

Approved Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Sequoia Union High School District
Wednesday, February 17, 2016

Call to Order	The regular meeting of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees was called to order by President Alan Sarver at 4:31 p.m., on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, in Birch Conference Room at 480 James Avenue, in Redwood City, California. He announced anyone wishing to address the Board on Closed Session matters may do so at this time.
Recess to Closed Session	The Board of Trustees recessed to Closed Session at 4:32 p.m. to consider Student Disciplines/Expulsions, and conference with Labor Negotiators, Agency Designated Representative James Lianides; Employee Organization: Sequoia Union High School District Teachers' Association (SDTA).
Opened Public Session 5:38 p.m.	President Alan Sarver opened the Public Session of the regular meeting at 5:38 p.m. in Birch Conference Room at 480 James Avenue, Redwood City, California.
Roll Call	Present: Abby Hartzell, Student Trustee Carrie Du Bois Georgia Jack Alan Sarver Chris Thomsen Allen Weiner Absent: Assistant Superintendent Enrique Navas
Invitation to the Audience	President Sarver welcomed the audience and explained that the Consent Calendar consisted of routine or previously discussed items to be considered as a unit and voted upon by roll call vote. He 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 Sarver led the Board of Trustees and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Amended Agenda	It was agreed to move up Agenda Item 14 b. Approval of Bid for Carlmont High School S-Wing, to follow Agenda Item 11a. Update on Measure A Bond Program.
Approval of Agenda as Amended	On a motion by Trustee Weiner, seconded by Trustee Jack, the Board of Trustees approved the Agenda as amended.
Report Out on Closed Session	President Sarver reported that the Board took action in Closed Session to unanimously approve, by a vote of five votes in favor, Trustees Du Bois, Jack, Sarver, Thomsen, and Weiner, and zero votes against, to expel Case No. 2015-2016-10 (name to appear in official minutes)—for the fall 2015-2016 semester and the spring 2015-16 semester and establish May 15, 2016, as the date that the student may apply for readmission; expel Case No. 2015-2016-11 (name to appear in official minutes)—for the fall 2015-2016 semester and the spring 2015-16 semester and establish May 15, 2016, as the date that the student may apply for readmission; expel Case No. 2015-2016-12 (name to appear in official minutes)—for the fall 2015-2016 semester and the spring 2015-16 semester and establish May 15, 2016, as the date that the student may apply for readmission, and expel Case No. 2015-2016-13 (name to appear in official minutes)—for the fall 2015-2016 semester and the spring 2015-16 semester and establish May 15, 2016, as the date that the student may apply for readmission.
Approval of Consent Calendar	On a motion by Trustee Weiner, seconded by Trustee Thomsen, the Board of Trustees approved the Consent Calendar. Voting "yes,"—Student Trustee Hartzell; Trustees Du Bois, Jack, Sarver, Thomsen, and Weiner; voting "no"—none, and absent—none.
Approval of Minutes for February 3, 2016, Brd. Mtg.	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the minutes as amended for the February 3, 2016, Board meeting.
Approval of Personnel Recommendations	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Personnel Recommendations and Addenda as indicated.

- Approval Field Trips** On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the field trip requests for Carlmont students to Los Angeles on March 7-8, 2016; students to Fremont on May 31, 2016; Menlo-Atherton High School’s Science students to Menlo Park on March 17, 2016; Latin WL to Irvine on March 18-20, 2016; Robotics Club to Sacramento on March 24-16, 2016; Boys’ Golf to Indio on March 31- April 3, 2016; Special Education ILS to Santa Margarita on April 21-22, 2016, Boys’ Golf to Monterey on May 6-7, 2016; Boys’ Golf to Monterey on May 10-11, 2016; Computer Academy students to Point Reyes Station on May 8-10, 2016, and Woodside High School Science students to Loma Mar on March 12-13, 2016.
- Approval of Summer Reading Lists** On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the 2016 Summer Reading lists for all sites.
- Approval of Amended Contract with SchoolCity, Inc.** On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees ratified the amended contract with SchoolCity, Inc., in the amount of \$39,634.13.
- Adoption of Res. No. 1566, in Support of Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2016** On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1566, in support of Kindergarten through Community College Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2016.
- Adoption of Res. No. 1567, Non-Reemploy. Temp. Certifi. Employ.** On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1567, to release designated probationary certificated employees.
- Adopt.Res. No. 1568, Release & Non-reemploy Temp. Cert. Empl.** On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1568, to Release and non-reemploy temporary certificated employees.
- Approval of Warrants** On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Warrants for January 2016, totaling \$6,515,371.58
- Acceptance of Monthly Financial Reports** On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted the amended Monthly Financial Reports for January 2016.
- Approval of Contract for Architectural Services for Menlo Park Small High School** On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the contract with LPA to begin the full design of the Menlo Park Small High School based upon compensation set forth in LPA’s Master Architectural Services Agreement.
- Approval of Job Descript., Adult School/AB86 Career Navigator** On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the job description for Sequoia Adult School/AB86 Career Navigator position.
- Special Recognitions** Superintendent Lianides recognized the following seven SUHSD candidates for the 2016 United States Presidential Scholars Program, who are among the 800 candidates named nationwide. In April, the White House Commission reviews the applications and selects up to 161 Presidential Scholars.

