

SIERRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, May 8, 2017

5:30 pm

Virginia B. Causey Educational Center
29143 Auberry Road, Prather, CA 93651
Board Room

I. OPENING BUSINESS

A. CALL PUBLIC SESSION TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Mr. Ron Eldridge, Board President.

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

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Motion to adopt agenda with amendment of item VIII.C supporting document to show box marked "Yes" regarding interns: Fowler: Second: Mendenhall: 7/0

D. IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

1. *Personnel - Public Employee Discipline / Dismissal / Release / Complaint / Appointment / Employment*
2. *Superintendent Evaluation*

E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Rachel Beckmann led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

II. RECOGNITIONS

A. Employees of the Year

1. Foothill Elementary

Mr. Harris was honored to recognize the following employees who were selected by their colleagues through a process of nomination and vote:

a. Cheryl Kimbler

Cheryl is an incredible asset to the Foothill family, especially within the Special Education department. She takes the time and energy to understand, support, and build relationships with each of her students, parents, teachers and the staff that she closely works with. Cheryl's respectful, quiet, patient and caring demeanor assists in developing relationships that build trust and bring about student success. Mrs. Kimbler uses her extensive knowledge and strategies to meet the needs of each student. Cheryl not only follows academic instruction, but believes in building social skills within her students. Behind the scenes, Cheryl is the first to volunteer with events, and support for needy families in our community. Mrs. Kimbler truly makes a difference. One of that best examples that can be given is after one of our holiday program nights, she came in and told the story of the night before that included driving down the highway, pulling off to the side, having vomit all over the place, helping a child come back to the car who was angry at his mom. This happened all because she had helped a family that was struggling they could attend. In her typical "aw shucks" way, she turned the story around making it not about her. It is honor to work with someone who is quiet and humble, and truly a master teacher. She is true gift to all of education, but particularly to our Foothill Eagles.

- b. Nikki Garrison
Everyone can conclude that Nikki truly loves her job working with students in the Response to Intervention (Rtl) program, and has a positive supportive relationship with each child, especially those who are most challenging. The trust she develops with her children leads to them knowing she believes in them. Mrs. Garrison naturally differentiates instruction to meet individual needs and continually uses her knowledge, experience and resources to create ways to improve student reading performance. She goes above and beyond, willing to take on any task that improves student instruction in the Rtl program. Nikki is a deeply passionate employee. She has invested her heart. She is one of those people that you work with who is truly sunshine. It does not matter the weather outside, she is going to bring sunshine every day, to everybody she meets.

2. Sierra Junior / Senior High School

Mr. Osterberg recognized the following employees chosen by the colleagues with the process including asking students and staff why they would choose them:

- a. Heidi Parks
When students and staff were asked what they liked about Heidi, these things came across: She's a great teacher; students learn a ton and have fun doing it; students love her class; kids sometimes forget that they're in her class to learn because they are just soaking it up, taking it in, focused and engaged; she's smart and hard-working; she's a person that relates well to all students and staff; she has an ability to demand respect; and she's a team player. Mrs. Parks is a beaming light for our Junior High.

- b. Reggie Foster
In the office Reggie's is described as a hummingbird. She literally never stops, constantly moving and working, talking, with everyone happy around her. She is that energy, that constant heartbeat in the office. Mrs. Foster is also described as very personable. The families coming to our school are personally welcomed by her as the Registrar. To each and every parent and student she meets, she always tells them "You're so lucky to be coming to Sierra." She then shares about 5 or 6 things that are going on at that time. She's a constant, positive energy in our office. Reggie is very hard-working, and has been so important to Mr. Osterberg, being the new Principal. As soon as a question comes up or something is thought of, Reggie is already half-way doing it, and is sharing what's going on, 4 or 5 steps ahead. She has the highest integrity. You will always get an honest response. She gives 110% and cares tremendously about everything she does day to day, and it shows. She's a very valuable person to us, our little hummingbird.

