

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

Tuesday, January 9, 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 5:31 pm by Mr. Ron Eldridge, Board President.

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

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Motion to adopt: Fowler: Second: Saude: 5/0

D. IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

1. *Personnel - Public Employee Discipline / Dismissal / Release / Complaint / Appointment / Employment Superintendent Mid-Term Evaluation Discussion*
2. *Potential Litigation (Government Code 54956.9)*

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

II. PRESENTATIONS

A. Choral Company Performance

The audience and the Board enjoyed a wonderful flashback to Christmas while the SHS Choral Company performed.

III. RECOGNITIONS

A. Superintendent

1. Craig Barnes

Dr. Ireland recognized Craig Barnes, who had quite a few of his crew attending in his honor. Craig filled big shoes replacing Ben Kimbler as Transportation Supervisor. He earned the job, not just through the interview process, but through a long and excellent work history. The transition has gone better than anyone might have hoped for. It was if there wasn't a change at all. It's a big role, with student safety being first and foremost, but there are also scheduling issues, parent concerns, legal requirements, etc. to deal with. These have all gone off without a hitch including the first day of school which is always a challenge. Things have gone flawlessly. He got the routing (repeaters) systems going on the busses within a month of being on the job. Late/activity busses were brought back this year adding even more scheduling challenges, but Craig took that on with a gusto. He's about 18 months ahead of schedule on the new legal requirements for tracking busses in real time and learning about the software. He's handled everything as well or better than anyone could have hoped. We're very happy he's with us.

B. Foothill Elementary

1. Brenda Harrison
Mr. Harris honored Brenda Harrison who is a “doer”. She delivers on a regular basis. About a month into school she was taking a group of Native American students to UC Merced. She wanted to find a way to have them go in a more comfortable way than a school bus. Two weeks later, the transportation had been ordered, and it’s payed for. Most of the students who were able to attend would be first generation college students. Chaperones have reported that when these kids visit a college, that ends being the college they want to attend. It’s like showing them a new life. Mrs. Harrison works for advocacy for our Native American students. We have had generational failure for students who are Native American in Sierra Unified. That’s an issue with the system. If you’re going to work at really breaking down that system, you have to have people who, not only can work acutely for the needs of students who are struggling and their families, but get at the bigger system. There is no way to adequately describe in words the impact that Brenda Harrison has on our entire campus, but particularly for what is going to be the trajectory for our students who are Native American. On any given week, and because she has a teaching credential, she can be in a classroom assisting intervention for students and help Kindergarten teachers identify early signs of gaps for our students. At the same time, she’s planning field trips, visiting Rancherias and meeting with parents whose students might be struggling to attend. One teacher said, “She just seems to show up all the time for kids and their parents.” She knows what kids need, then delivers it. At the same time, she works with older classrooms identifying how they can work so that it isn’t dependent on an individual advocate. The Native American culture should be a part of our entire system. We are very fortunate to have a “doer”, someone who delivers for kids, and helps us all be better in advancing the work for all students.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

NONE

V. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Reports

1. ASB Representative – Rachel Beckmann
Rachel shared recent activities events with the Board, including: The Sadie Hawkins Christmas themed dance which was held under the sophomore tent; and the upcoming Winter Formal on January 21st at Sebastions, with the venue donated by the Brian and Christy Barcus;
2. Superintendent Report - Melissa Ireland, Ed.D.
 - a. [LCAP Update](#)
Dr. Ireland updated the Board on the Local Control Accountability process. See link above for the newest template. A plan summary is now required, as well as highlights on Greatest Progress, Greatest Needs and the Performance Gaps. This will help parents or community members to better understand. Three trainings have been attended and much has been learned. There will be dashboards up for rubrics. The template is not completely functional, so the request is to postpone putting any information into the document until the interactive template with directions for using it is available. This is all in the workings of making the plan more readable for the public and useable for districts. They also want the measures include to be more limited, looking for high leverage goals and objectives. The focus is on doing it well instead of doing it fast.
 - b. [Mid-Year Update](#)
Dr. Ireland presented a Mid-Year update to the Board based on LCAP submitted last Spring. See links above for details.
3. Site Reports
 - a. Sierra Junior/Senior High Schools, Sean Osterberg – Principal
Mr. Osterberg introduced Kat Marsh, FFA Chapter Reporter who spoke about upcoming FFA activities. Speaking before the Board is one step of many on an extensive checklist to achieve the Gold Star in the Star Awards which are awarded on the Sectional, Regional State and National levels.

