



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 5:31 pm by Mrs. Chrissy Falk, Board President.

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

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Motion to adopt agenda with amendment removing Item # IV.A.6.a: Falk: Second: Mendenhall: 5/0

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Board honored the life of Foothill student, Eli Glazebrook.

II. RECOGNITIONS

A. Employees of the Year

1. Foothill Elementary

a. Jennifer Fleming

Mr. Harris was pleased to recognize Foothill's Employee of the Year, Jennifer Fleming, who works with our rather epic kitchen staff. If you've ever been at our school at lunch, you know that they really collectively embody the idea of a team. Lori McClelland, Cafeteria Manager, took over and read what she wrote when nominating Jennifer. "I have known Jennifer for quite a few years. She came to our school district in 2001 and I had the great opportunity of working with her at Auberry Elementary. She worked with us for a couple of years, then she decided to stay home and finish raising her 3 children who all graduated from Sierra Unified. We were very excited when she decided to come back and join our team. She's a wonderful worker. Her cheery personality and excellent work ethic have really made our team excel. Now she is the leader of our breakfast program. She greets our children every day with a smile, and a 'good morning'. Her face is the one they get to see every morning. She does an absolutely wonderful job and I'd like to thank her tonight."

2. Sierra Junior/Senior High School

a. Tammy Montgomery

Mr. Osterberg honored Tammy Montgomery, who is one of those teachers, who makes you ask “How does she do it all?” She teaches Junior High, AP US History, and teaches Seniors. As a classroom Teacher, she has a huge, multi-level group of students, from 13 to 18 years old. She does it with such ease. She treats them with respect and they treat her with respect. She is such a professional every day in the classroom and it’s absolutely incredible how she relates with all students, from the 7th graders who come to us more immature, too the Seniors who are excited and nervous about the next chapter in their lives. She does such a great job of taking a young student grow more mature, and helping a mature student get ready for their future. Tammy is a team player. Last year, while helping with the WASC accreditation, her work was flawless and fantastic. In the middle of all this she also started brain storming about a Career Fair. She had an idea of helping with that through her family’s Foundation. And so, this year we had our first ever Career Fair. It was outstanding with every detail being planned out completely. That very afternoon, she had already sent surveys out to staff, students, and presenters to see how things went and how we could make it better. That’s how she lives every day at Sierra, trying to make it a better place. For all of these reasons, she is without a doubt our Certificated Employee of the Year.

b. Teri Harrison

Mr. Osterberg proudly recognized Teri Harrison as Classified Employee, sharing the she is one of the most humble individuals he’s ever met. She works in the ASB/Athletic office where there is so many things happening at once. Kids and teachers are constantly coming in and she’s always kind. Having so much to say, he picked the top 3 points to deliver about Teri. She’s personable, during chaos. If you walk in her office she makes you her number one priority. She stops what she’s doing and engages with you. She’s smart and hard- working, and a problem solver. If she’s up against a problem, she also comes up with a solution. She’s got that grit to keep going even if things aren’t working. The employees love that about her. You know when you ask her for help, she’s going to help you all the way through. She has integrity and is honest. She cares about what she does every day for Sierra.

3. Facilities and Transportation

a. Penny Wright

Penny will be recognized at the regular Board meeting on June 18th.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Vogel spoke about the importance of the Digital Video program at Sierra High School, and how it has really affected and changed his life. He stated, “It taught me the tools that I needed to start my career. This year I’m starting a business called “Prince and Bard Productions” where I’ll be doing wedding photography, videography, advertisement packages for small businesses, and any other things that needs to be done. I’m starting this with my best friend, Connor Dunkle. I never thought that this would be possible. I thought no one could really make good money that way. The program really made me realize that it is possible, and that this thing that I really enjoy doing, has financial gain for me. Next month I’m going to be able to quit my job and work on this full time. I have 6 gigs lined up, and have done one wedding already. It’s pretty exciting.”

