



## 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 5:30 pm by Mrs. Chrissy Falk, Board President.

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

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

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

1. *Personnel*
2. *Real Estate Negotiations – Department of General Services*

**E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Brooke Kuball led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vanessa and Wesley Rakis-Garabedian shared concerns about recent changes in therapeutic services on the Foothill campus involving the use of clinicians provided by the Fresno County Office of Education.

Lauri King, Foothill PFA President and crazy carnival lady, invited all to the annual school carnival on May 31<sup>st</sup>. This is their number one fundraiser and our biggest community event. She also shared that she was able to sit in on the interview panels for the new teacher positions, and it was an amazing and invigorating experience to watch the team of teachers on the panel and the passion for what they do. The future is bright.

### III. COMMUNICATIONS

#### A. Reports

1. ASB President – Brooke Kuball  
Miss Kuball reported on ASB and other activities taking place at Sierra including: Chieftain Daze taking place two weeks after Spring Break; a rally in the works; next year's elections for Leadership positions; and Prom on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Smittcamp Alumni House.
2. Site Reports
  - a. [Sierra Junior/Senior High Schools](#), Sean Osterberg – Principal [Math DLA2](#)  
Mr. Osterberg recognized the achievements of one of our female wrestlers this year, Aliya Smithson. Aliya is the first ever female CIFCS Valley Champion in school history and holds the title of being the 2<sup>nd</sup> Valley Champion in wrestling for our school. With her victory this year, she became the school's second 2-time state qualifier and helped lead her team to a 12<sup>th</sup> place finish in this year's North West Area Championships. Off the mat, Aliya is an excellent student and maintains a GPA of 4.0. She is also this year's

drum major for the school band and was able to perform the National Anthem at the CIF Section Championships, which she won. Congratulations Aliya!

Mr. Osterberg also recognized the achievements of this year's Sierra High School Girls Basketball Team. This year the girls made it to the semi-finals in the CIF State D3 Section Championships. The girls then had to play a controversial, never done before, State Playoff game vs. Tulare Union, which they won, overcoming a 5 point deficit with 1:15 left to play. They then traveled the next day to Los Angeles to play Locke High School and won. The next day they traveled to Coalinga to play in the Semi-Quarter Finals. The girls won again, this time in overtime, capping off one of the most grueling 3-day stretches of back-to-back play in State Playoff history. Later the same week the girls played in Riverside against Ramona in their final playoff game. This put this team as the 2<sup>nd</sup> girls basketball team in school history to make it to the Elite 8 in the State Playoffs, succeeded only by the 1989 team that made it to the Final Four, but only had to play one game to get there. We congratulate and recognize these girls for their achievement this season and for showing perseverance and the ability to overcome adversity even when the odds were stacked against them.

Mr. Osterberg went on to review the DLA 2 results which can be viewed in the links above.

b. [Foothill Elementary School](#), Alan Harris, Ph.D. – Principal

Dr. Harris reviewed the DLA2 results (link above) with the Board adding that we are in the calibration phase and the teachers really have a sense of confidence on how their ELA Math maps connect with the DLA test, and then in grades 3-6 will connect with the CAASPP test administered at the end of the school year.

He spoke then of the teachers who have embraced the retirement opportunity, creating five openings at Foothill, and align some of our teams. There were 30 applicants and 15 qualified candidates were interviewed. The panel consisted of teachers from Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, Assistant Principal Amundsen, Lauri King and Cheryl Kimbler. There was such energy that day coming from this team helping choose the future teachers. It is a very deep pool of candidates. In the next couple of days the offers will be finalized, and also some very difficult calls will have to be made to some very qualified people. There has been a change in the support system for the Wonder Room and sensory space. The County is providing 3 Therapists to work with the students, and a 6-hour Behavior Aide position will enable to better support our classrooms that have students with special needs. We are very much grateful to Vanessa for the work that she did, but the movement to this piece and having that funding is a real asset to our school. A parent meeting regarding report cards just took place and dialog has gone on year to year. The standards based report cards are not a tool that the teachers and parents feel confident with. The tool should tell what the student knows and how they're doing in their work. It was apparent there was work to do on that. Parents gave really good feedback. As we've introduced technology, they feel that there are about 6 different sites they can go to get their kid's grades, but can never figure out which one to go to. Embracing technology, we have Google Classroom, Aeries, the tools that come with the curriculum, and Illuminate. At the end of July we will meet with all of our teachers, taking feedback from the parents, to really see how we can improve our report card for next year. We'll begin to do this on an annual basis. One of our students made it in to the 3<sup>rd</sup> round in the County Spelling Bee, with both also making it into the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. We finished 15<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> overall in the County. It's exciting to see our kids compete in those ways. All teams that went to the Peach Blossom received Superior.

