

Approved Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Sequoia Union High School District  
Wednesday, February 4, 2015

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| Call to Order                                    | The regular meeting of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees was called to order by President Weiner at 4:33 p.m., on Wednesday, February 4, 2015, in the Birch Conference Room at 480 James Avenue, in Redwood City, California.   |  |
| Recess to Closed Session                         | The Board of Trustees recessed to Closed Session at 4:34 p.m. to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. CONSIDERATION OF STUDENT DISCIPLINES/EXPULSIONS</li><li>b. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS, Agency Designated Representative: James Lianides; Employee Organizations: Sequoia District Teachers Association (SDTA); Sequoia Adult School Federation of Teachers, and American Federation of State, Local, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)</li><li>c. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—POTENTIAL LITIGATION, Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Govt. Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2): One Potential Case</li><li>d. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS<br/>Agency Negotiator: James Lianides; terms and conditions: APN 049-161-020</li></ul> |  |
| Opened Public Session at 5:36 p.m.               | The Board of Trustees returned to Public Session at 5:36 p.m. in Birch Conference Room at 480 James Avenue, in Redwood City, California.   |  |
| Roll Call  | <b>Present:</b><br>Carrie Du Bois<br>Olivia Martinez<br>Alan Sarver<br>Chris Thomsen<br>Allen Weiner   | <b>Absent</b><br>Amanda Breslauer, Student Trustee |
| Pledge of Allegiance                             | Trustee Martinez led the Board of Trustees and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.   |  |
| 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.   |  |
| Approval of Agenda                               | On a motion by Trustee Thomsen, seconded by Trustee Sarver, the Board of Trustees approved the Agenda.   |  |
| Report out on Closed Session                     | President Weiner said the Board took action in Closed Session to unanimously approve, by a vote of five in favor and zero against, the expulsion of students numbered 2014-15-20 and 2014-15-21 (names to appear in official minutes) to expel for the fall 2014-15 semester and the spring 2014-15 semester and established May 15, 2015, as the date that the students may apply for readmission.  |  |
| Approval of Consent Calendar                     | On a motion by Trustee Sarver, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approved the Consent Calendar. Voting “yes,”—Trustees Du Bois, Martinez, Sarver, Thomsen, and Weiner; voting “no”—none, and absent— Student Trustee Breslauer.  |  |
| Approval of Revised Minutes for 1/14/15, meeting | On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the revised minutes for January 14, 2015.  |  |
| Approval of Personnel Recommendations            | On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Personnel Recommendations and the 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 High School’s DECA members to Santa Clara on February 26-March 1, 2015, AVID students to Half Moon Bay on April 10-11, 2015, East Palo Alto Academy students to Southern California colleges on February 11-13, 2015, students to Sacramento and Chico state on March 5, 2015; students to UC Santa Cruz and CSU Monterey Bay on March 9, 2015; students to UC Merced   |  |

and CSU Stanislaus College on April 22, 2015, students to Santa Cruz on February 27, 2015; Menlo-Atherton High School's Boys' Tennis team to Fresno on March 5-7, 2015, Science students to East Palo Alto on March 19 and 20, 2015, students to Washington D.C. on March 14-20, 2015, AVID students to various CA colleges & universities on April 1-3, 2015, Astronomy students to Shasta Lake on May 15-17, 2015, Home Economics student to Sacramento on March 9-10, 2015; Sequoia High School's students to Georgia and Alabama on February 13-19, 2015, BSU students to Sacramento on February 5, 2015; Woodside High School's Cheer team to Anaheim March 19-22, 2015, and AVID students to Southern California on March 5-8, 2015.