- b. Foothill Elementary School, Alan Harris – Principal
Mr. Harris spoke about the Christmas Program in December. We're lucky to have such a caring and supportive community attending, and staff working hard to make it happen: Jim Harris and his entire crew tearing it down and putting it up every day; Connie Schlaefer running the video; Bruce Weinberger coming over and running the sound for us every night; teachers providing kids dinners so they could stay and be part of the program; staff driving kids down the mountain at the end of the day, and more. This is an example of how special the Christmas Program nights are. It's not measured by a test score or anything else. It's about a community that really cares deeply about kids. One of the revelations from the 1st semester is how we can meet the needs of teachers and students in our larger than normal Kindergarten classes. Already we can see the benefits of our Response to Intervention teachers have changed their schedule after meeting with the grade level teams, allowing the RtI teachers to be in Kindergarten in the morning during group time. This will make a huge difference in the coming weeks with two credentialed teachers in the classroom for an hour. This is an example of how well our staff works together with high leverage moves to get us moving forward. As we look at staffing for next year, the question comes up of how we make arrangements to serve Kindergarten students even better if our classes are larger than expected. Regarding the upcoming math adoption, the process and the way Sue has organized it will enable all of the teachers to have a part in the decision. Criteria: staying with the philosophical shift in the way we teach mathematics, a shift that adds value in mathematical learning.

- c. Sandy Bluffs Alternative Education, Ara Keledjian – Director
Mr. Keledjian reported 13 students at Sandy Bluffs. Independent Study – 24; Lodgepole – 8; Oak Meadow – 1; Adult School – 23; and Pole Corral – 4. Everyone is preparing for DLA #2. Currently at Sandy Bluffs, there are only 2 students on level 4. All others are on level 1 and 2. Before break the students decorated Christmas cookies then donated them to Bruce Weinberger as a fundraiser for the Christmas show. Level 1 students took a reward trip to the zoo. Four students returned to Sierra High School at the semester. Of those 4 students, 2 were seniors and 2 were freshmen. Three of these went back on an early return contract and one timed out on the discipline transfer. Two students graduated from Sandy Bluffs at the semester. Tomorrow is the second round of SARB hearings. This will be a full day hearing 7 cases combined from all sites. Today was the first session of Parent University and Big Sandy Rancheria, with Jackie Badoni and Ara presenting. The ultimate goal is to have parents who complete the program become the facilitators in future years. Tribal TANF sent 7 participants but would like to open it to the BSR Community for future sessions. This is our "Pilot" project, planned to expand to all sites. All participants become Black Mountain Adult School students. Session #1 covered the school structure, roles of the Board, Superintendent, Principals, Teachers, and Support Personnel. We discussed what goes in to a typical classroom lesson and why it is so important to be present in class as much as possible. Also discussed was the role, purpose and process of the SST, and Common Core standards and what it means for students. Session #2 will cover school discipline policies and procedures, bullying, and what individual parents and students can do to foster a positive school culture.

4. Department Reports

- a. Facilities and Maintenance – Jim Harris, Supervisor
Jim Harris reported that the gym floor has been completely sanded, refinished, cured, and painted and should be back in use in about a week. The solar system at Foothill is up and running. The high school system energy changeover should be on the 21st of this month.

- b. Business Services – Janelle Mehling, Assistant Superintendent
1. [Monthly Budget Report](#)
Mrs. Mehling reviewed the budget report with the Board. See link above.
The Governor will be releasing his January budget information on the 10th, and she will be attending some conferences in Sacramento and in Fresno next week to get information about what that means for the current year and the out years.

- c. Curriculum and Instruction – Sue Mitchell, Director
Mrs. Mitchell reported that DLA testing began today at most sites, with a 3 week window in order to complete. Things went smoothly with a few minor glitches. The implementation of ELA program continues, with “Where with Wonders” in TK, “Wonders” in K-6, “Study Sync” in 7-12. Teachers are continuing to implement those programs. On the “to-do” list is to develop the curriculum map. The Math adoption has begun. Teachers have their timeline and had the opportunity to look at the scoring rubric that was put together based on what they identified as the essential components of a quality math program. Mrs. Mitchell went on to review the computer lab schedule.

B. Board Reflections

Tom Mendenhall spoke about being able to take a tour of the solar farm with Jim Harris proudly showing the way.

BREAK: 7:23 – 7:35 pm

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Calendar Agenda: Mendenhall: Second: Saude: 5/0

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. ACTION ITEM: [Sierra Unified School District Technology Plan](#)
[SUSD Technology Plan Cost Breakdowns - Estimates](#)

The SUSD 5–Year Technology Plan has been developed collaboratively with the District Technology Committee. Major components of the plan include: Upgrading the infrastructure to the capacity to support a 1:1 student to device ratio; establishing a 1:1 student to device ratio in grades 3-12 (core classes 7-12) by 2019; and a plan to refresh our inventory on a 5-year cycle. The plan will be reviewed yearly and reports will be provided to Administration and the Board.