c. [Sandy Bluffs Alternative Education](#), Ara Keledjian – Director

Mr. Keledjian spoke about Sandy Bluffs getting ready for State testing with test prep, making sure that the students are familiar with the process. Physical fitness testing has been completed. In the last 2 weeks, we have graduated 3 students from Sandy Bluffs. One is going to Clovis Community College, and 2 are going to Job Corp. This is always exciting to see. Between Adult School, Independent Study, and Sandy Bluffs, we're going to have a lot of chairs up there for our Graduation ceremony.

3. Superintendent Report – Melissa Ireland, Ed.D.  
Dr. Ireland spoke later during Agenda Item VI.C.
4. Department Reports
  - a. Facilities and Maintenance - Jim Harris, Supervisor  
Mr. Harris shared that he was contacted by the state water boards that our waste water treatment plant at the high school hasn't been permitted in 33 years. To get that permit, a civil engineer will have to be hired to come do the report for the district.
  - b. Transportation – Craig Barnes, Supervisor  
Mr. Barnes reported that on March 29<sup>th</sup> the annual CHP terminal inspections were completed and we received a perfect score. Thanks to the hard working guys in the shop. April 23<sup>rd</sup> is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day. If you pass a school bus, honk, wave, tell a driver thanks. Anything that is done is greatly appreciated by the drivers. April 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be school bus safety and evacuation drills at Foothill.
  - c. Business Services - Janelle LaBerge, Assistant Superintendent
    1. [Budget Report](#)  
Ms. LaBerge reviewed the budget report in the link above with the Board. She spoke of a meeting with the Early Childhood Education Department from the County. There was a lot of information having to do with preschool and daycare. The funding is going to be available, hopefully to us, for all day preschool. There will be hoops to jump through and an application. Part of the discussion was doing a wrap-around program that would involve both the daycare and preschool portion. That will be a more long-term discussion. Hopefully by the end of the 2019-20 year, we'll have a firm commitment for the following year. It could be as much as \$14,000 per student per year, with 50 slots for all-day preschool for 3 and 4 year old. Parents would pay on a sliding scale depending on income. There are also a few other grants that we can apply for, that have to do with inclusion of 3 and 4 year olds with regards to preschool. There are a bunch of bills out there regarding education. Some that will affect us will be: Senate Bill 585; Assembly Bills 1021, 39, 760, 428, and 1303.
  - d. Education Services – Tammy Montgomery, Director  
Mrs. Montgomery updated the Board on Science curriculum adoption. Grades 6 and 8 have narrowed it down to 2 titles, TCI and Amplify. Grades K-5 are in the process of reviewing materials. Grades 9-12 have only one publisher that has presented a full high-school, 3-course curriculum. They're considering holding off and piloting Chemistry next year until we have more publishers to review to ensure quality of program. Sierra has been approved by Clovis Community to host 3 more courses for dual-enrollment: Business 5 (Introduction to Business); Business 10 (Business Communications); and English IA (with the right instructor) for Seniors only, in the Spring semester.

BREAK: 6:48 – 6:52 pm

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

#### **B. Board Reflections**

Jason Schroer spoke of an article having to do with schools in Malaga, (the province his wife, a Spanish National, is originally from and a geographic area about the size of Fresno County). They were adding 4 more public schools to their list of dual-language schools. They now have 173, with a handful of those actually teaching 3 languages. This brought up the question in the household as to how can we be so far behind the, when a small area in Spain has 173 schools teaching curriculum in 2 languages.

Chrissy Falk shared that she was at Foothill this week going through Leap Lab and seeing the great stuff happening in there. She also went in to Michael Rodrigues's 6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom and was able to see him using all of the technology in math. It was really great to see our students becoming so much more comfortable with that language.