Brent Kehn, Custodian/Bus Driver, spoke on behalf of all the Bus Drivers. Last month, for Bus Drivers Appreciation, Board Members, Dr. Ireland, staff, students, and PFA all came out and presented them with gifts and thanks for all they do. Thank you for all for showing appreciation to all the Bus Drivers.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Reports

1. ASB President – Rachel Beckman

Miss Beckman reported on recent and future ASB activities including: the successful Prom, held at the Fresno State Alumni House; the busy week ahead with AP testing going on and Senior Projects; our first ever Kindness Week; the upcoming Blood Drive; and two of our students (Julianna Sullivan and Jamie Baker) performing at the FFA State Convention in Anaheim.

2. Site Reports

a. Foothill Elementary School, Alan Harris – Principal

Dr. Harris spoke of the exceptional job done by the PFA with our annual Luau Carnival. They go above and beyond. It's more like the Prather Fair with all the people coming out. They made over \$30,000, all going directly to support our students. Last year they Eaglefied the campus. This year they have their eye on our cafeteria/MPR, and bringing some light and elementary atmosphere into the space. We appreciate all the time and energy put in to this event by the PFA, headed by Lauri King. On Saturday, we had approximately 150 students at the Grizzlies game, who received game vouchers for themselves and their parents because they read 10 books. Our mascot Queena, went out with their mascot Parker, and take pictures with students, and lead a cheer up on the scoreboard. It was a big night for the families. We're in the middle of testing for grades 3-6. He wanted the Board to know what a significant difference the Chrome books are making at the school. It shortened the testing time from 3 to 2 weeks. The students were able to stay right in their own class and take the tests right on the Chrome books. Immediate Teacher feedback was that it was remarkable how that one purchase by the Board has made such a huge difference in their access and connection. One of a couple things as we look to next year, is that we're looking at a schoolwide policy in regards to homework. We spent the last month doing research on homework and its benefit or lack thereof. The biggest asset we'd like to get from it is student self-efficacy, self-regulation and perseverance. We found that the parent is spending a great deal of time supporting the student. The student can become less confident in themselves in getting their work done. If a student is spending an hour or more on homework, they're actually learning to dislike the subject. If students spend about 30 minutes in grades 3-6, doing work independently, over time they learn practice habits. Having that tied to a grade diminishes that effect. We're looking at having a homework log in grades 2-6, doing reading and math. On reports cards this would go to getting an E on homework and would allow teachers to spend more time with parents, communicating what the students are learning about now, here's how they did, and here's where we going. Assignments that they have time to work on in class instead of at home, allows the teacher to check, giving them a connection to their work, which creates self-efficacy. We want to get to a consistent place between grade levels for parents, teachers, and students. As we begin the process of adding Art, and the GATE type program during our Rtl time, we are discussing the idea of moving our Back to School Night from the second week of school to the Monday before school starts. This would give parents and teachers a chance to connect regarding schedules, expectations, and the change to late start Mondays. This dialog could take place before the students start. This would help everyone forecast the year better than talking about what we've already been doing.

b. Sierra Junior/Senior High Schools, Sean Osterberg – Principal

Mr. Osterberg handed out a list of events coming up. All testing has been done in the large gym this year instead of the classroom, helping stress the importance of the tests. He was able to set the tone, pump the students up to do well. It's been very successful. We were able to log 150 computers on in a gymnasium, with very little problems, and it's now working like clockwork. The students are focused, quiet, and know that they're all in it together. The rest of the school can function normally because those being tested are away in the gym. AP tests are being done on the other side of the school in the PC. This all helps with the flow of the day, with bell schedules, and worrying about certain classes being quiet at certain times, or any disruptions. In Spring sports, playoffs have begun. Swimming just got back from Bakersfield, and did well. They also broke a lot of records this year. Four athletes have qualified for the next level in Track & Field. FFA had a great season in ParliPro who came in 3rd at the State level, and Livestock judging came in 2nd.

