



# SIERRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monday, February 12, 2018 - 5:30 pm  
Virginia B. Causey Educational Center – Board Room  
29143 Auberry Road, Prather, CA 93651

## 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 5:32 pm by Mrs. Chrissy Falk, Board President.

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

#### C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Motion to adopt agenda: Saude: Second: Fowler: 7/0

#### D. IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

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

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

#### F. REMEMBRANCE

The Board honored the lives of two loved and respected community members with heartfelt words, stories, and a moment of silence.

1. Robert “Bob” Hansen
2. Bill Van Hoorebeke

### II. RECOGNITIONS

#### A. Sierra Junior/Senior High School

1. Karen Low  
Mr. Osterberg recognized Karen Low who is the Chair of the Science Department and who loves a challenge. She was faced with two challenges this year, taking on the role of CSF Advisor, and also a Robotics challenge called the Sea Perch brought forward by the US Navy. This requires a team to build a submersible Robotic. She was quick to raise her hand to work with the students and have fun. She is more than willing to step up to help and to push our kids, and is great to bounce ideas off of. Last year she helped bring back about the Science Fair. Karen Low is proudly recognized and is definitely the Teacher to have to help push the achievement of the students to a higher level.

#### B. Maintenance/Transportation

1. Carl Ockel  
Craig Barnes recognized Carl Ockel who graduated from Sierra High School in 1973, and started work for the district in 1988. At unification he joined us in the transportation department where he worked side-by-side with Craig for the last 26 years. Carl is one of the most liked and skilled bus drivers. He has an impeccable record behind the wheel. He received the Blackwell Award from the CHP for 20 years of accident free school bus driving. He can be depended on to drive any route in the district with only a moment's notice. He has firm but fair passenger management

skills, student safety is always his number one priority, and by his own omission he managed to make it 30 years without asphyxiating a single child. As a mechanic, Carl has brought a high level of passion, commitment and character to our school district and department. He has dedicated a lifetime to ensuring that the transportation department here at Sierra Unified operates at the highest possible level of safety and integrity. He is also the “go to guy”, the man everyone turns to for answers, whether it's a tune-up on your Craftsman mower or your Cummins diesel pusher he's your guy. He takes his responsibility for the day to day maintenance of the entire bus fleet very seriously. Over the last 30 years in the transportation department, there has never been a year where the bus fleet has not received the highest rating by the California Highway Patrol. This record can be directly attributed to Carl. His knowledge and professionalism is appreciated by all, as well as his unrelenting positive attitude and willingness to do any job, anywhere, anytime. He's always the first in line to volunteer for a worthy cause or to help out his colleagues in times of need. Carl's value to the District has been immeasurable and he will surely be missed when he retires this year.

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

### IV. COMMUNICATIONS

#### A. Reports

1. ASB President – Rachel Beckmann  
Miss Beckmann reported on recent and upcoming ASB activities, including: the Winter Formal at the Loft with over 100 students attending; the Talent Show where Julianna Sullivan took first place and Jaime Baker took second – both will be performing at the NSL Talent shows; ASB students visiting Valley Children's, making valentines and playing with the kids; and the upcoming Kindness Week when kids will be performing random acts of kindness.
2. Site Reports
  - a. Sierra Junior/Senior High Schools, Sean Osterberg – Principal  
Mr. Osterberg thanked the Board members who helped score the Junior High Oral Interpretation Presentations. It's very eye-opening when kids pick something and make poetry out of it. You're able to see that inner side of them. He then introduced the Natural Resources State Champions. Overall Individual Champion was Macy Myers. 3<sup>rd</sup> highest Individual was Julianna Sullivan. Seth Chrisman was in 9<sup>th</sup> place, and Jessie Tyler came in 10<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to these State Champions.
  - b. Foothill Elementary School, Alan Harris – Principal  
Dr. Harris spoke of the increase in after school activities for the kids, which are now showing some fruits to that labor. 30 students signed up just to have a chance to practice and play basketball, with even a couple of games against Big Creek. It was a great experience of having boys and girls from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade playing together. Some students had played a lot, and some who had literally never played an organized game of basketball at all. It's that opportunity for the experience they get in elementary school to try at all. The parents are very appreciated for help in making it happen. We also now have a club for our Peach Blossom / Pine Needle Festival. The Spelling Bee is coming up. Mrs. Kimbler just offered a Rocket Club which is taking off “like a rocket.” It's very popular. She was worried about not knowing enough about it but was encouraged to move forward and then figure it out. Luckily an actual Rocket Scientist, Connie Schlaefer, volunteered to help. It is great to see more and more students getting excited and participating in these activities, including the Yearbook Club and the Book Club. Previously it was talked preparing for a shift in the coming year. We'll be hiring an Art Teacher, and looking to really focus on an area of growth for us, excitement in learning and achievement in students at or above grade level. Starting last week, and again this week, we have four Teachers who are going and visiting schools that are role models in certain areas. Last week two Teachers visited Washington Elementary in Sacramento, which is a STEAM school (Science-Technology-Engineering-Art-Math). They are a forefront school related to showing the difference between a project and a real inquiry-based interdisciplinary learning. On Friday, two Teachers went Daily Elementary which is

an IB (International Baccalaureate) school in Fresno, as well as Manchester Gate. Tomorrow we have two Teachers who will be in Santa Barbara visiting Franklin Elementary School which also does Art and Science. We know that there are schools out there doing really good things. The Teachers come back really inspired about what we can do. In the next month we will be putting that plan together, and in March coming to the Board with what the ideas are.

