



MINUTES OF 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; Don Fowler (A), Connie Schlaefer (A), and Ron Eldridge

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Motion to adopt agenda: Eldridge: Second: "Saude: 5/0

D. IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

1. *Personnel*
2. *Potential Litigation*

E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Ron Eldridge led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

II. RECOGNITIONS

A. Sierra Junior/Senior High School

1. Leeann Austin

Mr. Osterberg recognized Leeann Austin who works in the Sierra Library. She is an outstanding employee, the kind you want at Sierra. She gives 100% to our students all the time, before school and at lunch. It's a safe place for our kids. Chess boards are set out all the time. It's a library that the kids enjoy going to. Leeann is super organized, a problem solver, and always looking for ways to get better. This year there was new social studies curriculum with 60 boxes of materials piled high everywhere in the library. It was job a huge job of processing, that we were certain she'd need help with. On the contrary, the next day she was already done and distributing them where needed. She does her job with 100% good attitude, no fuss, no complaints. She does her job 100% every day, and is so much a part of what makes Sierra great.

B. Maintenance and Transportation

1. Scott Cardoza

Craig Barnes honored Scott Cardoza sharing that over the past several years he's had the pleasure of working with Scott as a fellow bus driver, as a mechanic, and now as a state certified school bus driver instructor. As a bus driver, he has an impeccable record behind the wheel. He can depend on Scott to drive any route in the district with only a moment's notice in the most challenging of circumstances. As a mechanic, Scott has brought a significant level of talent and technical skill to the transportation department. He is a problem solver, with a work ethic that ensures the job will get done right. His knowledge as a mechanic, diligence in record keeping, and his ability to look forward and see problems before they arise is outstanding. Scott continually strives to improve his skills. He expects excellence in himself as well as his peers. With his professional commitment to student safety, Scott set a goal to become a state certified school bus driver instructor. In April of this year, he achieved that goal. As a state certified instructor, Scott has exhibited great expertise and leadership on his mission to further promote student safety. His commitment, reliability, and diligence have served him very well. Those same traits have also served Craig very well.

III PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Reports

1. ASB President – Brook Kuball
Miss Kuball reported on ASB and other activities taking place at Sierra, including: The Channel 47 Live Shot with a great turnout; the upcoming home football game on Friday; finalizing ASB stickers; the sale of Maroon Mob t-shirts; and the beginning of focus on Homecoming.
2. Site Reports
 - a. Foothill Elementary School, Alan Harris, Ed.D. – Principal
Dr. Harris spoke of today being the 1st day of implementing the new bus policy. He thanked Craig and his team, but also our community. They were notified in August that the change was coming, and it was a big change, particularly for Foothill. As a reminder, in a 150 day period, there were 22,000 bus changes. The change was necessary to keep our kids safe. It is appreciated that the community let us know their concerns about it. The meeting with parents, to follow up, on finding solutions brought some really good compromises. In the end, after expressing their concerns, parents actually went back on to social media in approval of the problem solving process. The reduction of notes is more than half than before. Fifteen of our drivers were also at the meeting, which really speaks to how committed everybody is in trying to do what's right for kids, and making sure they are safe. Today was also the 1st day of late start. At Foothill, the teachers spent that time working on the DLA testing components. At the same time, we had students on our campus being able to get breakfast and play. Looking to the month ahead, on September 27th we will be hosting California Native American Day. Every year Big Sandy Rancheria hosts the event for our Native American students. They asked, and we felt very honored, to host it on our campus this year. As a result of lots of work by Brenda Harrison, Gavin Begaye, and our tribal leaders at Big Sandy, all of students at Foothill are going to be able to see Pow Wows, native art craft, and really celebrate the great gift we have of being a school that is diverse, and have children who come from indigenous families that we can celebrate. It's a step in the right direction, and a great opportunity for our students to celebrate. The staff is very excited because Gavin is going to offer the staff a chance to buy Indian tacos. He went on to show the Kindness Campaign video from Back to School Night, which can be viewed on the Foothill website. <https://www.sierrausd.org/FES>
 - b. Sierra Junior/Senior High Schools, Sean Osterberg – Principal
Mr. Osterberg thanked the Board for coming to Back to School Night, which had a great turnout. The gym was buzzing. On the 21st of September, 40 students will be going to Fresno State for a Native American conference. Some of the students will be Junior High students. He then introduced Aaron Wiest representing our Math Department, which worked very hard over the summer addressing issues pertaining to the SBAC test. Aaron shared with the Board that the summer began with exploring and understanding the SBAC design and development, specifically the Item Specifications by Claim: Claim 1--Concepts and Procedures; Claim 2-- Problem solving; and Claim 3--Communicating Reasoning. This allowed them to create a curriculum mat that was representative of the materials students will be assessed on, and how it will be presented on the SBAC Summative Test. They created curriculum maps for 7th and 8th Grade (both nearly 100 page documents) that include not only the standards taught in each chapter and lesson, but examples of the Item Specification by Claim examples (what and how students will be tested on the SBAC). They also Created DLA's for 7th grade that correlate with and contain representative material from the SBAC. See documents presented to the board on the following link. [Blueprint handout](#)
 - c. Sandy Bluffs Alternative Education, Ara Keledjian – Director
Mr. Keledjian reported enrollment totals: 12 – Sandy Bluffs; 20 – Independent Study; 14 – Lodgepole; and 14 – Welding, with room remaining. We are in the middle of our WASC visit with the visiting committee consisting of a retired Principal, a San Joaquin County Office Administrator for Alternative Education, and a Continuation High School Principal. They spent all day today, the first day of a 3-day visit meeting with staff, students, representatives, the Board President, and the Superintendent. They visited classrooms, and took evidence. At first the 3-day visit seemed like it was too much for such a small school, but now it's clear that it's good that they will be there for 3 days. We are doing a lot of things, so much that it couldn't be explained in a single day visit. Tomorrow they will be meeting again with students, but also community members, staff and parents. On the third day, they will share the results.

3. Superintendent Report – Melissa Ireland, Ed.D.

Dr. Ireland shared that she got final notification at the end of the day on Friday that our LCAP was approved. She commented on Mr. Keledjian’s WASC accreditation. It’s been a heavy weight on his mind, because he wanted to do a good job with it. From the questions that the committee asked, and the comments they were making, they have been able to see the things that he has put in to place, and it appears they are quite impressed. It seems to be going very well so far. She thanked Craig and Alan for the work that they did in implementing the changes in transportation notes. Each year the line has slid in an attempt to be accommodating to the families with needs and changes throughout the day. Craig, with a fresh set of eyes, was really able to look at it and see how lucky we are that we haven’t lost anyone, with requests for kids to get off the bus at places that aren’t pre-designated, getting off at Grandma’s house with no address provided, etc. It was a little bit bumpy with social media lending itself to speculation, with voices of reason inserted once in a while. Parents were panicked because last minute bus changes were something that they had grown accustomed to over the years. We were able to respond to this in a way that assured people that we really did have their student’s best interests at heart, and that we are going to accommodate where we can accommodate. The meeting went very well and it’s not surprising that the number of notes was way down.
4. Department Reports
 - a. Facilities and Maintenance - Jim Harris, Supervisor
No Report
 - b. Transportation – Craig Barnes, Supervisor
Mr. Barnes thanked anyone and everyone who had anything to do with changing the Professional Development days to Late Start. The bus radio was silent this morning, in comparison to the Early Release days which have an hour of solid radio traffic. It was a brilliant idea and is working beautifully.
 - c. Business Services - Janelle Mehling, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Mehling reported on the monthly budget, as well as the first month of enrollment. She went on to review our annual report from California Risk Management. This information can be viewed on the links below.
 1. [Monthly Budget Report](#)
 2. [First Month Enrollment](#)
 3. [Property Liability Claims / Workers Compensation Claims](#)
 - d. Education Services – Tammy Montgomery, Director
Mrs. Montgomery reported that our digital curriculum is up and running with Math and Language Arts at the Elementary site. Social Studies is new this year, in addition to Language Arts at the Junior High and High School. Minimal issues are taking place. Today it was back to Troubleshooting 101, with easily solved problems. We signed up over the summer and received free access to the California State Library for Britannica Online, ProQuest (a research package), and Teaching Books (an online library with summaries and synopsis of novels). We will be putting the links on the website for each of the sites, where students and families can access them at home as well as at school. At the end of this month, we should be seeing the State recommendation for the Science adoption. On October 8th, our next Professional Development Day, Foothill Elementary teachers will be involved in a Go Math training day. From Sierra Junior/Senior High School some will have Positive Discipline training, and others will be learning Verbal De-escalation with Dr. Harris. The Transportation crew, and the Cafeteria crew are have also been invited to the verbal de-escalation training.
5. Reports
 - a. Teresa Page
Ms. Page (Teresa) asked for a few minutes to share a couple of items with the Board. The first was about the current and future math requirements at the high school. A waiver was requested and granted of the district level requirement of Math II for a 12th grade student on an IEP. The letters documenting this will be added to the student’s permanent IEP record. It should be noted that there are 3 students in 11th and 12th grade taking Math III this year who are also on active IEP’s. She expressed confidence that the requirement will not pose a problem for students that need special education assistance. If the requirement had already been in place, it would have benefitted the six other 12th grade students on IEP’s who did not

