



**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 pulling Agenda Item # V.A.2.b from the Consent Calendar Agenda: Eldridge: Second: Saude: 7/0

D. IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

1. *Personnel*
2. *Superintendent's Request for Annual Evaluation*

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

II. RECOGNITIONS

A. Governing Board

1. It was the pleasure and honor of the board to recognize Mrs. Sue Mitchell for her dedication to Sierra Unified. We could go back to her days in the classroom, where she was a highly effective teacher and loved by her students. Instead we want to focus on her leadership role now as Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Sue has been an integral part of moving Sierra Unified forward in all areas, especially technology. She is the kind of person whose ability to research, organize, and execute a project are stellar. We all know that anything with her name on it is of the highest quality. I'm not sure she started out being a technology expert, but through her amazing work ethic and persistence, she not only became the expert, she led the team and the entire district to the next level of 21st century learning. She has extensive knowledge of curriculum, technology, assessments, and how children learn, and uses this knowledge to help the district put into place programs that benefit every student in Sierra Unified. As one board member stated, "Sue knows that students don't come in plain boxes. Everyone is different and has different needs. Sue drills down to try to do what she can, given the limited resources she has. She is a dedicated, hard-working staff member that truly cares about the outcome of every student." The board stands united in our appreciation of all of the work she does, the incredible dedication she shows, and her love for Sierra Unified.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Donna and Frank Hallman shared their concerns regarding bullying.
Cortney Burke invited all to the annual Spring Carnival Luau Bash at Foothill Elementary.
Lauren O'Connell expressed her concerns about staff members in leadership positions who think the rules and regulations do not apply to them, and the message it sends to the students in our district.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Reports

1. ASB President – Rachel Beckmann
Miss Beckmann, reported on recent and upcoming ASB activities, including: the upcoming Prom (A Night on the Red Carpet) on April 28th at the Fresno State Alumni House; Chieftain Daze from April 23-27; a Blood Drive on April 20th; next year's Leadership sign ups; the Messer family donation of Prom tickets, dinner, attire, and a day of beauty; and the Spirit of Sport Award winner, Eric Elliott, with a \$500 scholarship.
2. Site Reports
 - a. Foothill Elementary School, Alan Harris – Principal
Dr. Harris shared that April and May are exciting times at all schools. In the month of March we got approximately 15 new students. One of the great challenges and opportunities for us are transient students, who move in and out of the district. We do our very best to try to give them a sense of belonging as they come in. It's good sometimes to have a reminder that a student who comes in to a new school in March or April has a whole new situation to deal with. We try to take the time to let them know that they belong on our campus as an Eagle. The next weeks are exciting times in terms of activities, but also in our focus time as we begin to prepare for out state testing beginning the second week of May. Teachers begin to refine down on areas that still need work. We are really excited about the amount of activity and participation of our students on the campus. Tuesdays are an exciting day right now. After school we have a computer coding club, a guitar club, and a Mono language club. Track is under way. The amount of activities and opportunities for our students at Foothill is growing every day. Volunteers and teachers giving of their time really adds to their education. Friday April 27th will be 2nd Shablamo Friday, where the kids get to celebrate being their Eagle best. May 11th is the big annual carnival and we hope to see everyone there.
 - b. Sierra Junior/Senior High Schools, Sean Osterberg – Principal
Mr. Osterberg spoke of this being the time of year in which it's crunch time, like the last stretch of a marathon. Students are tired, and we do some exciting things to keep their drive going. Things are coming up in April and May. There is the band festival, where elementary students come over and play with the high schoolers and have a rocking fun time. This Saturday, the team competing in the SeaPerch with their robotic submarine, heads to San Jose. Team captian, Megan Tovar, is in a tough situation trying to decide between a full ride to Stanford or going to Cornell. Congratulations to her. The following Tuesday is our first ever Career Fair. The high school will be doing rotations through about six different areas. Junior High students will rotate through guest speakers. FFA is getting ready to compete at State. Five students qualified for speaking, twelve for Parli Pro, and one young lady, Macy Myers is actually up in the top 30 for State Office. Exciting times.
 - c. Sandy Bluffs Alternative Education, Ara Keledjian – Director
Mr. Keledjian reported that it is crunch time at Sandy Bluffs, with everyone pushing to get things accomplished and finished. Currently we have 154 total students from 3-year olds to older adults. So far this year we've served 220. Two SARB Hearing dates have been scheduled for this month with 13 cases to see, which is typical for this time of year as absences start to accumulate. We don't go to a hearing until the school site has exhausted everything to assist that family, including a home visit and in-person meetings with families. There is a Parent Education class tomorrow at Foothill @ 5:00 pm in the library. An email blast was sent out to parents, in addition to sending flyers home. We're hoping to continue to grow that program. There will be a Native American Parent meeting on the 23rd @ 5:00 pm in the Sierra library. Next week Mr. Stelling will do his regular ongoing check-in with the students who are back at the high school from Sandy Bluffs. We're working with the historical museum to solidify the process for the scholarship that Mr. Qualls was instrumental in getting off the ground last year.

