

Approved Revised Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Sequoia Union High School District  
Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Call to Order	The regular meeting of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees was called to order by President Allen Weiner at 4:31 p.m., on Wednesday, September 30, 2015, in Birch Conference Room at 480 James Avenue, in Redwood City, California.														
Recess to Closed Session	The Board of Trustees recessed to Closed Session at 4:32 p.m. to Conference with Legal Counsel—Anticipated Litigation: Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (e) of Government Code Section 54956.9 (two cases); and to Conference with Legal Counsel—Existing Litigation, Subdivision (a) of Section 54956.6 of the California Government Code; OAH Case #2015020856														
Opened Public Session 5:35 p.m.	President Allen Weiner opened the Public Session of the regular meeting at 5:35 p.m. in Birch Conference Room at 480 James Avenue, Redwood City, California.														
Roll Call	<table><thead><tr><th><b>Present:</b></th><th><b>Absent</b></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Abby Hartzell, Student Trustee</td><td>(none)</td></tr><tr><td>Carrie Du Bois</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Laura Martinez</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Alan Sarver</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Chris Thomsen</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Allen Weiner</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>	<b>Present:</b>	<b>Absent</b>	Abby Hartzell, Student Trustee	(none)	Carrie Du Bois		Laura Martinez		Alan Sarver		Chris Thomsen		Allen Weiner	
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Alan Sarver															
Chris Thomsen															
Allen Weiner															
Pledge of Allegiance	Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources and Student Services, Jaqueline McEvoy led the Board of Trustees and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.														
Approval of Agenda	On a motion by Trustee Thomsen, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approved the Agenda.														
Report out on Closed Session	President Weiner reported that no action was taken in Closed Session.														
Invitation to the Audience	President Weiner 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.														
Amendment to Consent Calendar	Removed and voted upon later in the meeting: 8b Acceptance of Grants from Startup Education and Peery Foundation 8h Approval of Contract with Commercial Energy to Procure Natural Gas														
Approval of Consent Calendar	On a motion by Trustee Sarver, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approved the Consent Calendar as amended. Voting “yes,”— Student Trustee Hartzell; Trustees Du Bois, Martinez, Sarver, Thomsen, and Weiner; voting “no”—none, and absent—none.														
Report on District Contracts Under \$35,000	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees ratified the district contracts under \$35,000.														
Approval of Amended Minutes for 9/16/15, Board Meeting	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the amended minutes for the September 16, 2015, 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 of 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 April 14-16, 2016; students to Santa Clara Marriott on November 14-15, 2015; ASB students to Jones Gulch, La Honda on November 6-8, 2015; Redwood students to Half Moon Bay on May 13, 2016; students to San Francisco on November 18, 2015; students to Redwood City on April 12, 2016; students to Stulsaft Park on November 4, 2015; Sequoia Freshman to various California college campuses on October 6, 2015; ratification of the Health Careers Academy students trip to Marine Science Institute on September 30, 2015;														

Woodside Science students to Moss Landing on October 17, 2015; Green Academy students to Boulder Creek on November 4-7, 2015.

