



# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 6, 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; Mrs. Susan Macfarlane; Mr. Joe Nava; Mr. Courtney Porter; and Mr. Jeff Stroh

**Board Member Absent:** Ms. Sherry Alexander, Clerk

**Administrative Staff:** Mr. Neil Young, Superintendent; Dr. David Horton, Associate Superintendent; Mrs. Edith Holbert, Executive Director, Operations; and Mrs. April Juarez, Executive Director, Fiscal Services

**Student Representative:** Ms. Margaret Machado, Tokay High School; Ms. Lexi Thor, Bear Creek High School; and Ms. Selene Wang, Middle College High School.

**Meeting Recorder:** Mrs. Michelle Armstrong, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

## 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 7:06 p.m. Attendance was recorded and Board Member Stroh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Closed Session

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

### Personnel Matters

Mrs. Macfarlane motioned, Mr. Nava seconded, and the Board voted to approve the appointment of Rashelle Nuss as Elementary Vice Principal, location and effective date to be determined, as follows:

Ayes: Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Nava, Porter, and Stroh

Noes: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Alexander

Motion Carried

## Moment of Silence

President Knackstedt held two moments of silence, one for Donna Battles, a Café Assistant at Lodi Middle School; and one for Cal Krienke, a retired teacher and coach, who both recently passed away.

## Comments from Student Representatives

Ms. Margaret Machado, Tokay High School; Ms. Lexi Thor, Bear Creek High School; and Ms. Selene Wang, Middle College High School, presented reports from their respective schools.

## Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Young showed a slideshow of pictures submitted from the first day of school.

## Comments from Employee Representatives

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA), spoke about wanting to get a jumpstart on negotiations, her concerns about class sizes, especially at Larson Elementary, and noted she would like school boundaries looked at to better balance class sizes. She thanked Mrs. Holbert for planning to include teachers on the Aeries rollover for the start of the 2025/2026 school year, to assist with issues that teachers were facing this year.

## Comments from the Public

Julie Jensen, Retired Teacher, spoke about the book review committee and the hope for the policy to be rewritten.

Rebecca Lima, Teacher, Davis Elementary, spoke about the water quality issue at Davis Elementary and about how large the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> combo class size is and the challenges it presents.

Bill Yates, Parent & Teacher, Sutherland Elementary School, spoke about his excitement about the formation of the Special Ed Committee.

Sherry Kelly, Library Media Assistant, Lodi High School, commented on the first week of school and how many issues she had with Chromebooks, explaining that she can't keep up with entering Chromebook Care Plan signups.

Kelly Hansston, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary, spoke about her incoming students not being proficient in reading, stating her 6<sup>th</sup> grade class is reading at 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level.

## Public Comments on Consent Agenda A

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA), commented on Item A-1. She voiced her concern on the amount and the number of legal services contracts.

## Consent Agenda A, Routine Business

- Item A-1 Contracts List (Mrs. Juarez)
- Item A-2 Agriculture Career Technical Education Incentive Grant for Lodi, Tokay, and Bear Creek High School (Mr. Lambert)
- Item A-3 Quarterly report pursuant to the Williams and Valenzuela Settlements (Mr. Warren)
- Item A-4 2024-2025 Master Contract for Non-Public Agencies (Mr. Warren)
- Item A-5 Approval of Certificated and Classified Personnel Matters (Ms. Vetica)
- Item A-6 Proposed Revision to Board Policies 5144 Discipline and 5145.2 Freedom of Speech/Expression (Dr. Horton)
- Item A-7 Approval of Construction Project Change Order 1-Final for Davis Elementary School Re-Roofing Project No. 3213-4416-3 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-8 Declaration and Approval of Disposal of An Obsolete Vehicle (Mrs. Holbert)

- Item A-9 Resolution 2024-78 Authorization to Advertise and Request for Qualifications for Transportation Electrical Engineering Service (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-10 Resolution 2024-79 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Leroy Nichols Fencing Project 0825-260-1 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-11 Resolution 2024-80 Award of Contract and Authorization to Begin Work for the Vinewood Playground Replacement Project No. 8150-5830-9 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-12 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 16, 2024 (Mr. Young)

Mr. Nava moved, Ms. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to approve Consent Agenda A, Routine Business, as presented, as follows:

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

Student Representatives voted unanimously aye.

### Other Action Items

#### Item OAI-1 Increase Certificated Substitute Pay Rates by Five Percent

Superintendent Young presented the proposed five percent increase to certificated substitute pay rates, stating that, if approved, it will be effective July 23, 2024.

