

Approved Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Sequoia Union High School District
Wednesday, October 21, 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, October 21, 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 #2015080441														
Opened Public Session 5:35 p.m.	President Allen Weiner opened the Public Session of the regular meeting at 5:33 p.m. in Birch Conference Room at 480 James Avenue, Redwood City, California.														
Roll Call	<table><tr><td>Present:</td><td>Absent</td></tr><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></table>	Present:	Absent	Abby Hartzell, Student Trustee	(none)	Carrie Du Bois		Laura Martinez		Alan Sarver		Chris Thomsen		Allen Weiner	
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Pledge of Allegiance	Trustee Du Bois led the Board of Trustees and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.														
Approval of Agenda	On a motion by Trustee Sarver, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approved the Agenda.														
Report out on Closed Session	President Weiner reported that in Closed Session the Board of Trustees authorized the Superintendent to enter into a settlement agreement in regard to . SUHSD v. Student OAH Case #2015080441.														
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: 8g. Approval of Revised Administrative Regulation AR5144.1, Students, Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process														
Approval of Consent Calendar	On a motion by Trustee Martinez, seconded by Trustee Thomsen, 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.														
Qtrly. Rep.Williams Complaints	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted the report as presented.														
Wellness Reports	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted the reports as presented.														
Approval of Minutes for 9/30, 10/1 and 7, 2015 Brd. Mtgs.	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the minutes for the September 30, as amended, the minutes for October 1 and 7, 2015, board meetings.														
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 Menlo-Atherton students to Monterey and Santa Cruz on November 16, 2015; Girls’ Varsity Basketball team to Pioneer on November 13-15, 2015; Drama students to Davis on November 17,														

2015; Redwood High School students to Hidden Villa, Los Altos Hills on December 9-11, 2015, and students to Hidden Villa, Los Altos on May 19-20, 2016.

Auth. to Declare Textbooks
Obsolete/Non-Accountable

That the Board of Trustees declares the listed items as obsolete and unsuitable for use, and authorized the Superintendent to dispose or transfer the listed items in accordance with Education Code provisions.

Approval of Warrants

That the Board of Trustees approved the Warrants for September 2015, totaling \$6,381,115.86.

Accepted Monthly Financial Rep.

That the Board of Trustees accepted the Monthly Financial Reports for September 2015.

Auth. Amending Contract w/Derivi
Castellanos Arch. To Upgrade
Lighting at Wdsd. & Pool Pumps

That the Board of Trustees authorized the Superintendent to amend the contract with Derivi Castellanos Architects to upgrade lighting at Woodside High School and replace pool pumps at the four comprehensive high schools.

Ratified Construction Contracts

That the Board of Trustees ratified the report on construction contracts under \$35,000.

Ratified Construction Amendmts.

That the Board of Trustees ratified the Construction Amendments as indicated.

Special Recognitions

Superintendent Lianides recognized Sequoia International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) student Joanna Fuentes, who attended the IB World Student Conference at the University of Rochester in New York. The conference connected students from around the world to engage in issues of global importance and develop leadership skills; Joanna's team designed a mobile app to help high schoolers learn more about issues of identity.

Public Comment

Sequoia Dream Club Member Joanna Fuentes extended an invitation to attend the Dream Club's Sixth Annual Dinner, *Making Dreams Come True*, on November 6, 2015.

Correspondence

None

Report on Reading Intervention
Programs

Reading Coach and Classroom Teacher of English and Reading, Alissa Talesnick reported on the reading programs that support struggling readers in the district. She reported that struggling readers are long-term English Learners and students with disabilities—some students are both; and these students read at three or more years below grade level. This year the focus is on reading comprehension and reading skills; there are 236 ninth and tenth graders in English Intensive (Read 180) and 49 students in English Language Arts (ELA) or System 44. Ms. Talesnick described the components of the two programs. Data was provided on the number of struggling students in each comprehensive high school and the zip code in which they lived.

In response to questions posed by Trustee Du Bois, Assistant Superintendent Bonnie Hansen said it is difficult on both teachers and students to have four periods of Intervention; however, the students are hanging in there. Instructor Talesnick noted some students are behind due to lack of support in the elementary grades.

In response to questions posed by Trustee Sarver, Alissa Talesnick said 71 students are Long-term English Learners, and most of the students attended the district's partner elementary schools. Trustee Sarver observed that ninth grade should not be the initial encounter of this type of support.

