



MINUTES OF THE 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 Mr. Ron Eldridge, Board President.

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

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Motion to adopt agenda: Mendenhall: Second: Fowler: 6/0

D. IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

1. *Personnel*
2. *Student Appeals*
3. *Employee Bargaining Negotiations*

E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Don Fowler led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

II. PRESENTATIONS

A. Choral Company Performance

III. RECOGNITIONS

A. Sierra Junior/Senior High School

1. Laura Heeger

Mr. Osterberg introduced Laura Heeger, the new School Psychologist at Sierra Junior/Senior High and Sandy Bluffs. She has a breadth of knowledge and came at a time when we had a lot of need. She's been helping with P.B.I.S., with developing our intervention plan for behavior, and is connecting amazingly with kids. She starts off in the morning at Sandy Bluffs, relating with the students, and working with them to make their transition smooth when they return to Sierra. She's been training as a therapist, working with mental health issues, and with the programs through the County. Laura is a nice, nice addition to the team.

B. Maintenance/Transportation

1. Eric Santillan – Not present

Jim Harris spoke of Eric Santillan's indispensability, stating he really couldn't run the evening custodian shift without him. He's an awesome night supervisor. Any time he's needed, even on the weekends, he's there to take care of whatever needs to be done.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Cobb commented on a recent student issue that arose in the district, which was handled by staff and law enforcement well, but expressed concern over the communication aspect.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Reports

1. ASB President – Rachel Beckmann
Miss Beckmann spoke about various ASB activities which included: The impressive participation in Homecoming with Ag winning the float contest (Pirates of the Caribbean), and Seniors winning the class float competition; Mt. Bowl with a loss, but a fun rally before and a dance following, also with an impressive turnout; 50's theme Sadie's coming up in the cafeteria; tree decorating at the Museum; and Senior t-shirts hopefully out before Christmas break.
2. Site Reports
 - a. Sierra Junior/Senior High Schools, Sean Osterberg – Principal
Mr. Osterberg reported that C.I.F. recognized two athletes for the Fall Spirit of Sport award. Rachel Beckmann and Grant Chauncey both received \$500 scholarships. Rachel is not just ASB President and playing soccer, she's also a tennis and girls water polo player, and holds phenomenal grades. There have been a whirlwind of things happening. Fall Sports is coming to a conclusion with Winter Sports starting soon. Last weekend was Silver 65. This is a great fundraiser for the kids and they did an outstanding job. It was a great event with over 300 people attending. Things are being put in place that will really help the communication component of issues that arise on campus. The Fresno Sheriff's Department is a fantastic agency to work with. Ensuring our safety is clearly a priority to them.
 - b. Foothill Elementary School, Alan Harris – Principal
Dr. Harris spoke of how busy the month of October was. The last 6 weeks, teachers have been working closely with Sue building our District Learning Assessments that will be given each trimester. We're in the process of finishing our first round of those assessments. It's all part of building a foundation that has sound maps related to Math and ELA, backed up and aligned with a report card and assessments. At the end of the year, as we head into our State assessment, it's not a guessing game. We know our fitness level, so to speak, going in to these specific exams. There is a lot of leg work that has to happen related to that. There is pride for the teachers at Foothill in building that. In the next couple of years, we will see some real growth. Our two P.E. Teachers, Julie Hendrix and Mike McGrath, have really taken it to a new level in the last 4 or 5 months. During the summer and continuing now, Mrs. Hendrix is working on an actual spreadsheet setup that allows them to know the student's fitness tracking throughout the year. They do similar assessments in P.E. as is done in our classrooms. They can build a physical education report card for the kids, and then to build in a whole other set of learning through adventure sports and other components. This year they are going to do their first physical education field trip in January, taking students down to Metal Mark Climbing. They'll have a chance to get them on the climbing wall. Jim Harris is also working to install a climbing wall in the back of our gym. They are using innovative ways that have the students engaged in the idea of being physical, learning about cooperative play, and at the same time building that component. It's a real asset as we talk about being a Destination School District.
 - c. Sandy Bluffs Alternative Education, Ara Keledjian – Director
Mr. Keledjian reported the enrollment numbers at Alternative Education: IS-17; LP-13; SB-15; and OM-0. There have been very good transitions back to Sierra. One of the things we've begun to support those students, is set up meetings with the Counselor/Principal before the student returns to get them all set up beforehand. There was an award activity for the students that were eligible, where they went to the movies and pizza. All but three students were eligible. CHP Justice Jones visited and did an activity with the students. He roped off a crime scene and it was extremely engaging for the students who had a wonderful time. We are due for our next WASC accreditation visit next school year, so preparation has begun. Students worked with the Senior Center helping set up the Christmas trees. DLA tests are wrapping up.

