



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
October 3, 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; Dr. Rommel Bal; Mrs. Susan Macfarlane; Mr. Courtney Porter; and Mr. Jeff Stroh

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

**Administrative Staff:** Mr. Neil Young, Superintendent; Dr. Allen Dosty, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel; Dr. Robert Sahli, Associate Superintendent, Education Services; and Mr. Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer

**Student Representative:** Mr. Lucas Goulart, Lodi 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 made prior 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 Nava led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Closed Session**

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

#### **Student Matters**

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted to approve Non-Public School Placement (New) numbers 14 and 26, as follows:

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

#### **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation**

Mr. Porter motioned, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to accept claim OAH 2023080292, as follows:

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

### **Comments from Student Representatives**

Lucas Goulart reported on recent events and activities from Lodi High. Mr. Goulart then addressed a Board report from a previous Board meeting that studied expenses related to graduation ceremonies. He presented reasons and scenarios as to why he believes that livestreaming of the high school graduations should continue to be offered.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Young visited the first-grade class of Amy Wilson at Valley Robotics Academy and observed the students during group and individual reading times. While there he took part in a Q & A about his job as superintendent and the students presented him with a bucket of notes of encouragement. Mr. Young displayed a photo of the Tokay Royal Regiment Band who competed in the Pitman Band Review in Turlock the past Saturday. The band won 1<sup>st</sup> place in Class 2A with the 4<sup>th</sup> highest overall music score. Drum Major Baruc Hernandez won 1<sup>st</sup> place Mace Drum Major and was named the Top Drum Major out of the twenty-two that were competing. This makes it 129 awards won since 2016. Mr. Young noted that the band will be competing on Saturday, October 14 at the Franklin Band Review in Elk Grove.

### **Comments from the Public**

Andrew Robison, Parent, informed Board that he had not heard from any Lodi USD staff members or Board members regarding the concerns he has brought forth at other Board meetings regarding speech services for his daughter. He voiced concern regarding the number of speech therapy sessions his daughter has received to date this school year.

Lana Gentry, Teacher, Bear Creek High School, noted that she is advisor for Bear Creek's Red Cross Club. She reported that over the weekend the club volunteered for the CASA Superhero Run at Lodi Lake. She commented that teachers who work during prep periods should receive more than the hourly substitute rate.

Maria Smith, Teacher, John Muir Elementary School, reported that the purchasing issue that she had reported about at the previous Board meeting has been resolved. She voiced concern that at the last LEA bargaining session, no district personnel were present, as negotiations were conducted with the district's legal counsel. She asked that the full 8.22 percent cost-of-living adjustment be given.

Anne Swehla Garcia, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary School, related an experience from her recent attendance at the California Teacher Association's Region 2 conference including conversations with teachers from area school districts related to their respective cost-of-living adjustments (COLA), with Lodi USD being the lowest. She asked that Board Members come to her school to see what she and her fellow teachers are doing.

Samantha McCoy, Teacher, Christa McAuliffe Middle School, reported on a successful STEM night the past week at her school with over 160 volunteers, parents and students in attendance. She thanked the University of Pacific's MESA group for their assistance with the event. She then shared her dilemma of facing additional costs due to the increase of her Kaiser insurance plan. She asked that Board fund the COLA of 8.22 percent.

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

#### **Item A-2 Purchase Order Detail Report**

Lana Gentry, Teacher, Bear Creek High School, asked to speak it Item A-2 Purchase Order Detail Report. She asked for additional information for payments to the following vendors: Cyber High, Maxim Staffing, Charter America, and Amazon.

President Nava stated Ms. Gentry's questions could not be answered at this time. Superintendent Young stated he would provide the information to Ms. Gentry.

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

Mr. Porter pulled Items A-5 and A-8; Mr. Kahn pulled Item A-7

- Item A-1 Contracts List
- Item A-2 Purchase Order Detail Report
- Item A-3 Approval of Certificated and Classified Personnel Matters
- Item A-4 Resolution 2023-91 Authorization to Advertise and Solicit Bids for the Re-roofing at Four Sites: Tokay High School and Woodbridge, Davis, and Ansel Adams Elementary Schools, Project No. 3213-4416
- Item A-6 Resolution 2023-93 Authorizing Filing of the Notice of Completion for the Woodbridge Elementary School HVAC Replacement – Project No. 3213-4416
- Item A-8 Lawrence Elementary School Fencing Replacement Project 8150-5830 Deductive Change Order 1
- Item A-9 Authorization to use Sole Source Provider – JIM Enterprises
- Item A-10 Woodbridge Elementary School HVAC Replacement, Project No. 3213-4416 Deductive Change Order 1
- Item A-11 Proposed Revisions to Board Policy, Rule, and Exhibit 1312.3 Uniform Complaint Procedures
- Item A-12 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 5, 2023
- Item A-13 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 19, 2023

Dr. Bal moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted to approve Consent Agenda A, Routine Business, as amended, as follows:

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

Motion Carried

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

#### **Item A-7 Resolution 2023-94 Authorization to Move Forward with the Tokay High Baseball and Softball Fields**

Mr. Kahn pulled this item and stated it would return to the next Board meeting.