Alissa Talesnick reported that 75 percent of the students' Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) points grew over 100 points during the time they were in the Reading program. She provided data on the struggling students who are on track with credits to graduate, which is approximately 54 percent. Next steps include articulation with partner districts and providing student support after tenth grade.

Trustee Thomsen said the numbers point out one of the fundamental challenges of the Board. In response to a question posed by Trustee Thomsen, Bonnie Hansen advised there are a variety of reasons our students are behind in reading, and staff is working with the partner districts. Trustee Sarver noted the strengthening of articulation and said it was the right place upon which to focus.

President Weiner said it would be useful to gather a diagnosis of why students are not reading. Moving up 45 percent of the students two reading years is making good progress. In response to a question posed by President Weiner, Bonnie Hansen advised that staff has looked at the resources utilized by other districts. Trustee Weiner said he would like to discuss continuing reading support.

Trustee Martinez said this is a huge opportunity for students. She would like to know more about what our partner districts are doing to help students. President Weiner suggested moving forward with increasing articulation between SUHSD and sixth to eighth grade students.

2014-15 LEA Plan Progress Rep. Director of English Learners Isabel Cervantes Falk reported on the updated 2014-15 Local Educational Agency (LEA) Plan Progress Report. She advised that staff had focused on three goals: Proficiency in English and math, Proficiency in Limited English Proficient (LEP) students, and Highly-Qualified teachers. Director Cervantes-Falk reviewed strategies that included: Direct Interactive Instruction (DII), Common Core implementation, Technology support, inclusion of special education students, parent involvement, student support systems, and California English Language Development Test (CELDT) results.

Trustee Thomsen wanted to see a continuance of DII and said it is a fundamental part of professional development with a high level of professionalism and expertise. Trustee Thomsen said Director Cervantes-Falk did a good job describing the results, and he would like to hear more about lessons learned.

Trustee Du Bois said students need more emotional support and would advocate specifically for a road map to support foster and homeless youth. She suggested separating out the numbers on the Dashboard.

Trustee Sarver said the CELDT results are one of the key challenge areas and noted that it is critical to move these students forward.

President Weiner said the information on Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAO) for English Learners was helpful, and looking English Learner Development (ELD) instructional strategies is critical. President Weiner suggested examining and revising the ELD Master Plan to unify the approach in ELD classrooms.

Small School Update

Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, Bonnie Hansen described the progress guiding development of the new small school in Menlo Park. She reported that a smaller Working Committee met weekly with the larger Advisory Committee meeting monthly. Mrs. Hansen said the Working Committee looked at academic pathways, reviewed facility design, curriculum and instructional design, electives, and timelines. She noted dedication of the new school is planned for August 10, 2018. Model program site visits are scheduled for various small school facilities. College for Kids was discussed, which is a Community College summer program for fifth to ninth graders.

Trustee Du Bois asked if the Board should have first looked at Best Practices and if Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) education instruction was selected too soon. She wanted to see the small school built around a larger subject area because more options are needed for the high-risk kids who are struggling.

Superintendent Liandes advised that last year survey results (from students, parents, and staff) while doing the strategic plan, clearly indicated that the small schools instructional program should include health science and technology pathways. The focus for the school in Menlo Park also has to do with the neighborhood, which is a resource unto itself. We are building a school that is highly attractive and with outreach will raise the bar. This can be a vehicle to strengthen students in math and provide them with hope and future opportunities.

Chief Facilities Officer Matthew Zito said instruction in Applied Technology will be offered; and there will be at least two routes for students. At Sequoia there are Electronic Arts classes, and there will be options for students who may not want to take high-level math.

President Weiner said the tenets were discussed at Board meetings, at this point the Board has twice expressed its view, and it should now be supporting staff in moving forward.

Trustee Thomsen thanked staff for the committee reports; he complimented the commitment to recruiting a diverse student population and requested a tighter description of the target population. Trustee Thomsen encouraged contacting SRI staff who led a review of Linked Learning initiative in 2014; Edwin Diaz, Superintendent in Residence at BCA Architects, who has Linked Learning experience, and Linda Darling-Hammond, who wrote a paper on *Redesigning High Schools: What Matters and What Works*. He saw value in Dr. Hammond's list of key characteristics* and recommended the committee and Board agree to a similar list for the new school. Trustee Thomsen requested the committees report back on their perspectives of how broad-thinking they will be in the design of the new school. He expressed concern about the limited amount of time that new teachers will have to prepare for the opening of school.