3. Superintendent Report - Melissa Ireland, Ed.D.
Dr. Ireland gave a brief update to the Board on the LCAP. Please see link below for details.
 - a. [LCAP Update](#)
4. Department Reports
 - a. Facilities and Maintenance - Jim Harris, Supervisor
Mr. Harris reported that he and Janelle Mehling have been working on the Prop 39 upgrades for the district for quite some time. They're getting very close to wrapping it up. This summer we're hoping to install about 20 HVAC units, 22 new outdoor LED lights, and several indoor changes to florescent LED lights. We were hoping to bring something to the Board for discussion at this meeting, but it turned out there were more funds than originally expected and more replacement planning had to take place. It will be brought to the Board at the May meeting to approve the funds to purchase the equipment.
 - b. Transportation – Craig Barnes, Supervisor
Mr. Barnes reported that on December 28th the State finally signed off on the CHP's final approval of the Child Check system. It requires the driver to go back and reset it each time the bus is turned off, reminding them to check for any sleeping students on the bus. Other bells and whistles are built in that activate the interior lights so they can see well. If after 3 minutes the button is not reset, it activates the horn and flashing lights will stay on for a half hour. On March 18th we provided transportation for the Heavenly Half Marathon in snow and ice. It all went well. On the 21st we completed our annual CHP inspection and received a satisfactory (no violations) grade. Last week we were finally able to purchase the 2015 Chevy Suburban. It will take a lot of pressure off of our older fleet and the fact that we're short on vans. On April 24th we will be celebrating School Bus Driver Appreciation Day if anyone would like to come by the driver's room at 8:00 am. On April 27th we'll be doing our annual school bus evacuation at Foothill from 8:30-11:30 am. 650 kids will be jumping out of the emergency exits.
 - c. Business Services - Janelle Mehling, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Mehling shared that in the legislative session is where the different houses look at what the Governor has proposed and come up with their own versions of what they think the budget should look like. There are a couple of interesting things that have come up in recent weeks. The Assembly Education Committee approved a bill (AB 2067) that would require school districts and charter schools to keep at least one armed school resource officer, authorized to carry a loaded firearm on campus during regular school hours and any other time when pupils are present. Another bill (SB 1127) would authorize the Governing Board to adopt a policy to allow a parent or guardian to possess and administer non-smokable, non-vapable medicinal cannabis to an authorized pupil at a school site. There are quite a few bills about school choice. Assembly Bill 1743 would extend CTE funding indefinitely at 500 million dollars a year, and would basically take what the Governor is proposing for a 3-year extension and change it to ongoing.
 1. [Monthly Budget Report](#)
 - d. Curriculum and Instruction – Sue Mitchell, Director
Mrs. Mitchell reviewed the results of the 2nd District Learning Assessment. See link below for details
 1. [DLA-2 Results](#)

BREAK: 6:44 – 6:51 pm

5. Program Reports
 - a. [Mental Health Services](#) – Teresa Page
Ms. Page refreshed the Board about the three Tiers of Behavioral Intervention, and the progress of the Positive Behavior Supports and Interventions (PBIS) at each school. Tier 1 are the strategies and procedures applicable to the entire student population, and are generally effective to address the needs of 80%-85% of the students in the school. Tier 2 are short-term interventions focused on about 10-15% of the students, which involve some additional use of resources and training for teachers and staff. Tier 3: Are longer