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| Approval of CAHSEE Waiver  | On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the requested California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) Waiver.   |
| Declared Property Surplus and Authorized Disposal of Surplus Items     | 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.  |
| Authorized Filing Notice of Completion                                 | On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees authorized the Superintendent to file a Notice of Completion for Scapes Landscaping Services for the renovation of the softball and baseball fields at Carlmont High School.   |
| Approved Hiring Quattrocchi Kwok Architects (QKA)                      | On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved QKA architects for an additional \$100,000 for executive master planning services; master planning and architectural design services for Redwood High School on a time and material basis not to exceed \$45,000, and architectural design services, development of educational specifications, CDE site approvals, and to assist in the CEQA process for 150 Jefferson Street, Menlo Park, on a time and material basis not to exceed \$80,000.                |
| Adopted Res. No. 1534, Designating Individuals to Sign Orders          | On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1534, Designating Individuals Authorized to Sign Orders for the Sequoia Union High School District.   |
| Approval to Hire MIG/TRA Environmental Sciences                        | On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved hiring MIG/TRA Environmental Sciences in the amount of \$93,050 for 150 Jefferson Drive, in Menlo Park.   |
| Approved New Book Pre-pilot Evaluation, titled <i>Zeitown</i>          | On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the piloting of the textbook written by Dave Eggers, entitled <i>Zeitown</i> .  |
| Approval of Amended Lease-lease Back Agreement with Alten Construction | On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the amended Lease-Lease Back agreement with Alten Construction for 1090 Mills Way, Redwood City project, increasing the Guaranteed Maximum Price cost to \$2,883,824.   |
| Approval of East Palo Alto Academy LCAP Update & Budget Adjustments    | On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the East Palo Alto Academy's amended Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) update and budget adjustments for 2014-15.  |
| Special Recognitions   |   |
| Superintendent's Commendations   | Superintendent Lianides recognized teacher leaders certified to provide professional development workshops for other teachers in the district. The ten teachers receiving certification are: <div> <div> Rachel Andres, M-A<br/> Kristin Davis-Karnacki, Carlmont<br/> Debolina Dutta, DO &amp; Sequoia<br/> Josh Engberg, Carlmont </div> <div> Joe Ezrati, Woodside<br/> Linda Garvey, Carlmont<br/> Melissa Hero, District<br/> Erin Holst, Sequoia </div> <div> Molly Nixon, Woodside<br/> Felicia Yang, Woodside </div> </div> |
| Correspondence   | Superintendent Lianides read a letter from the City of San Carlos dated January 27, 2015, indicating that while the City is pleased the district wants to expand by building a small school in San Carlos, it has concerns about the chosen location and suggested working together toward a more positive situation.   |

Public Comment

None

Report on Aspirations Advocates Program

Assistant Superintendent David Reilly reported that the Aspirations Advocate program was in its first stage of implementation districtwide; the program has been collaborating with Quaglia Institute, and there has been significant work at Woodside High School.

Director of Student Services Donald Milhaupt reported that Aspirations Advocates connected dedicated adults with students requiring additional support. This year Aspirations Advocates have been working closely with Dr. Brian Connelly, Field Specialist with Quaglia Institute, to bring uniform direction to each of the site programs while allowing them to maintain independence in creating a program tailored to their needs. Mr. Milhaupt reported that the first semester data indicates that all students in the program have a grade point average of 2.0 or higher, and many students are accruing credits. He said attendance is improving, suspensions are lower, and there have been no expulsions. Students are better connected with school, have a stronger voice, and have built relationships with their teachers. Mr. Milhaupt reviewed the goals and focus of the program.

Presentations were made by Aspirations Advocates: Adele Alvarez, Woodside High School; Jennafer Carson, Menlo-Atherton; Gigi Kruse-Silva, Carlmont High School, and Evelyn Valencia, Sequoia High School. Presentations were also made by Woodside students Isabel Alcala, Mason Carthan, and Darnell Ellis. Sequoia High School students Jeanette Rangel-Ibarra and Cristian Rios also talked about the positive impact Aspirations Advocates has made on their educational experience.

Gigi Kruse-Silva said the goal is to find resources for these students; she has nine teachers who have signed up to be mentors. Jenna Carson reported the students are figuring out that we are the place to go, and we provide an alternative for students who are contemplating walking off campus.

