

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

Monday, March 13, 2017
5:30 pm – Closed Session 4:45 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 4:47 pm by Mr. Ron Eldridge, Board President.

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

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

D. IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

1. *Personnel - Public Employee Discipline / Dismissal / Release / Complaint / Appointment / Employment Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation Significant Exposure to Litigation (Gov. Code section 54956.9): 1 case*

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEMS: NONE

III. CLOSED SESSION The Board of Trustees went into Closed Session at 4:48 p.m.

A. Personnel - Public Employee Discipline / Dismissal / Release / Complaint / Appointment / Employment (Gov. Code § 54957)

B. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

1. Significant Exposure to Litigation (Gov. Code section 54956.9): 1 case

IV. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION The Board Reconvened at 5:39 p.m.

A. Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session

B. Report Action Taken in Closed Session (Education Code 48918(j)) - NONE

C. Pledge of Allegiance - Chrissy Falk led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. RECOGNITIONS

A. Maintenance and Transportation

1. Dave Edinborough, Ag Farm Manager
Mr. Harris honored Dave Edinborough, sharing how once in a while a job opens up in the District and the just the right person happens to come along to fill it. Dave has been a blessing to our District, and has turned the farm into a “Destination District” farm. He’s done a beautiful job, is a great guy, a fantastic worker, and we’re really fortunate to have him on board.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The following community members/staff spoke during the Public Comment Period: Trish Anthony, Max Anthony, and Patricia Nolen.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Reports

1. ASB President – Rachel Beckmann
Miss Beckmann reported on ASB activities including: The Winter Formal in January with all bids sold; Kid's Day beating last year's total by over \$1,000 (\$3,232.08); and the upcoming Prom on April 1st at Wolf Lakes, themed "A Night of Elegance".
2. Site Reports
 - a. Foothill Elementary, Alan Harris – Principal
Mr. Harris spoke of the Google technology training that took place with the teachers. It really will begin to transform technology being something kids go to because it will be integrated day to day. He thanked the Board and the Superintendent for the time and investment to make it happen. The Response to Intervention (Rtl) is giving the staff an opportunity to really focus on identifying the students who are on the cusp of lagging behind academically, and giving them targeted instruction in a condensed period of time, and then moving them forward. The fruits of their labor showed in the second benchmark. With the Rtl we've really been able to advance to that next level. Our Eagle feathers were soaring at the Ponderosa Spelling Bee where our 4th graders took 1st and 2nd, 5th graders took 1st and 3rd, and 6th graders came in 1st and 2nd and we'll be taking those students to the Fresno County Spelling Bee.
 - b. Sierra Jr. & Sr. High Schools, Sean Osterberg – Principal
Mr. Osterberg reported about WASC, with the Mid-Cycle visit coming up on March 20th and 21st. There are an amazing amount of things that have happened in the 3 years since the last accreditation, including curriculum adoption and changes in instruction. It's an exciting and intense time. FFA has been doing an outstanding job in the middle of their season. They're peaking and doing great things. "Hello Dolly" opens this week. Community members and students are a part of it. Last week the Junior High students did their Pine Needle Oral Interpretations in their English classes. It was fun to watch them blossoming on stage.
 - c. Sandy Bluffs Alternative Education, Ara Keledjian – Director
Mr. Keledjian shared enrollment totals: SB-12; OM-1.5; LP-10; 31 HSIS; and BM-15. The Adult School now has to go through a consortium, pairing up with Clovis Community College and Clovis Adult School. There is a new shared data system and an accounting system through the consortium. It's a huge shift and will benefit everyone. The consortium has hired a transitions counselor, typically for older adults. The position is shared with all the schools. There are services out there to get people out in the workplace that we don't know about. Another session of Parent University at Big Sandy Rancheria has been completed, covering understanding the grade reporting cycle, the importance of earning credit toward graduation, the difference between earning a high school diploma and being in line with your CSU entrance requirements, and how important and powerful the parent voice is. Also, being discussed with Big Sandy and eventually Cold Springs, is the possibility of having an adult school teacher go there to work on prep for GED, or earning a high school diploma.
3. Superintendent Report - Melissa Ireland, Ed.D.
Dr. Ireland reviewed the LCAP progress with the Board. There is just under \$40,000 in additional supplemental funds to be administered. We're looking at targeting mental health services, and will be working with administrators and site input to determine the best use. After having attended two trainings at the Fresno County Office of Education, we found that the electronic template will not be available before the LCAP document is due. The recommended focus is on

Expected Annual Measurable Outcomes (EAMO). See [samples here](#). They also recommend using Healthy Kids and Families surveys as the local measures for climate. We will be meeting with the District advisory Committee in the coming weeks to review and administer surveys. The Workshop also gave [samples for accountability dashboards](#). So far, only attendance, assessments for grades 3-8, and graduation rates are available. We had our first training with the Hour-Zero Emergency Preparedness Consultants in February. We are awaiting updated site maps and documentation to schedule next training which will include the modified Incident Command System (ICS). At the February training, we went through what the roles of the Emergency Response Team (ERT) would be and assigned those roles by site and at the district level. The entire staff will be trained in the ICS and their role in it. There will be online training for many needs. We have been reviewing different website designers and hosts and have decided, based mostly on cost, ability to have a mobile app, and ADA compliance, to use Cyber-School. <http://www.cyberschool.com/menus/features.html>

