



MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

I. OPENING BUSINESS

A. CALL PUBLIC SESSION TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by Mrs. Chrissy Falk, Board President.

B. ROLL CALL: Board Members: Chrissy Falk, President; Tom Mendenhall, Vice President; Ron Eldridge, Clerk; Jason Schroer (A); Wes Qualls; Connie Schlaefer; Don Fowler.

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

D. IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

1. *Personnel*
2. *Potential Litigation*
3. *Negotiations*
4. *Individual Student Discipline*

E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chrissy Falk led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. RECOGNITIONS

A. 2nd Trimester Student Recognitions

Dr. Wheeler recognized our great spelling students: 4th grade – Kane Cedar, Layne Gilbert, and Zephaniah Mahan; 5th grade – Jet Lebda, Daniel Vargas, and Brileigh Vaughn; 6th grade – Nathan Seamon, Bo Gomez, and Lily Moore. Going on to participate in the County Spelling Bee: Layne Gilbert, and Lily Moore. For the Peach Blossom Festival she went on to recognize our students for their outstanding poetry oral interpretation, one way that Foothill is able to recognize students in the area of literature and performing arts. Duo: Skyler Pearson and Peyton Beard; Layne Gilbert and Grant Gilbert; Persuyes Alec and Hannah Mahan. Solo: Kane Cedar; Layne Gilbert; Zoey Esajian; Adah Rakis-Garabedian; Kaidence Begaye. Congratulations!

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Wendy Cedar, Grandparent of students at Sierra High School, spoke about the treasure trove we have here in our native landscape, and the spirit of our residents. The wilderness, the land, Ag, natural resources, all could be used by our schools to further teach our students in innovative ways.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Reports

1. ASB President – Sarah Page
Miss Page reported on ASB and other activities taking place at Sierra including: the cancellation of Kid's Day due to the Coronavirus; Kindness week, the Valentines "heart attack"; the Spring rally; and creating good spirit on the campus.

2. Site Reports

- a. Foothill Elementary School, Heather Wheeler, Ed.D. – Principal
Dr. Wheeler gave an update on the latest round of meetings by grade level regarding student placement in extension and intervention. She also shared that Foothill had been invited to the grand opening of The Museum at Table Mountain Rancheria. Our 3rd grade class will be the inaugural class to revisit the museum, including the restored Fort Miller buildings, a recreated ancient Mono village with hands-on activities, and a display of more than 600 Mono cultural artifacts such as baskets and ceremonial items.
- b. Sierra Junior/Senior High Schools, Sean Osterberg – Principal
Mr. Osterberg spoke of the 8th grade celebration coming up on June 2nd in Mary Barton Park at 7:00 pm. All students will participate in the celebration of the movement into High School. Students will not wear graduation gowns or walk to the traditional pomp and circumstance. The night will consist of awards, speeches and recognizing the students by name. Congratulations to the Parli-Pro team who took first place out of 23 teams across the state this past Friday. Out of four tournaments this year they have 3 1st place wins and one 3rd place. The self-study report for our WASC visit in April is being completed. The process has been a lot of reflection and work for staff. Through the process, he heard over and over again the changes and great work we have done in supporting our student's Social Emotional Learning along with academic supports. We are looking forward to our visit on April 26-29. We had a Logo meeting with 5 Creative, students, community members and Tribal Council from both Big Sandy and Cold Springs. It was a great meeting and it was clear to 5 Creative, the pride of being a Chieftain. Next steps will be the Logo packaging.
- c. Alternative & Extended Education, Ara Keledjian – Director
Mr. Keledjian updated the Board on the progress he is making in work with Big Sandy Rancheria and Adult School. We should be able to tie in to all of the great things already being done at TANF and Big Sandy, along with the vocational aspect of soft skills, etc. Next step is getting the computer lab set up. We're looking at starting at the beginning of the next school year. It's a new and exciting thing that will be open to the entire community.

3. Superintendent Report - Alan Harris, Ph.D.

Dr. Harris shared the work that is beginning to be explored related to re-thinking Independent Study. We want to explore a way to evolve our Independent Study into an opportunity for individualized education. This would involve a computer component, as well as a curriculum component that would connect our parents/families who are choosing home school online to seek this as an individualized education opportunity. We could once a week offer art and music to students, as well as the chance to participate in our clubs and activities. Feedback shows that this is a draw, an interest to home school families.

4. Department Reports

- a. Facilities, Maintenance and Transportation – Craig Barnes, Supervisor
Mr. Barnes reported that we were able to make our deadline for the Softball Field renovation project. It will be ready for our 1st game. Still left to do, is the announcer's booth, and some fencing, 6 gates. He encouraged everyone to go out and see a game and the new field. We ended up with a field everyone can be proud of. Three full-time vacancies were filled in February, one custodian, and 2 bus driver/custodian positions. We were lucky to find applicants who brought with them difficult to find skill and personality sets it takes to be bus drivers. They will be valuable additions to the team. Mr. Barnes attended the 41st annual conference on school facilities (CASH) in Long Beach with a wide range of training and networking opportunities.