- c. Sandy Bluffs Alternative Education, Ara Keledjian – Director
Mr. Keledjian reported Alternative Education enrollment numbers as: Sandy Bluffs-16; Oak Meadow-2; Lodge Pole-18; Independent Study-30; and Adult-30. Sandy Bluffs Graduation is coming up on June 11th @ 7:00 pm, with Graduation practice taking place on June 6th @ 4:00 pm in the PC. The Preschool Graduation ceremony will be June 7th @ 6:30 pm. September is Attendance Awareness Month. To prepare for this he'd like to develop a community coalition to heighten the importance of attendance and the issue of chronic absenteeism. This is not just a school issue, it's a community issue. We can begin that awareness campaign and start putting it out there in the community. Hopeful in September we will have created resources that will help us reinforce those statistics, and highlight and heighten awareness. Currently there are 27 students in the district with chronic illness that keeps them from school regularly. In the past these absences have been lumped together with other types of absence designations. There is a new process to designate those students and allow parents to excuse them from school with the same authority as their doctor. This requires a Chronic Illness Verification Form which needs to be updated annually along with the release of information. When all the paperwork is in place, it will allow the school to code the absence as "V" instead of "E", which will remove students from our chronic absentee count. We are currently reaching out to families to explain and encourage them to complete the form and hopefully adjust this year's attendance for those students.

3. Superintendent Report - Melissa Ireland, Ed.D.
Dr. Ireland thanked Mr. Osterberg and Karen Low for the Science Fair. Ms. Low had her first one last year operated mostly during the day. This year a student took it over as their Senior Project and did a great job. There were a lot of high level projects. It's just the beginning. Also thanks to PFA for the Luau Carnival. It's such a nice event for the community and the organization that goes in to it is amazing. We're very fortunate to have that group of parents there that volunteer their time in such a way. Everyone had a great time. She went on to update the Board on the Local Control Accountability Plan. Please see link below for details.
 - a. [LCAP Update](#)

4. Department Reports
 - a. Facilities and Maintenance - Jim Harris, Supervisor
Mr. Harris reminded the staff that the Maintenance Department is coming in to an extremely busy time of year, with many events to set up. He requested patience during this time. Everything will be done as best as they can.

 - b. Transportation – Craig Barnes, Supervisor
Mr. Barnes thanked all who came out and made Bus Driver Appreciation Day possible. It was a phenomenal day for everybody, starting first thing in the morning and lasting all day with the kids at Foothill handing out treats. It was a great day. On the 27th we held our bus evacuation drill at Foothill. Thanks to Chrissy for coming out and helping with the treats for the kids. Also, on the 27th Scott Cardoza graduated from his Bus Driver Instructor program with the Department of Education.

 - c. Business Services - Janelle Mehling, Assistant Superintendent [Monthly Budget Report](#)
Mrs. Mehling reported that this year we received \$79,628 in Forest Reserve money. This is not usually budgeted for and is a nice one-time amount of money to receive. The Governor released his May Revision on Friday. There is approximately 8 billion more dollars than had been anticipated, but he's still being conservative and keeping that rainy day fund. In 2016-17 there was 1.3 billion dollars more than they had anticipated, for the current year 3.5 billion, and next year 3.1 billion. There is a small increase on the Local Control Funding Formula. The statutory COLA was 2.71% and is now 3%. He increased the amount of the one-time funding from \$295 per ADA to \$344, so we will have \$422,000 in one-time funds. This will be finalized by June 15th. Another creation in the May Revision, is a 13.3 million dollars of one-time funds into what he's calling a "Community Engagement Initiative" which is supposed to help build engagement with our communities. There is also a 15 million one-time investment in a multi-tiered system of support, looking at things such as positive behavior intervention, restorative justice, social/emotional learning, etc. The link above shows the monthly budget report.

