



SIERRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monday, December 11, 2017 - 5:30 pm
Virginia B. Causey Educational Center – Board Room
29143 Auberry Road, Prather, CA 93651

MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL 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; Bert Weldon; Don Fowler, and Connie Schlaefer

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Motion to adopt agenda with amendment adding Agenda Item IX.B - Board Reflections on CSBA's Annual Education Conference: Mendenhall: Second: Fowler: 7/0

D. IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

1. *Personnel*
2. *Employee Bargaining Negotiations*

E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Tom Mendenhall led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

II. RECOGNITIONS

A. Foothill Elementary

1. Danielle Fishburn

Mr. Harris expressed his pleasure in recognizing an exemplary employee, parent and student advocate on the Eagle Campus. Danielle Fishburn works as a noon time assistant, volunteers in the TK classroom and serves as the secretary for PFA. Mrs. Fishburn embodies the value of service and commitment to students. Over the last two years, having the opportunity to work with Danielle, and observing her unyielding investment in Foothill Elementary. In one week she was seen working every day on the playground and lunch room caring for the Eagle Scholars while they eat and play; working in the TK classroom as a parent volunteer assisting Mrs. Greer with the preparation of stations and running student groups; then at the end of the day she was organizing, sorting and delivering supplies for the PFA fall fundraiser. Danielle Fishburn is a person you can count on to show up. She shows up not just in presence but in spirit. She puts students first and is always looking for ways to make things better for them. Sometimes this means helping teachers which she does routinely. Sometimes this means taking extra time for a student in need on the playground or making sure a student has a lunch. Other times it is a gentle reminder of an upcoming need, or setting up a Santa's Workshop. More than anything else her effort and care is constant. There are so many different elements necessary for a school to love, serve and teach every child. One of those elements is caring adults who are genuine in their commitment to this community of learning. Danielle Fishburn is one of these people. She makes a difference for students and it is a pleasure to honor her as an example of what it means to be your Eagle Best and serve the Eagle Scholars.

B. Alternative Education

1. Jon Stoll
Mr. Keledjian thanked the Board for giving him the opportunity to recognize Jon Stoll, one of our outstanding staff members. One indicator of a staff member's influence/relationship with students is of course, in the classroom. But, you can also tell by what's going on outside the classroom. Right now, at break and at lunchtime at Sandy Bluffs, something new is happening. If the students are not outside, they're inside with Mr. Stoll. If they are outside, they're doing organized games on their own. Mr. Stoll has brought an enthusiasm for learning, an enthusiasm for health, and for activities that we have not seen before at Sandy Bluffs. Since he's been there, the students have been playing pick-up basketball games, playing horse shoes on the pit Mr. Stoll installed. He continues to raise the bar for student health. Somethings absent on campus now, are energy drinks and soda. It's not a rule, but rather something that they would have to hear about from Mr. Stoll. Another thing that has changed is in the lunchroom. He has talked to the kids about the benefits of school lunches and they are listening. Someone even brought a juicer to school. There has been no leftover food anywhere. The kids are juicing everything. Mr. Stoll continues to coach at Sierra High School, and teach PE for two periods. This creates an ongoing bridge. Thank you so much Mr. Stoll.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

IV. BOARD ORGANIZATION

A. ACTION ITEMS: Organization of the Board of Trustees

1. Election of the Board President
Norm Saude nominated Chrissy Falk: Second: Mendenhall: 7/0
2018 SUSD Board President: Chrissy Falk
2. Election of the Board Vice President
Chrissy Falk nominated Tom Mendenhall: Second: Schlaefer: 7/0
2018 SUSD Board Vice-President: Tom Mendenhall
3. Election of the Board Clerk
Ron Eldridge nominated Bert Weldon: Second: Mendenhall: 7/0
2018 SUSD Board Clerk: Bert Weldon
4. Establishment of the Time, Day and Place of 2018 Regular Board Meetings
([Proposed Calendar](#) Enclosed)
Motion to approve Calendar of Time, Day and place of 2018 Regular Board Meetings with amendment that the date for the July meeting be flexible: Mendenhall: Second: Falk: 7/0
5. Election of California School Board Association (CSBA) Legislative Representative to the District
Chrissy Falk nominated Norm Saude: Second: Mendenhall: 7/0
2018 CSBA Legislative Representative to the District: Norm Saude
6. Appointment of [Board Member Voting Representative for Fresno County](#) Committee on School District Organization Elections
Motion to appoint Connie Schlaefer Voting Representative for the Fresno County Committee on School District Organization and Norm Saude as alternate: Eldridge: Second: Mendenhall: 7/0
7. Nomination of [California School Board Association \(CSBA\) Delegate Assembly](#)
Ron Eldridge nominated Norm Saude: Second: Falk
2018 CSBA Delegate Assembly Nominee: Norm Saude

