



**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, Superintendent; Dr. Allen Dosty, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel; 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. 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 public comments were received prior 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 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, Ms. Alexander seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Placement of 2023-2024 Non-Public School Student (Renewals) numbers 2, 5, 10, 11, 13, 16, 20, 22, 25, 29, 33-37, 39, 40, 43, 47-49, 52-57, 59, 60, 62, 63, 66, 68, 71-74, 76, 79, 91, 96, 98, 103, 104, 107, 109-111, 113-119, 121-123, 125 and 126.

Mr. Knackstedt moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Placement of 2023-2024 Non-Public School Student (Changes) numbers 39 and 124.

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Placement of 2023-2024 Non-Public School Student (New) number 12.

### **Moment of Silence**

President Nava held a moment of silence for Jack Meyers, a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student at Lodi High School, who passed away recently.

## **Public Hearings**

### **Public Hearing on Sufficiency of Instructional Materials**

President Nava declared the public hearing "Public Hearing on Sufficiency of Instructional Materials" open.

No Board or public comments were received. The public hearing was declared closed.

### **Lodi Unified School District Contract Re-opens with California School Employees Association (CSEA) for the 2023-26 Successor Agreement**

President Nava declared the public hearing "Lodi Unified School District Contract Re-opens with California School Employees Association (CSEA) for the 2023-26 Successor Agreement" open.

No Board or public comments were received. The public hearing was declared closed.

### **Lodi Unified School District Contract Re-opens with Lodi Unified Supervisorial Group (LUSG) for 2023-24**

President Nava declared the public hearing "Lodi Unified School District Contract Re-opens with Lodi Unified Supervisorial Group (LUSG) for 2023-24" open.

No Board or public comments were received. The public hearing was declared closed.

## **Comments from Student Representatives**

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

## **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Young congratulated Nutrition Services for being awarded the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Grant, stating it provides classroom education and 3-5 tastings per school year for each of the selected school locations. He announced that the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual College and Career Planning Night will be taking place on August 29, 2023, at Tokay High School from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Mr. Young stated the newly sanctioned Girl's Flag Football has begun and he is excited for the season.

## **Comments from the Public**

Tamathy Braden, Paraeducator, Severely Handicapped, Creekside Elementary School, spoke about taking breaks during a workday, using seniority when being reassigned to locations, and transportation issues for students.

Anne Swehla Garcia, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary School, invited Board members to visit Lodi Education Association's public website, which is profiling a "Different Today," and requested teachers receive no-tell days.

Camille Sosa, Student, Lodi High School, spoke about the removal of a pride flag from a classroom.

Andrew Robison, Parent, spoke about his special needs daughter and questioned how the funding is being allocated for special education, noting he would like to see positive changes in the special education department, transportation, and more teachers hired.

Finnian Buckmann, Student, spoke about the removal of the pride flag from classrooms.

Joceyln Avila, Student, spoke about the removal of the pride flag from classrooms.

Kelly Hansston, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary School, spoke about the removal of pride flags and registering high school students to vote.

### **Other Action Items**

#### **Item OAI-1 Medical Cap Proposal**

Superintendent Young introduced Edith Holbert, Director, Technology Services, who presented information to establish a medical cap for unrepresented groups. Discussion ensued.

No action was taken, Board consensus is to have more information provided and have the item return at a later meeting.

#### **Public Comments**

Anne Swehla Garcia, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary School

Kelly Hansston, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary School

Susan Heberle, Community Member

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

Tamathy Braden, Paraeducator, Severely Handicapped, Creekside Elementary School

#### **Item OAI-2 Approval of the Primary Mascot Logo for Sutherland Elementary School**

Superintendent Young presented the logo for Board consideration.

No public or Board comments were received.

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted to unanimously approve Item OAI-2 Approval of the Primary Mascot Logo for Sutherland Elementary School.

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

#### **Item OAI-3 Personnel Department Reorganization Proposal**

Allen Dosty, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel, presented the Personnel Department reorganization for Board consideration.

No public or Board comments were received.

Mr. Knackstedt moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-3 Personnel Department Reorganization Proposal, by the following vote:

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

Motion Carried

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

#### **Item OAI-4 Proposition 28—The Arts and Music in Schools (AMS) Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act Waiver Request to California Department of Education (CDE)**

Robert Sahli, Associate Superintendent, presented Proposition 28, stating that 80% of the funds are allocated for staffing or employee services and 20% are allocated to supplies to support the programs, unless a district has good cause to apply for a waiver. He stated that the district cannot find enough staff and would like to request the waiver to use the remaining funds for supplies.

**Public Comments**

Kelly Hansston, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary School  
Anne Swehla Garcia, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary School

Dr. Bal moved, Ms. Alexander seconded, and the Board voted to unanimously approve Item OAI-4 Proposition 28—The Arts and Music in Schools (AMS) Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act Waiver Request to California Department of Education (CDE).

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

**Item OAI-5 Approval of a Technical Revision to Board Action of April 25, 2023 Increasing 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**

Superintendent Young presented a technical revision of the substitute budget stating that preschool was left off of the previous item.

No public or Board comments were received.

