



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
September 7, 2021  
Closed Session 6:00 p.m./Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

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**Board Members Present:** Mr. Ron Freitas, President; Mrs. Susan Macfarlane, Vice President (via teleconference); Mr. Courtney Porter, Clerk; Mr. Ron Heberle; Mr. Joe Nava; Mr. Gary Knackstedt; and Mr. George Neely

**Administrative Staff:** Dr. Cathy Washer, Superintendent; Mr. Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer

**Student Representatives:** Grace Gremel, Bear Creek High School and Britany Yepez-Tafolla, Lodi High School.

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

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. at the James Areida Educational Support Center, 1305 East Vine Street, Lodi, CA 95240 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 was reconvened at 7:00 p.m. and attendance was recorded. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Heberle.

**Closed Session**

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

**Closed Session Personnel Matters:**

Mrs. Macfarlane motioned, Mr. Nava seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Kelly Collins as Elementary Principal, effective 2021/2022 school year, location TBD.

**Closed Session Student Matters:**

Mrs. Macfarlane motioned, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Placement of 2020-2021 Non-Public School Students (Changes) number 22.

Mrs. Macfarlane motioned, Mr. Knackstedt seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Placement of 2020-2021 Non-Public School Students (Renewals) numbers 2-6, 8, 11-14, 16, 20, 24-29, 32-37, 39-42, 48, 49, 52-58, 60-63, 66-69, 72-75, 81, 85, 86, 88, 92, 94-96, and 98.

Mrs. Macfarlane motioned, Mr. Heberle seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Placement of 2020-2021 Non-Public School Students (New) numbers 1, 97, 99, and 100.

## **Public Hearing**

### **Sufficiency of Instructional Materials**

President Freitas declared the Public Hearing "Sufficiency of Instructional Materials" open.

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA), asked if Chromebook were included in the assessment. Robert Sahli, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment replied stating Chromebooks are not required to be included.

There were no further comments, and the hearing was declared closed.

## **Spotlight**

Dr. Washer invited Scott McGregor, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education, to introduce Jose Ferreira, the newly appointed Vice Principal at Delta Sierra Middle School. Mr. Ferreira spoke briefly and introduced his family who came to support him.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Washer recognized the schools who received grants from the Raymus Foundation. She stated how much each awardee received and how they would be using the funds: Davis Elementary \$5,000; Delta Sierra Middle \$30,000; Lawrence Elementary \$10,000; Lockeford \$5,000; Lodi Middle \$20,000; Morada Middle \$15,000; Parklane Elementary \$9,500. Dr. Washer announced the upcoming GOT Kids fundraiser, Dancin' on Dynamite on October 2 at 6:00 p.m. and stated tickets are on sale.

## **Comments from Student Representatives**

Grace Gremel, Bear Creek High School and Britany Yopez-Tafolla, Lodi High School, presented reports from their respective schools.

## **Comments from the Public**

Scott Woznick, Teacher, Special Education, spoke about the teacher's union and about vaccination choice.

Lisa Wilkins, Teacher, Morada Middle School, spoke about students not following the mask mandate in the classrooms.

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

Mr. Neely pulled Items A-1, A-5, A-8, Michelle Orgon pulled Item A-4 and Mr. Freitas pulled Item A-6 from Consent Agenda A for discussion.

- Item A-2 Purchase Order Detail Report
- Item A-3 Changes to the Adopted Budget
- Item A-7 Resolution 2021-55 "Gann" Appropriations Limit for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022

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

The student preferential vote was aye.

**Individual Action on Items Pulled from Consent Agenda A – Routine Business**  
**Item A-1 Contracts List**

Mr. Neely questioned contract (1) agreement with JR Consulting Services. He asked if teachers are filling out the Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) reports in the classroom and if the District is getting money out of the process. Mr. Neely stated he spoke with Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, who informed him that the District is making money on the MAA reporting, with a return of about 69%.

No Board or public comments were received.

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Nava seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item A-1 Contracts List.

The student preferential vote was aye.

**Item A-4 2021-2022 Non-Public School Services Agreement with Stockton Education Center**  
Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA), asked how many students will be served with the Stockton Education Center agreement.

Paul Warren, Administrative Director, Student Services/SELPA, stated it serves one student.

Mr. Neely commented on how high the cost of non-public school agreements have gotten.

No public comments were received.

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Nava seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item A-4 2021-2022 Non-Public School Services Agreement with Stockton Education Center.

The student preferential vote was aye.

**Item A-6 Resolution 2021-54 Finding that Board Member Ron Freitas was Absent from the Regular Board Meeting of August 17, 2021 Due to Illness**  
Resolution 2021-54 was presented for Board consideration.

No public comments were received.

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Heberle seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item A-6 Resolution 2021-54 Finding that Board Member Ron Freitas was Absent from the Regular Board Meeting of August 17, 2021 Due to Illness, by the following vote:

Ayes:	Heberle; Knackstedt; Macfarlane; Nava; Neely; Porter
Noes:	none
Abstain:	Freitas
Absent:	none

Motion Carried

The student preferential vote was aye.

