



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

**A. CALL PUBLIC SESSION TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Mrs. Chrissy Falk, Board President.

**B. ROLL CALL:** Board Members: Chrissy Falk, President; Tom Mendenhall, Vice President; Bert Weldon, Clerk (A); Norm Saude; Don Fowler, Connie Schlaefer, and Ron Eldridge

**C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Motion to adopt agenda with amendment adding Agenda Item II.B – Board Recognition: Falk: Second: Mendenhall: 6/0

**D. IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION**

1. *Personnel*
2. *Employee Bargaining Negotiations*

**E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Ron Eldridge led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

**II. RECOGNITIONS**

**A. Superintendent**

1. Ara Keledjian  
Dr. Ireland recognized Ara Keledjian who started as an Elementary Principal at SUSD then accepted the role of High School Assistant Principal when the schools merged, and finally took the opportunity and responsibility of the Director of Alternative Education. This is a role that Ara is particularly well-suited. His impact on alternative education is transformational. His list of accomplishments is considerable and includes Sandy Bluff's (SB) first ever WASC accreditation and parent education program, adult school classes on the Rancheria and on the SHS campus, a marked increase in attendance, and improved graduation rates, which rose from the mid-60's to last year's 95.7. On-line courses, including electives and college prep are now available to students in alt-ed, as well as access to CTE courses. He has successfully implemented the Early Return program, allowing students who have fulfilled a list of identified obligations to apply for return to the comprehensive program after 6 weeks. The transition includes monthly visits from SB staff to students who return. He has created a therapeutic environment wherein students set weekly goals for success in academics, behavior, and attendance and then are provided both peer and adult feedback related to their progress. He has gone beyond the requirements of SARB to work on prevention of chronic absenteeism by reaching out to parents of previous year's chronic absentees with a vision to educate on the importance of school attendance. The word transformational speaks to the magnitude of change that has taken place over the past four years in SUSD's alternative education program.

## B. Governing Board

1. The Board surprised and thanked Jeanette Blunt, Board Secretary, with recognition for the role she plays in helping the governance team work smoothly, efficiently, and effectively, due in large part to her hard work, dedication, and character.

## III. PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

## IV. COMMUNICATIONS

### A. Reports

1. ASB President – Rachel Beckmann  
Miss Beckmann reported on recent and upcoming ASB activities, including: the December canned food drive with donations of 300+ which were donated to our local food bank; the upcoming NSL Talent Show; and Formal coming up at the end of January at the Loft in downtown Fresno.
2. Site Reports
  - a. Sierra Junior/Senior High Schools, Sean Osterberg – Principal  
Mr. Osterberg spoke about the opening of the Drama Department’s “Tale of Tales” this weekend at 7:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights. The NSL League Winter sports have begun. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade JHS basketball team won championship. Coming up is the All-School Write with the theme of the social and economic impact of natural disasters.
  - b. Foothill Elementary School, Alan Harris – Principal  
Not present.
  - c. Sandy Bluffs Alternative Education, Ara Keledjian – Director  
Mr. Keledjian shared current number of students in Alternative Education: Sandy Bluffs-10; Independent Study-17; and Lodgepole-16. He spoke of the recent reward activity of roasting hot dogs and marshmallows being very popular with the students, who all worked hard to be able to participate. One of our Sandy Bluffs students just began Clovis Community College. Sandy Bluffs is receiving, from a donor, a sizeable amount of money to be set aside for vocational support for after care. One of the barriers in leaving Sandy Bluffs is finances. This is greatly appreciated helping the students in the next phase of their lives.
3. Superintendent Report - Melissa Ireland, Ed.D.
  - a. [Mid-Year Update](#) [PowerPoint](#)  
Dr. Ireland gave a mid-year update to the Board based on District 5-year goals and 2017-2020 LCAP goals. Please see links above for complete details.
4. Department Reports
  - a. Facilities and Maintenance - Jim Harris, Supervisor  
Mr. Harris reported that he had a conversation with Bruce Santos with the California Conservation Corp. He is still trying to get Auberry Elementary into this year’s budget. Also, there was an issue with FCOE allowing the installation of our antenna on their roof for the bandwidth. The engineering department is analyzing before consenting for Sun Wireless to install.
  - b. Transportation – Craig Barnes, Supervisor  
No Report

