



MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING 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; Bert Weldon, Clerk; Norm Saude; Don Fowler, Connie Schlaefer, and Ron Eldridge

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Motion to adopt agenda: Eldridge: Second: Saude: 7/0

D. IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

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

E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Bert Weldon led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

II. RECOGNITIONS

A. Governing Board

1. **Hayden Tarr**

Tom Mendenhall represented the Board in honoring Hayden Tarr, a 16 year old Junior at Sierra High School, maintaining a 4.2 GPA. He is serving his second term as an FFA officer and is currently the chapter treasurer. Hayden also plays the position of Set D for the water polo team and is a member of the swim team. Hayden's Supervised Agriculture Experience projects in FFA are breeding swine and market swine. He currently has two sows in his breeding projects. He is also very involved in his family's business, but finds time to do ranch work for people in the community. His professional goal is to pursue a career in the medical field. Recently at the Big Fresno Fair, Hayden's 2 swine projects won the top two awards at the fair - Grand Champion and Reserve Champion, a first time in the history of the Fresno Fair accomplishment. In another unprecedented move, Hayden and his family donated the proceeds of the Reserve Champion to the Honor Flight charity. The Honor Flight is the group that sends local World War II veterans to see the World War II memorial in Washington DC. Hayden was honored on November 5, 2018 for his selflessness and service to the community. At last report, the sale of that market swine raised over 49,000 dollars. Hayden has been interviewed by every local television station, by radio and on Veterans Day he was the honored guest at the Fresno County Veterans' dinner.

B. Superintendent

1. **Bruce Weinberger**

Dr. Ireland recognized Bruce Weinberger who has been at the heart of what we do in Sierra Unified, and especially Sierra High School going on 35 years. He is known and loved by generations of Sierra Unified families. He has touched thousands of lives over the years and has always been among the dearest and best-loved teachers at Sierra High School. Bruce Weinberger is kind, optimistic, understanding, fun-loving and inspiring... and yes, he is a lover of music and an extraordinary teacher. Mr. Weinberger always finds a place for students in his music program – ALWAYS. The love students have for Bruce Weinberger has been demonstrated in many ways over the years. Mr. Weinberger's students have gone on to further study in music, many of those have themselves become music teachers. Mr. Weinberger will be retiring in June of 2019. He will be dearly missed.

III. PRESENTATIONS

A. Choral Company Performance

The Board and the audience was treated to and thoroughly enjoyed a performance by Sierra's Choral Company, directed by Bruce Weinberger and accompanied by Alyson Nelson.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – Brent Kehn, representing CSEA, thanked Melissa and her team for presenting a fair contract during negotiations. The negotiation process was very smooth with everyone working together.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Reports

1. ASB President – Brook Kuball
Miss Kuball reported on ASB and other activities taking place at Sierra including: a very successful Homecoming that came together with time management skills and much to learn – thanks to all the community members who helped or donated; and lots of fundraising to gain back some of the money spent.
2. Site Reports
 - a. Foothill Elementary School, Alan Harris, Ed.D. – Principal
No Report
 - b. Sierra Junior/Senior High Schools, Sean Osterberg – Principal
Mr. Osterberg spoke of the Natural Resources team taking 12th in the nation at the National Convention. They got to tour Churchill Downs, went to a couple of museums, the Indianapolis 500 museum, and had a lot of fun. It was a great experience. Parent Teacher conferences have been completed. The Junior High did conferences a little different this year. They were led by the students in the cafeteria. Students wrote a reflection of how they're doing, and where they are in their studies. Their day of teacher conferences, the students would come with their parents, and sit down with their Aeries printout to review. If there were any questions, parents could visit the teachers who were all there too, but all still led by the students. It went very well. Students, parents, and teachers were all positive about the change.
 - c. Sandy Bluffs Alternative Education, Ara Keledjian – Director
Mr. Keledjian reported 55 students in PreSchool, 17 at Sandy Bluffs HS, 1 at Oak Meadow, and 16 at Lodgepole which is the maximum. This requires looking for another teacher. At Black Mountain Adult there are 24 students, including Cold Springs and Big Sandy. Terri McMeen, the teacher Black Mountain has also begun to develop study groups there. The conferences at Sandy Bluffs, almost every parent was seen. It is done as a group, with the teachers, himself, and the parents. Everyone can be on the same page and it turns into almost a brain storming session with the parent addressing issues. Voluntary transfers from SHS to Sandy Bluffs are being handled differently. Layers are set before the student, with first Mr. Osterberg talking to the student, then the principals at both schools together, then possibly the parent. We're making sure that all the bases are covered and that it is a good move and in the best interest of the student. Clovis Community College will be providing \$10,000 towards a construction project at Sandy Bluffs to see if we can turn it into an elective type of course for Adult School. If the student comes and completes the project, they would receive a certificate from the college stating the skills they've learned during the project. We're going to try to turn it into a learning opportunity. SARB hearings are November 6th. Turkey and Indian tacos will be served to the students on the 16th.