3. Facilities and Transportation

- a. Randy Sweany
Mr. Sweany was unable to attend and will be recognized at the June 12, 2017 Regular Board meeting.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

India Saude, representing SUTA, accepted the new role as SUTA President for the next two years. She thanked the Board for looking at the Collective Bargaining and being willing to add the longevity for Teachers, and additional stipends for Ag. She also thanked the District for the Staff Appreciation gifts received. There are lots of things going on at the sites especially with Seniors. We're busy getting ready for Gradnite. There is extra room for chaperones. If you have not already signed up for judging at Senior Projects, please see Reggie for that.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Reports

- 1. ASB President – Rachel Beckmann
Miss Beckmann shared activities going on with ASB including: a Junior Officer trip to plan a venue for next year's Prom; ASB elections with a lot of incoming Freshman joining; and Chieftain Daze with Paint Dodgeball; hot dog eating competition, and an obstacle course.

2. Site Reports

- a. Foothill Elementary, Alan Harris – Principal
Dr. Harris shared that May is a big month at Foothill with the Luau Carnival on May 19th. It is the main fundraiser for FES put on by PFA. There are a couple things of focus for next year. Joanna Dunn will be taking the lead of forming 2 committees of teachers and parents. One committee working on the beautification of the campus, differentiating that the school is no longer a middle school, but rather an elementary school. There is a lot that can be done, and we want teachers and parents to be a part of what that looks like. PFA will be putting forth some money to work on some signage and other things that can happen in our cafeteria and across the campus to Eaglefy the place. Another area that PFA is willing to invest some funds, and is exciting, is in our Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS), incentivizing students to be their Eagle best. It's not about false praise. It's about nailing those positive behaviors that we want to see them make. When you choose a positive behavior while your friends have chosen a negative one, that's your best Eagle choice. When you have chosen to try and persist at a math problem when you are tired and frustrated that's a best Eagle behavior. When you choose to walk across the campus and focus, and stay on task, that's a best Eagle behavior. All of these things we're asking kids to do currently are giving them really good incentives to push themselves to the next level of challenge. We will also be developing a new Honor Roll system that is aligned with the standards-based report cards, recognizing students for going above and beyond. Congratulations to Mrs. Rodrigues and our whole PBIS team of teachers, for Foothill being recognized as being at the Gold Level of implementation. This goes beyond the words and the sayings; it is actually embodied in how we operate. The deeper level is to work on supports and strategies within level 2 and level 3. We're also looking to make some adjustments to how we deliver Special Ed services to better meet the needs of some of our students with specific emotional behavior disabilities. We're really proud of the work that's been done with PBIS and what's going to happen at the next level.
- b. Sierra Jr. & Sr. High Schools, Sean Osterberg - Principal
Mr. Osterberg handed out and reviewed a list of [upcoming events](#) to the Board for this busy time of year at Sierra. Our Advanced Parli-Pro Team came in second in the State, which is incredible. They did a fantastic job. Two of students were recognized: Novice Top Chair #1 is Keira Heberleine; and Advanced Top Chair #1 is Kat Marsh.
- c. Sandy Bluffs Alternative Education, Ara Keledjian – Director
Mr. Keledjian reported that the Sandy Bluffs Graduation ceremony will be June 5th @ 7:00 pm at Sandy Bluffs. Sixteen high school students and seven adult school students are graduating this year. Testing is under way, which is always challenging especially at the Independent Study. Thank you to Sue Mitchell who has been extremely supportive and helpful getting that going. Today, Sandy Bluffs students went to their reward trip to Blackbeards. The staff works hard encouraging the students to make themselves eligible to go. All but 3 students were able to attend. Terry McMean, Adult School Teacher, has agreed to start working at Big Sandy Rancheria. She is paired with Gina Riley at Big Sandy and will be holding Adult School classes. The barrier of transportation is being removed. We'd like to start offering the same to Cold Springs Rancheria as well. Parent University will also be offered at both Rancherias. There is a new Adult School Counselor, paid for by the Adult School Consortium that we are part of. She will be meeting with the Tribal Counsels explaining her role, and the connections she has. She is shared with 3 other small districts and is extremely knowledgeable. She has been meeting with students by appointment. She is connected to Workforce Connections which helps adult students make the next move into the work force after getting their high school diploma. SARB is done for the school year. This year there were over 20 hearings, and approximately 15 home visits with the Probation Officer. We've come a long way in this process. We have a lot of improvements that we're looking forward to for next year, and are excited at the opportunity to get down to the nitty gritty of helping families work through the issues that may be causing truancy.

