

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

Monday, June 12, 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 5:01 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 (L-5:25 pm); and Connie Schlaefer

**C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Motion to adopt agenda with additional Public Comment added before Agenda Item # II: Falk: Second: Weldon: 6/0

### D. IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

1. *Personnel - Public Employee Discipline / Dismissal / Release / Complaint / Appointment / Employment*
2. *Superintendent Evaluation*
3. *Student Appeals-Grade Acceleration*

**E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Connie Schlaefer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

### PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people spoke during Public Comment: Jed Davis

## II. ADJOURN TO PUBLIC HEARINGS – 5:09 pm

### A. Convene Public Hearing on the Matter of the [Proposed Local Control Accountability Plan \(LCAP\)](#)

1. Public Hearing opened for Input.
2. Public Hearing adjourned on matter of the LCAP – 5:55 pm

### B. Convene Public Hearing on the Matter the [2017-2018 Budget - PowerPoint Presentation](#)

1. Public Hearing opened for Input.
2. Balances in Excess of Minimum Reserve Requirements as required by Ed. Code 42127(a)(2)(B) – School districts must discuss and review at the public budget hearing annually the [reasons for ending reserve balances](#) in excess of the minimum required reserve.
3. Public Hearing adjourned on matter of the 2017-2018 Budget – 6:14 pm

## III. RECONVENE SIERRA UNIFIED REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## IV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – NONE

## V. COMMUNICATIONS

### A. Reports

1. Site Reports

a. Foothill Elementary, Alan Harris – Principal

Dr. Harris shared exciting news on the Foothill campus. Last week Michelle Greer, our TK Teacher, received a \$1,000 grant from Channel 26, to introduce the next generation science standards in depth. 20 teachers were on campus today doing the work of closing the ELA maps and how it will work next year. Kiely LeVash has taken the role of Academic Coach for next year (one year) with the idea of working with each grade level and design progress monitoring assessments that will happen each trimester, but also to build a linking of the curriculum. The increased emphasis and the amount of time spent on ELA and Math has taken away from time spent on science and social studies. Our work as teachers and administrators next year is to really design that curriculum experience. The goal is a year from now, having a really good map and plan that builds in project-based learning and has good check marks along the way, so that we get off of that year-to-year treadmill of how we did on test scores this year. It'll be more along the lines of where our students are and are headed, and how does our work on the state tests match up to that; long term growth for all students. We are excited to be able to work with Fresno County schools, looking at that mental health component. A very therapeutic environment for the kids is critical. We're out in front of the other schools in the county, with people from the county office wanting to work with us on how they can support us to becoming a model district, model school, to lead the way on how we provide that therapeutic space for our students that have dealt with trauma in their lives.

b. Sierra Jr. & Sr. High Schools, Sean Osterberg - Principal

Mr. Osterberg thanked the Board for coming to Senior Night, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion, and Graduation. The show of support is fantastic as was the graduating class of 100 kids, with 21 Valedictorians, who received close to \$600,000 in scholarships.

c. Sandy Bluffs Alternative Education, Ara Keledjian – Director

Mr. Keledjian reported there were 31 graduates from Alternative Education. Summer will start on Thursday with over 40 students participating, taught by Mr. Nagle with credit recovery only. Terry McMeen is now teaching Adult School at Big Sandy Rancheria, with 8 students already registered. Next week will be discussions with Cold Springs to begin doing the same there.

2. Superintendent Report - Melissa Ireland, Ed.D.

Dr. Ireland thanked the Principals for having such nice end-of-the-year ceremonies and activities. The promotions and graduation were awesome. The staff and Dr. Harris at the Foothill promotion did a great job recognizing every student. Parents were thankful. Mr. Osterberg did an excellent job with both the promotion and graduation. They were very nice, personal, and warm. In the short time Mr. Keledjian has been at Sandy Bluffs, the change in school culture is so noticeable. His work there is appreciated. The work that everyone in Facilities & Maintenance did getting ready for all of those events was incredible. Everyone was 100% in and the work there is very much appreciated. It was a very nice ending to the school year.

a. Grant Writer

After a two year experiment and a lot of hope, and having determined that it is not worth the expense, the decision has been made to end our agreement for grant writing services. We don't qualify for most of the grants that go through because our free and reduced lunch population is not large enough

3. Department Reports

a. [Transportation / Bus Services](#) – Craig Barnes, Supervisor

Mr. Barnes updated the Board on the Late Bus Transportation totals. See link above.

b. Business Services – Janelle Mehling, Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Mehling reviewed the Budget Report and historical developer fees with the Board. Please see links below for details.