4. Department Reports

- a. Facilities and Maintenance - Jim Harris, Supervisor
Mr. Harris gave a shout out to Steve Hastie and Barry Burke who did the work to refresh the boardroom. Both solar systems are up and running now. A call has been placed to the Director of the Conservation Corp. to get an update on the Auberry Elementary sale.
- b. [Transportation / Bus Services](#) – Craig Barnes, Supervisor
Mr. Barnes updated the Board on Late Bus attendance. See link above.
- c. Business Services – Janelle Mehling, Assistant Superintendent
 1. [Monthly Budget Report](#)
Mrs. Mehling reported that we received a one cent refund check in the mail from US Bank who has closed out all of our accounts from the COP, all payments complete.
- d. Curriculum and Instruction – Sue Mitchell, Director
Mrs. Mitchell reported on the good day of Google Training from the Count that had taken place today. Groups were split into groups according to comfort level in Google in the morning, and then in the afternoon, split into site groups. It was very worthwhile. Teachers got to use their new devices for the training. Next will be Windows 10 training. The plan is to put together a very specific survey for the teachers, learning what they need, and planning that next step. Another day with the County trainers will be scheduled in June for Classified for the transition to Google. The 2nd round of District Learning Assessments is wrapping up. Teachers are reviewing and submitting scores. Deb Irwin will be working with and comparing scores for 7-12 grade teachers and Sue will do the same with the staff at Foothill. We'll be fine tuning anything we can before we move into the Summative at the end of the year. We are continuing to look at Math Curriculum at Foothill. Secondary adopted CPM. We'll be making sure that we have curriculum that ensures our children get where they need to be.

5. Program Reports

- a. [Special Education](#) (Teresa Page)
Mrs. Page updated the Board on the Special Education Program. Please see link above for details.

B. Board Reflections

Connie Schlaefer spoke about judging the Pine Needle Festival for 7th and 8th grade. Our Junior High Language Arts teachers, Heidi Parks and Brittany Collins, need to be commended for their encouragement of the kids through this. It's tremendous to watch them shine. She was also able to be a chaperone for the Peach Blossom Festival down to the Fresno State campus. Our kids did very well, toe to toe with the other kids down there. Clearly they had invested the time and effort. The kids were able to visit other parts of the college campus as well. This exposure was great. They also saw an exhibit on the Japanese Internment Camps, where they saw a display from her high school art teacher, Mr. Ogata.

Chrissy Falk congratulated administration, staff, and everyone who worked so hard and did everything that it took to do to get us to this point, and paying off on the COP. It wasn't an easy walk, and knowing previous Boards had to deal with some pretty hard stuff, and everything the teachers did, everything the administration did, to make this finally happen. Congratulations to the Sierra Unified Team.

VIII. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA

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

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. ACTION ITEM: [CSBA Legal Policy Updates – December, 2016](#)

Motion to approve CSBA Legal Policy Updates-December, 2016: Saude: Second: Falk: 7/0

B. ACTION ITEM: Approval of the [Tentative Agreement](#) for Collective Bargaining Negotiations between Sierra Unified School District and the Sierra Unified Classified Employee Association (CSEA #476). The Tentative Agreement between SUSD and CSEA #476 was entered into on January 23, 2017 and is contingent upon final approval by the SUSD Governing Board and ratification by Association Members.

Motion to approve the Tentative Agreement between the District and CSEA: Mendenhall: Second: Weldon: 7/0

C. INFORMATION: The Board reviewed [reasons behind the temporary closure](#) of Pole Corral School.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Review and Certification of the [2016–2017 Second Interim](#) Financial Statement as of January 31, 2016.

The State-required forms, along with various schedules representing analysis used in the development of the Second Interim Report, were provided in the Board packet and online. The Second 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 Certification: Saude: Second: Falk: 7/0

B. ACTION ITEM: Consideration and Possible Approval of [J-13A Waiver](#) (Ed. Code § 41422) J-13A waiver request to the Office of Principal Apportionment and Special Education, School Fiscal Services Division, California Department of Education related to instructional minutes and days provided at Pole Corral Elementary School.

Motion to approve J-13 Waiver: Fowler: Second: Falk: 7/0

XI. ADVANCED PLANNING

A. [Governance Calendar](#)

1. April 3, 2017 Items
 - a. Native American Education Program Report
 - b. DLA #2 Results
 - c. Board Certification of Coaches Training
 - d. Academic Calendar

- B. Next Regular meeting date: April 3, 2017
- C. Next Special meeting date(s)
 - 1. District Needs Workshop / Board Self-Evaluation – March 28, 2017 @ 5:00 p.m.
- D. Requested Future Agenda Items

XII. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Ron Eldridge, President

Melissa Ireland, Ed.D, Superintendent

Tom Mendenhall, Clerk