- d. Curriculum and Instruction – Sue Mitchell, Director
Mrs. Mitchell shared that our Day 3 Kagan Strategies Workshop took place, with Days 1 and 2 happening last year. At this point in the year we're looking start ordering and making sure that our consumables for ELA and Math that were adopted are in place for next year. With DLA2 completed, we are looking to build and provide our final benchmark assessment at the very end of the year. These are the short, formative assessments to monitor how the curriculum is going, in terms of specific standards taught and covered within a grading period.
- 5. Program Reports – NONE
- 6. Sub-Committee Reports
 - a. [Facility Renovation](#) – Ron Eldridge

B. Board Reflections

Connie Schlaefter spoke of going to the Science Fair. It was inspiring to see the level of work. It was well done. She went to the Carnival and was blown away as always. She also got to go to the play "Bury the Dead". It's very dark, but the kids were spectacular. It is really impressive. Beth Carr is doing a fantastic job. She also attended the Mother's Day Rodeo.

Don Fowler echoed the sentiments on the Carnival. His grandkids had a great time.

Norm Saude shared that this Friday he'd be going to Sacramento for the CSBA Delegate Assembly. One of the topics is how marijuana use affects high school students. There will be a lot of break-out sessions. Tom Mendenhall had the opportunity about a week ago, to visit the sites. He thanked the Principals and Craig Barnes for dropping everything and taking him on a tour.

Chrissy Falk talked about a recent tour of the District that the Principals, Dr. Ireland and herself took the sales team from Ventana Hills-Granville Homes. They had a great time, and she's so appreciative to our site leaders. At the end of the tour, they said that they couldn't imagine bringing anyone here that would not want to stay here. It was such a great day with the Principals being able to share with them the things going on at their sites. We are a boutique type district. Our children are known by their name. The tour couldn't have gone better.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. ACTION ITEM: Approval of March 2018 Legal Updates to Board Policies

Motion to approve [March 2018 Legal Updates to Board Policies](#): Saude: Second: Fowler: 5/1

B. ACTION ITEM: Second Reading of Proposed Change in [Graduation Requirements](#)

Board considered an administrative proposal to make four changes to current high school graduation requirements:

1. [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.
2. Remove Geography as a freshman requirement and replace it with Career Exploration and Financial Literacy.
3. Remove All School Write as a graduation requirement. Due to the new standards and their emphasis on written expression, it is no longer needed.
4. Require all students to complete a Career-Technical Education Pathway and/or meet all requirements for entrance into California State University/University of California, as a condition for graduation.

Motion to approve the proposed changes in graduation requirements: Saude: Second: Fowler

Motion to amend #1 of this action item (increase math graduation requirement from two to three years) and table until next month and until district engagement with parents and students takes place: Schlaefer: Second: Mendenhall: 3/3

Vote to approve on original motion: 3/3 – Agenda Item VI.B tabled until June Board meeting (6/18/18).

| Board Member | In Favor | Opposed | Absent |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chrissy Falk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Tom Mendenhall | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Bert Weldon | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Norm Saude | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Don Fowler | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Connie Schlaefer | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Ron Eldridge | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

C. ACTION ITEM: Second Reading of [Fundamentals of Mathematics III](#)

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

Motion to approve Fundamentals of Mathematics III: Saude: Second: Mendenhall: 6/0

D. ACTION ITEM: Second 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 Explorations (“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 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.

Motion to approve the Career Exploration and Financial Literacy course: Schlaefer: Second: Weldon: 6/0

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: Approval of [“Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators: for the 2018-2019 School Year”](#)

After verifying they have met the state approved requirements, the approval of this Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators will authorize credentialed staff, including substitute teachers and those on special assignment, to teach in the areas of need.

Motion to approve the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for the 2018-2019 school year: Fowler: Second: Mendenhall: 6/0

B. INFORMATION: [CTE Plan Progress Report](#)

Mr. Osterberg updated the Board on the plan for Career Technical Education (CTE). See link above for progress report.

C. ACTION 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 May 4, 2018 and is contingent upon final approval by the SUSD Governing Board and ratification by Association Members.