1. [Monthly Budget Report](#)
2. [Developer Fees](#)

- c. [Curriculum and Instruction](#) – Sue Mitchell, Director  
Mrs. Mitchell brought forward some information for the Board regarding Science and Social Studies and their standards. The next generation science standards were adopted in 2013. The framework followed and was adopted in 2016. This year, we had a pilot test for grades 5 and 8. For high school, they assign what grade level would test. At Sierra, 10<sup>th</sup> graders took the test. At Alt. Ed. 12<sup>th</sup> graders were assigned to take the very short version pilot test. The test will be built based on information from the pilot tests. The materials for science will go to the state next year, and then the state makes the recommendation (just like ELA and Math). We are expecting the state to release that list in November of 2018. The Board viewed the link above to a website which showed details of the program. As we start looking forward, we will be developing not only curriculum, but at integrating activities across ELA and Math as well. It's a constant struggle for time. If we can teach argumentative writing by using a science topic, instead of the normal ELA topic, we are basically getting more for our time. An engineering and design component has also been added, having students design and build and test these core ideas that they're coming up with in the different grade levels. The History/Social Science framework was just adopted in 2016. We do not have new content standards as we do in Science. While the standards have not changed since 1998, the framework has been expanded. The materials for curriculum adoption are at the state department right now, being reviewed. We are expecting the state recommended list for social studies materials to be out this fall.

4. Program Reports

- a. NONE

B. Board Reflections

Connie Schlaefer spoke about her opportunity to participate in a program initiated by Ara Keledjian at the elementary school. It was an after-school electronics club. There were 10 participants. Ara created the curriculum and classes. It was so exciting. Ara did a fantastic job and his excitement was contagious. The kids loved it. It was exciting to be a part of it.

Norm Saude shared his enjoyment of the graduation/promotions. He has also been working on a science program for the museum. Hopefully it can be tied in to the student's Science Day. His project is a huge log ramp with a series of pulleys and ropes. It's a really hands-on exercise. They can see what they can do with compound pulleys. It's gratifying that these things going on in the background might be able to be used in the classrooms.

Tom Mendenhall congratulated everyone on the promotions/graduation. Everything turned out very nice. Chrissy Falk also spoke of the amazing job that was done. It's great to see our kids honored in that way. She thanked them for all the hard work.

Ron Eldridge concurred.

**VI. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA**

Motion to approve Consent Calendar Agenda: Mendenhall: Second: Falk: 7/0

**BREAK:** 6:55-7:05 pm

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. ACTION ITEM: [Proposal to Board – Ponderosa Day Care](#)**

Motion to approve the Ponderosa Day Care Proposal to the Board: Falk: Second: Fowler: 7/0

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. ACTION ITEM: Education Protection Account (EPA) Entitlement Spending Plan 2016-2017 [Resolution No. 16-16/17](#)** Added to the California State Budget in 2012-13 was a requirement that each LEA create an EPA set aside account. A total of 20% of the apportionment is to be maintained in the account. Pursuant to Article XIII, Section 36 of the California Constitution, LEA's are required to determine how the moneys received from the EPA are spent, in an open session of a public meeting. The language requires that funds shall not be used for the salaries and benefits of administrators or any other administrative costs. The total for 2016-2017 is \$1,099,407 which will be spent on teachers' salaries.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 16-16/17: Schlaefer: 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. DISCUSSION ITEM: Math Adoption – Grades K-6**

The math adoption process for grades K-6 has concluded. Grades 7-12 had previously adopted and are implementing *College Preparatory Mathematics (CPM)*. The process included a review of the following programs by the elementary staff: *enVisionmath2.0* by Pearson; *My Math* by McGraw-Hill; *CA Go Math* by Houghton Mifflin; and *Eureka* by Great Minds. Teachers had sample materials and digital access to the various programs. Using our early release professional development days, each program was featured at one session. Staff collectively reviewed print/digital materials, offered input, and used an evaluation rubric to score each program. At the conclusion of the review of the four programs, staff met a final time to discuss/chart the strengths and weaknesses of each program being reviewed. Staff then completed a final evaluation of each program using the rubric. The results of the evaluation were compiled resulting in the recommendation from staff to the Board to proceed with the adoption of *CA Go Math* by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for the 2017-2018 school year.

- C. DISCUSSION ITEM: [CSBA Legal Updates to Board Policies – May, 2017](#)**

- D. DISCUSSION ITEM: [CTE Plan](#) [Power Point](#)**

Mr. Osterberg reviewed the Plan for Career Technical Education (CTE) with the Board. See links above for details.

**IX. ADVANCED PLANNING**

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

- 1. Superintendent Evaluation Report – June 12, 2017

- B. Next Regular meeting date: July 10, 2017**

- C. Next Special meeting date(s):**

- 1. Budget and LCAP Public Adoption – June 27, 2017 @ 5:00 pm

- D. Requested Future Agenda Items:**

- 1. Suicide Prevention / Board Policy – August 14, 2017
  - 2. Community Park
  - 3. Life Skills – Freshman Requirement Proposal

- X. CLOSED SESSION** The Board of Trustees went into Closed Session at 8:15 p.m.
- A.** Personnel - Public Employee Discipline / Dismissal / Release / Complaint / Appointment / Employment (Gov. Code § 54957)
    - 1. Superintendent Evaluation Report
  - B.** Student Appeals – Grade Acceleration (Education Code 48000)
- XI. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION** The Board reconvened at 8:26 p.m. to report out then returned to Closed Session.
- A.** Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session
  - B.** Report Action Taken in Closed Session (Education Code 48918(j))  
The Board evaluated the Grade Acceleration Assessments and agree with the recommendations: Student #1 accelerated to Kindergarten; Student #2 accelerated to Kindergarten; and Student #3-age placement in TK.
- XII. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

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Ron Eldridge, President

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Melissa Ireland, Ed.D, Superintendent

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Tom Mendenhall, Clerk