



## 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 Mr. Ron Eldridge, Board President.

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

**C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Motion to adopt agenda: Falk: Second: Saude: 6/0

#### D. IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

1. *Personnel*
2. *Liability Claims*

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

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

### III. COMMUNICATIONS

#### A. Reports

1. ASB President – Rachel Beckmann  
Miss Beckman updated the Board on ASB activities including: the Burger Bash preceding a dance themed “A Night to Dye For” with tie dye attire; the first football game named “America’s game” in remembrance of 9/11; the first use of the “run-out tunnel” donated last year; new clubs added; red-ribbon week coming up; Sierra Bucks incentive to get kids to do positive things at school.
2. Site Reports
  - a. Sierra Junior/Senior High Schools, Sean Osterberg – Principal  
Mr. Osterberg shared that the Sierra Bucks program mentioned by Rachel are part of PBIS. SJSHS is using “Sierra Pride” as our PBIS model, which stands for Purpose, Respect, Involvement, Determination, and Excellence. Sierra Bucks incentive for good behavior has really caught on with the students, as well as the recent raffle drawing for gift cards. For the Junior High a small game room was developed with an air hockey table, ping pong table, Wi games, board games when recognized for good behavior. The elective wheel for Junior High is going very well. 7<sup>th</sup> graders are taking the Career Cruising course, which is an aptitude test that builds into the CTE plan. The other parts of the wheel are Art and IT. 8<sup>th</sup> graders have Digital Video, Drama, and Intro to Ag. These are all 12 weeks. The high school has been selected to participate with the Navy in a robotics submarine challenge, building a 24 inch submarine and operating it in various obstacle course challenges. There will be Submarine Robotics Team formed. Karen Low and Deb Irwin partnered in putting this together.

b. Foothill Elementary School, Alan Harris – Principal

Dr. Harris shared his excitement about the Eaglefication of Foothill Elementary School. A mentor told him about a process of Leadership by Walking Around. Part of doing that is talking to people who are inspired to do things. Last Spring he talked to Joanna Dunn and Lauri King about Eaglefying Foothill. Every once in a while you come across people who take a spark of an idea and take it to a level that you didn't think was possible. Joanna and Lauri cannot be thanked enough, not only for their work, but their leadership. Over the summer, on three hot, consecutive August nights, we had about 30-40 parents there helping. It was unique that each night brought different parents. They were moving ground cover, bringing their own wheelbarrows and their own rakes, all things that are done up here, giving our best. On the Tuesday night, one of the families stood over by the flagpole looking at the FMS in front of it. They decided they could change that M into an E for FES. The next night they were there doing it, making their own form, bringing their own Quikrete. On Wednesday, they were still there waiting for the concrete to set before leaving as late as 10:30 pm. It was a momentous time for me, for the leadership of Foothill, but also for the elementary school itself. The next few days there were a few people who were disappointed to see the M gone. That's understandable because that FMS was put in there with the same passion and the same commitment as the parents had who put the E in there. Both should be honored, and recognized. The work that had been done to make Foothill Middle School a very special middle school experience for kids is landmark in this area. Now though, we are welcoming the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class that represents the first grade of students who came to Foothill and have attended all the way from K through 6. It is their space. That group of students has been through many different transitions and there is a great sense of pride. That comes not just from the investment people put in, but in the time. A couple of weeks later, many other parents were there again on a Friday night until 10:00 pm, as well as the next Saturday all morning long, hanging banners, and signs. This community invests time and energy. It is something that is great to look at and see. It speaks also to that the same sense of urgency, excitement, and potential that is happening in the classrooms. The teachers and staff at Foothill Elementary School are really striving to be their Eagle best every day and trying to embody that for students. Our new math program is in place, and the mapping process has begun. It's going much quicker than the ELA process did last year. We're really confident that in a year or two, we'll have really strong standards in place, and benchmark assessments that match up to the trimesters. We'll be able to really compare those to the ones we did the year before. It all fits into having a longer term vision, rather than a year to year heartbeat. We actually have a passion about where it is we are heading. Certainly the Eaglefication of the campus was a huge piece of that, with smiles on the kid's faces every day, and knowing that parents and community members helped make that possible.

c. Sandy Bluffs Alternative Education, Ara Keledjian – Director

Mr. Keledjian spoke of the amazing beginning of the year. Enrollment numbers: Total-141; Sandy Bluffs-18; Lodgepole-14; Independent Study-17; Adult School; and Pre School-53. There is a new ROP Welding course designed especially for adults. It is designed to get your ROP certificate so you can go into the field. With that comes a career counselor provided by the State Center Consortium. Terry McMeen who teaches some Adult School at Big Sandy's will be also teaching at Cold Springs. This year at Sandy Bluffs the students are taking a year-long elective health class. They'll be studying nutrition, substances, and healthy relationships. We are continuing with our Positive Behavior Intervention program. There have only been two steps issued. This is a testament to the teaching staff, and the students.

