

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

Monday, April 3, 2017

5:30 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 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 (A); and Connie Schlaefer

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Motion to adopt agenda will amendment to move agenda item VII.C to VIII.C and change to Discussion only: Saude: Second: Falk: 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*
2. *Superintendent's Request for Annual Evaluation*

E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Norm Saude led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

II. PRESENTATION

A. Sierra High School Jazz Band
The Jazz Band entertained the audience and the Board with their musical talents.

III. RECOGNITIONS

A. Governing Board

1. Bob Mounier
Chrissy Falk was honored to speak about Bob Mounier in recognition of his impact on the students of Sierra Unified. Since 1994 Bob has been driving busses for Sierra Unified. Since 2005 he has been the Activities Driver. He takes our children to and from sporting events, able to predict to the minute when the bus will be back at Sierra's parking lot. He takes the time to get to know each of our children. Students express that he is so caring, warm, nice, and thoughtful. Bob has also developed an affinity for photography. He has been known to share those photos with the students and parents. Bob goes above and beyond in caring for our children and making Sierra Unified the special place that it is. The Board thanked Bob for all he does.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The following people spoke during Public Comment:
Lauri King (upcoming Carnival on May 19th)
Brent Kehn (Bus Inservice on March 18th)

V. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Reports

Sierra Unified School District

1. ASB President – Rachel Beckmann
Miss Beckmann spoke of ASB activities at Sierra including: The Pledge of Allegiance on Fridays; a fundraiser for the Make a Wish Foundation to throw a pie in a Teachers face; and the Prom at Wolf Lakes with approximately 160 students in attendance.
2. Site Reports
 - a. Foothill Elementary, Alan Harris – Principal
Mr. Harris shared that one of their goals for this year is to extend the accelerated opportunities for students to go beyond the school day, and to create ways of inspiration and aspiration for students to do their Eagle best. Nicole Boettcher spearheaded special incentive trips on March 17th and 31st. Students, including those with special needs were able to attend with teachers signing that they did their Eagle best. Additionally our music teacher has started a guitar club, and in May a Native American Language club will be offered for 4 weeks after school. It's great to have these to offer to kids that makes them so excited to come to school for.
 - b. Sierra Jr. & Sr. High Schools, Sean Osterberg - Principal
Mr. Osterberg spoke about Prom and how unbelievably well it went. The Wolf Lakes staff came up to share how respectful and wonderful the kids from Sierra were, even helping clean up afterward. Proud moment. The softball team is on fire with only one loss for the season so far. The WASC visit went very well. Among so many positive outcomes, the visiting committee described our staff like a rocket ship waiting to take off, with so much energy and excitement.
 - c. Sandy Bluffs Alternative Education, Ara Keledjian – Director
Mr. Keledjian reported there are 12 students at Sandy Bluffs and 1 at Oak Meadow. 10 students took the All School Write at Sandy Bluffs. 7 passed the test with flying colors. This week there will be a graduation ceremony preparation meeting. While attending a Foster Homeless Youth Advisory Committee meeting at the County Office, he learned about MAP Point, Multi-Agency Access Program – a place for mental illness, homeless, substance abuse, and more, where people will get directed to specific care services. They will steer you in the right direction for the services needed. It is exciting to have this resource for our students and families.
3. [Superintendent Report](#) - Melissa Ireland, Ed.D.
Dr. Ireland reviewed and updated the Board on the LCAP and the process. Please view link above for details.
4. Department Reports
 - a. Facilities and Maintenance - Jim Harris, Supervisor
Mr. Harris shared that after a full inspection of the press box at the football stadium, he found no structural damage, just cosmetic. A trip to Pole Corral with the Director of Facilities with Fresno County Office of Education, Jeff Becker, revealed that the building is not suitable for a classroom and should be replaced. An official report from Mr. Becker will be available at the May meeting. A video was then viewed by the Board showing the Solar Project process.
 - b. Transportation / Bus Services – Craig Barnes, Supervisor
Mr. Barnes reported that on Sunday, March 12th, we provided transportation for the Heavenly Half Marathon (700 up and 550 back). On March 18th we completed our 29th annual Mountain Area School Bus Inservice. Thanks to Jim Harris for stepping up and taking the lead. Also thanks to Ben Kimbler, Penny Wright, CSEA, the Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, SUSD Food Services, Driver Trainer Advisory Council, Kathy DeVries & Cindy Furr (Southwest Transportation), Robin Ware and Andrew Albonico (Madera Unified), Jennifer Moren & Lauren Martinez (Fresno Unified). Everyone received 5 hours of inservice training out of the 10 that are required every year. Gift cards were received from CRMA for no accidents in the transportation department.

c. Business Services – Janelle Mehling, Assistant Superintendent

1. [Monthly Budget Report](#)

Mrs. Mehling shared that it's the time of year that the Legislature gets together and decides what they want to do for next year. In California there have 3 different bills introduced dealing with the reserve cap. 2 of those 3 bills have exemptions to law (one is below 1,501 students and the other is below 2,500 students). Either would work for SUSD. Hopefully one of the 3 will come through and give us some relief on that cap that has not come in to play yet. The fact that we are very conservative in the way that we budget helps us tremendously. The proposed 2018-19 federal budget shows a proposed reduction of 14% of the education budget. There are a lot of initiatives for school choice, vouchers, charter schools. It would also eliminate after school programs, funding for Title II (classroom reduction, professional development), and Impact Aid. It is proposed to make Title I portable.

d. Curriculum and Instruction – Sue Mitchell, Director

1. [DLA-2 Results](#)

Mrs. Mitchell reviewed the results from our second round of DLA testing. See link above.