3. Superintendent Report – Melissa Ireland, Ed.D.
Dr. Ireland shared that we are on the California Department of Education December board meeting agenda for final approval of the purchase of Auberry Elementary School. We've been assured that the sale is a finality, and likely be funded within 6 months. There will be new template for LCAP. She has been getting out in the classrooms, with every teacher at Foothill and so far, all of the newer teachers at Sierra Junior/Senior High School. She echoed what Brent said about the negotiation process. Craig Barnes highlighted the fact that our custodial team and bus driver team is at the same pay level, but that bus driver's requirements are so much more and should be compensated appropriately. CSEA is appreciated for looking out for the good of the team and all of its members. The same should be said about SUTA. The stipend list has been cleaned up. Lots of districts complain about negotiations and their bargaining groups, but we have associations that are willing to work for their members and still understand and take into account where the district is.
4. Department Reports
 - a. Facilities and Maintenance - Jim Harris, Supervisor
No Report
 - b. Transportation – Craig Barnes, Supervisor
No Report
 - c. Business Services - Janelle Mehling, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Mehling reported no changes on the budget report. Regarding modernization, the site that is currently able to send an application in is Sandy Bluffs. Their unofficial CBEDS count is 31 students, so the apportionment for the state's side would be approximately \$189,000. Our match would be approximately \$126,000, but we can go back for any improvements to 1998 as long as we have documentation of those expenditures. Next step is an application for funding for eligibility with a Board approved resolution, then we apply for funding with specifics about what the projects are. Terra Verde was asked for information on rate increases during the times when we had a full year of electricity compared to the time when we had a full year of solar. Because we have so many rates, they change between 4.05% and 8.48%. The average is approximately 4.5% that PG&E would have increased during that time. Taking that into account, our savings is approximately \$143,000 using solar. The monthly budget report and annual disclosure of developer fees can be viewed in the links below.
 1. [Monthly Budget Report](#)
 2. [Annual Disclosure of Developer Fees](#)
 - d. Education Services – Tammy Montgomery, Director
 1. [Dual Enrollment](#)
Mrs. Montgomery shared information about Dual Enrollment at Sierra Unified. See linked summary above.
5. Program Reports - NONE
6. Sub-Committee Reports – NONE

B. Board Reflections

Connie Schlaefer visited the Sierra campus and saw some of the new instructors at work, and found them very impressive. She's in her second year of her professional learning network learning about LCAP and all of the stuff going on at the state level. There is a new dashboard version coming out. She's not sure if it's going to be that useful, but it should be updated next month.

Don Fowler shared that listening to Bruce and his group brought him to tears. Music does that. I hope we all do some homework in finding a clone that is pretty much impossible to create to replace Bruce. Also, our art teacher and drama; those are all dear to his heart for one reason or another. They're all essential components to create well rounded kids and adults. It's the icing on the cake as far as our lives. Our lives would be pretty mundane if we didn't have those components in them. Bruce did a masterful job in bringing that to the kids and infusing it. It's pretty phenomenal. As we proceed, he hopes a lot of attention is paid to that as early as we can. They're all difficult roles to fill.

Norm Saude reminded everyone that tomorrow night is Fine Arts Night, so we can see Bruce Weinberger again, and Tony Sharp showing some art work in the small gym.

