

### **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 # 23/24-6-75
- Item B-2 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-11-76
- Item B-3 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-8-77
- Item B-4 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-8-78
- Item B-5 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-7-79
- Item B-6 Suspended Expulsion: Student # 23/24-7-80
- Item B-7 Revoke Suspended Expulsion: Student # 23/24-9-11

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

## **Other Action Items**

### **Item OAI-1 Approval of Primary Logo for Victor Elementary School**

Superintendent Young presented the newly revised logo for Victor School.

No comments were received.

Mr. Nava moved, Ms. Alexander seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-1 Approval of Primary Logo for Victor Elementary School.

### **Item OAI-2 Credential Waiver Application and Approval**

Allen Dosty, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel, presented the waiver pertaining to three certificated positions for the 2024-25 school year.

No comments were received.

Mr. Nava moved, Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-2 Credential Waiver Application and Approval.

## **Reports**

### **Voter Survey Results for Potential Future Bond Measure**

Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, and Mark Ferrell, Senior Financial Advisor, Dale Scott & Co., presented information regarding the survey that was conducted in preparation for a potential bond measure. Mr. Ferrell discussed how the survey was conducted and information from the 406 completed surveys that were received. Four options were presented to Board. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Macfarlane asked how many of the 406 surveyed were property owners. Mr. Ferrell stated he would get that information to Board. Mr. Porter agreed, asking for more demographic information on the 406 surveyed respondents.

Mr. Stroh asked about the costs associated with a bond measure. Mr. Ferrell stated the costs are similar to a Board election.

The consensus from Board was the need for more information prior to making any decisions, the projected cost, and to revisit the discussion at the Board Meeting on June 4.

Mr. Ferrell noted that the county registrar of voters would need to know by August 9 for the bond measure to be included on the November ballot.

**Revisions to Board Policies: 0410 Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities; 1312.3 Uniform Complaint Procedures; 5125 Student Records; 5131.2 Bullying; 5144.1 Student Suspension-Expulsion-Due Process; 6173 Education for Homeless Children**

Robert Sahli, Associate Superintendent, presented the next set of Board policies from the Educational Services Department that are presented for review, as per Federal Program Monitoring recommendations. Dr. Sahli noted that Policy 5131.2 had returned as a report, as there were questions from the last meeting.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Alexander asked if legal counsel reviews the proposed revisions. Superintendent Young explained that the California School Boards Association (CSBA) has a legal team responsible for making sure the policies and rules meet legal requirements.

**Board Member Advisory Reports**

Board Members Macfarlane and Stroh attended the Joe Serna, Jr. Charter School Advisory Committee Meeting. Mrs. Macfarlane noted that this was an end of the year wrap up meeting and there will be another meeting in May. Mr. Stroh reported that the committee is determining strategies to get more parents involved.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Young announced that the Tokay High School Royal Regiment Band competed on May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Livingston Band Review and received several awards, including breaking a record high marching score of 188 out of 200. Additionally, the Symphonic Band also broke a record with a first place with a score of 94.9. The Royal Regiment Band has had an undefeated season; winning first place at every competition this year. On behalf of himself and his wife Shelby, Mr. Young wanted to acknowledge the wonderful teachers that have guided their children throughout their educational journeys. Teachers guiding their daughter Anna's educational career at Woodbridge School are Mrs. Traverso, Mrs. Alvarez, Mrs. Schatz, Mrs. Barth, Ms. Vallejo, Mrs. Willis, and Mrs. Bechthold. He shared that his son Joshua had a remarkable four years at Tokay High School and there were many memorable teachers during his time there. The teachers from his current year are Mrs. Hensel, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Anema, and Mrs. Villarreal.

Superintendent Young stated to all the Lodi USD teachers, thank you for everything you do; you are truly appreciated.

**Comments from Board Members**

Ms. Alexander acknowledged Superintendent's Office staff Michelle Armstrong and Valerie McFee for their assistance preparing for the annual Lodi USD/GOT Kids Art Show. She enjoyed the student art and the professional art gallery feel. She visited Mrs. Gregorn's class at Elkhorn School and viewed the Gold Duster Bus. She watched a former student who had a lead role in a production of Cabaret and was asked to emcee the Music Festival at Tokay High School, which featured music from Tokay High and their feeder elementary and middle schools. She hopes that all teachers receive recognition for Teacher Appreciation Day, and she wished a happy birthday to Mr. Stroh.

Mr. Nava congratulated and thanked all the student academic award winners that were highlighted at the meeting. He noted that he sees signs of disrespect in the audience that he does not like. Mr. Nava congratulated Joshua Young, who broke the pole-vaulting record at Tokay High School with a 14' 6" vault.

Joshua was featured as Athlete of the Week in *The Record*. Mr. Nava acknowledged his grandson, A.J. Salvetti who attends Lodi High School and who took the low overall score with a 2-over 74 and was named MVP at a recent TCAL golf tournament.

Mrs. Macfarlane thanked the academic coaches who put in crazy hours. She stated there is no amount of money for the joy you get in coaching the students. She thanked the volunteers that assist with the academic teams. She stated she will be out visiting school sites in the coming week.

Dr. Bal thanked Michelle Armstrong, Valerie McFee, and Chelsea Vongehr for their assistance to support the annual Lodi USD/GOT Kids Art Show. Dr. Bal extended a thank you to the teachers that shaped the lives of her children; those at Elkhorn School where her children attended, including Physical Education Teacher, Mr. Cline, Ms. Avila at Middle College High School, and Ms. Largen at John Muir School. Dr. Bal met with Mr. Ward, Principal and Ms. Jensen, Vice Principal at Westwood School this morning. They discussed the correlation when increasing time for teacher professional development and the impact on student achievement. The site saw an increase of in reading scores over a two-year period from 30 percent to 41 percent.

Mr. Stroh attended the Lodi Math Network at Beckman School, which featured new ways to visualize math for students. He also observed intervention teachers working with the county education coach. He also visited the School Readiness & Preschool Services and met with Director, Lisa Lopez and Assistant Director, Katie Magana. During the visit he was apprised of the differences in funding for Transitional Kindergarten, Head Start, and Preschool. Mr. Stroh attended "Every 15 Minutes" at Lodi High School on May 3 and stated it was a very powerful program.

Mr. Porter referenced the handout from the speaker during public comments that provided the job descriptions for Principal Secretary I and II and asked for possible assistance from Dr. Dosty with the job descriptions and the summer school job listing. Mr. Porter reported that the Elm Street traffic remains a nightmare and he did receive notice for the upcoming Lodi 2x2 where it will be discussed. He read to Heritage fourth graders in March and was excited to receive a pile of thank you notes from the students. He noted that when an employee files a grievance there should be a prompt response.

Mr. Knackstedt stated that the Art Show was amazing. He received the second interim budget report from the San Joaquin County Office of Education and referenced a finding of a positive certification.

## Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

  
Clerk of the Board

  
President of the Board