- Acceptance of Gifts On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepts the gifts and requests that the school site sends a letter of appreciation to the donor where appropriate.
- Authorization to Declare Surplus Property On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees declared the listed items as surplus property, obsolete and unsuitable for use, and authorized the Superintendent to dispose of these surplus items in accordance with Education Code provisions.
- Approval to Increase Daily Rate of Pay for Substitute Teachers On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the recommended increases to the daily rate of pay for substitute teachers.
- Authorization to Award Bids for Food Service Equipment On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees authorized the Superintendent to award the bids on a line-item basis to the various low bidders as indicated for a grand total of \$121,615.99 including tax.
- Auth. to Hire Services to Treat Soil at M-A, G-Wing Project Site On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees authorized the Superintendent to hire Griffin Soil to treat soil at Menlo-Atherton G-Wing project site in the amount of \$41,100.
- Approval of Agre. & Appoint Rep. to Adult Ed. College/Career Ed. Leadership Collaboration On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Lionel de Maine as the District's Official Representative to Adult Education College and Career Educational Leadership (ACCEL) Collaboration, and approved the agreement to report on fund use, outcomes, and agreeing to the rules and procedures.
- Approval to Hire Architect to Design Woodside Bradley Field On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees authorized the Superintendent to hire Weston Miles Architect in the amount of \$56,500 plus authorized reimbursable expenses, to design improvements to Bradley Field and the western side of the Woodside High School campus.
- Special Recognitions Superintendent Lianides recognized Redwood High School Graduate and Legacy Student Nicole Rankin, for her academic success; he commended her leadership and for being a role model for students.
- Dr. Lianides advised that Redwood High School students, along with students from Menlo-Atherton, Roy Cloud, and Woodside dedicated a Saturday to clean more than two miles of Cordilleras Creek which runs through the Redwood campus. The Superintendent commended the efforts of the students listed below and Redwood Instructor Christopher Hagler.
- |                     |                  |                 |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Simon Ah Sam        | Samantha Letatau | Leo Ortega      |
| Stacey Baquero      | Lourdes Moreida  | Tina Rascon     |
| Lo "Devine" Letatau | Siaosi Nalesoni  | Kaiya St. James |
|                     | Maria Nuñez      |                 |
- Sequoia District Teachers Association (SDTA) President Edith Salvatore announced that SUHSD Retiree and former Counselor Marlyn Bussey is the recipient of a Jefferson Award as a result of her work developing a math tutorial program for her parishioner students.
- Correspondence President Weiner reported receiving correspondence from the San Mateo County Board of Education, approving the SUHSD Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Budget for 2015-16.
- Report on Aspirations Advocates Director of Student Services Donald Milhaupt reported that in 2014-15 the Sequoia Aspirations Advocates Program (SAAP) replaced the district's Opportunity Program for ninth/tenth graders that was based at Redwood High School. The goals are to engage and then graduate students. Mr. Milhaupt described the Aspirations student and noted that the Advocate is a vital link to the student attending school and being successful. Assistant Superintendent Bonnie Hansen shared the SAAP survey results and described her experience mentoring a student. Donald Milhaupt stated the goals for 2015-16 and introduced the Aspirations Advocates: Jennifer Carson (M-A), Geogianna (Gigi)

Kruse-Silva and Marcus Betralmo (Carlmont), Evelyn Valencia (Sequoia), and Adele Alvarez (Woodside).

Bonnie Hansen reported the Team Ascent program has been at Sequoia High School for six years, and this summer the program was implemented at Carlmont and Menlo-Atherton. (*A video of the program was shown.*) The following students spoke about their positive experiences: Briscilla Lozano Mendoza (Carlmont Team Ascent ninth grader) and Fernando Aguilera (SAAP tenth grade); Shyrah White (M-A Team Ascent ninth grader) and Gustavo Mendoza (SAAP tenth grader); Alejandro Caballero (Sequoia Team Ascent ninth grader) and Fernaldo Megaña (SAAP tenth grader), and Jaime Lopez Yanez (Woodside SAAP tenth grader).

President Weiner suggested that these students should return to be recognized when they graduate.

Trustee Du Bois noted that not all students are being reached by Aspirations Advocates and there should be discussion about the kids that are missed. In response to a question posed by Trustee Du Bois, Jenna Carson advised that having the Advocate position full-time is a positive step in the right direction; other support services include mental health and counseling. We are in the process of coordinating after-school counseling at each site. Mrs. Carson reported the entire school site benefits from the extra care provided to these students; suspensions and expulsions have been prevented, and we are headed in the right direction.

Geogianna Kruse-Silva advised that an additional resource of \$300 per student would be helpful. Evelyn Valencia said not as many services are available during the school year for students in Team Ascent and SAAP as there are in the summer; and many of these kids need a long-term, structured counseling program. Mrs. Valencia reported having a tutor last year, and students could drop by her classroom and receive help with their academic work.

Trustee Thomsen commended the Aspirations Advocates teachers and said the Board valued their work. He appreciated hearing Jaimie Lopez-Yanez' message, "Come to school, it will make you happy."

Trustee Sarver said it is exciting to hear that students are in control and proud of their successes. We need to be watching the trends in attendance, grades, and credit.

Trustee Martinez said she agreed with the comments and wanted to acknowledge the teachers and the students on their success.

President Weiner observed that the program successfully creates techniques demonstrating results and asked about the professional development offered. He suggested that staff continue to track data, and said mental health is an issue; it was suggested that the budget include more program support for tenth graders.