Student Trustee Hartzell asked if a pathway could be built to accommodate students who start high school at a comprehensive high school and then decide they want to transfer to the small school. Assistant Superintendent Hansen said that a pathway could be developed to accommodate those students.

Trustee Sarver reported that a reasonable contingency plan is built into every step of the schedule. By offering an elective experience in the freshman year we are selling commitment to the program, and there is more opportunity for future success.

President Weiner said coding and a capstone project would be very attractive; however, he is more interested in the process to determine what the new school's most distinctive features are. He noted the College for Kids adds six weeks of summer school, and suggested thinking about year-round school. He advised the committee should not internalize limitations but should see themselves as the engine.

Discuss Draft Goals for Strategic Plan Implementation

Superintendent Lianides advised that the implementation goals more closely align with the original Strategic Plan document. Once the goals are set staff will present an action plan. The goals are long-lasting; action plans will change year-to-year. The goals frame where the action plans come from.

Trustee Du Bois said she felt what needed work was the issue of chronic absences. Dr. Lianides said the goal is Strategic Plan Item 1. *Academic Achievement*—poor attendance would be an action plan. Attendance is the means to achieve the goal.

Trustee Thomsen noted when looking at the Strategic Plan Item 3a *Informed Decision Making, Aligning District and Site Goals under common tools*, this provides opportunity to rethink site reports to the Board.

President Weiner said there is no theory stated on how to create a passion for learning. Trustee Thomsen agreed and said homework policy and Advanced Placement (AP) course load can impact this. Trustee Weiner said he is concerned about the risk of burn-out for students; he asked about some anchor verbiage stating what Board members care about. Dr. Lianides noted that in addition to the Dashboard we are moving toward annual student surveys which would provide valuable information on Affective Domain and integrating development of a passion for learning. President Weiner suggested inserting, *Promote assessment and homework practices that foster intellectual curiosity*. Superintendent Lianides advised that he would send the Board an amendment that focuses on balance and homework practices and encourages discovery.

* Personalization; Continuous Relationships; High Standards & Performance-Based Assessments; Authentic Curriculum; Adaptive Pedagogy; Multicultural & Anti-Racist Teaching; Knowledgeable & Skilled Teachers; Collaborative Planning & Professional Development; Family & Community Connects, and Democratic Decision-Making

Approval of Bid for Sequoia HS
New A-Wing Classroom Bldg. &
Culinary Arts Classroom Reno.

Chief Facilities Officer Matthew Zito reported that there will be a brand new 12-classroom building at Sequoia High School that includes renovation of the Culinary Arts/Room 128. There were five bids received in response to the bid request, and staff is pleased with the price. We do have 64 hours for someone to protest the bid and determine the lowest responsive bidder. At this point Sausal Corporation is the lowest responsive bidder. In response to a question posed by President Weiner, Mr. Zito advised that Sausal Corporation has done work for the district at Sequoia High School, and the firm is excited about the project.

On a motion by Trustee Sarver, seconded by Trustee Thomsen, the Board of Trustees approved the lowest qualified bidder Sausal Corporation in the amount of \$8,939,700 for the Sequoia High School Increment II new A-Wing Classroom Building and Culinary Arts/Room 128 Classroom Renovation project, and authorizes the Superintendent to enter into contract for the project, pending resolution of any bid protests timely submitted to the District; and that the Board, through this action, also authorizes the Superintendent to resolve any bid protests that may arise.

Approval of Revised AR5144.1,
Suspension & Expulsion/Due
Process

Trustee Du Bois said she is an advocate for restorative practices; when students are expelled it is difficult for them to return to school and they do not transition well. She suggested treating each case individually; some kids may want to stay at Gateway or there might be other options.

Superintendent Lianides advised that Gateway staff notifies the district when a student is eligible to return. He noted that all expulsions are either assault or drug sales, and a victim would not feel safe seeing the perpetrator back on campus. Dr. Lianides advised that we have not seen a case where a student was expelled a second time.

Sequoia High School Administrative Vice Principal Michael Kuliga said we take great pride in bringing back a student who was incarcerated and providing support in Aspirations Advocates and/or Team Ascent. We have seen academic success, and all students have been a good fit for a comprehensive high school.

Woodside High School Principal Diane Burbank advised that we know the story on every student that is expelled, and the decision is made based upon providing a fresh start and what is best for the student; if the student is put back into the same situation it is likely the behavior will return.

Trustee Du Bois requested that the student stories be included in the expulsion packet; currently only the behavior is stated.

