



**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

I. OPENING BUSINESS

A. CALL PUBLIC SESSION TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Mrs. Chrissy Falk, Board President.

B. ROLL CALL: Board Members: Chrissy Falk, President; Tom Mendenhall, Vice President; Ron Eldridge(A), Clerk; Jason Schroer; Wes Qualls; Connie Schlaefer; Don Fowler.

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Motion to adopt agenda: Fowler: Second: Mendenhall: 6/0

D. IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

1. *Personnel*
2. *Potential Litigation*

E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Jason Schroer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. RECOGNITIONS

A. Fern Priscilla Cetin
Eva Burton and Susan Stafford spoke in recognition of Fern Cetin who has been volunteering in our school district for 18 years, probably a record. Lessons learned through the years with Fern include “picking up the pieces,” “always move forward,” and “it’s more fun to be the fairy godmother than it is to be the princess.” Every year Fern finds students who are going to need a little extra assistance from Santa Claus, and helps them. She has contributed so very much to our school. She teaches us all to always have a reason to get out of bed, and put one foot in front of the other, and she models this every day, caring for and helping the kids. She’s been a great blessing to our district, and is a treasure. Thank you so much to Grandma Fern for always showing love, encouragement, and caring for the children.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

India Saude, SUTA President, thanked the Board and Management. In regards to the discussion of negotiation items, it’s always so good to see that both SUTA and Management are on the same page when it comes to what issues are important to discuss, and that there is continuity there. Most of the time we also have similar solutions. It’s really nice to be able to negotiate that way. She also thanked them for taking into consideration the different calendar options, and the teachers preferences. What we all always look at is what’s best for the students first.

Brent Kehn, CSEA President, thanked Alan and his crew for sitting down and discussing the sunshine proposal. CSEA is grateful that it was offered.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Reports

1. ASB President – Sarah Page
Miss Page reported on ASB and other activities taking place at Sierra including: the 1st football game with an awesome mob and a lot of energy; the 1st dance; student involvement; the tribute to Deputy John Erickson; class club activity day with tons of students involved in fundraising; the next football game with black & white dress up theme; and homecoming. On October 12th, for her Senior Project, Sarah will be doing a Community Tennis Tournament fundraising for the girl’s tennis program. All levels are welcome. If you’d like to register, email mountaintennis7@gmail.com.

2. Site Reports

- a. Sandy Bluffs Alternative & Extended Education, Ara Keledjian – Director
Mr. Keledjian shared that it was the 1st late start day. At Sandy Bluffs, the staff was able to review their procedures, look through their manual, review their assignments and multi-tiered system of supports, and run their 1st drill. It is an advantage to be able to meet all together on a weekly basis. A meeting was held with the district's attendance personnel and Assistant Principals last week for an overview of the SARB process. This is a method of providing intervention for students, including families. Progress is being made on our preschool development (early childhood education program). There are a tremendous amount of resources available through the County and the State, but there's no centralized hub of information. Continuing to work with Big Sandy Rancheria to develop a workforce academy as an exciting new addition to Adult School.
 - b. Sierra Junior/Senior High Schools, Sean Osterberg – Principal
Mr. Osterberg talked about the game honoring those who served last Friday. It was an exciting night. The maroon mob and the energy that's going on right now on campus is fantastic. Working with Justice Jones, CA Highway Patrol, Fresno Sheriffs, Fish and Game, and National Forest Service, it was amazing how quickly it all came together. It turned in to a great way for us to celebrate John Erickson, in his 1st public outing since he was injured in the line of duty. It was an exceptional combination of 1st responders and Veterans. It was a special night. We hosted an educational leadership night for the FFA (Eastern Fresno Madera County Leadership). 12th grader Colby Perry is the president of this chapter. Sixteen different school participated. Currently the Seniors are signing up for the SAT day. Our students can take the SAT during the school day on October 30th. In the Spring the Juniors will have their SAT day. October 16th is the PSAT, with 8th grade PSAT taking place in February/March. There was an electrical short on campus which took away the electricity for our Art building and performance arts. They had to move to a new room. With the help of everyone pulling together as a team, Art is now in the IT room. We didn't skip a beat. It was fantastic to see our kids and staff work together to solve issues.
 - c. Foothill Elementary School, Heather Wheeler, Ed.D. – Principal
Mrs. Wheeler shared that things are moving smoothly at Foothill. It's a wonderful staff and the students are a joy to see every day. Late start went fantastic. Last week REI (Response to Extension and Intervention) was launched and they hit the ground running. The REI team had done their work ahead of time and had made sure to meet with all of the grade levels, so things went seamlessly. They used data to inform that decision and in about 3-4 weeks they'll start round 2. For current events, on Friday, September 13, there will be our Eagle Family Picnic from 7-8:30 am. The Board was invited to attend. On September 17th, we are hosting a community forum on discipline, from 6-7:00 pm in the MPR. We'll be looking at what is the current status or current reality of discipline, how we got here, supporting our students in learning internal discipline and being able to be accountable for their behavior, and also how we support them to get there. This connects to our social emotional program on campus. The California Native American Celebration Day will be held at Foothill on September 26th. The first half will be an amazing educational experience organized by Tammy Walker from Big Sandy Rancheria. There will great hands on cultural experiences. At 1:00 pm will be the Pow Wow in the gym. We're very excited about this.
3. Superintendent Report – Alan Harris, Ph.D.
Dr. Harris spoke of last Friday at the Salute to Service Football game, being a wonderful reminder of the strength of our community and the benefits of being small and close knit. He recognized Justice Jones for the work that he did, everything from coordinating with all of the different entities involved to literally writing the script, and being there and walking the entire team through it. It was a truly memorable event. Seeing Wes going out there as the Color Guard, it was one of those special moments. Great appreciation for Justice and his commitment and time. He attended the safety symposium with Chrissy at the County office. One of the things appreciated out of it is the message: We can prevent acts of violence at schools if we really know our students and engage, connect, and work through knowing each individual. It is a strength of ours, and we are