3. Superintendent Report - Melissa Ireland, Ed.D.
Dr. Ireland congratulated both the Advanced and Novice Parli Pro teams. She shared an honor that the FFA bestowed upon Sean Osterberg in his first year as Sierra's Principal. He was named an honorary FFA member, which is quite a show of recognition. Thank you to Sue Mitchell, who has taken the lead in writing a grant for approximately \$60,000 for Mental Health Services. Results should be back by the end of May. Thursday of this week Hour Zero will be here for a full day to do the final training for the Emergency Response Teams (both site and district). This is a busy time of year. It seems that there will be something pretty much every night to attend. We're looking forward to all of them. We're looking forward to being a Google District, which will enable Google Calendar to sync with our new District website calendar. This should make getting all dates on the district calendar a more streamlined process. In a meeting with Gina Riley, she shared how happy she is about what's happening with the adult school program, and the growth that it will mean for their community. They are now requiring all of their staff members that work on the Rancheria to have their high school diploma. It was also discussed how we could better meet their needs with some of the things they felt were missing, and were able to ensure that their after-school tutors have access to Aeries. She mentioned that it would be helpful if we could have someone check in with their tutors to assist them in helping the students with the newer math curriculum.
4. Department Reports
 - a. Facilities and Maintenance - Jim Harris, Supervisor
Mr. Harris invited everyone to the VIP workday going on at the high school on Saturday. The plan is to re-paint the entire stadium, which will make it nice and fresh looking for the graduation. The new security system at the high school is up and running. A very busy summer is coming up.
 - b. Transportation / Bus Services – Craig Barnes, Supervisor
Mr. Barnes shared that we just got a new bus and should be on the road tomorrow. We've been working hard at data entry for our new software, Transfinder. It should be completely operational at the end of this month. We'll be starting to implement Zonar by the end of the school year.
 - c. Business Services – Janelle Mehling, Assistant Superintendent
 1. [Monthly Budget Report](#)
Mrs. Mehling reviewed the monthly budget report with the Board. See link above.
 - d. Curriculum and Instruction – Sue Mitchell, Director
Mrs. Mitchell reported that we are in the 2nd week of testing for CAASPP (grades 3-8 and 11). In terms of technology, we are moving forward with infrastructure, to be completed over the summer. The 1st shipment of devices has been received. On May 31st, we will meet with the County to determine best practices to set up our domains and to make sure our Acceptable Use Policies are complete and appropriate. We've been working on LCAP, getting everything in place. We have wrapped up the 1st year of ELA implementation, and starting to look ahead at what consumables need to be ordered.
5. Program Reports
 - a. [Mental Health Services PowerPoint](#)
Mrs. Page updated the Board on Mental Health Services at Sierra Unified. Please see links above for complete information.

B. Board Reflections

Don Fowler invited all to participate in the VIP day coming up Saturday beginning at 8:00 am. Lunch will be provided.

Norm Saude spoke about being happy to see Don back in the saddle and looking healthy after his surgery. All present agreed wholeheartedly.

Tom Mendenhall reminded everyone about the Mother's Day rodeo also that weekend. He joked about hopefully seeing the newest honorary FFA member there.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Calendar Agenda with revision to April 3, 2017 minutes, Item # V.A.4.c.1 report: Fowler: Second: Falk: 7/0

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. ACTION ITEM: [Resolution # 15-16/17](#) – Consideration for Approval of Closure of Pole Corral Elementary School

Motion to approve Resolution # 15-16/17: Saude: Second: Mendenhall: 7/0

Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.
Ron Eldridge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Chrissy Falk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Tom Mendenhall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Norm Saude	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Bert Weldon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Don Fowler			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Connie Schlaefer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

B. 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 between SUSD and SUTA was entered into on March 15, 2017 and 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: Falk: 7/0

C. ACTION ITEM: Approval [March 2017 Legal Updates to Board Policies](#)

Motion to approve March 2017 Legal Updates to Board Policies: Fowler: Second: Weldon: 7/0

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. INFORMATION: [Complaint Process / Procedures](#)

Dr. Ireland reviewed Sierra Unified’s Complaint Process and Procedures with the Board. Please see link above for detailed documents outlining the process.

