

Unapproved Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Sequoia Union High School District
Wednesday, September 3, 2008

Call to Order	The regular meeting of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees was called to order by President Rumley at 4:31 p.m., Wednesday, September 3, 2008, in the Sanford Building at 480 James Avenue, in Redwood City.
Roll Call	Trustees present: Don Gibson Gordon Lewin Olivia Martinez Lorraine Rumley Sally Stewart Ana Davila, Student Trustee (<i>arrived at 5:30 p.m.</i>) Trustees absent: None
Recess to Closed Session at 4:32 p.m.	The Board of Trustees recessed to Closed Session at 4:32 p.m. to conference with real property negotiators (Gov't Code Section 54956.8); Public Employee Appointment: Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services, and conference with attorney on potential litigation.
Return to Public Session at 5:42 p.m.	The Board of Trustees returned to Public Session at 5:42 p.m.
Invitation to Audience	President Rumley welcomed the audience and explained that the Consent Calendar consists of routine or previously discussed items to be considered as a unit and voted upon by roll call vote. Trustee Rumley explained the Public Comment section of the agenda was for permitting members of the audience to make presentations about items not on the agenda.
Pledge of Allegiance	President Rumley led the Board of Trustees and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Approval of Agenda	Student Trustee consent "yes." On a motion by Trustee Gibson, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approved the agenda as presented.
Report Out on Closed Session	President Rumley reported that the Board did not take any action in Closed Session.
Amendments to Consent Calendar	None
Approval of Consent Calendar	Student Trustee consent "yes." On a motion by Trustee Gibson, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approved the Consent Calendar. Voting "yes" – Trustees Gibson, Lewin, Martinez, Rumley, and Stewart; voting "no" – none. Absent – none.
Receive Report on Construction Bids Approved During Summer	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees received the report on construction bids approved during the summer.
Approval of Personnel Recommendations	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Personnel Recommendations for certificated and classified employees.
Approval of Expulsions	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees adopts the hearing panels' findings and expels: (1) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Summer 2008-09 and Fall 2008-09 semesters and establish December 8, 2008, as the date that the student may apply for readmission and set conditions for readmission to include that the student was satisfactorily involved in educational and counseling programs designed to address the behaviors that led to the expulsion, and (2) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Summer 2008-09 and the

Fall 2008-09 semesters and establish December 8, 2008, as the date that the student may apply for readmission and set conditions for readmission to include that the student was satisfactorily involved in educational and counseling programs designed to address the behaviors that led to the expulsion.

Approval of Field Trips

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, that the Board of Trustees approves the field trip requests for Woodside High School, AP Biology Environmental Science students to go to the Yuba River, October 17 – 18, 2008, and AS English I students to go to Greece and Turkey, June 15 -30, 2009.

Acceptance of Report on No Child Left Behind Highly Qualified Teachers

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, that the Board of Trustees accepted the report on No Child Left Behind Highly Qualified Teachers.

Special Recognition of Teachers Participating in Industry Initiatives for Science & Math Education (IISME)

Francisca Miranda, Deputy Superintendent, announced that IISME addresses critical needs of teachers in science and math education. This summer three teachers from Carlmont participated in eight-week externships.

Tina Doss and Dan Raffa reported on their experiences working at Applied Bio Systems; Tina worked with bacteria and viruses related to food pathogens, and Dan told about his experience working with a DNA sequencer. Gigi Kruse-Silva described her work in chemical engineering at Stanford University which included participating in the design of an artificial cornea.

Ratification of Appointment of James Lianides, Assistant Supt., Administrative Services

On a motion from Trustee Gibson, seconded by Trustee Lewin, the Board of Trustees ratified the appointment of Dr. James Lianides as Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services. Jim Lianides thanked the Board, and said that he was excited about coming to the Sequoia district and contributing to the great work being performed here for all students.

Public Comment

Jason Culverhouse, a neighbor residing on Elwood Street, spoke in regard to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process for a new Gymnasium at Sequoia High School, and his disappointment that the Board voted “yes” on the CEQA filing for a Categorical Exemption 15314, at the previous board meeting.