3. Superintendent Report - Melissa Ireland, Ed.D.
Dr. Ireland spoke about communication, particularly in reference to an issue that arose recently. It can be difficult to know when to share information. At the time, with no hindsight, and after talking to Mr. Osterberg during that weekend, the situation seemed as though it was contained. It was a statement that was made, that was not a specific threat and seemed to be more of an off-handed comment. It was investigated thoroughly by law enforcement. Every student witness was interviewed. All of those pieces were put into place, and reviewing all the evidence, law enforcement did not believe it was a threat. All of the individuals involved have a right to protection by us, so we were really trying to weigh all of that. At that time, feeling like that loop had been closed, not wanting to worry people unnecessarily, it seemed as though it was contained. In hindsight, it was not. Late Sunday evening that was no longer the case. Social media being what it is, information travels very quickly once it goes on. This gave us information moving forward. It's a crazy time in the world, and the level of awareness for community members in all communities, is a lot higher. We do have many components in place. Please view the information on this [Emergency Communications Plan Overview](#) link.

4. Department Reports
 - a. Facilities and Maintenance - Jim Harris, Supervisor
After performing a FIT inspection on all the campuses, Mr. Harris found SJSHS and SB to be in good condition, and FES to be in exemplary condition.

 - b. Transportation – Craig Barnes, Supervisor
No Report

 - c. Business Services - Janelle Mehling, Assistant Superintendent
 1. [Monthly Budget Report](#)
 2. [Annual Disclosure of Developer Fees](#)Mrs. Mehling shared information from the Fiscal Report through School Services of California regarding what is to be expected from the Governor's January budget. The change from last June has been tremendous in a couple of different things in California. The stock market is up quite a bit, job creation is happening at a rate higher than the national rate, leaving a lot more money coming into the state than was expected in June. Many of the lobbyists analyzing the situation are thinking that because this is probably the Governor's last budget, he may decide to fully fund LCFF. Something that might affect that is the fact that tax reform at the federal level is also being proposed. One of the biggest proposals would be a change in the capital gains tax. California depends on the revenues from the high income tax burners more so than in most other states, so if there is a change in the behavior of people who have capital gains transactions, which may delay some of the tax revenues that we otherwise would get. If the Governor does decide to fully fund LCFF for next year, which would mean an additional \$130,000 with the current estimate of LCFF in the 2018-19 year. Mrs. Mehling went on to review the Monthly Budget Report and the Annual Disclosure of Developer Fees which can be viewed in the links above.

 - d. Curriculum and Instruction – Sue Mitchell, Director
Mrs. Mitchell gave the Board a quick update on the District Learning Assessments (DLA's). We are wrapping up the first DLA's for grades K-12 this trimester. Change this year, was to make the DLA's be formative/summative, only covering the major standards that have been taught in the previous 12 weeks. This gives the Teachers the opportunity to assess where the students are with those specific standards, rather than cover the entire year. The Teachers have received training, support, and time to score student's constructive responses. We wanted to make sure that in preparation for the end of the year test, that it's not just multiple choice. The students have to go in and actually write responses, give evidence, and explain their reasoning. The report from that will be given in December. The DLA 2 will not be in until February because in January we will be continuing with one of the ICA's (the interim assessments through the CAASPP system). The students will have the opportunity to have the accommodations that they need in place and actually get in to that system, and become familiar with how to use the tools.

This will be a summative test mirroring the end of the year test. In Social Studies, the State Board met last week. They are in the process of updating and putting the list of recommended materials out. Next will be the process of getting samples for Teachers to review, similar to ELA and Math. Our goal is to have that process finished by the end of the school year, so the order can be placed and the materials arrive in time for the next school year. Science will be the following year. In Technology, we are moving forward with phase 2 of our 3 year rollout. We have purchased i-SAFE digital curriculum. Part of the qualifying for e-rate is that you will instruct in digital citizenship. We are in the process of developing scope and sequence. The program i-SAFE has an abundance of lessons. We will start with what e-rate requires, and add as we see fit at our sites.

- 5. Program Reports
 - a. NONE
- 6. Sub-Committee Reports
 - a. [Facility Renovation](#)

B. Board Reflections

Connie Schlaefer shared that she went up to Sacramento as part of her Professional Learning Network. Part of what was talked about was looking at data, looking at examples and what jumps out at you when you see those results. When you're answering that question, you may be reading it at face value, and you need to really dig a little deeper. For example, with cohorts, it could show not just how 5th grade is doing every year, but how a group of kids is growing.

Don Fowler shared that Fiddler on the Roof is going to be reprised this spring.

Bert Weldon said he was glad to see the spark back in Jim Harris. This was agreed by all.

Tom Mendenhall commented on the floats for Homecoming, which are improving year after year, especially just recently. They were exceptional.

Chrissy Falk agreed with Tom. Homecoming was outstanding and very well done. It's nice to see the kids so excited.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Calendar Agenda: Falk: Second: Mendenhall: 6/0

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. ACTION ITEM:** The Board is requested to approve [Resolutions 06-17/18 \(a\) through \(c\)](#) in a matter authorizing a licensed teacher to teach a single subject or a multiple subject class not within the teacher's credential. Ed. Code 44263. Approval of the resolutions will authorize a licensed teacher to teach a single subject or a multiple subject class not within the teacher's credential. As required by the State, these teachers have completed the minimum required units, in the subject area of the class being taught, as directed in Ed. Code 44263.