Motion to approve the Sierra Unified School District Technology Plan: Saude: Second: Mendenhall: 5/0

B. ACTION ITEM: Approval of [Superintendent’s Five-Year Goals](#)

Motion to approve the Superintendent’s Five-Year Goals: Saude: Second: Mendenhall: 5/0

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION ITEM: [First Reading of Audit Report for 2015-2016](#)

Pursuant to Education Code 41020(i), a corrective action plan must be provided to the County Superintendent of Schools for any audit exceptions contained in the audit. There were no audit exceptions in the 2015-2016 Audit.

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: [Resolution #13-16/17 Prop 39-Funded Energy Efficiency Project](#)

Sierra USD Staff worked with independent clean energy advisors TerraVerde Renewable Partners on the development of the District’s Proposition 39 Energy Expenditure Plan, which was approved by the California Energy Commission for funding. To implement the Energy Efficiency project, a Request for Proposals for General Contractors was issued on October 18th, 2016. The District was satisfied with the bid received from Seals Construction, Inc, and selected the firm to perform the functions of the design/build contractor to construct the project. Staff has worked with both legal counsel and TerraVerde to negotiate a contract with Seals Construction, Inc. At this Board Meeting, Staff is seeking approval of the contract in order to begin the implementation of the District’s Prop 39-funded Energy Efficiency project. Financial Impact: Prop 39 grant funding provided to the District: \$541,237 (estimate) / District funds required to implement project: \$ 23,009 (estimate).

Motion to approve Resolution #13-16/17 for an Energy Services Agreement with Seals Construction Inc. for the design, procurement and installation of the District’s Proposition 39 funded Energy Expenditure Plan, stipulating a maximum project amount of \$25,000: Mendenhall: Second: Saude: 5/0

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"/>		

C. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: College and Career Readiness Grant

LEAs shall develop a plan describing how funds will increase or improve services for unduplicated pupils to ensure college readiness and include information on how it aligns with the LEA's local control and accountability plan. As a condition of receipt of funds, LEAs shall report to the CDE as to how the LEA will measure the impact of the funds received on the LEA's unduplicated pupils' access and matriculation to higher education. The preliminary grant funding for the district is \$75,000, which includes indirect costs.

The College and Career Readiness Plan: The Sierra Unified School District plans to use the College Readiness Block Grant to support the college and career counseling availability to students in grades 7-12. 100% to increase in counseling services in grades 7-12: Counselor, Salary & Benefits

The Board will be provided with an annual update on the impact of academic counseling, which will include percentage of socio-economically disadvantaged students meeting A-G college entrance requirements; the percentage achieving standards met or standards exceeded on the statewide 11th grade English Language Arts and Mathematics required assessments; and CTE pathway completion rates of socio-economically disadvantaged students.

The administration recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the College Readiness Block Grant Plan for the Sierra Unified School District.

College and Career Readiness Grant will be brought back as ACTION at the February 13th Board meeting.

IX. ADVANCED PLANNING

- A.** Governance Calendar – February Items
 - 1. Board Self Evaluation – TBD
 - 2. District Needs Workshop – TBD
 - 3. Special Education Program Report
 - 4. School Accountability Report Cards (SARC)
- B.** Next Regular meeting date: February 13, 2017
- C.** Next Special meeting date(s)
- D.** Requested Future Agenda Items
 - 1. Next generation science standards

- X. **CLOSED SESSION:** The Board of Trustees went into Closed Session at 9:05 pm
 - A. Personnel - Public Employee Discipline / Dismissal / Release / Complaint / Appointment / Employment (Gov. Code § 54957)
 - B. Employee Bargaining Group Negotiations (Government Code Section 54957.6)
 - 1. California School Employees Association (CSEA)
 - 2. Sierra Unified Teachers Association (SUTA)
- XI. **RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**
 - A. Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session - The Meeting was reconvened at 10:22 p.m.
 - B. Report Action Taken in Closed Session (Education Code 48918(j))

Mr. Eldridge reported that the Board has directed the Superintendent to close Pole Corral School immediately, on an interim basis, until a more formal process for review can be done for any permanent closure, and recommendations brought back to the Board.
- XII. **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Ron Eldridge, President

Melissa Ireland, Ed.D, Superintendent

Tom Mendenhall, Clerk