term and/or more intensive interventions, with greater use of resources, generally utilized by about 5% of the students with the greatest needs. We have designed our interventions into 12 levels, from the least intensive (teacher led supports) to the most intensive (1:1 aide assigned for the school day). The teachers at Foothill have all been trained in *Positive Discipline in the Classroom*, a program that gives teachers skills in classroom management, student support, and social-emotional learning. Mr. Harris is also training selected staff in more advanced de-escalation skills, and a few staff members in Non-violent Crisis Intervention, for those occasional times when a student needs to be restrained for safety. At Sierra all staff was trained in Mental Health First Aide this winter, a program to help all of us identify markers in students' behavior that may signal the need for more adult support or intervention. Last year, we decided to fully commit to implementing the philosophy, "All means ALL," and therefore we have not transported any students to county support or alternative education programs. While this commitment has strained resources, and is challenging staff and systems while we perfect our training and logistics to support every student as he or she needs, it is keeping all our students in their home school, interacting with their peers as much as possible. The schools have the use of a mental health Clinician one day per week. He works with the school psychologist and staff members on both the Sierra and Sandy Bluffs campuses. The focus here is on helping staff develop skills to address student behavioral outbursts earlier and more effectively, through relationship building, classroom management skills, and improved interpersonal communication. As we continue to emphasize social/emotional learning and mental health, and focus on a caring and supportive environment for all students, we find ways, large and small, to improve all of our skills in interacting with students and with each other. We are excited to see how far we have come, and are actively focused on new and better ways that are supported by research, to increase effectiveness, empathy, and responsiveness in improving student success in every area.

6. Sub-Committee Reports
Click on the link below for the minutes of the last Facility Renovation meeting.
 - a. [Facility Renovation](#)

B. Board Reflections
NONE

V. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. ACTION ITEM: District Planning – Getting to the Destination District

The Board considered action on the Superintendent's proposal to contract with a facilitator to guide the process of strategic planning in the 2018-2019 school year. The purpose of the planning process is to bring all stakeholder groups together to clearly establish the components of Sierra Unified Destination District. A Destination District is a school district that attracts families in search of a system that provides a premier education for their children. Stakeholder groups will include community, staff, administration, and the Governing Board.

Motion to accept the Superintendent's Destination District proposal: Mendenhall: Second: Fowler: 7/0

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION ITEM: Approval of [March 2018 Legal Updates to Board Policies](#)

The Board reviewed the March 2018 Legal Updates to Board Policies linked above. For future meetings these updates will be included in the Consent Calendar Agenda.

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION: Adoption of [Resolution No. 12-17/18](#) to Create a Short Term Behavior Aide Position

Motion to approve Resolution # 12-17/18: Saude: Second: Fowler: 7/0

C. DISCUSSION ITEM: Change in [Graduation Requirements](#)

The Board considered an administrative proposal to make three changes to current high school graduation requirements. The first is to increase the mathematics graduation requirement from two to three years. The third year of math would provide students the option of taking Mathematics III or Fundamentals of Mathematics III. Additionally administration is requesting to remove Geography as a freshman requirement and replace it with Career Exploration and Financial Literacy. Finally, it was recommended that the All School Write be removed as a graduation requirement.

D. DISCUSSION ITEM: First Reading of [Fundamentals of Mathematics III](#)

This course is proposed as an option for students who passed Mathematics II with a grade of D, or students who passed Math II with a C, but would like to increase their proficiency in Mathematic concepts from a practical application perspective. The course focuses on teaching essential strands included in Mathematics II and Mathematics III. [Why?](#)

E. DISCUSSION ITEM: First Reading of [Career Exploration and Financial Literacy](#)

The Career Exploration course will provide students with guidance and instruction on educational and job requirements necessary for career development. There are four general areas that will be addressed throughout the course. 1. Self-knowledge (“Who am I?”), 2. Career Exploration (“Where am I going?”), 3. Career Planning (“How do I get there?”), and 4. 21st Century Skills (“How do I succeed?”). The course will also provide students with instruction in basic personal finance skills that help students build a solid foundation for financial independence. There are six general areas that will be addressed: 1. Money Management, 2. Borrowing, 3. Earning Power, 4. Investing, 5. Financial Services, and 6. Insurance.

VIII. ADVANCED PLANNING

A. [Governance Calendar](#)

B. Next Regular meeting date: May 14, 2018

C. Next Special meeting date(s): June 18, 2018 @ 4:00 pm – Budget & LCAP Hearing
June 28, 2018 @ 5:30 pm – Adoption of Budget & LCAP

D. Requested Future Agenda Items: NONE

IX. CLOSED SESSION The Board of Trustees went into Closed Session at 8:34 p.m.

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

B. Superintendent’s Request for Annual Evaluation

X. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION The Board reconvened at 10:05 p.m

A. Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session

B. Report Action Taken in Closed Session
NONE

XI. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

Chrissy Falk, President

Melissa Ireland, Ed.D, Superintendent

Bert Weldon, Clerk