Sequoia High School Principal Sean Priest advised we take students from another school coming off expulsions very seriously; it is a priority that they are aware of resources to which they have access. We are taking them out of the environment where poor decisions were made and giving them new opportunities. There have only been a small number of expulsions in the past two years—when a student experiences success following an expulsion we celebrate with the student.

Carlmont High School Administrative Vice Principal Gregg Patner noted the description of incidents are factual information, however that is not the tone of the dialogue for rehabilitation. AVP Patner said he had not been aware that there had been no expulsion in 2015-16—he advised that the process was working well.

President Weiner said this revised administrative regulation was on the Consent Calendar to formalize the process that has been utilized for some time. The actual language is what staff has been doing since he has been on the Board. President Weiner requested data on what we know about kids we expel and what they are doing now.

Trustee Sarver said he attended a conference recently on the achievement gap, and there was a panel of SUHSD students currently attending Gateway. They liked the small environment, the attention received, and most students said they wanted to continue going to Gateway.

Superintendent Lianides noted typically students stay at Gateway for the entire term of expulsion. When they return to the district we provide support through Acknowledge Alliance, whose staff works one-on-one toward long-term rehabilitation. The real work is avoiding expelling these students in the first place. In 2012-13, 8.4 percent of students were suspended and last year it was 5 percent. Most of the work is done by our administrative vice principals. We have averaged 30 expulsions per year—when there used to be 100. This year we have had no expulsions. These are crowded campuses and the statistics are dropping. There are a lot of good things happening out there, and we will continue to work hard on the issues that remain. We are also looking at the term of expulsions, which could lead to greater graduation rates.

Trustees Sarver and Thomsen both suggested giving the Superintendent authority to make exceptions to an expulsion student's instructional program when it was in the best interest of the student.

Carlmont High School Administrative Vice Principal Gregg Patner said this is nice in theory—but in practice this would be problematic for both the Superintendent and the Board.

Carlmont Principal Ralph Crame said not once in all his years as an AVP did he see a student who would be best served by returning to the same school site. We work extensively with these students, and the bottom line is that students behave in a negative manner because they don't feel connected with the school and they want a fresh start.

President Weiner reminded Board members that we are only talking about 30 students; due to the work of the administrative vice principals, the number of expulsions has been reduced from 120 per year.

Carlmont High School Administrative Vice Principal Grant Steurenberg said we have seen an increased number of expulsions cases where parents bring legal representation with them, and my concern is attorneys taking up the Superintendent's time saying their clients should be returning to the school from which they were expelled.

President Weiner and Trustee Martinez advised that they support the recommended language as presented.

Trustee Du Bois requested data on charter school expulsions. Trustees Du Bois and Sarver agreed to support the proposed language.

On a motion by Trustee Sarver, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approved the proposed revised Administrative Regulation AR 5144.1, Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process.

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

Superintendent Lianides reported touring a highly technologically-equipped Health Van at East Palo Alto Academy, which will provide services to EPAA students bi-monthly. The van is sponsored by the Children's Health Council and will visit other locations in under-served communities.

President Weiner reminded Board members that he will not be able to attend the next meeting. He requested Board members to provide input on agenda items for the Board Study Session.

Trustee Sarver said he attended the Redwood City 2020 working committee on community schools; today Redwood City 2020 discussed articulation to ensure that data of social services provided in elementary districts are passed on to students' high schools. He also attended the Career Technical Education (CTE) meeting on bringing forward policy to implement CTE graduation requirements that are meaningful to students. He enjoyed the richness surrounding the work of the Small School Committee and is looking forward to a presentation by Linked Learning.

Trustee Du Bois reported attending a program at Sequoia High School where she heard Joanne Bland speak. There will be a SCOPE Mental Health Symposium on November 20.

Trustee Martinez said she will be late to the November 4 meeting. She attended the Menlo-Atherton College and Career Day, Senator Jerry Hill's Town Hall meeting at Cañada College, and the M-A parent education series on drug addiction.

Student Trustee Abby Hartzell reported meeting with the Student Advisory Council (SAC); students are focused on class requirements, college, restructuring Advanced Placement (AP) classes and sports. Reports were made concerning homecoming and spirit weeks. Because most students on SAC were in Leadership, Student Trustee Hartzell requested input on a process to obtain insight and perspectives from all district students.

Board Adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

On a motion by Trustee Martinez, seconded by Trustee Thomsen, the Board of Trustees adjourned its meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen Weiner, President

Alan Sarver, Clerk