always working to get better and better. The last couple of years, the FBI has developed an actual assessment tool that allows you to really differentiate what you see and hear. The one thing that anyone who has committed an act of violence against a school has in common: Someone knew about it. It's a matter of creating the connections and the relationships that the people who know about it, are talking about it. We can connect that with why the schools are holding the forums about discipline, and why we do discipline differently than we did 100 years or 25 years ago. Part of why we do discipline differently is related to Columbine. We realize that if we're not restoring and reconnecting students to school and doing discipline in a way that they learn it and engage, then the issue will continue. Anytime you do something differently, particularly in systems like schools, it's going to be a long learning curve and there are going to be lots of why questions. We encourage our community to come to the schools and ask the questions. At the end of the day, we still hold students accountable, teach them discipline, and work to restore relationships. It is different, but long term it's going to be much better for all of us and we want to be involved in that conversation to make our schools safer and take care of every child.

4. Department Reports

- a. Facilities, Maintenance and Transportation – Craig Barnes, Supervisor
Mr. Barnes spoke of the companies who came out to give us a bids to restore the substation. One more summer project has been completed with new PCT in the primary special ed classroom. We hope to get started on the handrail in the stadium in the next couple of weeks. Transportation is going smoothly.
- b. Business Services - Janelle Bryson, Assistant Superintendent
 - 1. [Monthly Budget Report](#)
 - 2. [First Month Enrollment](#)
 - 3. [Property Liability Claims / Workers Compensation Claims](#)Mrs. Bryson reviewed the monthly budget report and the first month's enrollment, as well as our property liability and workers compensation claims. Details can be viewed in the links above.
- c. Education Services – Teresa Page, Director
We worked hard last year and before school to set up our Multi-Tiered Systems of support, and now we are working to implement those systems with fidelity at every level, gathering data to inform our decisions and responses to individuals and groups of students. One major change we made this year in the special education department was to create a Special Education Clerk position utilizing existing aide hours. This change helps our case managers stay more focused on their students, and changes my role by helping to complete the large amount of clerical work I was doing, which allows me to be at school sites much more, working to maximize the effectiveness of our teams.
- d. Curriculum and Instruction – Tammy Montgomery, Director
Mrs. Montgomery reported that she is pulling together data pieces to share with the principals who will then share with their staff. At our October workshop this will be reviewed with the Board.

5. Program Reports – NONE

6. Sub-Committee Reports – NONE

B. Board Reflections

Connie Schlaefer shared that she was lucky enough to be at the football game to witness the ceremony that happened. Like everybody else she was very moved. It was powerful and well executed and she was so proud. She also got a chance to visit Foothill this past week and see some of the new stuff that is going on there. There is a positive vibe on the campus and some visible improvements like the cafeteria which looks all nice and shiny. She's looking forward to her next visit. PoloFest is coming up. If you haven't gotten your tickets yet, get them now.

Wes Qualls spoke of recent sporting events he has attended. He feels good about our football teams and volleyball as well. You don't see the wins that sometimes we've seen in the past, but he's gotten to know some of the football players and they say they're going to get a lot better. They all have a really positive attitude. It's going to be a long process but those kids are really energetic and working hard.

Chrissy Falk echoed Alan's words about the School Safety Symposium. Shout out to Jim Yovino who is driving this effort, and is invested in our schools being safe places. They say we can't predict when something might happen but we can prevent it from happening with connections. It helped to understand what we're doing in our district with discipline. It is what we need to be doing. They provided tools. One of the books provided is called Assessing Student Threats. Please take a look at it. It was very emotional but very encouraging.