**Item A-8 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 17, 2021**

Mr. Neely requested the minutes be revised to reflect the following change on page 8:

**Board Advisory Committee Reports**

Mr. Neely spoke briefly about two Legislative Advocacy Committee meetings he attended with the Superintendent and State Assembly Member Heath Flora and State Assembly Member Carlos Villapudua. He stated the meetings went well and they addressed substitute shortages; the possible extension of the deadline for COVID-19 funding; additional funding for Transitional Kindergarten; creation of financial literacy opportunities for students; concerns of the decline in enrollment; support for full and fair funding; and *opposition* to AB 428-438.

No public comments were received.

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item A-8 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 17, 2021, with the proposed amendment, by the following vote:

Ayes: Heberle; Knackstedt; Macfarlane; Nava; Neely; Porter

Noes: none

Abstain: Freitas

Absent: none

Motion Carried

The student preferential vote was aye.

**Item A-5 Certification of 2020/2021 Unaudited Actual Report**

Mr. Neely stated he would like these items to come before Board as "Other Action Items" because it needs to be discussed.

Mr. Kahn briefly spoke and introduced April Juarez, Senior Director/Controller, who presented the financial report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. She explained the process of approval and the next step of having the auditors come in November. Mrs. Juarez spoke about the different components of the general fund ending balance of \$108,699,591; other operating funds; Construction Funds; and Debt Service Funds.

The Board expressed thanks to Mr. Kahn, Mrs. Juarez and all staff for a job well done.

Mr. Heberle asked when the auditors will be reviewing. Mrs. Juarez stated they will start in October and then staff will meet with the audit committee to discuss findings in November.

Mr. Neely questioned if the District had to cover the negative balance of the Self-Insurance OPEB, and if so, where the money would come from. Mr. Khan replied, stating it would come from the General Fund.

Discussion ensued.

**Public Comments**

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Neely seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item A-5 Certification of 2020/2021 Unaudited Actual Report.

The student preferential vote was aye.

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

- (Item B-1) Expulsion: Student # 21/22-8-01
- (Item B-2) Expulsion: Student # 21/22-11-02
- (Item B-3) Expulsion: Student # 21/22-10-03
- (Item B-4) Expulsion: Student # 21/22-11-04
- (Item B-5) Expulsion: Student # 21/22-11-05
- (Item B-6) Expulsion: Student # 21/22-10-06

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

## **Other Action Items**

### **Item OAI-1 RaaWee Truancy Dropout Prevention System**

Scott McGregor, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education, spoke briefly about RaaWee Truancy Dropout Prevention System, presented the executive summary, and pointed out a mistake in the total cost, stating it should be \$71,950 instead of \$73,900, with a discount of \$1950 bringing the total cost to \$70,000. Mr. McGregor introduced Allen Dosty, Program Coordinator, Child Welfare & Attendance, to answer any questions.

Mr. Nava clarified that this program would help identify students that are falling through the cracks and requested a follow up report be given in about a year.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Porter asked what grade level shows the highest level of chronic absenteeism. Mr. Dosty replied that kindergarten, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade display the highest level.

Mr. Heberle asked who enters the data into Aeries so the child can be flagged. Mr. Dosty explained that RaaWee works hand-in-hand with Aeries and the data is automatically uploaded.

Discussion ensued.

### **Public Comments**

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)  
Lisa Wilkins, Teacher, Morada Middle School

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Neely seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-1 RaaWee Truancy Dropout Prevention System.

The student preferential vote was aye.

### **Item OAI-2 Amendment No. 2 Proposal for Central Avenue Site Use Concepts and Demolition Project/SVA Architects**

Mr. Kahn presented the amendment No. 2 of the proposal between Lodi Unified School District and SVA Architects for the 19 S. Central Avenue site for Board approval.

Mr. Neely proposed that the Board needs to look at the District's Master Plan and would like to see the existing building be repurposed.

Discussion ensued.

No public comments were given.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Heberle seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-2 Amendment No. 2 Proposal for Central Avenue Site Use Concepts and Demolition Project/SVA Architects, by the following vote:

Ayes:	Freitas; Heberle; Knackstedt; Macfarlane; Nava; Porter
Noes:	Neely
Abstain:	none
Absent:	none

Motion Carried

The student preferential vote was aye.

**Item OAI-3 AB1200 Documents for Lodi Unified School District Employee Group: Classified School Employees Association (CSEA)**

Mr. Kahn presented the AB1200 form detailing the funding aspects of the agreement with CSEA. He noted the agreement is for three years (2019, 2020, 2021) adding approximately \$6.8 million to District expenditures.

No Board or public comments were given.

Mr. Knackstedt moved, Mr. Neely seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-3 AB1200 Documents for Lodi Unified School District Employee Group: Classified School Employees Association (CSEA).

The student preferential vote was aye.

