

Approved Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Sequoia Union High School District
Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Call to Order	The regular meeting of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees was called to order by President Weiner at 4:31 p.m., on Wednesday, February 18, 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 4:33 p.m. to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. CONSIDER STUDENT DISCIPLINES/EXPULSIONSb. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS, Agency Designated Representative: James Lianides; Employee Organizations: Sequoia District Teachers Association (SDTA)c. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS Agency Negotiator: James Lianides; terms and conditions: APN 049-161-020d. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE/LEAVE REQUESTS, pursuant to Section 45195 of the Education Codee. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION Subdivision (a) of Section 54956.9 of the California Government Code<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student v. SUHSD OAH Case No. 2014100944	
Reception Honoring Trustee Olivia Martinez	Superintendent Lianides recognized Trustee Olivia Martinez, who has served as a distinguished member of the SUHSD Board since December 1999. He advised that for 16 years she has provided major contributions utilizing her expertise in education, administration and her deep commitment to student achievement. She has played an active role in the passage of five General Obligation Bonds totaling \$633 million. The Superintendent said he and the Board extends their best wishes to Dr. Martinez for good health and continued success in her future endeavors. Dr. Lianides read a letter of recognition from SUHSD Superintendent Emeritus Patrick Gemma. There were formal presentations by members of the offices of Assembly Member Kevin Mullin, Senator Jerry Hill as well as Redwood City Mayor Jeffrey Gee and the City of Menlo Park.	
Opened Public Session 6:05 p.m.	President Weiner opened the Public Session of the regular meeting at 6:05 p.m. in Birch Conference Room at 480 James Avenue, Redwood City, California.	
Roll Call	Present: Amanda Breslauer, Student Trustee Carrie Du Bois Olivia Martinez Alan Sarver Chris Thomsen Allen Weiner	Absent None
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 Student Numbered 2014-15-22 (name to appear in official minutes) to expel for the remainder of the 2014-15 school year and suspend enforcement of the expulsion order allowing the student to attend Redwood High School. President Weiner reported that the Board also took action in Closed Session to deny the request for a paid leave of absence of an employee identified by Number 5096.	

Minutes for 2/18/15, Board Meeting

Page 2

Approval of Consent Calendar	On a motion by Trustee Sarver, seconded by Trustee Thomsen, the Board of Trustees approved the Consent Calendar. Voting “yes,”— Student Trustee Breslauer; Trustees Du Bois, Martinez, Sarver, Thomsen, and Weiner; voting “no”—none, and absent—none.
Approval of Minutes for for 2/4/15, meeting	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the minutes for the February 4, 2015, Board meeting.
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 East Palo Alto Academy students to UC Santa Cruz on February 27, 2015, students to Pinnacles National Park on March 7-8, 2015; Menlo-Atherton High School Boys’ Golf Team to Glendora on March 7-9, 2015, Boys’ Golf to Fairfax on March 22-23, 2015, Science students to East Palo Alto on February 23-24, 2015; Redwood High School students (and some Menlo-Atherton students) to Lake Tahoe on March 29, 2015; Sequoia High School Key Club members to Anaheim on March 13-15, 2015, ASB students to San Jose on March 28-30, 2015, Varsity Baseball Team to Selma CA on March 30, 2015–April 1, 2015, and Woodside High School students to Ashland, Oregon on March 26-29, 2015.
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.
Acceptance of Monthly Financial Reports	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted the Monthly Financial Reports for January 2015.
Approval of Warrants	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Warrants for January 2015, totaling \$4,516,945.69
Adoption of Res. No. 1538, Land Use Covenant & Operation, Maintenance Agreement for Myrtle Street in East Palo Alto	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1538, for the Land Use Covenant and Agreement, and the Operation and the Maintenance Agreement Between SUHSD and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control for 980 Myrtle Street in East Palo Alto.
Approval of Contract for Environmental Testing Services	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the contract with Kelco Services Inc., for environmental testing services.
Report on District Contracts Under \$35,000	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees ratified approval of the report on district contracts under \$35,000.
Approval of Contract for Servicing HVAC Equipment	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the contract with Southland Industries to service Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) equipment.
Approval of Contract for Restorative Justice Services	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the contract with Remi Sobomehin for Restorative Justice facilitating and mediation services at East Palo Alto Academy.
Approval of CAHSEE Waivers	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) waivers requested.
Adoption of Res. No. 1539, Non-reemployment of Prob. Certificated Employment	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1539, Release of Designated Probationary Certificated Staff.
Authorization to Hire Architect for M-A Interim Housing Project & Fire Suppression Improvements	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees authorized the Superintendent to hire LPA Inc., in the amount of \$92,000 to provide architectural services for the M-A Interim Housing project and Fire Sprinkler System improvements.