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

a. [CAASPP](#)

Dr. Ireland reported to the Board about the system of CAASPP. The preliminary scores were shared last month. At this time we were supposed to have the official scores out for the entire state, but there was a problem and they've moved back the release date and taken down the site. The individual score sheets that were sent home were accurate, but the percentages for comparison with other districts are not available yet. She then explained how the dashboard system for CAASPP. We just submitted our 3<sup>rd</sup> LCAP and each year had a new format. Last year they wanted us to tie our goals and outcomes to the dashboard. The big difference in this new system of accountability is that they really are taking into account a number of different measures. For the first time, the state has put together a system of multiple measures. They look at academics, school culture, career and college readiness. See link above for details.

#### 4. Department Reports

a. Facilities and Maintenance - Jim Harris, Supervisor

Mr. Harris spoke of the extremely busy start to the school with the mini heat wave trying to keep everybody cool. Everything is repaired and up and running. The summer was successful with a lot of work done. At Foothill most of the areas have now been painted blue matching the school color. At the high school about 50% of the outside was painted. There is a facelift in the office hallway area with paint and carpet. Concrete was repaired and with a new bench added. There were also a large variety of small projects completed. A new fire alarm and PA system was put in at Foothill.

b. Transportation – Craig Barnes, Supervisor

Mr. Barnes spoke of the amazing staff that all pulled together for the start of the school year, getting every kid home and on the right bus. It's a wonderful thing to see with everyone getting it done through all the chaos. A few weak points have been identified to work on for next year. We have completed transitioned to our automated routing. CHP has released their proposed regulatory actions on the child safety check system. The information is there to determine a manufacturer that will comply with the regulations, but some areas are grey with more information to come. The deadline was extended to the 2018-19 school year.

c. Business Services - Janelle Mehling, Assistant Superintendent

1. [Monthly Budget Report](#)
2. [First Month Enrollment](#)

Mrs. Mehling reported that she received some information from School Services of California. The Governor and CTA have come to an agreement on a bill that would amend the reserve cap. It went to print on the 5<sup>th</sup> and it has to be in print for 72 hours before any action can be taken on it. It would exempt basic aid school districts and districts who have fewer than 2,500 ADA from having to deal with the reserve cap at all. On our new website, there is a button on each of the pages to report bullying. It is great to see that the system worked as intended, as we received our first report, which was able to be resolved. At Back to School Night in the cafeteria at SJSHS, there were samples of food showing what comprises a meal, what the components are for compliance, and what kind of food we're trying to add. Feedback was great. Mr. Catchpole, in the Mt. Press, claimed it was the best food ever at a Back to School Night. She went on to review the monthly budget report, checkbook, and the first month's enrollment. Please see links above for details.

d. Curriculum and Instruction – Sue Mitchell, Director

Mrs. Mitchell reported the busy start of the school year. The solar project includes them sponsoring \$1,000 per site for curriculum and solar energy materials. Go Math has arrived and in use in classrooms. There was a full day of training with the publisher before school started. Sue met with each grade level team and reviewed the math standards in terms of the grade before and after, to make sure we know where the students are coming from and where our very specific focus needs to be. We're also looking at taking those standards and that knowledge and applying it to the new math program, looking at how often those standards are hit and what is our plan will be for bringing those concepts back on a continuous cycle. We're in the process of building curriculum maps where they're going to take a look and see what works and how you handle reviews a little differently at each grade level. The switch in our district learning assessments was also discussed. Last year we used the ICA's from CAASPP. This year we will still use the one ICA which is summative and truly mirrors the end of the year test. It has both a computer portion and a performance project. It takes about as much time as the full blown test. We will have one in January to give us that look forward to the Spring test, and also to allow all students that have supports to operate within that system. Everyone will have the opportunity to log in. Students with designated supports will have the opportunity to use it before the actual test. We're looking at 12 week benchmarks (curriculum embedded) for ELA and Math. We are now a Google district and we continue to work our way through that. FES and SJSHS have 5 carts of Chrome books that students are beginning to use. Alt. Ed. has one cart. The technology committee meets tomorrow and will be reviewing year one and the plan to move forward with year two.

- 5. Program Reports
  - a. NONE
- 6. Sub-Committee Reports
  - a. NONE

**B. Board Reflections**

Connie Schlaefer spoke about her site visit to Foothill, in addition to Back to School Night which is cool in itself seeing all the kids and the parents and how they are responding to the campus. It's special to see the teachers and the students doing their thing. The environment is really positive, and she's really impressed with what she's seen so far, and looking forward to a visit to the high school campus.