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION: Approve a guaranteed maximum price from [Seals Construction, Inc.](#) for the Prop 39 funded Energy Efficiency Project and approve the District to issue a Notice to Proceed to Construction

Background: In January of 2017, Sierra Unified School District entered into an Energy Services Agreement with Seals Construction, Inc to begin design of the District’s Prop 39 funded energy efficiency project. The project scope includes interior and exterior lighting retrofits and HVAC replacements at 4 District sites: Foothill Elementary; Sandy Bluffs; Sierra District Office; Sierra High School (with Junior High and Pre-School). With the assistance of TETER Architects and Engineers, Seals Construction, Inc. has completed design and is in the process of obtaining DSA approval for this project. After running a bid process for mechanical and electrical trades, Seals Construction, Inc. has prepared the attached Guaranteed Maximum Pricing

Fiscal Implications: The Guaranteed Maximum Price for the construction of this project is: \$175,212.00. To date, the District has spent \$20,506.50 on the pre-construction/design services associated with the Energy Services Agreement with Seals Construction, Inc. The District’s consultant, TerraVerde Renewable Partners, estimates a total project cost of \$368,885 for the Prop 39 Energy Efficiency Scope of Work, inclusive of legal fees, inspection fees and consulting fees (not inclusive of solar). The District

has \$212,463 of Prop 39 specifically approved for Energy Efficiency measures which will be spent on this project. If the GMP for the project is higher than the available Prop 39 funds, the District has the option to de-scope the project to remain within the funds received.

Guaranteed maximum pricing as presented by Seals Construction, Inc. and allowing the District to issue a Notice to Proceed to Construction to Seals Construction, Inc. was approved and staff was directed to go back and look at cost savings for District installed AC and light units.

C. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: Approval of [“Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators: for the 2017-2018 School Year”](#)

After verifying they have met the state approved requirements, the approval of this Declaration of Need for fully Qualified Educators will authorize credentialed staff, including substitute teachers and those on special assignment, to teach in the areas of need.

Motion to approve the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educator for the 2017-2018 School Year:
Saude: Second: Falk: 7/0

D. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: Sub-Committee / Stadium Renovation

The Board will be asked to approve the establishment of a sub-committee to look at possible future stadium renovations.

Motion to pull Stadium Renovation from the Long Range Planning list and establish a Sub-Committee to review possible renovation plans to be brought back before the Board: Eldridge: Second: Mendenhall: 7/0

E. DISCUSSION ITEM: [Proposal to Board – Ponderosa Day Care](#)

Mrs. Mehling reviewed with the Board, a proposal that the current Day Care be run as a fee-based program, allowing it to be covered under SUSD insurance, to regulate the days that the program is available to the community, to provide coverage for the caregivers under workers compensation, and to provide that wraparound care option for our community members with pre-school aged children. See above link for details.

IX. ADVANCED PLANNING

A. [Governance Calendar](#)

1. Superintendent Evaluation Report – June 12, 2017

B. Next Regular meeting date: June 12, 2017

C. Next Special meeting date(s):

1. Budget and LCAP Public Hearing – June 12, 2017 @ 5:00 p.m.

2. Budget and LCAP Adoption – June 27, 2017 @ 5:00 p.m.

D. Requested Future Agenda Items:

1. Grant Writer – June 12, 2017

2. Suicide Prevention – Board Policy

3. Community Park

4. Developer Fees – June 12, 2017

5. Life Skills

- X. **CLOSED SESSION** The Board of Trustees went into Closed Session at 7:52 p.m.
 - A. Personnel - Public Employee Discipline / Dismissal / Release / Complaint / Appointment / Employment (Gov. Code § 54957)
 - B. Superintendent Evaluation
 - 1. Final Goal Report
 - 2. Mid-Year Progress Report Update

XI. **RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION** The Board Reconvened at 9:33 p.m.

- A. Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session
- B. Report Action Taken in Closed Session (Education Code 48918(j)) - NONE

XII. **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Ron Eldridge, President

Melissa Ireland, Ed.D, Superintendent

Tom Mendenhall, Clerk