Elizabeth Doctorov	Kasey Love	Austin Tang
Alice Li	Paul Nadan	Matthew Trost
	Adhayana Paul	

Dr. Lianides commended Carlmont High School’s Screamin’ Scots for its positive program showcasing the true meaning of school spirit. The group has grown from ten students into a cheering section of hundreds; its positive cheering creates a fun and spirited atmosphere. Those recognized include:

Gabrielle Dimick	Sam Levy	Spencer Stewart
Lukas Kelly	Jacob Segal	Activities Dir. Jim Kelly

Public Comment Community Member Lucy Larson inquired about competition between Middle College students and those students enrolled in the new small school. She asked about attendance. Superintendent Lianides advised that under Public Comment, the SUHSD Board and staff are not able to engage in dialogue; if Ms. Larson would send him an email, he would provide her with information.

Correspondence

None

Update on Measure A Bond Program

Chief Facilities Officer (CFO) Matthew Zito introduced the four SUHSD Bond Project Managers and the Bond Oversight Committee Chairperson. Mr. Zito reviewed the SUHSD Master Schedule, Project Budget Tracking spread sheet, and the Measure A Bond Audit Report. He reported that the total cost of the new small school is \$39 million, and noted that the school will pass the test of time.

Superintendent Lianides noted that 2.5 percent of the total cost is for construction management; which, when compared to other districts, is on the low side. Because CFO Zito has built an in-house team, there is greater efficiency—allowing more money to go into buildings rather than consultants. We are hopeful that there will be a state bond and the SUHSD is eligible to be reimbursed for these expenditures. Also, staff has moved to a hard-bid process which allows for competitive bidding, and added cost savings.

Trustee Thomsen said it is possible that the state bond may be placed on the ballot in June. It was noted that this evening the Board had adopted Resolution No. 1566, in support of the kindergarten through community college public education facilities bond act of 2016.

In response to questions posed by Trustee Thomsen, Chairman of the Bond Oversight Committee John Violet reported he was pleased with the process; the committee met quarterly six times, and its next meeting is on March 15. Trustee Thomsen noted the Small School Task Force will provide an update to the Board on April 20, and this could be an opportune time for a discussion about curriculum.

In response to questions posed by Trustee Jack, Matthew Zito advised that in three weeks we will have state approval and in five weeks we will go out to bid on the Woodside Classroom Building project; the project should be mobilized by June 15. In regard to the government food program, there is now more flexibility for districts to bring in fresh food options. Mr. Zito said all of the District's new buildings built after 2013 are energy-efficient; staff is replacing older systems, and moving toward very efficient buildings.

In response to questions posed by Trustee Weiner, CFO Zito said being inclusive in the site decision making process will be re-energized. Currently, Woodside High School is the best model. Some school sites have long lists of projects, and essentially the projects selected need to benefit the greatest number of students. For Phase Two, Menlo-Atherton is looking at fabricated buildings; Mr. Zito advised there will be 22 new-construction classrooms at M-A.

President Sarver noted it is great to have both the team assembled as well as the volunteer support of community oversight. He suggested that because these are futuristic buildings, solar energy should be explored.

CFO Matthew Zito presented a three-story model of the new small school in Menlo Park and described the layout. He noted the team is looking to insert a performing arts space into the plan.

Approval of Bid for Carlmont High School S-Wing

Project Manager Allen France reported doing much outreach into the contracting community, and noted that the three lowest bids were only 1.8 percent a part. Following is a summary of the bids received.