Geogianna Kruse-Silva advised that truancy is out of the Advocates' control, and more leadership is needed to address the students who don't show up.

Moved Agenda Item 11c Up on the Agenda

Board Agenda Item 11c. Presentation of Design for New Redwood High School Facility, was moved up to be the next item heard.

Design of New Redwood High School Facility

Chief Facilities Officer Matthew Zito advised that the design development phase for Redwood High School is nearing completion; it was noted that there will be challenges on campus next year due to construction.

Aaron Jobson, Principal at Quattrocci Kwok Architects, presented the re-configured design planned for the Redwood High School. He reported that the facility will be state-of-the-art, with an updated face to the community. The new site plan includes a Multi-Purpose Room/Student Union; a two-story Classroom/Administration building; a large court yard and outdoor learning spaces; the main entrance will provide additional security, and there will be updated sustainable factors such as

lighting. The plans will be submitted to Department of State Architect on December 7, 2015, construction begins on June 16, 2016, and the project will be completed in August of 2017.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Thomsen, Mr. Jobson advised that spaces will be created to bring teachers and students together. Administrative services will be consolidated into one area, and there will be a variety of different learning environments which are connected visually.

In response to questions posed by Trustee Sarver, Aaron Jobson advised that in September a meeting was held with a small but robust group of community members, who were supportive of both the design and the project. We have also met with the parents. A bridge will be built across the creek, and the new buildings will be set higher as protection from any possible flooding.

In response to questions posed by Trustee Martinez, Architect Jobson advised that the Child Care facility will remain where it is and is not within the scope of the project. Redwood Principal Miguel Rodriguez said when construction starts everyone will need to park along Old County Road, and he will look into installing temporary speed bumps to slow down traffic and make it safer for student drivers. The garden will not be impacted and he anticipates that the bridge will become an integral component of the campus.

Approval of Contract with  
Commercial Energy to Procure  
Natural Gas

Trustee Thomsen asked about liability and risk considerations for moving to a private enterprise. Jens R. Hansen, Senior Account Executive with Commercial Energy, advised that the district would be moving away from utility PG&E delivery charges and natural gas commodities but will not be moving away from PG&E delivering natural gas to the district. There is zero risk of the district not receiving natural gas.

Assistant Superintendent Enrique Navas advised that Commercial Energy is a third-party supplier that utilizes the PG&E grid for procurement. PG&E doesn't post its rates until three months prior to delivery and the district will be able to compare prices. There is a school district in Gilroy who has been part of the program for a year and, when comparing rates, is doing better than the PG&E rates. Trustee Thomsen said he applauded the decision and asked whether liability exposure had been reviewed. Mr. Hansen advised that his firm has nothing to do with changing infrastructure, and there would be no liability on the district. In response to another question posed by Trustee Thomsen, Mr. Navas said the contract had not been reviewed by the district's insurance provider.

On a motion by President Weiner, seconded by Trustee Thomsen, the Board of Trustees authorized the Superintendent that if the liability concerns have been addressed, to enter into a six-month pilot contract with Commercial Energy to implement a "Collared Price Option" for the fiscal year 2015-16.

Report on District Smarter  
Balanced Assessment Results

Director of Research and Evaluation Brandon Lee reported that last spring SUHSD participated in the first administration of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), which are computer-based tests designed to measure a student's mastery of the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in both English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. Mr. Lee reviewed the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) scores and achievement levels for ELA and mathematics. He described a sample CAASPP Student Score Report, and reviewed SUHSD participation rates and how they compared with the state and county Grade 11 Mean Scores. Director Lee stated his observations and reviewed next steps. Assistant Superintendent Hansen noted that next steps ensure that students receive more exposure to technology.

Trustee Thomsen expressed concern about how information is reported to the parents and students, and he noted that the district's scores should not be compared with the state and county levels. **He said we know these scores are generally correlated with the socio-economic status of districts and counties. Unfortunately they are too frequently misconstrued as an indicator of educational effectiveness, for which there is no evidence. We ought to focus instead on their formative value for individual students, and their district-wide measure of areas for improvement.**

Student Trustee Hartzell said last year was the first year students took the CAASPP; because it was a new form of test, it was stressful and students did not put forth much effort. In the future students will be more familiar with computer testing.