Trustee Sarver said it is exciting hearing from our students who are seeing their lives turning around. He wanted assurance that the door was open for tenth graders and suggested beginning the process earlier by providing support to at-risk eighth graders.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Martinez, David Reilly said the program cost is \$360,000 plus \$40,000 per site for expenses, which is partially funded by a grant. There are 237 students in the program.

Ms. Kruse-Silva said we may not be able to fix their home life situations but we can teach students coping skills.

President Weiner requested that the next report include strategies on managing staff burn-out.

Report on Truancy Patterns

Director of Research and Evaluation Brandon Lee reported that attendance patterns were reviewed for 2012-13 and 2013-14 and focused on students with ten or more full day equivalence of unexcused absences in a given school year. Consideration of both a difference in the number of courses a given student takes and the variance between school sites in the number of available periods in a day were accounted for in the data computations. Mr. Lee noted schools with higher risk populations have more students with higher rates of unexcused absences; and more students with fewer than ten days of unexcused absences are on track to graduate.

Trustee Du Bois wondered if students fail first, instruction may be over their heads, and then they do not attend school. She asked why the district does not utilize the new model of Student Attendance Review Board (SARB), which connects families to services.

Dr. Lianides noted it is likely that these truant students had tough attendance problems in eighth grade. The Aspirations Advocates program will give everyone a chance to graduate from a comprehensive high school, and there will be fewer referrals to Redwood High School.

Assistant Superintendent Bonnie Hansen noted when drop-out rates go down truancy rates go up. Our expulsion numbers are low this year. The number of students graduating from Adult School should be looked at in regard to addressing fifth-year seniors.

Trustee Thomsen suggested because patterns of absenteeism are set early, staff should share data with partner districts. Also important is to create welcoming environments, strong teacher contact, and relevance of curriculum. He requested receiving information on strategies for broadly addressing chronic absenteeism.

Trustee Martinez suggested that when looking at chronic absenteeism perhaps creating a migrant independent study program would lower truancy rates.

President Weiner suggested looking at absentee rates in the eighth grade. He would like to work with the Superintendent on an information item on a prescription and strategy for lowering truancy.

Update on Compass Program for Summer 2015

Assistant Superintendent Bonnie Hansen reported that in December staff met with representatives from Ravenswood City Elementary District and the Boys' and Girls' Club to redesign Compass for the summer of 2015. It was agreed that the students most in need of summer enrichment were those identified by middle school principals as being behaviorally at risk. They also agreed that following Compass students should participate in Team Ascent and also be supported by the Aspirations Advocates. Mrs. Hansen said the summer Compass program will start on June 16 and end on July 10 with class beginning one-half hour later at 8:30 a.m. through 1:30 p.m. Curriculum will focus less on academic remediation and social and behavioral skills necessary for school success. Compass students will take math, English, PE/life skills and aspirations/leadership. The afternoon curriculum will focus on relationship building and personal discovery; Sequoia and Carlmont will offer programs at their sites, while M-A and Woodside will offer shorter program in order to coordinate students' transition to the Boys' and Girls' Club. The Assistant Superintendent reported on the positive data for the students in Team Ascent 2014.

Trustee Du Bois noted kids do better when there are blending activities, and there is a huge challenge in blending students and communities. David Reilly said first students need to focus and then build a foundation of trust with adults.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Thomsen, Bonnie Hansen advised recruiting will start early and will be done in conjunction with the Boys' and Girls' Club.

Measure "A" Construction Budget

Assistant Superintendent Enrique Navas presented data on Measure "A" construction project budgets advising that the numbers will change and updates will be presented at future meetings.

In response to questions posed by President Weiner in regard to the cost of phases I and II projects and whether it is sensible to make adjustments to Phase I projects without seeing the entire bond budget that includes Phase II, Mr. Navas advised we are in the planning stages for Phase II. He noted that we need to be fiscally responsible, want to accommodate the sites, but may not be able to do it all.