At this time the Sierra Unified School District Board Meeting was adjourned and the Golden Hills Public Finance Corporation Meeting was convened – 5:47 pm

V. ANNUAL GOLDEN HILLS PUBLIC FINANCE CORPORATION (GHPFC) MEETING

As part of the Certificates of Participation (COPs) issuance process, the public agency issuing the COPs must establish a non-profit corporation to independently service the legal requirements necessitated by the COP issue.

A. ACTION ITEM: Election of Golden Hills Finance Corporation Officers

This annual meeting requires election of officers for the twelve-month period, and notes the next scheduled meeting for December, 2018. The Board Members of the Sierra Unified School District are legally empowered to also be the Board Members for the Golden Hills School Public Finance Corporation.

Motion for the 2018 SUSD Board Member Officers also serve as Golden Hills Finance Corporation Officers: Saude: Second: Fowler: 7/0

The Annual Golden Hills Public Finance Corporation Meeting adjourned and the Sierra Unified School District Board Meeting reconvened – 5:49 pm

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Reports

1. ASB Vice-President – Kat Marsh filling in for ASB President – Rachel Beckmann
Miss Marsh shared recent and upcoming ASB activities including: a class against class canned food drive; dress up days; a spinoff on Chieftain Daze, HoliDaze with lunchtime activities through the week.
2. Site Reports
 - a. Sierra Junior/Senior High Schools, Sean Osterberg – Principal
Mr. Osterberg spoke about all the fun things happening on campus during this holiday time of year. The Christmas Program was a great success. Mr. Weinberger does such a fantastic job with that and they continue to go caroling all month. There have been two Field Days for FFA. Winter sports are in full-on tournament season. DLA results conversations are taking place with structured vertical alignment. It was really beneficial to teachers. The first ever evacuation drill to the gym took place with our Hour Zero training doing the Hold and Secure. Within 6 minutes we had 600 kids in the gym.
 - b. Foothill Elementary School, Alan Harris – Principal
Dr. Harris shared that in November the DLA testing was finished up. We then began to match up those processes we have, from Rtl to grade level teams, looking at data points and how those can come together. It's a good process, with one of the things really liked is the ability to look at our Rtl scores that happen every six weeks and to match those to the DLA scores. You begin to see some correlation between where teachers are between the standards and the students. This helps them to better know how to group the students for Rtl, as well as their groups within the class instruction. As we hit Spring and Summer, this will be reported with more depth. It's a key component to begin to get us to a place where our teachers are teaching with confidence, and knowing where the students are and the assessment piece is less of a mystery. Another interesting piece is Sue Mitchell and Joni Lloyd working with the teachers on Google Classroom. 6th grade in particular is really launching in with the devices that they're happy to be able to use one-to-one. The teachers are able to use the Google Suite of tools and options available to them to really move forward. The vision is that the electronic device becomes more of a pencil. It is an essential part of how we learn, and we wouldn't think to not have it integrated into what happens day to day. The Christmas programs will be happening this week (Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights at 6:30 pm.) It is being moved to the gym. This decision was based on a survey given to the parents at Back-to-School night. The PFA funded a sound and light person to get it all set up. Thank you to Connie who will be doing the video. New Life in the Foothills church, with Pastor Millsap, is donating shoes to every student who wanted to have them.