	Contractor	Base Bid	District Contingency	Total (Base Bid plus Contingency)
1.*	BHM Construction Inc.	\$11,801,289	\$625,000	\$12,426,289
2.	Strawn Construction Inc.	\$11,815,000	\$625,000	\$12,440,000
3.	Gonsalves & Stronck Construction Co.	\$12,018,600	\$625,000	\$12,643,600
4.	Alten Construction Inc.	\$12,873,000	\$625,000	\$13,489,000
5.**	Roebelen Contracting Inc.	\$12,988,000	\$625,000	\$13,613,000
6.	Zolman Construction Inc.	\$13,199,925	\$625,000	\$13,824,925
7.	Rodan Builders Inc.	\$13,200,000	\$625,000	\$13,825,000
8.	Soltek Pacific Construction Company	\$13,348,000	\$625,000	\$13,973,000

* Lowest responsive bid

** Unresponsive (no DVBE documentation)

In response to a question posed by Trustee Weiner, Mr. France said he had worked on a project with BHM Construction Inc., the low bidder, last year and had received good reports.

On a motion by Trustee Weiner, seconded by Trustee Thomsen, the Board of Trustees approved the BHM Construction Inc. base bid of \$11,801,289, plus \$49,000 for additive alternates numbers three, increase mullion width at no-cost, and seven, additional landscaping, along with a \$625,000 district controlled contingency, and authorized the Superintendent to execute a contract with this contractor and to issue a notice to proceed with the project.

Impact Fee Report and 5-year
Impact Fee Plan for 2015-20

Matthew Zito advised that the District collects school impact fees for new construction and renovation work on residential properties to offset the impact that projects have on public school enrollment. Sequoia district staff collects and distributes the fees paid on behalf of its eight partner elementary districts in addition to securing the portion designated as the district's. Each year the district collects approximately \$1.5 million in school impact fees, which helps fund small projects. Mr. Zito noted that the Five-year Impact Fee Plan will help make better use of the monies and leverage funds between now and the year 2020.

Trustee Weiner said he was pleased to see traffic mitigation on the project list and encouraged devoting resources to that because traffic greatly impacts our school neighborhoods.

San Mateo County Quarterly
Investment Report

Superintendent Lianides said the San Mateo County Quarterly Investment Pool Report is for the quarter ending on December 31, 2015, and the County Treasurer's Office reports an above-market earnings rate for this period due to the Investment Pool realizing some long-term gains.

Presentation of SDTA Initial
Bargaining Proposal to SUHSD
for 2016-17

Sequoia District Teachers Association (SDTA) President Edith Salvatore said it is a pleasure to present the SDTA initial proposal. There are five bargaining meeting dates scheduled and SDTA members look forward to sitting down with the Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD) negotiating team and enhancing the working experience for teachers in the District.

Presentation of SUHSD Initial
Bargaining Proposal to SDTA for
2016-17

Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, Jacqueline McEvoy reported that staff has submitted the SUHSD's initial proposal and will be conducting a public hearing. The bargaining dates are set with the first meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 9, and she looks forward to the process.

Public Hearing Opened 6:50 p.m.
SDTA Bargaining Proposal to
SUHSD

President Sarver opened the public hearing at 6:50 p.m. on the Sequoia District Teachers Association (SDTA) bargaining proposal to the SUHSD. There were no comments concerning the SDTA proposal.

Public Hearing Closed 6:50 p.m.
SDTA Proposal to SUHSD

President Sarver closed the public hearing at 6:50 p.m.

Public Hearing Opened 6:51 p.m.
SUHSD Proposal to SDTA

President Sarver opened the public hearing at 6:51 p.m. on SUHSD's proposal to the SDTA. There were no comments concerning the SUHSD proposal.

Public Hearing Closed 6:51 p.m.
SUHSD Proposal to SDTA

President Sarver closed the public hearing at 6:51 p.m.

Discuss Annual Board Agenda
Calendar

Superintendent Lianides advised the Board Agenda Calendar lists Mandatory and Non-mandatory agenda items for meetings this school year. It is being brought forward for Board input, and consensus. In June staff will bring forward an Agenda Calendar for next year.

In response to questions posed by Trustee Du Bois, Dr. Lianides advised that a report on Aspirations Advocates could be done in early fall. The rationale is to present a base of understanding of what the schools are doing today, and to educate the Board on the strategies currently employed to minimize suspensions and expulsions.