5. Program Reports

a. [Native American Education](#) (Gavin Begaye)

Mr. Begaye gave a report to the Board on the Native American Education Program. Please view the PowerPoint in the link above for more information.

b. [Response to Intervention](#) (Rtl) (Alan Harris)

Dr. Harris updated the Board on Foothill's Response to Intervention program going over some of the key data points. The intent of the Rtl is to target students who are below grade level as compared to their peers, particularly related to reading fluency. The link above shows the comparison from Benchmark 1 to Benchmark 2.

B. Board Reflections

Connie Schlaefer spoke about the great site visit to the Junior/Senior High School focusing on Math. She thanked Sean. She also thanked Mr. Sharp for putting up the Art display in the Boardroom.

Bert Weldon shared how nice it was to see the music department performance.

Chrissy Falk also spoke about the really good visit to the Junior/Senior High School and thanked Sean. They were able to visit the Ag Farm and see the little ones being mentored by the Ag students. Shout out to the FFA kids for their success. They're doing so well.

Ron Eldridge noticed a visitor in the back of the room who wasn't here for Public Comment and invited Fresno County Supervisor Nathan Magsig to come up and speak.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Nathan Magsig introduced himself to the Board. He expressed that he very much enjoyed the presentations he'd seen this evening, and had never seen a School Board look so closely at data. He pointed out that Dr. Ireland was his teacher at one time. High on his priority list is economic development. He'd spent a little time at the Auberry Mill site and at Big Sandy Rancheria as well. He looks forward to trying to find ways to grow the economy here. He recognizes that when that happens, more families move here, and there are more children for the school system. He'd love to hear about the dreams and desires of our community, and would like to be the best Supervisor he can be.

BREAK: 7:19 – 7:27 pm

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Calendar Agenda with amendment to Item # VII.A.2.b in the March 13, 2017 Minutes showing WASC visit on March 20 and 21, 2017: Mendenhall: Second: Weldon: 6/0

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. ACTION ITEM: Cure and/or Correct pursuant to Government Code section 54960.1 and Reconsideration of Action taken by on January 9, 2017 to Temporarily Modify the Pole Corral Program and Close the Physical Facility.

The Sierra Unified School District is required to follow the Brown Act which regulates many aspects of school district board meetings in open and closed sessions. The Brown Act allows the Board to meet in closed session to discuss significant exposure to and threatened litigation. On January 9, 2017, the Board met to discuss certain circumstances related to Pole Corral Elementary School under an item agendaized as "Potential Litigation (Gov. Code 54956.9)." While the Board properly discussed certain issues related to Pole Corral Elementary School under this item, the Board should have conducted its discussion and voted on the temporary modification of the program, including closing the physical facility, in open session with sufficient notice on the agenda to allow for public comment on the matter. Under this item the Board will reconsidered and voted on that action.

Motion to modify the Pole Corral Program and close the physical facility: Mendenhall: 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. INFORMATION: [Report and Recommendation from 7-11 Committee Regarding Pole Corral Elementary School](#)

A school district advisory committee was appointed by the Board of Trustees in December 2015, pursuant to Education Code Section 17388. The Board requested that the committee reconvene in January 2017. The purpose of the committee was to review such factors as projected school enrollment, critical financial circumstances, facility conditions, educational program quality, costs of unnecessarily keeping underutilized facilities open, feasible options to closing a school, anticipated fiscal relief from school closure and placement of students from the closed facility.

Based on the information shared with the committee in meetings held February 15, 2017 and March 22, 2017, this committee recommends that Pole Corral Elementary School be closed permanently.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION ITEM: Approval of the [Tentative Agreement](#) for Collective Bargaining Negotiations between Sierra Unified School District (SUSD) and the Sierra Unified Teachers Association (SUTA). The Tentative Agreement between SUSD and SUTA was entered into on March 15, 2017 and is contingent upon final approval by the SUSD Governing Board and ratification by Association Members.

B. DISCUSSION ITEM: Approval [March 2017 Legal Updates to Board Policies](#)

C. DISCUSSION ITEM: Consideration and Possible Approval of Closure of Pole Corral Elementary School at Conclusion of 2016-17 School Year

IX. ADVANCED PLANNING

A. [Governance Calendar](#)

1. LCAP Goals
2. Superintendent Evaluation
3. Superintendent Year-End Report on District Goals Outcomes
4. Mental Health Services Program Report

- B. Next Regular meeting date: May 8, 2017
- C. Next Special meeting date(s): Budget and LCAP Public Hearing – June 27, 2017 @ 5:00 pm
- D. Requested Future Agenda Items:
 - 1. Long Range Planning Presentation – May 8, 2017
 - 2. Grant Writers
 - 3. Suicide Prevention Policy
 - 4. Developer Fees – June 12, 2017
 - 5. Vacant house on Lodge Road
 - 6. Absence Policy
 - 7. Governance Agreement – Jan/Feb meeting
 - 8. Life skills class

X. **CLOSED SESSION** The Board of Trustees went into Closed Session at 8:18 p.m.

- A. Personnel - Public Employee Discipline / Dismissal / Release / Complaint / Appointment / Employment (Gov. Code § 54957)
- B. Potential Litigation (Government Code 54956.9)
- C. Other Confidential Student Matters (Education Code Section 35146 and 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g)
- D. [Superintendent's Request for Annual Evaluation](#)

XI. **RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION** The Board Reconvened at 9:39 p.m.

- A. Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session
- B. Report Action Taken in Closed Session (Education Code 48918(j)) - NONE

XII. **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Ron Eldridge, President

Melissa Ireland, Ed.D, Superintendent

Tom Mendenhall, Clerk