Chief Facilities Manager Matthew Zito advised that projects vary from site to site; at Woodside the major construction will be completed in Phase I, at other campuses Phase II will include more renovation and maintenance work, and our southern campus will need additional classrooms in order to meet enrollment in 2018-19, which will also be done in Phase II. Mr. Zito emphasized that the district will save money if the hard construction costs are expended sooner rather than later.

President Weiner said the budget should be reflected across all projects in both phases. Mr. Navas advised that if trade-offs are utilized we need to standardize what we do going forward.

Trustee Martinez noted in Phase I we were trying to address the most urgent needs of the district to accommodate enrollment, and Phase II addressed infrastructure needs. She observed that the someone should be designated to hold the hard line.

Trustee Thomsen suggested when there are real costs available for Phase II projects, the data for phases I and II should be looked at together. Mr. Navas advised that the decision for making cuts should be a shared responsibility.

President Weiner said he would appreciate receiving ongoing updates concerning the entire scope of what both phases of the construction projects would look like.

Approval of Ratified Agreement  
w/Sequoia Adult School  
Federation of Teachers

Assistant Superintendent David Reilly said this ratification of the agreement between the district and Sequoia Adult School Federation of Teachers was negotiated effectively with a productive outcome.

On a motion by Trustee Sarver, seconded by Trustee Thomsen, the Board of Trustees approved the Sequoia Adult School Federation of Teachers (SASFT) ratified agreement for 2014-2017 between Sequoia Union High School District and the SASFT.

Approval of Process to Select  
Interim Board Member

In response a question posed by President Weiner, Board members agreed that they preferred making a provisional appointment to select an interim Board member as opposed to ordering a special election to fill the remainder of Trustee Martinez's term.

President Weiner recommended that Trustees Sarver and Thomsen be on the designated committee because Trustee Du Bois and he were running for re-election in November 2015. This committee would create a written application questionnaire, check eligibility and develop interview questions.

Superintendent Lianides said Trustees Sarver and Thomsen and he would create a questionnaire, for Board discussion on February 11. Because of the timeline, most likely the interviews will need to be held in Public Session at a SUHSD Board of Trustees meeting on March 11.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that the Board of Trustees would utilize the provisional appointment process to select an interim Board member to replace Trustee Martinez; Trustees Alan Sarver and Chris Thomsen were assigned to a committee to develop an application questionnaire as well as interview questions to be presented to the full Board on February 11.

Trustee Du Bois suggested the following question be posed to candidates, "What is your community volunteer experience?"

President Weiner suggested asking the candidates, "What is your vision of the district's strengths and what would be seen as its greatest challenges?"

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

Superintendent Lianides reported the Redwood Implementation Task Force will start meeting next week. He announced a reception for Trustee Martinez will be held prior to the Board meeting on February 18.

Trustee Weiner suggested that Dr. Brian Connelly, of Quaglia Institute, present information at a future Board meeting.

Trustee Martinez attended an amazing Science Fair at Hillview Middle School. She announced that her last Board meeting will be February 18, 2015.

Trustee Sarver will attend tomorrow's Four Corners meeting, and next week will be at the two-by-two meeting with Ravenswood City Elementary District.

Trustee Du Bois attended a San Mateo County School Boards Association meeting on stress. She noted that kids from East Palo Alto are attending Sojourn to the Past, which has made an amazing impact on their lives.

Trustee Thomsen said he along with his colleagues, listened to Denise Pope describe challenges and successes. He suggested a future Board item in regard to committing funds to a reserve account excluded from the reserve cap; he noted the Board should also re-examine policy on recommended reserves.

Trustee Sarver said he and Trustee Thomsen attend a Technology Integration Council meeting, and noted that the district does not have an integration requirement on technology competency and a description of what it means to be technology competent.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:17 p.m. On a motion by Trustee Thomsen, seconded by Trustee Sarver, the Board of Trustees adjourned its meeting at 10:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen Weiner, President

Alan Sarver, Clerk