enroll in Math III this year. There are a number of questions that Dr. Ireland requested to be addressed. The 1st concerned enrollment. "Why are there two 6th graders shown in SJHS?" These two students were previously members of the county-provided program for students with moderate/severe disabilities housed at FES. They are the only 2 students left in the program, for a variety of reasons. Just before school started, the team determined that the students' needs would be best met at the JHS. As per the student's IEP's completed on August 21st, their enrollment was changed to 7th grade. It just took some time to get the records changed in Aeries. Next year they will remain in 7th grade and return to their expected timelines. The 2nd question was "How many students do we have in external programs, and where?" We have 8 students that are currently traveling to the following programs: Fresno County Adult Transition; Preschool Intervention for Students with Autism; Deaf and Hard of Hearing; and Emotionally Disturbed. We have also utilized Fresno County's First Steps to Success, a behavior/speech therapy program that runs for 10 weeks per session. Another question about the State Awards page in the Unaudited Actuals showing \$1,077,003.23 in matching fund/other. This is the amount of the general fund contribution to Special Education. Years ago, Special Ed funding was calculated by the number of students receiving services. This obviously contributed to a large number of students identified for Special Education. Sierra's Special Ed identification under this plan was at 19%, sometimes higher. When the state's portion of funding was cut in half, Sierra was given a 5 year period to adjust, which ended in 2015-16. Breakdown of costs: Certificated salaries plus costs and benefits at about \$1,017,000; Classified salaries at about \$390,000; Transportation to the external programs at about \$130,000; County provided services and contracted OT services at \$218,000; Materials and supplies at about \$9,500; and Travel and conferences at almost \$1,400. The students that are beneficiaries of these services are students that don't enjoy most of the gifts that the rest of us take for granted: the ability to walk up steps; the ability to understand what is going on around us and keep ourselves safe; and even the ability to take care of ourselves in the bathroom. Ms. Page thanked Jim Harris and Craig Barnes for their quick and ungrudging responses to the myriad of requests. Those that work directly with these children everyday appreciate what they do. Students that have high needs for a wide range of reasons require a lot of money, and a lot of hard work. Teresa then thanked the Board and Dr. Ireland for doing right by all of the students that need us the most. She again thanked Craig for fielding the all-year-long additions and changes that have cars and vans running all over the mountain and to far-flung points in the valley, and Jim for the high quality work his team performs so quickly after each request. She said, "I feel in my heart that we, as a district, are doing the right thing by our kids. We are keeping them in their home schools if we can. We are taking them elsewhere if needed. And we are providing opportunities for real growth on every level. This the right work to be doing. Thank you."