Mr. Porter moved, Mr. Nava seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-1 Increase Certificated Substitute Pay Rates by Five Percent, as follows:

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

Student Representatives voted unanimously aye.

#### Item OAI-2 Approval to increase Teacher Substitute Budget by 30% to Reflect a 30% Bonus for Teacher Substitutes Based on their Daily Substitute Pay from July 23, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Superintendent Young presented the proposed 30% increase to the substitute teachers' budget for Board consideration.

#### Public Comments

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)

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

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-2 Approval to increase Teacher Substitute Budget by 30% to Reflect a 30% Bonus for Teacher Substitutes Based on their Daily Substitute Pay from July 23, 2024 to June 30, 2025, as follows:

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

Student Representatives voted unanimously aye.

**Item OAI-3 Provisional Internship Permit and Approval**

Superintendent Young presented the request for a Provisional Internship Permit for Stephen Leach, Millswood Middle, Education Specialist, and Juan Mendez, McNair High, Mathematics, for Board approval.

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-3 Provisional Internship Permit and Approval, as follows:

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

Student Representatives voted unanimously aye.

**Item OAI-4 Title and Job Description Change for Public Information Officer/Grant Writer to Director of Communications**

Superintendent Young presented the title and job description change for the public information officer/grant writer to director of communications for Board consideration.

**Public Comments**

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)

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

Mr. Nava moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-4 Title and Job Description Change for Public Information Officer/Grant Writer to Director of Communications, as follows:

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

Student Representatives voted unanimously aye.

**Item OAI-5 Fiscal Services and Operations Department Proposed Restructure**

Mrs. Holbert presented the Fiscal Services and Operations Department proposed restructure, for Board approval.

Mr. Porter commented that he believes the restructure does not consider how it will impact the school sites and feels like there needs to be better communication.

Mrs. Macfarlane and Dr. Bal stated that that the library media assistants' job descriptions should be reviewed; however, they do not believe the restructure is related.

Superintendent Young stated he will be scheduling a meeting with staff and library media assistants after the first week of school to discuss the concerns.

**Public Comments**

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)

Sherry Kelly, Library Media Assistant

Susan Hok, Library Media Assistant

Juanita Vermette, Library Media Assistant

Maricela Espinoza, Library Media Assistant

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

Megan Goudie, Library Media Assistant

Sherri Luiz, Library Media Assistant

Michael Hunting, Systems Analyst, Technology

Kelly Hansston, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-5 Fiscal Services and Operations Department Proposed Restructure, as follows:

Ayes: Bal, Knackstedt, Macfarlane, Nava, and Stroh

Noes: Porter

Abstain: none

Absent: Alexander

Motion Carried

Student Representatives voted unanimously to abstain.

## Reports

**Revisions to Board Policies & Rules: BP 5141.31 Immunizations; BP 6159.1 Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education; BP 6159.2 Nonpublic Nonsectarian School and Agency Services for Special Education; BP 6159.3 Appointment of Surrogate Parent for Special Education Student; BR 5141.31 Immunizations; BR 6159.1 Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education; BR 6159.3 Appointment of Surrogate Parent for Special Education Student; BR 6159.4 Behavioral Interventions for Special Education Students; and introducing: BR 6159.2 Nonpublic Nonsectarian School and Agency Services for Special Education. Proposing deletion of obsolete Board Policies: BP 6159.4 Behavioral Interventions for Special Education Students; BP 6159.5 Least Restrictive Environment; BP 6159.6 Placement of Transfer Students with Exceptional Needs; BP 6159.7 Transportation of Students with Exceptional Needs; BP 6159.8 Termination of Placement in Special Education Programs; BP 6159.9 Provision of Special Education Services to Students Voluntarily Enrolled in Charter Schools; BP 6164.3 Comprehensive Local Plan for Special Education**

Paul Warren, Area Director, Student Services/SELPA, presented the proposed revisions and deletions to the presented policies and rules.

Mrs. Macfarlane spoke about being a CSBA Delegate and is aware of how some policies can be written vaguely.

## Public Comments

Bill Yates, Parent & Teacher, Sutherland Elementary School

## Board Member Advisory Reports

Dr. Bal stated a Stockton 2x2 meeting is being scheduled soon to discuss the unfinished city library across from McNair High School.

Mr. Nava shared that at the last City of Stockton Parks and Recreation Committee meeting, it was mentioned that the library will be completed by October 2024.

### Comments from Board Members


Mr. Knackstedt spoke about receiving pictures of the tennis courts from around the district and his concern to have them resurfaced before the start of the tennis season.

### Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Clerk of the Board  
Vice President



President of the Board