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted to unanimously approve Item OAI-5 Approval of a Technical Revision to Board Action of April 25, 2023 Increasing 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.

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

**Reports**

**COLA/New Cash Calculation**

Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, gave a report on state funding relative to cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and Lodi USD declining average daily attendance (ADA). He stated the effect of declining enrollment on the 2023/2024 school year budget versus the stated COLA of 8.22%, results in roughly \$12.972 million in new cash, which is approximately 4.99% increase from last year.

Discussion ensued.

**Public Comments**

Anne Swehla Garcia, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary School  
Tamathy Braden, Paraeducator, Severely Handicapped, Creekside Elementary School  
Andrew Robison, Parent  
Susan Heberle, Community Member

Student Representative Sweetman commented on chronic absenteeism in relation to ADA.

**Impact of Chronic Absenteeism**

Dr. Robert Sahli, Associate Superintendent, introduced Uve Dahmen, Coordinator, Assessment Research & Evaluation; Mark Dawson, Director, Educational Services, Area 1; and Peter Lampert, Director, Educational Services, Area 2. Mr. Dahmen presented the data summary and the performance differences impacted by chronic absenteeism.

Student Representative Gardea spoke about the McNair Soar Program, and asked if the report included students who missed due to lack of transportation. He commented about student safety, and would like the district to take actions to make students feel safer.

Student Representative Sweetman spoke about how important the teacher's role and actions are in the classroom to help make students feel welcome.

**Public Comments**

Tamathy Braden, Paraeducator, Severely Handicapped, Creekside Elementary School

Anne Swehla Garcia, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary School

**Proposed Accounting Reorganization**

Mr. Kahn introduced April Juarez, Senior Director Controller, Accounting, who presented the proposed Accounting Department reorganization, which would include adding one Accountant, and two Account Specialists, and remove one Account Clerk II and one Account Clerk I.

**Public Comments**

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

Student Representative Sweetman excused himself from the meeting.

**Proposed Revisions to Board Bylaws**

Superintendent Young presented the proposed revisions to various Board Bylaws for consideration.

Dr. Bal questioned the statement in Board Bylaw 9100 that the Lodi USD Superintendent is the Secretary of the Board, not the Secretary on the Board.

No public comments were received.

**Proposed Revision to Board Rule 1312.2**

Dr. Sahli presented and explained the process of the proposed 5-step process when following the Board Rule for Complaints Concerning Instructional Resources.

Mr. Porter stated his concern for Step 3, Superintendent Determination. Discussion ensued.

President Nava requested staff to review the Board Rule and if needed, make any changes.

**Public Comments**

Kelly Hansston, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary School

Anne Swehla Garcia, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary School

Renee Campbell, Librarian, Lodi High School

Ron Heberle, Community Member and Former Board Member

Susan Heberle, Community Member

Student Representative Gardea commented on how he likes the proposed changes within Board Rule 1312.2; however, he but would like the librarians to have a vote.

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

No public comments were received.

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

- Item A-2 Notice of Completion for Public Works Projects under the California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act (CUPCCAA)
- Item A-3 Nutrition Services - FFVP contracts extension 2023-24 School Year
- Item A-4 Resolution 2023-67 Notice of Completion 19 S. Central Demolition
- Item A-5 Resolution 2023-68 Authorization to Advertise and Solicit Bids for the JAESC Portables Project No. 0825-8425
- Item A-6 Resolution 2023-69 Piggyback Contract - Mobile Modular Relocatable
- Item A-7 Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Aid Programs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024
- Item A-8 Lodi Unified School District Contract Re-openers with Lodi Pupil Personnel Association (LPPA) for the 2023-24 Year
- Item A-9 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 8, 2023

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

The Student Representative preferential vote was aye.

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

### **Item A-1 Contracts List**

Dr. Bal questioned the agreement with City of Lodi Parks & Recreation and asked if the \$810,034 is a yearly fee.

Dr. Sahli commented stating it is an annual fee to serve approximately 600 students, for 180 days of service.

Dr. Bal moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item A-1 Contracts List.

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

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

- Item B-1 Expulsion: Student # 22/23-10-114
- Item B-2 Expulsion: Student # 22/23-9-115
- Item B-3 Expulsion: Student # 22/23-11-116
- Item B-4 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-12-01
- Item B-5 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-7-02

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

## **Personnel Matters**

Allen Dosty, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel, presented Personnel Matters for Board consideration.

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

## Communications

### Comments from Employee Group Representatives

Anne Swehla Garcia, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary School, spoke about air conditioning not working and cockroaches at some sites. She commented on lack of substitutes, cost-of-living, and intervention teachers being pulled. She spoke about having access to help fellow teachers with DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) assessments.

### Comments from the Board

The Board expressed their compassion for the LGBTQ+ students at Lodi High.

Ms. Alexander spoke about having a sign in every classroom that incorporates a message of no bullying and the classroom is a safe place.

Mr. Nava requested staff to investigate the cockroaches and air conditioning be fixed.

### Comments from the Superintendent

No further comments were received.

### Board Member Advisory Reports

No reports were given.

### Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 p.m.



Clerk of the Board



President of the Board