Chrissy Falk spoke of being on the campuses, both Sierra and Foothill, with Dr. Ireland. It's always great to be on those campuses and being in the classrooms. She got to see some brand new teachers at work.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Calendar Agenda with a correction on Classified Personnel Items – Sandra Jones; Retirement: Saude: Second: Mendenhall: 7/0

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. ACTION ITEM: [Administrative Regulation for Math Placement](#)

Education Code requires a policy using multiple measures for placement in Math courses, which includes review of placement and process for appeal.

Motion to approve the Administrative Regulation for Math Placement: Saude: Second: Weldon: 7/0

B. ACTION ITEM: [Board Policy and Administrative Regulation for Dual Enrollment](#)

Education Code requires a dual enrollment policy to include student/parent agreement.

Motion to approve the Board Policy and Administrative Regulation for Dual Enrollment with the correction on page 3, # 5 – change grade normally earned from a C to 2 points: Schlaefer: Second: Eldridge: 7/0

C. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM: Long Range Planning Review and Update

Approval of updated Long Range Plan and [project list](#), including a parking lot place holder for items recently identified. It was decided that the Board would re-prioritize the lists to be added to the final document.

Motion to approve Long Range Plan: Saude: Second: Mendenhall: 7/0

D. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM: Approval of the [Tentative Agreement](#) for Collective Bargaining Negotiations between Sierra Unified School District (SUSD) and the Sierra Unified Teachers Association (SUTA).

The Tentative Agreement entered into between SUSD and SUTA is contingent upon final approval by the SUSD Governing Board and ratification by Association Members.

Motion to approve the Tentative Agreement between SUSD and SUTA: Mendenhall: Second: Saude: 7/0

E. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM: Approval of the [Tentative Agreement](#) for Collective Bargaining Negotiations between Sierra Unified School District (SUSD) and the California School Employee Association (CSEA).

The Tentative Agreement entered into between SUSD and CSEA is contingent upon final approval by the SUSD Governing Board and ratification by Association Members.

Motion to approve the Tentative Agreement between SUSD and CSEA: Fowler: Second: Weldon: 7/0

F. DISCUSSION ITEM: Resolutions Nos. 09-18/19, 10-18/19, 11-18/19, and 12-18/19

The board discussed closing inactive funds contained within the Sierra Unified School District budget. The following funds have not been utilized in many years and it has been the recommendation of District auditors to close such funds. Recall previous board discussion from early 2018.

Under consideration for closing:

[1701 Special Reserve for Other than Capital Outlay](#) (balance of \$3,581.54)

[2100 Building Fund](#) (balance of \$3,974.26)

[3502 County School Facilities Fund](#) (balance of \$99.31)

[6700 Self-Insurance Fund](#) (balance of \$190.73)

It is proposed that the revenue contained in the above funds be transferred to fund 4001 (Special Reserve for Capital Outlay Projects, existing balance = \$3231.06) for future modernization projects. Total of the resulting set aside to initiate savings for modernization projects would be \$11,076.90. Such action requires board resolution. Language for potential resolution is included as a supporting document, for board consideration.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. ACTION ITEM: [Resolution No. 08-18/19](#) - Annual Organizational Meeting / December 10, 2018

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. The 2018 annual organizational meeting must be held on a day on or after December 7, 2018, and by no later than December 21, 2018.

Motion to approve Resolution #08-18/19.

Board Member	In Favor	Opposed	Absent
Chrissy Falk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Tom Mendenhall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Bert Weldon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Norm Saude	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Don Fowler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Connie Schlaefer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Ron Eldridge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

IX. ADVANCED PLANNING

A. [Governance Calendar](#)

B. Next Regular meeting date: December 10, 2018

C. Next Special meeting date(s): November 15, 2018 – Goals

D. Requested Future Agenda Items: NONE

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

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

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

1. Sierra Unified Teachers Association (SUTA)

2. California School Employees Association (CSEA)

XI. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION The Board reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

A. Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session

B. Report Action Taken in Closed Session - NONE

XII. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Chrissy Falk, President

Melissa Ireland, Ed.D, Superintendent

Bert Weldon, Clerk