**Item OAI-4 Ratification of the Tentative Agreement with California School Employees Association**

Dr. Washer requested Board approval of the tentative agreement with the California School Employees Association.

No Board or public comments were given.

Mr. Knackstedt moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-4 Ratification of the Tentative Agreement with California School Employees Association.

The student preferential vote was aye.

President Freitas dismissed the student representatives.

**Item OAI-5 Increase Board Stipend Each Year by the Same Percent (On-Going Compensation Increase) Given to Employees Beginning with the 2020-2021 School Year**

Mr. Porter displayed a power point presentation on the proposed increase to Board stipends. He spoke about the different levels and types of compensation that other school districts provide.

The Board thanked Mr. Porter for bringing this forward and the research he did.

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)  
Lisa Wilkins, Teacher, Morada Middle School

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-5 Increase Board Stipend Each Year by the Same Percent (On-Going Compensation Increase) Given to Employees Beginning with the 2020-2021 School Year, by the following vote:

Ayes:	Porter; Neely	
Noes:	Freitas; Heberle; Knackstedt; Macfarlane; Nava	
Abstain:	none	
Absent:	none	Motion Failed

**Item OAI-6 Allocation of Stipends for Board Members for Attending Professional Conferences Related to Serving on the Board of Education**

Mr. Porter presented information in support of possible allocation of stipends for Board members who attend professional conferences related to serving on the Board of Education. He stated his hope is to incentivize lifelong learning on the Board.

Mrs. Macfarlane stated that promoting education within our Board members, especially new members is a great idea.

Mr. Neely spoke about making the completion of the Master-in-Governance mandatory by the second year of Board members terms.

Discussion ensued.

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)  
Lisa Wilkins, Teacher, Morada Middle School

Mr. Porter moved, Mr. Neely seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-6 Allocation of Stipends for Board Members for Attending Professional Conferences Related to Serving on the Board of Education, by the following vote:

Ayes:	Porter; Neely; Macfarlane	
Noes:	Freitas; Heberle; Knackstedt; Nava	
Abstain:	none	
Absent:	none	Motion Failed

**Personnel Matters**

Superintendent Washer presented Personnel Matters for Board consideration.

No Board or public comments were given.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Knackstedt seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Personnel Matters.

## **Reports**

### **Proposed Revision to Board Policy and Board Rule 5126 Student Awards for Achievement**

Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, and Paul Warren, Administrative Director, Student Services/SELPA, jointly presented the proposed revision to Board Policy and Board Rule 5126.

#### **Public Comments**

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)

## **Communications**

### **Comments from Employee Group Representatives**

Dean Blount, President, Lodi Pupil Personnel Association (LPPA), thanked the Board for their support and work on the employee assistance program. He stated he is looking forward to the school recruitment plan and being on the front end of the planning process.

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA), recognized and held a moment of silence for Debbie Dutra, Teacher, Bear Creek High School, and Zachary Luchetti, Teacher, Lodi Middle School, who passed away. She commented on COVID-19 District safety issues.

### **Comments from Board Members**

Mr. Neely spoke about his experience with the COVID-19 testing kit. He commented on the substitute shortage and stated the District should offer a bonus for substitutes as an incentive. Mr. Neely requested a report showing the vice principal placements at school sites. He spoke about District staffing vacancies and the "whole child concept".

Mr. Heberle commented on the student reports and stated he appreciates hearing their input. He also spoke about the substitute shortage and is looking forward to options and ideas on solving the issue.

Mr. Knackstedt stated he is getting phone calls about students not wearing masks. He also commented about being ready and prepared for Distance Learning if the District needs to go that route.

Mr. Porter thanked the Board for the spirited discussion on his two agenda items. He stated he agrees there is a mask issue that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Freitas thanked the Board members for all the comments tonight and welcomed the new administrators, Neil Young, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education, and Susan Petersen, Director, Elementary Education. He recognized the upcoming September 11<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mr. Freitas congratulated Eric Jones, Stockton Police Chief, who is retiring at the end of the year and thanked him for all his work with the District's school resource officers.

### **Comments from the Superintendent**

Dr. Washer spoke briefly about her experience subbing at Leroy Nichols Elementary school and thanked the teacher for having every detailed organized for her lesson plan.

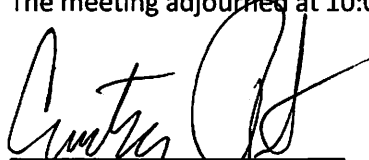


**Board Advisory Committee Reports**

No reports were presented.

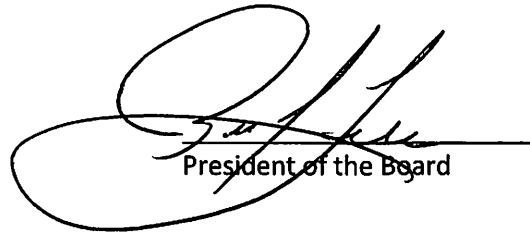
**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.



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Clerk of the Board



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President of the Board