Approval of Contract for Differentiation Instruction & Common Core-EPAA Teachers	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the contract with Elevated Achievement Group, Inc., for Differentiation Instruction and Common Core State Standards for East Palo Alto Academy teachers.
--	--

Special Recognition

Superintendent's Commendations	Superintendent Lianides noted that this evening the Board was celebrating the extraordinary services of Trustee Olivia Martinez.
-----------------------------------	--

Correspondence	None
----------------	------

Public Comment	Carlmont Parent and Arts Council Member Lisa Costello suggested that the Board consider adding the position of Theatre Manager, with benefits, to the 2015-16 budget. The Theatre Managers are essential to maintaining the Performing Arts Centers (PAC) at the four sites.
----------------	--

Carlmont Arts Council Co-chairman Toby McMillen said the Performing Arts Center is a jewel of the entire county; the theatre needs constant attention to be maintained and safe for students. He advocated for making Theatre Manager a permanent position.

Carlmont Choir Director Genevieve Tep advised that there are 1,000 students being served by the PAC as well as the community. Three bond measures were passed by the voters to build theatres at Carlmont, Menlo-Atherton and Woodside high schools. These are professional theatres that need to be maintained and run by professionals—we are fortunate to have professional theatre managers but cannot compete with what other school districts offer their theatre managers. She recommended that the Board make Theatre Managers a permanent classified management position.

President Weiner said he wanted to take this opportunity to thank Trustee Martinez for her major contributions and deep commitment to the students of this district. He thanked Dr. Martinez for her exemplary service.

Presentation and Discussion of the Strategic Plan	Superintendent Lianides reported that last September the Board approved proceeding with the Strategic Plan; time was taken to develop a survey which received a strong response, and that information helped guide the committee and the sub-committee to develop this draft plan.
--	--

Pivot Learning Partners Consultant Barbara Young said the plan is very student-centered, and the components include:

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND CORE VALUES

Equity—Sub-committee Member and Parent Maria Hilton said a diverse community must be committed to ensuring equity in access and opportunity to implementing academic and extra-curricular program structures that best serves the interests of all students.

Environment—Sub-committee Member and Sequoia High School Teacher Kelly Redmon advised that academic, social, and personal growth requires a fostering, safe, and engaging environment. All members of the educational community will strive to create and sustain the most ideal environments for students.

Teaching and Learning—Sub-committee Member and Parent Susie Peyton stated that effective teaching focused on core academic skills will ensure all students have options to pursue a variety of pathways after graduation. The District is committed to providing a professional environment for all staff characterized by a growth mindset, continuous professional development, and respect.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Academics

Students will:

- Experience a college-preparatory academic program aimed at the completion of the UC/CSU “a-g” requirements and the development of analytical and communication skills;
- Recognize and experience the connections between diverse disciplines;
- Have the confidence, understanding, and skills to engage effectively in local, national, and international civic contexts;
- Be welcomed, challenged, and supported to take the most rigorous courses possible with consideration for balance and well being.

Passion for Learning

Students will:

- Thrive as learners by engaging in experiences driven by intellectual curiosity and discovery;
- Choose courses from an academic program comprised of a variety of programmatic options;
- Explore the possibilities of connecting personal interests and talents to college and career options.

Support

Students will:

- Identify post-graduation aspirations, develop a means to attain such aspirations, and be inspired to strive toward these aspirations in the present;
- Receive academic, social, and personal support from peers, mentors, parents, and staff;
- Develop the confidence and resilience to pursue intellectual and personal goals.

Committee Member Trustee Thomsen noted that compressing the data was difficult. To him the purpose of the Strategic Plan is a way of expressing guiding principles. He asked about the district’s attitude toward “a-g” college requirements.

Sequoia District Teachers’ Association (SDTA) President Edith Salvatore said she appreciated SDTAs representation on the committee. She was pleased to see consideration noted of the teachers’ well-being included in the verbiage. She was concerned about the reliance on the word “academic” and the focus on core academic skills; she stated that Art and Career Technical Education (CTE) teachers are working toward enhancement of the high school experience for students.

Trustee Du Bois said she was excited to see the presentation; her hesitation is that a research paper she read stated that a focus on college prep for all makes it more difficult for the students who are struggling.

Assistant Superintendent Bonnie Hansen said we all shared your concern, and that is why the words “aimed at” were included in the plan under “Strategic Direction.”

Kelly Redmon noted the District English Learners Advisory Council (DELAC) wanted assurance that their students had the opportunity to experience “a-g” college-required courses.

Trustee Sarver noted what was extraordinary about this process is the unprecedented proactive outreach and response received. The plan is a description of the goals of this district which will keep us moving forward.

Student Trustee Breslauer suggested including the words “balance” and “well-being” under Academics; she asked about the inclusion of technology.

Trustee Martinez said the plan looks impressive; it could be more inclusive by noting that students can seek out a two-year community college degree.