Motion to approve Resolutions 06-17/18 (a) – (c): Falk: Second: Weldon: 6/0

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: [Title VIII – Indian Policies and Procedures \(IPP\)](#)**
 Legislative changes in Code of Federal Regulations 222.91 require that we change our Indian Policies and Procedures to ensure that tribal officials and parents of children residing on Indian land have the opportunity to have input into the creation of the IPP.

Motion to approve the revised Title VIII – Indian Policies and Procedures: Mendenhall: Second: Falk: 6/0

- C. INFORMATION: [CAASPP Results Comparison](#)**
 Dr. Ireland reviewed the CAASPP results as compared to other Fresno County districts. The above link provides the details.

- D. INFORMATION: [District Response to California Healthy Schools Survey Results](#)**
 Dr. Ireland provided information about how the survey feedback is being used to drive change and improvement within and across the district. Rather than respond to every survey item, seven (7) items from key areas were selected to provide participants with an in depth look at how Sierra Unified is responding to the feedback provided by the surveys. See link above for details.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. ACTION ITEM: [Resolution No. 08-17/18 - Annual Organizational Meeting / December 11, 2017](#)**
 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 commencing on the day a new member’s term begins or would begin. The 2017 annual meeting must fall between December 1, 2017 and December 15, 2017.

Motion to approve Resolution #08-17/18: Fowler: Second: Falk: 6/0

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/ACTION ITEM: Approval of [Fresno County Plan](#) for Providing Educational Services to Expelled Youth**

Per Education Code section 48926, in any county where the county superintendent operates a community school, the county superintendent must, in conjunction with the school districts in the county, develop a plan for providing education services to expelled youth. The triennial update of Fresno County’s plan is due to the State on June 30, 2018. The plan must be approved by the governing board of each school district in Fresno County and by the Fresno County Board of Education. Resolution No. 09-17/18 resolves that the District adopt the Fresno County Plan for Expelled Youth for years 2018-2021.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 09-17/18 – Fresno County Plan for Providing Services to Expelled Youth for years 2018-2021: Mendenhall: Second: Fowler: 6/0

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: Approval of the [Local Plan for Special Education](#)**
Due to the recent removal of Edison Bethune Charter Academy and University High School from the Fresno County SELPA, the Local Plan for Special Education must be revised. Each Local Governing Board is required to adopt the revised Fresno County Elements of the Local Plan for Education.

Approval of the Local Plan for Special Education will be brought back for Action at the December 11, 2017 Board meeting.
- D. **INFORMATION: Sierra Unified Teachers Association ([SUTA](#)) Initial Proposal for Collective Bargaining** India Saude, SUTA President, spoke about currently teaching a chapter about labor and negotiations in her Senior Economics class. She can relate what she knows about collective bargaining is like in the classroom. They will be doing a simulation. They're learning about strikes, arbitration, and negotiation, and are very disappointed to learn that there is a no-strike clause in the Teacher's collective bargaining agreement. She was able to tell them that there are very good relations between management and labor. She expressed thanks for the continued negotiations in good faith and collaboration.
- E. **DISCUSSION ITEM: [Proposal for Expenditure of One-time Funds](#) for Technology Plan Rollout**
Administration proposed using a portion of one-time funds to advance the implementation of the Board approved Technology Plan. See link above for details.
- F. **INFORMATION: [Sex Ed Supplemental Curriculum Information](#)**
Sean Osterberg reviewed Sex Ed Supplemental Curriculum information, for grades 7 and 9, with the Board. Please click on above link.
- G. **DISCUSSION ITEM: [CSBA Legal Policy Updates – October, 2017](#)**

VII. ADVANCED PLANNING

- A. [Governance Calendar](#)
- B. Next Regular meeting date: Organizational Meeting – December 11, 2017
- C. Next Special meeting date(s): November 15, 2017 @ 4:00 pm
- D. Requested Future Agenda Items: NONE

VIII. CLOSED SESSION The Board of Trustees went into Closed Session at 7:57 p.m.

- A. Personnel - Public Employee Discipline / Dismissal / Release / Complaint / Appointment / Employment (Gov. Code § 54957)
- B. Student Appeals – Grade Acceleration (Education Code 48000)
- C. Employee Bargaining Group Negotiations (Government Code Section 54957.6)
 - 1. California School Employees Association (CSEA)
 - 2. Sierra Unified Teachers Association (SUTA)

IX. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION The Board reconvened at 8:47 p.m

A. Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session

B. Report Action Taken in Closed Session

During closed session the Board took the following action on agenda item VIII.B: The recommendation for student grade acceleration was unanimously approved.

X. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Ron Eldridge, President

Melissa Ireland, Ed.D, Superintendent

Tom Mendenhall, Clerk