Motion to approve the Tentative Agreement between SUSD and SUTA: Mendenhall: Second: Weldon: 6/0

D. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: Unspent [Prop 39 Funds](#)

In February 2018, Terra Verde Energy applied to the California Energy Commission on the District's behalf to get the maximum funding available for energy efficiency projects. Our total allocation was approved at \$543,174, of which \$270,000 was applied as a down-payment to the solar project. The remainder of the unspent funds will be spent on replacement of HVAC units and lighting. We are requesting approval of the attached plan to spend \$138,599. The District portion of these projects (\$13,400) represents proposed legal costs and inspector fees which must be paid from non-Prop 39 funds. A balance of \$53,800 in Prop 39 funds remains to be spent on additional lighting measures.

Motion to approve proposed plan for unspent Prop 39 funds: Mendenhall: Second: Saude: 6/0

E. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: [First Right of Refusal to Purchase Property](#)

On January 18, 1991, an agreement was recorded between Golden Hills School District and Michael D. Wilson and the Mark David Wilson Trust for the right of entry, first right of refusal for sale and grazing rights on the property located next to the current Foothill Elementary campus. The right of entry for water rights was never exercised, nor was the right to graze cattle on the school property. The first right of refusal remains in effect and has been triggered by the potential sale of the property. The Board must determine whether it wants to exercise the right of first refusal and purchase the property at the current fair market value of the bare land.

Motion to dissolve the First Right of Refusal agreement: Mendenhall: Second: Schlaefer: 5/0
Fowler abstained

F. DISCUSSION ITEM: First reading of the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) between Sierra Unified School District and State Center Community College District

The agreement clarifies roles and responsibilities of Sierra Unified and State Center for the purposes of a partnership for dual enrollment. In accordance with the agreement, wherein students will be able to earn college credit and credit toward high school graduation for college courses successfully completed by the students. Such courses include those offered either on the community college campus, online, or at Sierra High School.

G. DISCUSSION ITEM: History Social Science Textbook Adoption – Grades 7-12

The history social science department adoption process for grades 7-12 has concluded. Grades TK-6 are not adopting this year. The process included the review of six programs for grades 7-12 by the history social science department staff and the instructional coach. Teachers had sample material to review, including digital access. After an initial review/discussion of the six programs, the list was narrowed down to two, and the publisher presentations were arranged. Following the presentations, there was discussion by the staff. Staff then completed a final evaluation of the two programs using a rubric. The results of the evaluation were compiled resulting in the recommendation from staff to the Board to proceed with the adoption of *Impact* by McGraw-Hill Education for the 2018-19 school year.

VIII. ADVANCED PLANNING

A. [Governance Calendar](#)

B. Next Regular meeting date: June 18, 2018

C. Next Special meeting date(s):

1. Budget and LCAP Public Hearing – June 18, 2018 @ 4:00 pm
2. Budget and LCAP Adoption – June 28, 2018 @ 5:30 pm

D. Requested Future Agenda Items:

1. Professional Learning Network
2. School Safety Resolution
3. School Funding Resolution

IX. CLOSED SESSION The Board of Trustees went into Closed Session at 8:03 p.m.

- A.** Personnel - Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Complaint/Employment (Gov. Code § 54957)
 - 1. Resolution No. 11-17/18
 - 2. Resolution No. 12-17/18
- B.** Superintendent Evaluation
- C.** Student Appeals – Grade Acceleration (Education Code 48000)
 - 1. Student #1-18/19
 - 2. Student #2-18/19

X. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION The Board reconvened at 9:33 p.m

- A.** Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session
- B.** Item # IX.A-Resolution Nos. 11-17/18 and 12-17/18: The High School Assistant Principal is being reassigned to the Elementary School as a Classroom Teacher. The Elementary Assistant Principal is being reassigned the High School as the Assistant Principal as of July 1, 2018.

Item # IX.C-The Board concurs with the recommendation of staff regarding Student #1-18/19 will be accelerated. Student #2-18/19 will not be accelerated.

XI. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Chrissy Falk, President

Melissa Ireland, Ed.D, Superintendent

Bert Weldon, Clerk