



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 4:47 pm by Mrs. Chrissy Falk, Board President.

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

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Motion to adopt agenda: Saude: Second: Mendenhall: 7/0

D. IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

1. *Personnel*

II. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Brent Kehn – Bus Driver/Custodian

III. CLOSED SESSION - The Board of Trustees went into Closed Session at 4:51 p.m.

A. To Consider the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation of Performance, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Employee to Hear Complaints against a Public Employee (Gov. Code § 54956.9)

IV. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION The Board reconvened at 5:56 p.m.

A. Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session

B. Report Action Taken in Closed Session

Chrissy Falk reported the following from Closed Session: The Board has carefully considered the request of the Hallman Family to hear an appeal of the findings of the independent investigator hired by Sierra Unified School District in response to the formal complaint filed by Frank and Donna Hallman, dated June 11, 2018. Based on the findings of the private independent investigator, we the Board deny the request to hear the appeal by a vote of 6-1. We appreciate the work of Liest and Associates in conducting an independent and extremely thorough investigation, as well as the seriousness in which Sierra Unified staff has handled the situation with the student, with the accusations made of bullying. Sierra Unified remains committed to doing everything possible to alleviate bullying in our school system, and will continue to take seriously any and all accusations of bullying. Additionally, staff has and will continue to improve methods of reporting bullying (which includes our anonymous bully reporting button on the district website home page), dealing with incidents of bullying, and creating an environment in which someday bullying will be viewed as not being tolerable in our schools or society.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Don Fowler led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Reports

1. ASB President – Brooke Kuball
Miss Kuball reported on various ASB and school activities, including: meeting twice over summer showing a lot of energy and motivation; the Back to School Rally which had a DJ, was black light themed, and had great participation; the first football game and school dance of the year with a great turnout of approximately 150 students; the goal this year of increasing participation in each class; and the focus on the morning live shot with the 5:00 a.m. news at the school for the next home football game, encouraging all students and the community participation.
2. Site Reports
 - a. Foothill Elementary School, Alan Harris – Principal
Dr. Harris shared the excitement around the first Back to School Night that was held before school started. We had a great turnout. Thanks to the Board members who came by. It was a great opportunity to talk with our parents about some of the things that are new, and a few changes that are in place, including home practice instead of homework. There will also be a meeting next Monday night regarding the change in busing practice and how parents request changes in the bus drop off changes. Craig did a little research that showed over a 150 day period, there were 22,000 bus changes at Foothill. We want to be able to meet the needs of our community that are unique given the geographical area we cover and the way we work that, but we also need to make sure the students are safe. We've become very aware of the anxiety that Craig, the bus drivers, and the secretaries in the office go through every day between 2:00 and 4:00, making sure every student gets to where they need to get, based on all those changes. We have an obligation to work with our community to find a way to do that, that we can still meet community needs to an extent, but also ensure student safety. Our highlight of Back to School Night was probably to kick off the makeover of the cafeteria. It really is spectacular to see. One of the great things that happen here, is that Jim and his crew helped out with the purchase and set up of the cafeteria tables, but also our parents, through the fundraisers, invest \$25,000 to \$30,000 to paint and re-do the cafeteria. After that, a group of parents came in and stayed until 10:00 at night hanging decals and finishing the work themselves. We have a group of PFA parents who really are committed and go above and beyond. It really is special when you walk in. One of the students told their mom, "Our cafeteria is really cool now." That's a great thing. Finally, we closed the night with our leadership students, led by 3 teachers, Ms. Fedele, Miss Zimmerman, and Ms. Matthews. They might 5 or 6 times over the summer with the goal of taking leadership to a new level, and worked on what the slogan should be for the school. The students chose two different themes. One is "Head Up, Wings Out." Up on the stage that night, Cadence Begaye saying why she chose Head Up, Wings Out: "When my head's up I feel confident, and when my wings are out I feel freedom." When Strahan Dunn spoke about why they selected the second slogan, "Choose Kindness" he talked about wanting to get to a place where we really can get beyond bullying, where kids feel safe and strong, and that they belong. When mean or bullying behaviors happen, we're able to respond together as a community, helping kids feel strong in how they deal with that. They came up with a "Choose Kind" t-shirt that they're selling to raise money for Kindness projects. Today they were greeting every student in the cafeteria with a high five, welcoming them to school. They closed with a video about the Be Kind Initiative and handed out free ice cream.
 - b. Sierra Junior/Senior High Schools, Sean Osterberg – Principal
Mr. Osterberg spoke about the upcoming reduction in sports at Sierra, Boys Tennis and the Golf Program. Since 2007, Golf has been a self-funded sport. This year we're going to have 1-2 practices a week, and only participating in the NSL tournaments. Next year the sport will not be part of our sports program. Boys Tennis will not be part beginning this year. The last three years, we have not had a full ladder (8 players). Our Math Department (Aaron Wiest and Dylan Gault) will be coming to present next month about what they've been doing with the Summer Work. This includes what they're discovering, what they're developing, from 7th grade, working their way up through high school. This Wednesday, we'll be having our Back to School Night with dinner starting at 5:30 pm, meeting at 6:00 in the large gym, and then classroom visits starting at 6:30. Our teachers are back in full motion. Our first day back we had Google training, and then we had our focus, talking about the "connection". The purpose this year with our teachers and staff is how we connect with our student, how we connect with where they are, and how do we help them to reach their goals in the future. This involved 3 hours of round table discussion. It's our theme that will be threaded through all we're working on this year.