- b. Business Services - Janelle Bryson, Assistant Superintendent
 - 1. [Monthly Budget Report](#)
Mrs. Bryson reviewed the monthly budget report with the Board. This can be viewed in the above link. She also spoke about the CASH conference she attended which provided an incredible amount of information and opportunities. She spoke of the legislature looking in depth at the Governor's proposals. Attendance situations in school district regarding absenteeism during the coronavirus is being discussed by the County. 74% of the bond campaigns on the March ballot failed as compared to the average percentage of approximately 85%.
 - c. Education Services – Teresa Page, Director
 - 1. [Suicide Prevention](#)
Ms. Page shared information on the suicide prevention activities going on in SUSD, focusing on the supports that are available to students, as well as ongoing proactive measures. Please see link above for details.
 - d. Curriculum and Instruction – Tammy Montgomery, Director
 - 1. [Fingertip Facts](#)
 - 2. Timeline for LCAP
Mrs. Montgomery shared the monthly Fingertip Facts (see above link) with the Board, and reviewed the LCAP timeline, working on additional ways to engage our community in the conversation.
5. Program Reports
- a. [Native American Education](#) – Regina Riley
Ms. Riley, Native American Program Mentor, shared the good work being done in the program and plans for its future. Please see details in the above link.
6. Sub-Committee Reports – NONE

B. Board Reflections

Don Fowler spoke about being at the Fresno County Board of Trustees meeting and being able to brag about our Native American Education Program.

Connie Schlaefer had the good fortune to judge the Spelling Bee and the Pine Needle JHS events. Most or all of these events show a level of such improvement in strength and confidence in their abilities. The way the students cheer for each other is inspiring.

Wes Qualls talked about the Small Schools Conference he attended. It was interesting, with a lot of Superintendents bringing different perspectives. It was informative and fun to listen to. One session on bonding was very informative.

Tom Mendenhall spoke about the Gilbert Marshall Memorial Branding, 8th event. In the last 7 years, they've given away \$70,000 in scholarships to our Sierra students.

Chrissy Falk had the pleasure of going to Foothill for a tour and visiting every classroom. It was wonderful to see what the therapists have put together for the teachers to support the students who need to self-regulate.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: [Bond](#)

Motion to table a bond until which time the Superintendent / Governance Team feels that we're in a place and has identified the needs for pursuing the bond: Eldridge: Second: Fowler: 6/0

B. ACTION ITEM: [Corrective Action Plan of Audit Report for 2018-2019](#)

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 two audit exceptions in the 2018-2019 Audit.

Motion to approve the Corrective Action Plan for 2018-2019: Schlaefer: Second: Mendenhall: 6/0

C. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: Approval of the [Tentative Agreement](#) for Collective Bargaining Negotiations between Sierra Unified School District (SUSD) and California School Employees Association (CSEA)

The Tentative Agreement entered into between SUSD and CSEA is contingent upon final approval by the SUSD Governing Board and ratification by Association Members.

The Board is requested to approve the Tentative Agreement between SUSD and CSEA.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Review and Certification of the [2019–2020 Second Interim](#) Financial Statement as of January 31, 2019.

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: Schlaefer: Second: Mendenhall: 6/0

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION: Approval of [2020 CSBA Delegate Assembly Election Ballot](#)

Motion to submit vote for Carter, Coelho, Garza: Eldridge: Second: Qualls: 6/0

C. INFORMATION: Board Vacancy

Mrs. Falk read a letter of resignation from Jason Schroer. At which point that it is turned into the County Superintendent there will be 60 days to appoint a new member. This will involve an interview process that will be announced.

VIII. ADVANCED PLANNING

A. [Governance Calendar](#)

B. Next Regular meeting date: **Tuesday**, April 14, 2020

C. Next Special meeting date(s)

1. Budget Workshop – March 23, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m.

D. Requested Future Agenda Items:

IX. CLOSED SESSION The Board of Trustees went into Closed Session at 8:00 p.m.

- A. Individual Student Disciplinary Matters (Government Code Section 48918)
 - 1. [Student #2020-1](#)
- B. Personnel - Public Employee Discipline / Dismissal / Release / Complaint / Appointment / Employment (Government Code § 54957)
- C. Potential Litigation (Government Code § 54956.9)
- D. Employee Bargaining Group Negotiations (Government Code Section 54957.6)

X. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

- A. Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session
- B. Report Action Taken in Closed Session – NONE
In the matter of student #2020-1 the Board has voted to accept the recommendation of the administration.

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

Chrissy Falk, President

Alan Harris, Ph.D., Superintendent

Ron Eldridge, Clerk