VII. CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Calendar Agenda: Qualls: Second: Schroer: 6/0

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. ACTION ITEM: [Attendance Material Decrease](#)

California Department of Education allows Districts to request an allowance for attendance due to emergency conditions when attendance on any particular day is less than 90% of average attendance. On February 5, 2019, our attendance was less than 85% districtwide due to a snow day. The attached form is filed with the California Department of Education when applying for an allowance. We compare an average day in both October and April and replace the snow day with the higher of those average days. The Board of Sierra Unified School District must approve the request in order for the allowance to be granted. It is recommended that the Board approve the request to replace February 5th, 2019 with an average day in the month of October.

Motion to approve Attendance Material Decrease request: Mendenhall: Second: Fowler: 6/0

B. INFORMATION: Formal Review for [2019-2020 Local Control Accountability Plan](#) (LCAP)

VII. ADJOURN TO PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Public Hearing convened at 6:47 pm 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.

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

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 6:48 pm

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. INFORMATION: [District Opener for Sierra Unified Teacher's Association](#) (SUTA) Collective Bargaining

B. INFORMATION: [District Opener for California School Employees Association](#) (CSEA) Collective Bargaining

C. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: [Resolution #05-19/20 - Williams Act](#)
Pertaining to the matter of determining sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials in accordance with the Williams Act.

Motion to approve Resolution #05-19/20: Fowler: Second: Mendenhall: 6/0

Board Member	In Favor	Opposed	Absent
Chrissy Falk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Tom Mendenhall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Ron Eldridge			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jason Schroer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Wes Qualls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Connie Schlaefer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Don Fowler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

D. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: [Resolution #06-19/20](#): 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 #06-19/20: Mendenhall: Second: Schlaefer: 6/0

Board Member	In Favor	Opposed	Absent
Chrissy Falk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Tom Mendenhall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Ron Eldridge			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jason Schroer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Wes Qualls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Connie Schlaefer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Don Fowler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

E. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: The [2018-2019 District Unaudited Actual Financial Statements and the 2019-2020 Revised District Budget](#) was presented and reviewed for Board approval. Included was a summary and detail information for all District funds. It was 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 2018-2019 District Unaudited Actual Financial Statements and the 2019-2020 Revised District Budget: Schroer: Second: Mendenhall: 6/0

F. DISCUSSION ITEM: [Foundational Reading Materials Addition/Edit](#)

Addition: [The Diary of Anne Frank: A Play](#), by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, to the 8th grade reading list. The novel aligns with our Study Sync Novel Study, Unit 2: In Time of War. Copies are available at the District Office for public review.

G. DISCUSSION/ACTION: Emergency Contract without Bidding – [Resolution #07-19/20](#)

The Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act was adopted in 1983 to promote uniformity of the cost accounting standards and bidding procedures on construction work performed or contracted by public entities in the state. For the purposes of the Public Contract Code, “emergency” is defined at Section 1102 as “a sudden, unexpected occurrence that poses a clear and imminent danger, requiring immediate action to prevent or mitigate the loss or impairment of life, health, property, or essential public services.” The Act sets forth in Section 22035(a) how a governing body would proceed in the case of emergency repairs or replacements. This section states, “In cases of emergency when repair or replacements are necessary, the governing body may proceed at once to replace or repair any public facility without adopting plans, specifications, strain sheets, or working details, or giving notice for bids to let contracts. The work may be done by day labor under the direction of the governing body, by contractor, or by a combination of the two.” The Board must adopt a resolution within 7 days of entrance into an emergency contract, or at its next regularly scheduled meeting which shall be no more than 14 days after the action was taken.

Motion to approve Resolution #07-19/20: Mendenhall: Second: Schroer: 6/0

Board Member	In Favor	Opposed	Absent
Chrissy Falk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Tom Mendenhall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Ron Eldridge			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jason Schroer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Wes Qualls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Connie Schlaefer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Don Fowler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

X. ADVANCED PLANNING

A. [Governance Calendar](#)

B. Next Regular meeting date: October 14, 2019

C. Next Special meeting date(s): September 23, 2019 – Budget Workshop

D. Requested Future Agenda Items:

XI. CLOSED SESSION The Board of Trustees went into Closed Session at 7:42 p.m.

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

B. Potential Litigation (Government Code § 54956.9)

XII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

A. Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session – 8:48 p.m.

B. Report Action Taken in Closed Session – NONE

XIII. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Chrissy Falk, President

Alan Harris, Ph.D, Superintendent

Ron Eldridge, Clerk