**IV. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA**

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

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. ACTION ITEM: [Budget Considerations for 2019-2020](#)**

The Superintendent is proposing the Board consider adding the following items to the 2019-2020 budget.

1. Increase substitute teacher daily rate from \$103 to \$130.
2. Increase the workdays of the Alternative Education Director by 5 days, from 205 to 210, equivalent to elementary principal.
3. Change the current open position from a 4.5 hour bus driver, which has been open and unfilled since January, to an eleven month, full-time utility bus driver position.

Motion to approve the three budget considerations listed above: Fowler: Second: Schroer: 5/0 (Qualls recused himself-wife is a substitute teacher)

**B. ACTION ITEM: [Copier Contracts](#)**

Our current copier lease is able to be upgraded in the last 24 months of the lease. American Business Machines is proposing to offer the same number of copiers as the current contract, with a monthly reduction in the payment of \$329.01, annual savings of \$3,948.12. Ray Morgan Company is proposing to offer the same number of copiers as the current contract, with a monthly reduction in payment and annual savings of: Canon – \$447.98 and \$5,375.72; or Ricoh – \$452.22 and \$5,426.61

Motion to award the copier contract to the Ray Morgan Company with Canon copiers: Fowler: Second: Eldridge: 6/0

**C. ACTION ITEM: [2019 Delegate Assembly Run-off Election](#)**

The members of the Delegate Assembly Election Committee met on March 22 to count and certify the ballots for election to the Delegate Assembly (DA). A tie for a seat on the DA occurred in our Sub-region resulting in the need for a run-off election to be held, between candidates Connie Schlaefer from Sierra Unified and Brandon Vang from Sanger Unified. The ballots will be counted on May 6 and the candidates will be notified of the results immediately. Should a second tie occur, the Regional Director will cast the tie-breaking vote. Delegates in the run-off election serve two-year terms effective the day the run-off votes are counted through March 31, 2021. The next meeting of the Delegate Assembly is on Saturday, May 18 – Sunday, May 19 at the Hyatt Regency in Sacramento.

Motion to vote for Connie Schlaefer in Run-Off Election for 2019 Delegate Assembly: Qualls: Second: Schroer: 6/0

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. INFORMATION: [WiFi in the Classrooms](#) – Maryl Millard**

Ms. Millard shared information, risks, and concerns with the Board regarding unhealthy exposure to EMF through WiFi in the classrooms. Click [here](#) for additional information provided with requests for action.

**B. DISCUSSION ITEM: [Facility Renovation](#) [PowerPoint](#)**

The Board discussed the recommendations made by the Facilities Renovation Committee and any next steps that might be taken. This will be brought back for further discussion. Jim Harris to bring back estimate of costs to the Board.

**C. DISCUSSION ITEM: [Marketing/Branding Proposals](#)**

The Board discussed proposals submitted by three local firms at the request of the superintendent.

1. [Cohen Communications](#)
2. [Five Creative Group](#)
3. [Idea Emporium](#)

**D. INFORMATION: [Student Discipline System](#)**

Principals Alan Harris, Ara Keledjian, and Sean Osterberg presented an overview of the current student discipline system in use at schools in Sierra Unified.

**VII. ADVANCED PLANNING**

- A. [Governance Calendar](#)
- B. Next Regular meeting date: May 13, 2019
- C. Next Special meeting date(s): April 26, 2019 – Closed Session @ 4:30 p.m.
- D. Requested Future Agenda Items:
  - 1. Report – District Progress on 5-Year Goals – May 13, 2019
  - 2. Athletic Director Position Report – May 13, 2019
  - 3. Next Generation Science Standards – May 13, 2019
  - 4. Mental Health Update – May 13, 2019
  - 5. CTE Plan Update – May 13, 2019

**VIII. CLOSED SESSION** The Board of Trustees went into Closed Session at 9:18 p.m.

- A. Personnel - Public Employee Discipline / Dismissal / Release / Complaint / Appointment / Employment (Gov. Code § 54957)
- B. Real Estate Negotiations (Gov. Code 54956.8)

**IX. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION** The Board reconvened at 10:14 p.m.

- A. Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session
- B. Report Action Taken in Closed Session - NONE

**X. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

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Chrissy Falk, President

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Melissa Ireland, Ed.D, Superintendent

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Ron Eldridge, Clerk