- c. Business Services - Janelle Mehling, Assistant Superintendent  
Mrs. Mehling shared some information from School Services. The bid level is increased to \$90,200 for services (not construction), repairs and maintenance. The Legislative session returned on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. One of the two big bills that were introduced was to continue Career Technical Education incentive grant program for an additional 3 years at 500 million dollars with a one-to-one match. The other bill is the Pre-K for All Act for 2018. That would require the state to provide all 4-year olds with access to early care and education programs. In addition, there is a new law that requires schools that have students in grades 6-12 and have a 40% federal poverty threshold to provide feminine hygiene products to 50% of the restrooms. There is another federal program called "Every Student Succeeds at Title IV Part A." It is a flexible block grant created based on the Title I formula ensuring that students are provided with a well-rounded education including college and career counseling, STEM, Arts, Civics, and IB and AP, also supporting safe and healthy students with comprehensive school mental health, drug and violence prevention training and trauma informed practices, and health and physical education, as well as supporting the effective use of technology. Coming January 10<sup>th</sup> is the revision of the budget from the Governor. Mrs. Mehling reviewed the monthly budget report and the estimated solar savings. Please see the links below for details.

- 1. [Monthly Budget Report](#)
- 2. [Solar Savings](#)

- d. Curriculum and Instruction – Sue Mitchell, Director  
Mrs. Mitchell reviewed the DLA 1 results with the Board (see link below).

- 1. [DLA Results](#)

- 5. Program Reports
  - a. NONE
- 6. Sub-Committee Reports
  - a. NONE

**B. Board Reflections**

Norm Saude shared with the audience that the Fresno County Trustees Association is renting a bus allowing people to go and walk the halls for the day seeing their legislators during the May Revise in Sacramento.

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA**

Motion to approve Consent Calendar Agenda amending V.A..6 to reflect correct date: Eldridge: Second: Mendenhall: 6/0

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. **DISCUSSION/ACITION ITEM:** [Tentative Agreement between the California School Employees Association and its Chapter #476 and the Sierra Unified School District](#)

Motion to ratify the Tentative Agreement between CSEA and SUSD amending to Chapter #476: Saude: Second: Fowler: 6/0

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **DISCUSSION ITEM:** [CSBA Legal Policy Updates – December, 2017](#)

- B. **DISCUSSION ITEM:** First Reading of [Audit Report for 2016-2017](#)

Pursuant to Education Code 41020(i), a corrective action plan must be provided to the County Superintendent of Schools for any audit exceptions contained in the audit. There were no audit exceptions in the 2015-2016 Audit.

**C. ACTION ITEM: CSBA Board Self-Evaluation**

The Evaluation Tool will be open from January 9<sup>th</sup> and will close on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, for completion by every Board Member. Results will be reviewed at the February Regular Board Meeting.

---

At this time the Sierra Unified School District Board Meeting was adjourned and the Golden Hills Public Facilities Financing Corporation Meeting was convened at 7:13 pm.

**VIII. GOLDEN HILLS SCHOOL PUBLIC FACILITIES FINANCING CORPORATION (GHSPFFC)**

**A. ACTION ITEM: [Dissolution of Golden Hills School Public Facilities Financing Corporation](#)**

The GHSPFFC is a non-profit public benefit corporation formed to provide financial assistance to the Golden Hills School District, assisting in the financing of various public facilities for the use and benefit of the public served by the district. In as much as the financial obligations incurred by the District have been cleared and the Golden Hills School District is no longer active, the purpose for non-profit public benefit has been served. [GHSPFFC Bylaws](#)

Motion for the Golden Hills School Public Facilities Financing Corporation to be dissolved: Saude:  
Second: Fowler: 6/0

The Golden Hills Public Finance Corporation Meeting was adjourned and the Sierra Unified School District Board Meeting was reconvened at 7:14 pm

---

**IX. ADVANCED PLANNING**

**A. [Governance Calendar](#)**

**B.** Next Regular meeting date: February 12, 2018

**C.** Next Special meeting date(s): February 12, 2018 @ 4:30 pm – Governance Handbook

**D.** Requested Future Agenda Items: Solar savings

**X. CLOSED SESSION** The Board of Trustees went into Closed Session at 7:17 p.m.

**A.** Personnel - Public Employee Discipline / Dismissal / Release / Complaint / Appointment / Employment (Gov. Code § 54957)

1. Superintendent Mid-Term Evaluation Discussion

**B.** Employee Bargaining Group Negotiations (Government Code Section 54957.6)

**XI. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION** The Board reconvened at 8:17 p.m

**A.** Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session

**B.** Report Action Taken in Closed Session

**XII. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chrissy Falk, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Ireland, Ed.D, Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bert Weldon, Clerk