- c. Sandy Bluffs Alternative Education, Ara Keledjian – Director
Mr. Keledjian spoke of the addition to Sandy Bluffs and SJSHS staff in the services of Derek Nunn, a contracted Behavioral Therapist that we get to use one day a week for approximately 2 hours. He came and spent the first part of the year observing. From there we've developed a PLC model with Derek and Laura Heeger, our school Psychologist, trading out their time on Fridays. This has allowed Sandy Bluffs to have Derek, Laura, Ara, Mr. Stelling (Teacher in Charge), Lynn Fleming (Activities Director), and Jackie Badoni (School Secretary), to be able to sit down and take a look at our students, and make a plan for those students. This is a systematic model of identifying students in need, and then looking at specifically what they need, developing a plan, and revisiting it each week. We're able to help each other move forward with each plan for each student for that week. There was a SARB hearing on Monday with four cases to be seen. A phone call was received from Edison Power Co. who wanted to donate coats to all the Sandy Bluffs students and all of the Pre-School students. P.G.& E. also donated \$500 to the Pre-School program.
3. Superintendent Report - Melissa Ireland, Ed.D.
Dr. Ireland shared the Fall 2017 California School [Dashboard](#) with the Board which shows how districts and schools are performing on test scores, graduation rates and other measures of student success. Please visit www.caschooldashboard.org/ for full details. She also commented on the recently attended CSBA Annual Conference. A session on developing a communications plan was most beneficial. The steps advised to be taken are the very steps Sierra Unified is taking right now including: getting social media in order; new website; more communication with parents about safety, etc.
4. Department Reports
- a. Facilities and Maintenance - Jim Harris, Supervisor
 - 1. Facilities Inspection Report
 - a. [Foothill Elementary School](#)
 - b. [Sandy Bluffs Alternative Education](#)
 - c. [Sierra Junior/Senior High School](#)
 - b. Transportation – Craig Barnes, Supervisor
No Report
 - c. Business Services - Janelle Mehling, Assistant Superintendent
 - 1. [Monthly Budget Report](#)
 - 2. [Staffing Allocations](#)
 Mrs. Mehling reviewed the Monthly Budget Report and the Staffing Allocations for 2018-2019 school year. See links above for details.
 - d. Curriculum and Instruction – Sue Mitchell, Director
Mrs. Mitchell reported that after finishing the DLA 1, after coming back from the break we immediately jump in to the ICA (the comprehensive tests that mirror the end of the year test in CAASPP.) This year the teachers will be scoring the student responses first hand. In January, we will be meeting by K-6 grade-level teams and review the ELA standards, their mapping, and work to have everything aligned. In grades 7-12, we will be working with the ELA and Math departments in curriculum mapping and vertical articulation. On January 10th, there will be the 2nd Go Math training at the elementary school. The History/Social Science adoption process will begin in January.
5. Program Reports
- a. NONE
6. Sub-Committee Reports
- a. NONE

B. Board Reflections

Chrissy Falk commended Sandra Marbut for the great job she did at the Fall Sports Awards. She highlighted the student's successes and challenges, sharing with all the community there. Coaches were appreciative and did a great job as well.

VII. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA

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

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. 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.

Motion to approve the Local Plan for Special Education: Schlaefer: Second: Eldridge: 7/0

B. ACTION ITEM: [CSBA Legal Policy Updates – October, 2017](#)

Motion to approve CSBA Legal Policy Update – October, 2017: Saude: Second: Mendenhall: 6/0 with Mr. Eldridge abstaining.

C. ACTION ITEM: [Proposal for Expenditure of One-time Funds for Technology Plan Rollout](#)

Administration would like to propose using a portion of one-time funds to advance the implementation of the Board approved Technology Plan.

Motion to approve the Proposal for Expenditure of One-time Funds: Saude: Second: Fowler: 7/0

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. ACTION ITEM: Approval and Certification of [First Interim Report – Financial](#)

The first Interim Report provides the Fresno County Office of Education with the current year and subsequent two years budget, based on current data, as required by law.

Motion to certify the fund report and narratives as presented and adopt a Positive Certificate: Eldridge: Second: Saude: 7/0

B. INFORMATION: Board Reflections on CSBA's Annual Education Conference

Those members from the Board who were able to attend CSBA's Annual Education Conference, shared some of their experiences from the sessions they attended, including: Google and the digital direction jobs and society are heading and CTE pathways as they relate to computers and technology; how to market a district using the Internet; strategic planning and how the LCAP should be linked to the Strategic Plan; integrated STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) curriculum, inquiry based and interdisciplinary; testing and assessments; Gubernatorial candidates; communications; and governance.

X. ADVANCED PLANNING

A. [Governance Calendar](#)

B. Next Regular meeting date: January 8, 2018

C. Next Special meeting date(s):

D. Requested Future Agenda Items: Solar savings

XI. CLOSED SESSION The Board of Trustees went into Closed Session at 7:05 p.m.

- A. Personnel - Public Employee Discipline / Dismissal / Release / Complaint / Appointment / Employment (Gov. Code § 54957)
- B. Employee Bargaining Group Negotiations (Government Code Section 54957.6)

XII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION The Board reconvened at 8:11 p.m

- A. Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session
- B. Report Action Taken in Closed Session

XIII. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Chrissy Falk, President

Melissa Ireland, Ed.D, Superintendent

Bert Weldon, Clerk