Trustee Thomsen said he thought the Annual Board Agenda Calendar would be an effective document. In the past the Board had requested more interaction on the budget planning process. Superintendent Lianides suggested a discussion item concerning the 2016-17 budget on April 20. In response to a question posed by Trustee Thomsen, Assistant Superintendent Bonnie Hansen said an Ethnic Studies course will be piloted at Menlo-Atherton next year.

Trustee Jack suggested an agenda item to review math placements including Advanced Placement (AP) math reporting, performance results for the AP test and Equal Opportunity School (EOS) requirements, as well as reporting on East Palo Alto Academy students taking Integrated Math.

Trustee Weiner suggested the including the priorities of the Superintendent on the listed agenda items. Other priorities to include are Redwood High School and the achievement gap, Common Core implementation and instruction, and student stress. Trustee Weiner requested that staff identify patterns and challenges emerging from the Dashboard data and provide suggestions to address those patterns.

Dr. Lianides noted that the English Learners (EL) Task Force report reflects 1,500 EL students struggling in all areas. Several meetings have been held, and the task force is working to ensure that all EL students are in classes relating to their language needs. Superintendent Lianides advised that the Mental Health Task Force will report to the Board on May 25; he suggested another option would be to schedule a study session.

Trustee Weiner suggested that the Board looks at homework policy, rigor, and culture.

Student Trustee Hartzell said classroom strategies, Common Core, and student stress are all important issues. She offered to talk to students and obtain information anecdotally on these issues.

Trustee Du Bois wanted to discuss how the student trustee is utilized in order for Board members to obtain a broader student perspective.

Trustee Jack suggested holding study sessions with principals, teachers, and parents on the achievement gap, Common Core implementation, and student stress. She asked about test preparation for Smarter Balance assessments.

Superintendent Lianides said there have been discussions with Redwood City Elementary District Superintendent John Baker in regard to a joint meeting of the two boards.

President Sarver suggested reviewing current student survey results across the district. He noted the Board Bylaws cover the overall structure of Board meetings; the Board might consider holding just one regular Board meeting and one study session per month.

Selection of CSBA Assembly Delegates on Ballot for SMC

On a motion by Trustee Du Bois, seconded by Trustee Thomsen, the Board of Trustees selected the three candidates indicated, Marc Friedman, Alisa MacAvoy, and Kalimah Salahuddin, for the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly for San Mateo County Subregion 5-B beginning on April 1, 2016, for two years.

Presentation & Approval of Carlmont Site Plan

Carlmont High School Principal Ralph Crame reported that school climate is excellent due to the enthusiasm of the Associated Student Body and the Screamin Scots. He reviewed the goals, which are to provide academic intervention and narrow the achievement gap; change the environment model, and getting teachers out of their classrooms/departments and mingling with co-workers.

Instructional Vice Principal Jennifer Cho said interventions include teachers getting to know their students' best practices. In second semester staff will be looking at EL enrichment logic, teaching practices, and technology in the classroom.

Principal Crame said teachers are learning from each other and getting to know their students. To prepare students for post high school college and career opportunities, we are modeling teaching strategies, and implementing a measurable writing component into the curriculum in all departments. Principal Crame reviewed data showing that in 2014-15, 94 percent of all ninth graders had earned 50 units or more. The suspension/expulsion rates have increased slightly, enrollment in the AS/AP classes increased with over half of our students in subgroups, and there are less students taking more AP exams.

Moving forward staff looks toward positive Smarter Balanced test results, continued intervention with some EL students long-term, focus on ninth-grade intervention strategies, and tying together a media arts pathway. Mr. Crame described actions taken to relieve student anxiety and educating students on making well-balanced decisions.

In response to questions posed by Trustee Weiner, Principal Crame advised that the District's Strategic Plan and Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) provide direction in terms of school goals.

Vice Principal Cho advised that one of our challenges is long-term EL students because much of the Bilingual Resource Teacher's time is spent in the classroom with short-term EL students while the longer term students are more spread out.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Jack, Principal Crame said the Carlmont Foundation currently supports a part-time counselor educating EL students and parents about college; he envisions possibly expanding it to a full-time position.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Thomsen, Principal Crame reported Common Core English has been implemented; for math instruction, adjustments are needed for some students. Math is still about critical thinking and problem solving. The approach to instruction is re-focused. We are talking with staff to ensure the quality of assigned homework. The Parent Teacher Student Association is working with Consultant Charlene Margo on parent education programs that are appropriate for Carlmont parents. In response to questions posed by Trustee Du Bois, Ralph Crame said counselors and administrative vice principals are reaching out to the parents of students who are not attending school.