Norm Saude shared that on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school, he stopped by the district office and noticed that Mr. Harris had a little guy there who was having a rough day, and who was insisting that he was going to walk home. Mr. Harris, showing great compassion and empathy, sat with him at the District Office for as long as it took for the student to be ready to go back and finish his day at school.

Chrissy Falk reminded everyone that Polofest was taking place that Saturday, and hoped everyone could make it.

**IV. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA**

Motion to approve Consent Calendar Agenda: Saude: Second: Weldon: 6/0

Break: 6:42-6:52

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. ACTION ITEM: [CSBA Legal Policy Updates – July 2017](#)**

Motion to approve the July 2017 CSBA Legal Policy Updates: Saude: Second: Falk: 6/0

**B. ACTION ITEM: Adoption of [Resolution No. 03-17/18](#), 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 adopt Resolution No. 03-17/18: Falk: Second: Weldon: 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"/>		

**C. DISCUSSION ITEM: [Letter of Delegation](#)**

The Governing Board discussed the option of signing a Letter of Delegation resolution, which delegates authority to the Superintendent for certain duties normally granted to the Board by law, with the Board retaining ultimate responsibility for the performance of delegated duties.

**VI. 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.**

1. Open Public Hearing for Input.
2. Adjourn Public Hearing pertaining to the Williams Act.

**VII. RECONVENE SIERRA UNIFIED REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: [Resolution #04-17/18](#) - Williams Act**

Pertaining to the matter of determining sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials in accordance with the Williams Act.

Motion to approve the Resolution #04-17/18 as written: Fowler: 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: FES-PFA / Improvements at Foothill Elementary**

This item was presented earlier in the Board meeting before Old Business.

Lauri King, PFA President, spoke about the recent work done at FES by teachers, parents, community members, to Eaglefy the campus. The focus was signage, landscaping and community involvement and to make the campus look like an elementary school. PFA agreed to spend \$25,000 on the project, which took 3 days with hundreds of volunteer hours. It was amazing to see all the people who showed up to help. We have amazing teachers and staff at Foothill who are doing great things. We have happy kids and the campus is a whole different place now. To be a part of this was very exciting.

**C. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: [Resolution #05-17/18](#): 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 the Resolution #05-17/18 as written: Saude: Second: Fowler: 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"/>		

**D. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: The [2016-2017 District Unaudited Actual Financial Statements and the 2017-2018 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 certify and approve the 2016-2017 District Unaudited Actual Financial Statements and the 2017-2018 Revised District Budget: Saude: Second: Weldon: 6/0

**E. DISCUSSION ITEM: Community Park**

The Board discussed the possibility of reconsidering the development of a Community Park located on the property between Foothill Elementary School and the District Office. Don Fowler will be looking further into the options and will bring information back to the Board.

**F. DISCUSSION ITEM: Sierra Elementary Facility**

The Board discussed the development of plans for the potential use / upkeep of the Sierra Elementary facility.

**G. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: [Local Control Accountability Plan \(LCAP\) Revisions](#)**

The 2017-2020 LCAP was approved by the Governing Board on June 27, 2017. Subsequent to the local approval of the plan, it was forwarded to FCOE for final review and approval at the County level. During the month of August, several non-substantive edits were recommended by reviewers at that level. The edits were made and the document was returned to the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools for final approval.

Motion to approve the final, revised LCAP document: Schlaefer: Second: Saude: 6/0

**IX. ADVANCED PLANNING**

**A. [Governance Calendar](#)**

**B.** Next Regular meeting date: October 9, 2017

**C.** Next Special meeting date(s): November 15, 2017 – Time: TBD

**D.** Requested Future Agenda Items: Student Tracker

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

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

**B.** Liability Claims (Government Code Section 54956.95)  
Notice of Action/Instructions      Claim

1.      Claimant:                                      Tami Alec  
          Agency Claimed Against:              Sierra Unified School District

2.      Claimant:                                      Racquel Alec  
          Agency Claimed Against:              Sierra Unified School District

**XI. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION** The Board reconvened at 8:44 p.m

**A.** Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session

**B.** Report Action Taken in Closed Session

During closed session the Board took the following action on agenda items X.B.1 and X.B.2: in regards to the claim presented by Tami Alec and Racquel Alec: The claim presented to Sierra Unified Board of Trustees on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 was late in part or entirety. Because this claim as to the events on or before December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 was not presented within the time allowed by law, no action was taken on that part of the claim. With respect to any part of the claim based on event occurring on or after December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016, that portion of the claim has been rejected.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Ron Eldridge, President

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Melissa Ireland, Ed.D, Superintendent

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Tom Mendenhall, Clerk