Correspondence

None

Report on Opening of School

Matthew Zito, Principal of Menlo-Atherton High School, reported that enrollment was currently at 2051, with a total of 619 freshmen students. Mr. Zito said that professional development training was organized through the collaborative curricular teams.

David Reilly, Principal of Woodside High School, announced that Woodside is turning 50 this year; a special event is planned for Saturday, October 25 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Mr. Reilly advised enrollment was at 1920. Preschool days were productive, staff reviewed student test data. Woodside is going paperless with a praise/discipline behavior system; where teachers, parents, and students can log-in and see comments regarding student performance.

Morgan Marchbanks, Principal of Sequoia High School, reported a very smooth start to school with parent volunteerism at an all-time high. The Sequoia enrollment is at 1657, and the new registration process worked well. Ms. Marchbanks reported that staff was trained by Linda Common, Chief Administrator for Special Education, concerning instructing Special Education students. Also, a presentation on educational equity was made by a nationally-recognized educator, Glenn Singleton.

Lynn Bailey, Instructional Vice Principal of Carlmont High School, stated that this was the smoothest opening of school, with an enrollment of 2190. Robert Fishtrom, Administrative Vice Principal, reported a new program, “Effective Behavior Management,” which has set a positive tone on campus. There were 75 percent fewer referrals reported to date than last year. Mr. Fishtrom thanked Roger Moore, Director of Transportation, for providing smooth operations for home-to-school transportation this year.

Marshall Burgamy, Principal of Redwood High School, said that enrollment was at 285 this year, and 35 of the students are in the TAP (Teen Aged Parents) program. Staff participated in a retreat and met with staff from Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve; where they looked at a specialization of education and determined how these tools of engagement would be applied in the classroom.

Report on SUHSD Dropout
Rate Data & State Criteria

Brandon Lee, Coordinator of Testing and Assessment, presented a summary of the dropout rate data explaining that there is the one-year (actual) rate which is the total number of 9th to 12th grade dropouts divided by the total enrollment; and the four-year derived rate which averages out the number of 9th graders predicted to drop out between freshman and senior years.

In both areas the Sequoia Union High School District's dropout rate is below the County and State averages. In 2006-07, the District's actual dropout rate was 3.3 percent, as compared with a County rate of 4.0 and a State average of 6.4 percent. The District's four-year derived rate was 12.7 percent, as compared with 15.6 for the County and 24.2 percent for the State. Mr. Lee said that when ethnic dropout rates are compared, the Sequoia district's dropout rates for various ethnicities are consistently lower.

There was discussion of how a quantitative analysis of the data could be utilized in the future. Mr. Lee advised that since the system was just implemented in 2006-07, by 2010 the data should be even more useful.

Public Hearing

None

Discussion of Revised Board
Policy 1112, Media Relations

Bettylu Smith, News and Communications Manager, advised that with the establishment of a dedicated News & Communications function and a centralized media relations policy, the District will be poised to ensure a coordinated media response and dissemination of timely, accurate and newsworthy information to the community through the media.

Superintendent Gemma advised that he and Bettylu Smith attended the monthly Redwood City Chamber of Commerce meeting, and the Public Relations Manager for San Mateo County Board of Realtors exchanged contact information with Ms. Smith. Now the realtors have an immediate resource for information about public high schools in the region.

Trustee Martinez said that the Media Relations policy was fine. It will improve the District's relationship with the members of the press, and the press will still be able to speak to the Superintendent and Members of the Board.

Board of Trustees'/
Superintendent's Comments
& Committee Reports

The agenda was discussed for the Special Joint Board Meeting on Monday, September 22, 2008, at 6:00 p.m., hosted by Redwood City 2020, with San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, the City of Redwood City Council Members, and Redwood City Elementary District Board of Trustees. Trustee Martinez asked if the Board should share the District's plan for Career Technical Education at this meeting.

The Board requested time at the September 17, 2008, board meeting to discuss the agenda for the September 22, 2008, joint meeting.

Adjournment at
7:38 p.m.

On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Lorraine Rumley, President

Gordon Lewin, Clerk