- c. Sandy Bluffs Alternative Education, Ara Keledjian – Director  
Mr. Keledjian reported that upcoming for Sandy Bluffs is another big off campus incentive field trip with Mrs. Fleming taking the lead on that. The All School Write is completed and the students worked really hard. After grading, it was very impressive how well they did and how seriously the students took it. He brought samples of the student's writing for the Board. DLA 2 testing is taking place now. A SARB hearing is coming up on Monday, 2/26 with 10 families attending. Our Native American Parent meeting is on the evening of February 26<sup>th</sup>. Another student graduated from Sandy Bluffs today and will be leaving for vocational school in Utah. The funds from recent donation for continuing education specifically in a vocational area were used to buy this student everything he needed for a vocational program. He now has work boots, work clothes, interview clothes, and everything listed that he would need was taken care of. This student was taken care of by countless community members and countless community organizations.
  
- 3. Superintendent Report - Melissa Ireland, Ed.D.  
Dr. Ireland commented on what Mr. Keledjian had just reported, saying how nice it is to hear how seriously the students took the All-School Write and the participation in the DLA 2. It really hasn't been that long since Sandy Bluffs students weren't even included in these assessments. Mr. Keledjian's work on behalf of the students is very much appreciated. She went on to review the LCAP Timeline and the revised Governance Calendar which can be viewed in the links below.
  - a. [LCAP Timeline](#)
  - b. [Governance Calendar](#)
  
- 4. Department Reports
  - a. Facilities and Maintenance - Jim Harris, Supervisor  
Mr. Harris reported that the antennas for the bandwidth have been all put up at the sites, but we found out that the firewall at the County isn't adequate for the speed that we're going to need. The server will have to be replaced. We're still working through some unexpected obstacles.
  
  - b. Transportation – Craig Barnes, Supervisor  
Mr. Barnes shared the late bus attendance numbers with the Board. See link below.
    - 1. [Late Bus Attendance](#)
  
  - c. Business Services - Janelle Mehling, Assistant Superintendent  
Mrs. Mehling reviewed the monthly budget report as well as the Governor's proposal for the 2017-18 state budget. Please see links below for more detailed information.
    - 1. [Monthly Budget Report](#)
    - 2. [Governor's Proposal / 2017-18 State Budget](#)
  
  - d. Curriculum and Instruction – Sue Mitchell, Director  
Mrs. Mitchell reported that in January, the students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 took the ICA (the State CAASPP Interim Assessment) which is comprehensive and mirrors the end of the year test. The teachers have been in the process of hand scoring their own student's responses. This will help them decide between now and May, where we can modify instruction and target specific needs. We are now in DLA2 which are curriculum assessments based on what was taught in the last 12 weeks. We are continuing to work on ELA and Math curriculum maps.

- 5. Program Reports
  - a. [Special Education](#) – Teresa Page  
PowerPoint [Presentation](#)  
Ms. Page’s Special Education update can be viewed on the links above.
- 6. Sub-Committee Reports
  - a. NONE

**B. Board Reflections**

Connie Schlaefter shared how nice it was to see and help judge the JHS Oral Interpretation Presentations. The level of talent in these young students is amazing.

Bert Weldon spoke of his visit to the school with Connie where they were able to view the use of the new technology.

Chrissy Falk was able to visit a couple of campuses with Dr. Ireland and on the Foothill campus, one of the great things to see was being able to go into different classes within the same level and observing the same lessons being taught in each. It was wonderful to see that the teachers are working together so closely and collaborating in a way that ensures that the students get the best from all of them. It was also great to see the big screen televisions in the classrooms. These are such good tools for the teachers to have. She agreed with Mrs. Schlaefter that the JHS Oral Interpretation Presentations were extraordinary with one particular young lady who wrote her own piece, bringing them to tears.

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA**

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

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. ACTION ITEM: [CSBA Legal Policy Updates](#) – December, 2017**

Motion to approve the CSBA Legal Policy Updates for December, 2017: Schlaefter: Second: Mendenhall: 7/0

**B. ACTION ITEM: Second Reading of [Audit Report for 2016-2017](#)**

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 2016-2017 Audit.

Motion to approve the Audit Report for 2016-2017 as written: Eldridge: Second: Mendenhall: 7/0.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. DISCUSSION ITEM: Closure of [Inactive Funds](#)**

M. Green and Company, LLP, our external auditors, recommended in their management letter that we close inactive funds that are included in our financial statements. Attached is a list of all funds, their purpose, and the balance as of January 31, 2018. Should the Board choose to close any of these funds, a resolution would be brought back to the Board at a subsequent meeting for approval.

**B. DISCUSSION ITEM: [Title IV, Part A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant](#)**

*The Title IV, Part A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant specifies three categories for targeted support: 1. Provide all students with access to a well-rounded education (enriched curriculum and educational experiences). 2. Improve school conditions for student learning (safe and healthy schools). 3. Improve the use of technology (to improve academic achievement and digital literacy). The funds from this grant, \$10,000, will be used to create an After-School Program.*

This plan no longer has to be done because the grant money is no longer coming.

**VIII. ADVANCED PLANNING**

- A. [Governance Calendar](#)
- B. Next Regular meeting date: March 12, 2018
- C. Next Special meeting date(s):
- D. Requested Future Agenda Items:

**IX. CLOSED SESSION** The Board of Trustees went into Closed Session at 6:51 p.m.

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

**X. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION** The Board reconvened at 8:28 p.m

- A. Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session
- B. Report Action Taken in Closed Session  
During the Closed Session held earlier tonight the Board voted to non-reelect certain probationary certificated employees pursuant to Education Code section 44929.21 and authorized the District Superintendent or her designee to notify the probationary certificated employees of their non-reelection for the 2018-2019 school year by the following roll call vote:

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

**XI. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Chrissy Falk, President

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Melissa Ireland, Ed.D, Superintendent

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Bert Weldon, Clerk