- c. Sandy Bluffs Alternative Education, Ara Keledjian – Director
Mr. Keledjian reported a pretty good start to the year. At this time at Sandy Bluffs there are 11 students and in Independent Study we have 16, which is pretty typical at the beginning of the year. Today, two students got in to an argument, which was a wonderful opportunity to sit down with them and help them work out their issue. It will be re-visited tomorrow, but it was a great beginning to work through our restorative practices. One of goals this year for both programs, is parent engagement. We're going to start meeting with parents, asking what are their hopes and dreams for their child. The goal is also to meet in person, vs. phone calls, etc. The big WASC visit is coming up really quick, September 10-12. In Preschool right now, we have approximately 60 three and four year olds. We're trying to revamp our Adult School Welding Program, with Tom Mendenhall as our industry rep, helping us with ideas, trying to focus our goals toward industry and industry certifications. This is for older adults who can go through the program and get right out to the work force. It's going to be an exciting year.
3. Superintendent Report - Melissa Ireland, Ed.D.
Dr. Ireland spoke about her appreciation of Back to School Night at Foothill, with the number of parents that were there, and the number of staff that stayed around for the after fun, showing support for what the kids were doing. She then reviewed the Preliminary CAASPP scores and Survey results which can be viewed on the links below. She also updated the Board on the sale of Auberry Elementary School to the California Conservation Corp. We've been a bit in limbo with the CCC, who have proposed to purchase AES. It didn't make it through the state budget in 2016, but did make it through in 2017 and has been signed by the Governor. Funds have been appropriated for the sale of that facility. Now it is with the Department of General Services for them to allocate the funds. We are in the process of updating our appraisal. We now wait. They will hold a series of community meetings, maintain the playground so they are open to the public still, putting a sizeable amount of money into the facility and into the community as well, in terms of young adults with stipends in their pockets.
- a. Auberry Elementary School (AES) – California Conservation Corp. (CCC)
 - b. [Preliminary CAASPP Scores](#) [Four Year Comparison](#)
 - c. Survey Results [Areas of Strength/Needs Improvement](#)
 - 1. [Parent](#)
 - 2. [Staff](#)
 - 3. [Students](#)
4. Department Reports
- a. Facilities and Maintenance - Jim Harris, Supervisor
Mr. Harris reported to the Board some of the summer work that was done by his crew.
Sandy Bluffs: Replaced the carpet in the office; re-tiled the floor at the pre-school; re-sealed and re-stripped the basketball court; replaced 4 HVAC units on the classrooms; and installed security cameras.
Sierra Junior/Senior High School: Remodeled the bathrooms in the girls locker room; repainted the stadium with elastomeric paint; repainted the maroon mob section; seal coated the driveway from the music building to the ag room; replaced the heat exchangers and the boilers for the gyms; replaced the carpet in the music room, and rooms 6 & 7; re-keyed both gyms; and installed additional security cameras.
District Office: Replaced the parking lot lights with LED.
Foothill Elementary: Replaced the parking lot lights with LED; replaced two 15 ton HVAC units on the gym; replaced the carpets in three rooms; moved room 33 and set up a new art room; and assisted with the remodel of the MPR.
 - b. Transportation – Craig Barnes, Supervisor
Mr. Barnes spoke of the upcoming transportation changes. The primary focus is safety and to stay within the legal parameters and follow all codes. The added benefit will be that without the volume of last minute changes, we'll be able to revisit the possibility of the student tracking system. We are in compliance now with SB1039 with all child checkmate systems installed over the summer. They're all working great.