President Weiner said all districts were going through this for the first time; there should be less emphasis on students and more about how we are doing as a district. Of particular concern are the English Learners; he asked, have we done our job if 900 students graduate and have not met the English and math standards? He noted that the gap between Hispanic and White students has not changed.

Trustee Sarver said when looking at diversity, it is magnified depending upon for what we are testing. The data also focuses on the areas of the most critical issues. This intentional change in testing affects the entire educational system. It is going to be several years before we see information that is considered accountable.

Impact on Possible Elimination  
of CAHSEE Graduation  
Requirements

Superintendent Lianides said we have a situation where legislators passed a bill suspending the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) and awarding suspended diplomas to students in the class of 2015. A new bill on the Governor's desk will retroactively suspend the CAHSEE requirement going all the way back to the Class of 2004. Assuming the Governor signs the legislation, it will go into effect in January 2016, at which time diplomas can be awarded to students. Dr. Lianides said there are relatively few students in the SUHSD that meet all other academic requirements for graduation except for passing the CAHSEE. Once the bill is signed, staff will locate these students and award their diplomas. The four eligible students from 2014-15 will receive their diplomas immediately.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Sarver, Dr. Lianides advised that he would shift the .4 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) allocated for staffing at each site for CAHSEE support and increase staffing for credit recovery support.

Discuss Draft Goals for  
Strategic Implementation Plan

Superintendent Lianides advised that staff wants to use the Strategic Plan as the basic document; then draw data from other documents, such as the Dashboard or Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), and tie everything together as a functional vision for the school district. The Action Plan becomes the basis for the goals each year and includes plans to achieve the goals.

Trustee Du Bois said that academic achievement should include teacher feedback; she also suggested looking at student absences.

President Weiner noted when looking at the strategic direction we are only addressing those items that are measurable. The more humanistic portion of our Strategic Plan has not been reflected. Assistant Superintendent Bonnie Hansen suggested adding a student survey that would be administered annually. President Weiner said his focus was on a "passion for learning," which is different from affective domain.

Student Trustee Hartzell suggested utilizing the survey method to obtain data on how students feel about the classes they are taking and their connection with a passion for learning.

Trustee Sarver said he agreed with the comments and noted that strategic goals should be reflected at the Board level.

Dr. Lianides noted that staff will work on including a "passion of learning" clause, and will bring a proposal to the next meeting.

Adoption of Res. No. 1559,  
Sufficiency of Textbooks &  
Instructional Materials

In response to a question posed by President Weiner, Dr. Lianides suggested amending Resolution No. 1559 to include the East Palo Alto Academy on the list of district schools.

On a motion by Trustee Thomsen, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1559 as amended, on the Sufficiency of Textbooks and Instructional Materials.

Voting “yes,”— Student Trustee Hartzell; Trustees Du Bois, Martinez, Sarver, Thomsen, and Weiner; voting “no”—none, and absent—none.

Acceptance of Grants for  
Startup Education & Peery Fdn.

President Weiner expressed his enthusiasm for the grant and a K-12 collaboration between Ravenswood City, Redwood City, and Sequoia Union High school districts.

Assistant Superintendent Bonnie Hansen announced the appointment of Brandon Lee as the Tri-District Project Director.

On a motion by President Weiner, seconded by Trustee Sarver, the Board of Trustees accepted the grants from Startup Education and the Peery Foundation, and requested the Superintendent to send appreciation letters to both agencies.

Board of Trustees’/Supt’s.  
Comments & Committee Reports

Trustee Sarver extended an invitation to “Save the Music Festival” being held this weekend at Twin Pines Park.

Trustee Du Bois visited two Golden Bell Award school sites: Kennedy in Redwood City and Portola Valley Art enrichment Program. She suggested the Small School Committee explore the school Jeff Duncan-Andrade is starting in Oakland.

Trustee Thomsen suggested a future Board presentation on Linked Learning.

Trustee Martinez reported attending the Small School Committee Meeting, and a Two-Plus-Two meeting with the City of Redwood City where there was discussion in regard to use of facilities and El Niño preparations.

Board Adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

On a motion by Trustee Sarver, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees adjourned its meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen Weiner, President

Alan Sarver, Clerk