6. Sub-Committee Reports – NONE

B. Board Reflections

Norm Saude commented on how impressed he is this year. "Every year, starting the season is like taking off on a huge airplane because a lot of energy is expended. This year though, it is evident that there a lot of people in the district, in a lot of different areas have gone the extra mile, and it speaks to their passion. It's everybody, not just the Math Department, Transportation, or Maintenance. It's the Teachers, the Food Servers, etc., everyone. It seems to be different somehow than in years past. I just wanted to say thank you very much for all you do."

Tom Mendenhall spoke of going to the Transportation meeting thinking it was going to be interesting. He thanked Dr. Harris and Craig for how prepared everything was. He was watching the audience and every time a point was brought up, someone would nod and agree that it made sense. He thanked everybody that was there. It helped our whole district.

Chrissy Falk agreed that we're off to a great start and thanked everyone very much for their hard work. They're the people that make it happen

V. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Calendar Agenda: Mendenhall: Second: Weldon: 5/0

VI. OLD BUSINESS – NONE

VII. ADJOURN TO PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Convene Public Hearing pertaining to the matter of determining sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials in accordance with the Williams Act – 6:23 p.m.
 - 1. Open Public Hearing for Input – NONE
 - 2. Adjourn Public Hearing pertaining to the Williams Act – 6:24 p.m.

VIII. RECONVENE SIERRA UNIFIED REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM:** [Resolution #04-18/19 - Williams Act](#)
Pertaining to the matter of determining sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials in accordance with the Williams Act.

Motion to approve Resolution #04-18/19 as written: Eldridge: Second: Mendenhall: 5/0

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. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM:** [Resolution #05-18/19: District Appropriation Limits / Gann Limit](#)
The Gann Amendment of 1979 established maximum appropriation limitations for school districts. Each year, the district must establish a Gann limit for the previous fiscal year and a projected Gann limit for the current year.

Motion to approve Resolution #05-18/19 as written: Saude: Second: Mendenhall: 5/0

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"/>		

- C. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM:** The [2017-2018 District Unaudited Actual Financial Statements and the 2018-2019 Revised District Budget](#) will be presented and reviewed for your approval. Included will be summary and detail information for all District funds. It is recommended that the reports be reviewed, certified, and approved by the Board of Trustees. Following approval the reports will be filed with Fresno County Office of Education.

Motion to approve the 2017-2018 District Unaudited Actual Financial Statements and the 2018-2019 Revised District Budget: Saude: Second: Mendenhall: 5/0

- D. **INFORMATION:** [Payment in Lieu of Transportation](#)
Teresa Page updated the Board on a situation where Board Policy 3540 has been implemented.

E. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: [Resolution No. 06-18/19 – School Bus Replacement Program](#)

The California Energy Commission's School Bus Replacement Program provides grant funding to public school districts, county offices of education, and joint power authorities to replace old diesel school buses. Resolution No. 06-18/19 authorizes the Transportation/Bus Services Supervisor to execute the necessary documents to implement and carry out the purpose of the resolution.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 06-18/19: Eldridge: Second: Weldon: 5/0

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: October 8, 2018

C. Next Special meeting date(s): NONE

D. Requested Future Agenda Items: NONE

XI. CLOSED SESSION The Board of Trustees went into Closed Session at 6:42 p.m.

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

B. Potential Litigation

XII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION The Board reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

A. Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session

B. Report Action Taken in Closed Session - NONE

XIII. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Chrissy Falk, President

Melissa Ireland, Ed.D, Superintendent

Bert Weldon, Clerk