- c. Business Services - Janelle Mehling, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Mehling reviewed the latest enrollment figures with the Board. Please see links below for details as well as the monthly budget report.
 - 1. [Monthly Budget Report](#)
 - 2. [Enrollment](#)

- d. Curriculum & Instruction – Tammy Montgomery, Director of Ed. Services
Mrs. Montgomery shared the testing schedule for 2018-2019. See link below. We will no longer be administering the ICA's (comprehensive assessments). From an instruction standpoint it ate up a lot of instruction time in the classroom, when we would have the opportunity as teachers to actually provide instruction on how to tackle these tasks and how to build that skill. If we're spending two weeks doing comprehensive assessments instead of actually teaching we're really not doing our students a service. What we would like the site principals to do is look at the IAB's (shorter assessments that are skill focused) and pull out a critical read and in 5-10 questions be able to assess a student's ability on that critical skill, then move forward with that critical skill instead of looking at a monstrous test that takes a week and a half to give and having to wait 2-3 weeks for the results. The Google Training that took place for the entire staff in the district right before school started was a success. Delaine Johnson from Fresno County Office of Education came up and presented Google Classroom to the teachers and how to build those as an instructional piece of their curriculum, and all their activities in one place using Google Suites. Deb Irwin presented digital portfolios as a way for students to present the best of their work. Mrs. Montgomery presented a refresher on tips and tricks on how to do the documents and the spreadsheets, etc. The training was very well received overall. Most prevalent comment in the survey afterward, was that they just need to practice to feel confident. We moved a lot of people out of the "I'm not confident in my ability to use Google Suite and Google Classroom" to the categories of Fair to Excellent. Now it's individual practice to build confidence and implementation in the classroom.
 - 1. [Interim Assessment Plan](#)

5. Sub-Committee Reports - NONE

B. Board Reflections

Connie Schlaefer thanked Cortney Burke and the PFA for the amazing outcome at Foothill. It was a spectacular overhaul. It is so much more kid friendly now, and energetic. She really enjoyed the kick off breakfast, and can't wait for everybody to see the video from Back to School Night. There is some legislation going to the Assembly floor about legislating start times after 8:30. She called Jim Patterson regarding this and feels it should be local control.

Don Fowler also attended Back to School Night. Kuddos to the PFA. The school looks wonderful. In his granddaughter's classroom he was excited to see the things we've talked about as a Board and as a leadership team are hitting the classrooms. You could tell that the teacher was really wanting to make sure that each child was valued as a student, and she was really concerned about their particular aspirations and needs. We know that that's the direction we need to go. Each kid has to feel confident in his or her ability to be successful in order for them to succeed. At the School Board conference last year, a takeaway from it was a session about instilling hope in kids. That's probably the biggest single denominator for success as a kid is hope for their future. If they have no hope, they have no future. He's really grateful that our district is heading that vision. The teachers are the rubber on the road, and their catching that vision too. Unfortunately as a society, at schools we are challenged in doing a lot of things that we never had to do before in terms of, not just educating our kids, but helping them to be positive role models.

Norm Saude attended the breakfast and it was a great kickoff. Everyone was enthusiastic, and the place looks super. Jim and the crew did a great job. Breakfast was delicious. It's always interesting seeing all the new faces. There's an excitement level that's really wonderful to see.