In response questions posed by Trustee Sarver, Principal Crame said the change this year is in diversity, and there is a smaller number of students in the intervention classes. We are now working with only two partner districts, Ralston and Tierra Linda middle schools. We are beginning to see the emergence of a biotech group, there is much enthusiasm with the parents and students to create a Capstone group with Skyline College.

On a motion by Trustee Weiner, seconded by Trustee Du Bois, the Board of Trustees approved the Carlmont High School Site Plan.

(Student Trustee Hartzell was excused and left the meeting at 9:10 p.m.)

Presentation and Approval of Redwood HS Mid-term WASC

Redwood High School Principal Miguel Rodriguez presented a report on enrollment by ethnicity as of February 17, 2016, there were 245 students enrolled, with a larger percentage Latino. A full-year period attendance percentage was at 56%, and Redwood has an English Learner population of 43.4 percent. Graduation rates in 2013 were at 87.7 percent, and they had dropped; however, in February 2016 Redwood staff awarded diplomas to the highest number of graduates in a single month. Principal Rodriguez reviewed the school goals and described implementation plans for school improvement.

Trustee Du Bois observed that to improve attendance the Redwood student needs the support of re-engagement programs at school and a social worker. She suggested providing support programs for these students in the ninth grade.

Superintendent Lianides said he is working with the Grove Foundation on a customized support program for Redwood students. We are also collaborating with Redwood City 2020 to possibly resolve attendance issues and obtain approval for the Sequoia Health Care District to reallocate funds. He noted that student enrollment has dropped by 60-70 students; the comprehensive high schools are doing a better job of holding onto students, which means the Redwood students are more at-risk.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Thomsen, Principal Rodriguez said that the distance students need to travel to get to school can be a challenge for those living in East Palo Alto; there are bus routes.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Weiner, Principal Rodriguez said we do not have facilities to host small learning communities; we will have programs up and running in August 2017. Trustee Weiner said he would like to see focus on Common Core instruction at Redwood. Miguel Rodriguez advised that the challenge is attendance. More resources are needed; short-term, we can work together by going out and bringing students to school, long-term we need a full-time social worker.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Jack, Principal Rodriguez said staff is supporting Direct Intervention Instruction (DII); there is room for growth to ensure alignment and consistency.

President Sarver we need to give students reasons to change life-long patterns by providing dynamically different programs such as the engagement of Adult School, JobTrain, etc. For the future, we have visited many small schools operating in not optimal spaces; he suggested that staff pilot some of those programs?

On a motion by Trustee Weiner, seconded by Trustee Du Bois, the Board of Trustees approved the Redwood High School Mid-term Visit WASC Report.

Board of Trustees'/Supt's.
Comments, Agenda Setting &
Committee Reports

Superintendent Lianides reported that Open Enrollment closes this Friday and has taken on a similar pattern to last year; the number of ninth-grade students requesting to go to another high school has dropped. The district has received 300 requests amongst the 2,000 ninth graders enrolling in high school. Dr. Lianides advised that information has been posted on the district's website about state litigation pertaining to Morgan Hill parents of children with disabilities and informing parents of their rights to opt out of disclosure of their students' information. The Superintendent said he will also send out letters to inform parents about the situation.

President Sarver reported visiting small schools in southern California where he saw interesting programs and exciting educational spaces. He also attended the Redwood City Council meeting regarding housing and traffic, attended the Belmont State of the City address, and met with County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Anne Campbell in regard to Career Technical Education (CTE) and a key role the District would play by reaching out into the job community.

Trustee Du Bois said she is mentoring a student at Woodside High School. She asked about elimination of the Advanced Standing (AS) Chemistry course and said we need to be serving all students.

Trustee Jack said she attended both Community College Night and Open House at Woodside High School.

Trustee Weiner said he wanted to see Board agenda topics discussed in regard to student stress and Common Core, and encouraged staff to look at the Dashboard and additional strategies to deal with the achievement gap. A study session could include reports from the sites, and input from the District, counselors, parents, and students.

Assistant Superintendent Hansen suggested discussing Common Core in the fall.

Dr. Lianides suggested a Board Study Session on Wednesday, April 27 for Mental Health; with site staff presentations, and then opening up the meeting with a general discussion.

Adjourned meeting
at 10:39 p.m.

On a motion by Trustee Jack, seconded by Trustee Du Bois, the Board of Trustees adjourned its meeting at 10:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Sarver, President

Chris Thomsen, Clerk