President Weiner said he did participate in a number of the meetings; every comment need not be aggregated, and the Board should provide its own strategic direction. Our core value is that we want our children to learn; which, he advised, should be noted first. President Weiner said he has resisted setting University of California (UC) “a-g” college requirements as a goal; however, most colleagues are willing to do that. We know how important non-traditional academic experiences can be for our students in creating a connection to school and developing well-rounded members of society. There is no disagreement moving forward with “a-g” as long as students are not left behind.

Trustee Thomsen noted that the “a-g” requirements are only listed once in the plan, and it is more about the joy of learning.

Trustee Martinez related the history of vocational education and college prep courses, and advised that the Board can only proceed how best it can at the time without excluding students.

Susie Peyton, a parent representative to the Strategic Planning Committee, said it comes back to the support and counseling students and families receive. She said the plan is good, and suggested that students participate in the implementation planning.

Superintendent Lianides said he did not see that there were significant changes in the Strategic Plan and suggested the subcommittee reconvene, and work the changes into the document. There was general consensus to bring the SUHSD Strategic Plan back to the Board on March 4 for discussion and action.

Continuation of Budget Discussion from 2/11/15, Meeting Superintendent Lianides advised that at the Study Session on February 11 the Board was presented with the budget analyzed by function, program, staffing allocations, etc. Staff was requested to bring back recommendations as to how to best organize and align expenditures to major strategic planning themes and/or key Board priorities such as a safety net and/or reducing the achievement gap.

Assistant Superintendent David Reilly presented a draft of the Strategic Budgeting graphic utilizing the three Strategic Directions in the Strategic Plan: Academics, Passion for Learning, and Support; which illustrates how they are linked to the SUHSD Dashboard. He noted the graphic is a work-in-progress that segues from the Strategic plan to the Implementation Plan.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Weiner, the Superintendent advised that resources devoted to English Learners’ language-based support is reflected under “Improving Graduation Rates,” which is perceived as an outcome. He suggested inserting sub-categories between the two that include language-based and counseling support. President Weiner said there is a distinct set of challenges with this population, and language instruction is where we can make the difference.

In response to a statement by Trustee Sarver, David Reilly said the Special Education requirement is covered under “Core Instruction,” and the focus is on teaching.

Trustee Du Bois said she liked the diagram and noted that the district is spending great amounts of money on Professional Development, and she asked if more funds should be placed elsewhere.

Dr. Lianides said this is the first step in identifying the funds in each category, and the next step will be looking at achievement. It is a starting point from which to move the Implementation Plan forward and will lead to determination if this is the best way to organize budget information.

Trustee Sarver noted that it would be a valuable exercise to go through a line-item budget analysis. He also suggested calling a district-wide meeting of theatre managers and performing arts department staff to explore best practices to develop a model to secure and retain key resources—which is an area of significant community outreach and student engagement. Trustee Martinez seconded the remark.

Trustee Thomsen said the graphic is helpful in thinking about systemic change where a big impact is achieved. He liked the focus while measuring specific populations.

Edith Salvatore suggested inserting drop-down menus in the graphic. She wanted to call the Board members' attention to the fact that we are seeing a crisis among our School Psychologists who are overworked and provide a vital role in supporting Special Education students.

President Weiner said if the Board agreed, it might be helpful in moving forward for staff to present data on targeted populations where intervention might be appropriate.

Public Hearing

None

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

Superintendent Lianides reported meeting with CEO George John of Rocketfuel, Congress Woman Jackie Speier, and SMCCD Governing Board Member Tom Mohr primarily to recognize a group of students participating in STEM; however there was opportunity to discuss business partnerships and ways business can be connected with education. Mr. John said his biggest challenge is hiring and filling positions; and he preferred to hire trained local people.

Trustee Martinez thanked everyone for their comments and said she has experienced an amazing journey. She leaves with many cherished memories, and knows there is a great future ahead for Sequoia Union High School District.

Trustee Sarver said they had become Board members during a transformative period of moving the district forward, and others will come and continue that upward arc. Public education can never be good enough for our kids. He thanked Dr. Martinez for the way she supported this district.

Trustee Thomsen said people will remember Olivia Martinez for the \$633 million in bond measures she worked tirelessly to pass. She thinks about students first, respects the professional staff, and has an amazing ability to provide a different perspective. He thanked Trustee Martinez for her many years of service.

Student Trustee Breslauer said she admired the passion Trustee Martinez brought to the Board, and she wished her the very best in her new endeavor.

Meeting Adjourned to
Closed Session at 8:27 p.m.

On a motion by Trustee Martinez, seconded by Trustee Sarver, the Board of Trustees adjourned to Closed Session at 8:27 p.m.

Closed Session Adjourned at 9:00

Closed Session adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen Weiner, President

Alan Sarver, Clerk