Bert Weldon spoke about being glad that school is back in. It's a joy from where he lives because he can hear football games or anything that's going on outside. The lights don't bother him at all. He loves to hear the outdoor activities.

Tom Mendenhall went to Foothill's Back to School Night. There are fantastic things going on there. Everybody's energetic. Good job everybody.

Chrissy Falk piggybacked on what Tom said. She brought her daughter with her, who wants to teach someday. She said, "Just driving in and seeing the campus from above, and the energy that was coming out of it, could be felt." Kudos to Alan and his staff who had such a good system going on there, with everybody coming in and trying to get everybody connected on their online portal. They were trying to make sure that everybody had their accurate information in. The system that was in place was really cool. Pretty soon it will all be in place, and it seems also, that transportation is working closely with the schools to make sure that parents are getting more notice for these bus changes, which is beneficial to the staff and to students. Seems like everyone is working very well together on that. Great job on the bathroom remodel at Sierra. It's such a huge difference, and a huge change for the girls who will be using them. Sean did such a good job with Family Feud at the breakfast. What a fun kickoff. Thank you all.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank Hallman expressed his disappointment at the decision made by the Board in Closed Session.

VII. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Calendar Agenda pulling Agenda Item #VII.A.6 to be voted on New Business as Agenda Item #IX.B: Eldridge: Second: Mendenhall: 7/0

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. ACTION ITEM: [Foundational Reading Materials Addition/Edit](#)

Addition: The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton to the 7th grade reading list. The novel aligns with our Study Sync curriculum. McGraw-Hill identifies The Outsiders as the full-length novel to be read as part of Unit 3 "Getting Along." In addition, it is highly engaging with social and emotional issues students can identify with. The novel is on the CA Recommended Literature List for grades 6-8 and 9-12.

Motion to approve the addition of The Outsiders to the Foundational Reading Materials: Mendenhall: Second: Fowler: 7/0

B. DISCUSSION ITEM: Local Control Accountability Plan ([LCAP](#)) Federal Addendum

The LCAP Federal Addendum is meant to supplement the LCAP to ensure that eligible LEAs have the opportunity to meet the Local Educational Agency (LEA) Plan provisions of the ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). This document replaces the LEA Plan formerly required under Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) commonly referred as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). This LCAP Federal Addendum provides LEAs with the opportunity to document their approach to maximizing the impact of federal investments in support of underserved students.

The implementation of the LCAP Federal Addendum Template has been delayed until 2019.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: Adoption of [Resolution No. 03-18/19](#), Board Authorization for Temporary Interfund Transfers

Education Code Section 42603 provides authorization for temporary interfund transfers, at the direction of the District's Governing Board. In actual practice, these temporary transfers often need to happen on very short notice (e.g., needing a same-day cash transfer to cover an Accounts Payable run or Payroll). The County Office cannot process these without District Board approval.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 03-18/19: Eldridge: Second: Saude: 7/0

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"/>		

B. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Interfund Transfers / [Resolutions #01-18/19 through #02-18/19](#), as follows:

#01–18/19 Transfer of \$75,000 - From General Fund to Deferred Maintenance

#02–18/19 Transfer of \$58,220 - From General Fund to Cafeteria Fund

Motion to approve Resolution #01-18/19 changing the amount of the transfer to \$100,000: Mendenhall:
Second: Eldridge: 7/0

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"/>		

Motion to approve Resolution #02-18/19: Fowler: Second: Mendenhall: 7/0

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"/>		

X. ADVANCED PLANNING

A. Governance Calendar

B. Next Regular meeting date: September 10, 2018

C. Next Special meeting date(s):

D. Requested Future Agenda Items:

1. Back to School Night Video
2. PG&E Solar Assessments
3. AP Placement – November
4. Update on 7th & 8th grade supports

XI. CLOSED SESSION The Board of Trustees did not find it necessary to reconvene in Closed Session.

A. Personnel - To Consider the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation of Performance, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Employee to Hear Complaints against a Public Employee (Gov. Code § 54956.9)

XII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION – NONE

XIII. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Chrissy Falk, President

Melissa Ireland, Ed.D, Superintendent

Bert Weldon, Clerk