#### **Item A-5 Resolution 2023-92 Authorizing Filing of the Notice of Completion for the Lawrence Elementary School Fencing Replacement – Project No. 8150-5830**

Mr. Porter pulled Item A-5 to inquire as to the status of the project. Mr. Kahn reported that the fence has been completed and this action will close out the project.

Mr. Porter asked if this action would resolve the issue. Mr. Kahn stated that this does not resolve the ongoing issue with the neighbors of Lawrence School. Mr. Kahn detailed how he is attempting to contact the parties to invite them to a discussion meeting about the fencing.

Mr. Porter moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to approve Consent Agenda A, Item A-5 Resolution 2023-92 Authorizing Filing of the Notice of Completion for the Lawrence Elementary School Fencing Replacement – Project No. 8150-5830, as follows:

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

Motion Carried

**Item A-8 Lawrence Elementary School Fencing Replacement Project 8150-5830 Deductive Change Order 1**

Mr. Porter pulled Item A-8 to inquire as to the status of the project. Mr. Kahn reported that when a project is bid an additional ten percent is added for contingencies. The Lawrence fencing project was completed under budget, thus this action item is to accept the deductive order.

Mr. Porter moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted to approve Consent Agenda A, Item A-8 Lawrence Elementary School Fencing Replacement Project 8150-5830 Deductive Change Order 1, as follows:

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

Motion Carried

**Public Comments on Consent Agenda B**

No comments were received for Consent Agenda B.

**Consent Agenda B – Student Discipline Cases**

- Item B-1 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-12-09
- Item B-2 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-8-12
- Item B-3 Suspended Expulsion: Student # 23/24-8-13
- Item B-4 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-8-10
- Item B-5 Suspended Expulsion: Student # 23/24-9-11
- Item B-6 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-9-14
- Item B-7 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-9-15
- Item B-8 Suspended Expulsion: Student # 23/24-9-16
- Item B-9 Expulsion: Student # 23/24-9-17

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

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

Motion Carried

**Other Action Items**

**Item OAI-1 Provisional Internship Permit and Approval**

Dr. Dosty presented a permit for Board approval.

Mr. Porter asked for an explanation of the process and Dr. Dosty explained how the permit would assist with a certificated staffing need and how Board approval is required to proceed.

#### Public Comments

No public comments were received.

Mr. Porter moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted to approve Item OAI-1 Provisional Internship Permit and Approval, as follows:

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

#### Reports

##### Proposed Revisions to:

**Board Policy 6120 Response to Intervention and Instruction**

**Board Policy/Rule 6141.2 Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs**

**Board Policy 6161.11 Textbooks and Supplementary Instructional Materials**

**Board Policy 6178.1 Work Experience Education**

Dr. Sahli reported that he is in the process of revising Board policies in the 5000 and 6000 series by comparing district polices to the California School Boards Association's GAMUT service, changes in law, and district practices. He commented on some of the revisions brought forth and noted they will return for Board action at the next meeting.

Dr. Bal asked if the grammar concerns had been addressed in the proposed revisions.

#### Communications

##### Comments from Employee Group Representatives

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association, stated she is concerned that the district has not contacted the parent who spoke during Comments from the Public. President Lennon-Wilkins voiced concern with speech therapy sessions being conducted via Zoom and concerns with testing for autism. She also expressed concern regarding lack of school bus drivers, paras, custodians, and staffing ratios not being met. She commented on the district's carryover funds being used for staffing needs.

Desiree Wise, President, California School Employees, Lodi Chapter #77, spoke on the rise in cost for health care coverage and commented that only 400 of the employees in her unit take insurance. She stated that during a Board report in July an allocation of a 5.11 percent cost-of-living adjustment was presented and asked why the change. She stated she is looking forward to a response on negotiations and spoke of strategies for the one-time money allocation. She stated bargaining will resume on October 24.

##### Comments from the Board

Mr. Knackstedt wished everyone an enjoyable two-week break.

Dr. Bal asked about the protocol for addressing questions received during the public meeting. Superintendent Young provided clarification. Dr. Bal also asked how much the district has received for a cost-of-living adjustment and how much would be passed along. Superintendent Young responded that based on the ADA amount received, there is a 4.99 percent increase to ongoing revenue.

Mrs. Macfarlane asked if the district sets insurance prices. Mr. Young explained that the district works with CalPERS, and they set the cost for the plans the district offers. As an example, Kaiser increased the cost for their

plan and CalPERS passed along that increase. The district benefits from the size of the CalPERS group for lower group rates.

Mr. Nava asked that Superintendent Young direct staff to speak to Mr. Robison and let Board know of the outcome.

**Comments from the Superintendent**

Superintendent Young had no further comments.

**Board Member Advisory Reports**

No reports were given.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

  
Clerk of the Board

  
President of the Board