



**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

**A. CALL PUBLIC SESSION TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by Mrs. Chrissy Falk, Board President.

**B. ROLL CALL:** Board Members: Chrissy Falk, President; Tom Mendenhall, Vice President; Ron Eldridge, Clerk; Jason Schroer; Wes Qualls; Connie Schlaefer; Don Fowler (A).

**C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Motion to adopt agenda: Eldridge: Second: Mendenhall: 6/0

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

*1. Personnel; 2. Potential Litigation; 3. Negotiations*

**E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Wes Qualls led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. RECOGNITIONS**

**A. Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal Council**

Dr. Harris recognized the Tribal Council of Big Sandy Rancheria: Elizabeth Kipp, Chairperson; Pearl Hutchins, Vice Chairperson; Matthew Munoz, Secretary; Leann Anguiano, Treasurer; and Samuel Atwell, Member at Large. Their impact goes so far beyond any kind of monetary or time contribution to really a contribution in the investment of children in our district. He went on to make note of just some of their humble efforts: Athletics – Softball scoreboard and uniforms, sponsorship of two foursomes in the last four baseball program golf tournaments, and ads in the fall sports programs; Native American Program – Multiple years of UCLA Youth Conference and Basketball Tournament, Celebration of Success Chromebooks for SHS NA graduates, incentives for all participants at COS; California Indian Day at FES – Inclusion of all students of FES, Pine Ridge and Big Creek in this school-wide event; Community Organizations – FOAL donations serving all students; Scholarships – Awarding of \$16,500 in scholarships to four students regardless of Tribal affiliation; Tribal leadership guest speaker at 2019 Sandy Bluffs graduation, and donation of all snacks and drinks for event; Back to School and Safety Event with backpacks full of supplies to begin the school year; and participation in SUSD professional development events (Restorative & Positive Discipline). SUSD Board of Trustees wants to Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal Council to know how much they are appreciated. We honor them with this recognition.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE**

**IV. COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Reports**

1. ASB President – Sarah Page

a. [Alternative & Extended Education](#), Ara Keledjian – Director

b. [Foothill Elementary School](#), Heather Wheeler, Ed.D. – Principal

c. [Sierra Junior/Senior High Schools](#), Sean Osterberg – Principal

Mr. Keledjian, Dr. Wheeler, and Mr. Osterberg updated the Board on Academic Achievement at their school sites. This information was carried forward from the Workshop on October 28, 2019 that was cancelled due to a power outage. Please click on above links for details.

3. Superintendent Report - Alan Harris, Ph.D.  
Dr. Harris shared new fundraising procedures with the Board which can be viewed in the link below. He went on to speak about how being on the campuses in October, you can appreciate the work that is done even more so, every day in the classroom. The only thing that ever does, and ever will matter in a student's life and achievement in Teacher relationship. In the month of October, as they get in to the swing of things and things intensify, and there is accountability with report cards, it can be pretty intense. He expressed appreciation for all of the staff, from our bus drivers, to our maintenance crew, to our food service staff, and to our teachers, who are truly dedicated to every single child. Also, the amount of staff and community involved in communicating the updates regarding the power outage, can't be thanked enough for how interested people are in taking care of each other and the kids. Thank you particularly to Craig and his team and how they responded with the schools ready to go the moment they opened, and the food service staff at SJSHS losing a minimal amount of food.
  - a. [Fundraising Procedures](#)

4. Department Reports

- a. Facilities, Maintenance and Transportation – Craig Barnes, Supervisor  
Mr. Barnes reported that they learned a few things from the planned power outage and going forward there will be proposals for back-up generators and power. Last week the Fresno County Fire Inspector visited the sites. With a new procedure and a dedicated department for fire safety inspections, we are now working through a list of fire safety issues. The transformer replacement process is proceeding on schedule.
- b. Business Services - Janelle Bryson, Assistant Superintendent  
Mrs. Bryson reviewed the budget report with the Board, as well as the annual disclosure of developer fees. She also shared that the check for the sale of Auberry Elementary has been deposited into the special reserve for capital outlay fund.
  1. [Monthly Budget Report](#)
  2. [Annual Disclosure of Developer Fees](#)
- c. Education Services – Teresa Page, Director  
Ms. Page spoke about striving this year to continually improve the systems that allow us to proactively and effectively address the needs of our students. One major feature has been putting in place extra Aide hours to assist in classrooms and with individual students. Barbie Neu and Barbette Dunn did an analysis for us in order to convey the difference in Aide support from last year to this year. They compared May 2019 to September 2019 (both months of 20 school days). What they found is that this school year there were about 470 more hours worked by Instructional Aides than we had last May. For context, that took us from a little over 2,900 Aide hours in the month of May to approximately 3,400 Aide hours in the month of September. We began the year with the intention that the increased Aide support would be in place just to start the year, but by the 4<sup>th</sup> week of school, it was apparent that our student need for support was continuing to grow, and that by dropping these Aide hours would both jeopardize the students' progress, and put us back in a cycle of crisis-react, crisis-react. She thanked the Board for their support.
- d. [Curriculum and Instruction](#) – Tammy Montgomery, Director  
Mrs. Montgomery reviewed ELA and Math test scores with the Board. This included a three year comparison of SBAC, as well as 2018-2019 DLA and CAASPP. See above link for details.

BREAK: 8:00-8:20

5. Program Reports

- a. [Activities/Extended Day](#) – Andrea Marjala, Director  
Mrs. Marjala shared information on the District's Activities and Extended Day Programs. Please see the link above.

6. Sub-Committee Reports – NONE

**B. Board Reflections**

Connie Schlaefer shared that she was able to see the Halloween Parade at Foothill and the preschool. Wes Qualls spoke of attending both of the Academic Forums. He did not participate in the discussion but was able to socialize with some of the parents afterward and hear some of their concerns. It was good for them to see a Board member there. He also had an opportunity to walk through Foothill with Heather and met some of the new teachers.

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA**

Motion to approve Consent Calendar Agenda: Schlaefer: Second: Eldridge: 6/0

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. ACTION ITEM: [RFQ Master Facilities](#)**

Motion to approve RFQ Master Facilities: Mendenhall: Second: Schroer: 6/0.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. ACTION ITEM: [Resolution No. 08-19/20 - Annual Organizational Meeting / December 16, 2019](#)**

Section 35143 of the Education Code of the State of California, requires the Board to select and publish an annual organizational meeting. This meeting must occur within a 15-day period that commences with the date upon which a governing board member elected takes office (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of December). The 2019 Annual Organizational Meeting must be held on a day on or after December 13, 2019, and by no later than December 27, 2019.

Motion to approve Resolution #08-19/20: Mendenhall: Second: Eldridge: 6/0.

**VIII. ADVANCED PLANNING**

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

**B.** Next Regular meeting date: December 16, 2019

**C.** Next Special meeting date(s): January 27, 2019 – Facilities Workshop

**D.** Requested Future Agenda Items:

**XI. CLOSED SESSION** The Board of Trustees went into Closed Session at 8:30 p.m.

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

**B.** Potential Litigation (Government Code § 54956.9)

**XII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

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

**B.** Report Action Taken in Closed Session – NONE

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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Chrissy Falk, President

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Alan Harris, Ph.D, Superintendent

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Ron Eldridge, Clerk

**Sierra Unified School District**