

Approved **Revised** Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Sequoia Union High School District  
Wednesday, March 4, 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 4:32 p.m., on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, in the Birch Conference Room at 480 James Avenue, in Redwood City, California.												
Recess to Closed Session	<p>The Board of Trustees recessed to Closed Session at 4:33 p.m. to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS, Agency Designated Representative: James Lianides; Employee Organizations: Sequoia District Teachers Association (SDTA)</li><li>b. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS Agency Negotiator: James Lianides; terms and conditions: APN 049-161-020</li><li>c. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE/COMPLAINT, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957</li></ul>												
Opened Public Session 5:43 p.m.	President Weiner opened the Public Session of the regular meeting at 5:43 p.m. in Birch Conference Room at 480 James Avenue, Redwood City, California.												
Roll Call	<table><tr><td><b>Present:</b></td><td><b>Absent</b></td></tr><tr><td>Amanda Breslauer, Student Trustee</td><td>None</td></tr><tr><td>Carrie Du Bois</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>	<b>Present:</b>	<b>Absent</b>	Amanda Breslauer, Student Trustee	None	Carrie Du Bois		Alan Sarver		Chris Thomsen		Allen Weiner	
<b>Present:</b>	<b>Absent</b>												
Amanda Breslauer, Student Trustee	None												
Carrie Du Bois													
Alan Sarver													
Chris Thomsen													
Allen Weiner													
Pledge of Allegiance	Trustee Thomsen 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 four in favor and zero against, to release and reassign a certificated administrator, Employee Numbered 1541, (name to appear in official minutes) pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.												
Amended Consent Calendar	<p>Removed and voted upon later in the meeting.</p> <p>8d. Approval to Hire Consultant for Constructability Reviews of Phase One Projects.</p>												
Approval of Amended Consent Calendar	On a motion by Trustee Du Bois, seconded by Trustee Sarver, the Board of Trustees approved the amended Consent Calendar. Voting “yes,”— Student Trustee Breslauer; Trustees Du Bois, Sarver, Thomsen, and Weiner; voting “no”—none, and absent—none.												
Approval of Minutes for Feb. 11 and 18, 2015, meetings	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the minutes for the February 11 and 18, 2015, Board meetings.												
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 SOS students to Los Angeles on March 27, 2015, ASB to Fremont on June 1, 2015; Menlo-Atherton Special Education students to Pescadero and Santa Cruz on April 7-8, 2015, Girls’ Lacrosse to Palos Verdes and Santa Barbara on April 17-20, 2015, Choir students to Santa Cruz on March 20, 2015, Jazz/Concert Bands to Anaheim on March 27-29, 2015, Orchestra to New York on April 2-5, 2015; students to Point Reyes National Seashore on May 3-5, 2015, students to												

Tomales Bay on May 16-17, 2015; Redwood High School students to Point Bonita YMCA on April 7, 2015,; Sequoia High School students to San Francisco on March 17, 2015, students to Hidden Villa on March 31-April 1, 2015, Debate Team to Santa Rosa on April 10-11, 2015, BSU members to Modesto on March 20-22, 2015; Woodside High School students to Tomales Bay May 16-17, 2015, and Varsity Softball Team to Watsonville on March 7, 2015.

Adopted Res. No. 1535, 2015-16 Report for SUHSD Maintenance Assessment District

On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1535, Directing Preparation of the 2015-16 Engineer's Report for the SUHSD Maintenance Assessment District and authorizing the Superintendent to enter into agreements as outlined and attached to the resolution.

Adoption of Res. No. 1536, Release and Non-reemployment of Temp. Certificated Employees

On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1536, Release and Non-reemployment of Temporary Certificated Employees.

Adoption of Res. No. 1537, Non-reemployment of Probationary Certificated Empl.

On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1537, Non-reemployment of Probationary Certificated Employees.

Acceptance of Gifts

On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted the gifts and requests the Superintendent to send a letter of appreciation to the donor where appropriate.

Acceptance of Grant from Startup Education

On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted the grant from Startup Education, and requests the Superintendent to send a letter of appreciation to Startup Education.

Ratified Approval of Amended Contract w/Infinite Campus

On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees ratified approval of the amendment to extend term of contract for annual licensing fees for Infinite Campus in the amount of \$78,056.

Adoption of Res. No. 1540, Adopting Bidder Pre-qualifi-Process for SUHSD

On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1540, Adoption Bidder Pre-qualification Process for the Sequoia Union High School District.

Approval of Proposal to Provide Commissioning Services for Phase One Construction Project

On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the proposal and awards the contract for Commissioning Services for Phase One projects to Glumac in the amount of \$59,550.

Special Recognition

Superintendent's Commendations None

Correspondence None

Public Comment None

Sabbatical Leave Report

Sequoia High School Instructor Laura Larkin reviewed her professional history and said she took her sabbatical after completing her 11<sup>th</sup> year of teaching and very much appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with teachers across the Nation. Ms. Larkin said during her sabbatical she completed an online Math course at Cañada College, Probability and Statistics; visited International Baccalaureate (IB) schools in eight states and Canada; in addition, she mentored the Sequoia High School Robotics Team to its first World Championship in St. Louis.

Ms. Larkin reported coming away with the impression that Sequoia's IB program is working correctly by including any students who want to challenge themselves with an IB course. She reported experiencing disappointment in her research of Common Core as the schools she visited were still waiting for direction from their district offices.

Trustee Thomsen told Ms. Larkin that her report was excellent and makes a case for having a sabbatical program. He believes that every high school math student should take a statistics course.

Trustee Du Bois said she thought Sabbaticals was a great use of district funds and asked about Ms. Larkin's impressions of her visit to an inter-city high-poverty school.

#### Finalization of Oral Interviews & Selection Process for Appointment of Interim Board Member

President Weiner noted that oral interviews for Interim Board Member are on Wednesday, March 11. The committee comprised of Trustees Sarver and Thomsen have begun developing questions that will be asked of all candidates.

Superintendent Lianides said he will meet with Trustees Sarver and Thomsen early next week and finalize the interview questions.

Trustee Du Bois expressed concern that time was needed in order to get to know the candidates. Trustee Thomsen advised that it had been discussed to schedule candidates and allow 30 or 45 minutes per person.

Following discussion it was decided to interview the candidates individually for between 30 minutes and 40 minutes, depending upon the number of candidates. The interview questions would not be released in advance.

Following discussion it was decided that Board members will deliberate and decide if there is enough support to take a vote on a top candidate. If there did not appear to be a top candidate, each Board member would then orally identify their choice. There would then be more discussion to narrowing it down; and if needed, to eventually take it down to another level.

#### Discuss Planning Process for Small School in Menlo Park

Superintendent Lianides advised that at the Joint Board Study Session with San Mateo County Community College District on February 25 Board members explored partnering in the development of a small school in Menlo Park, and there seemed to be consensus to continue that dialogue. The discussion focused on Linked Learning, an Early College model, and business partnerships; he noted there is more work to do to hone in on a concept upon which to build this school. Dr. Lianides proposed developing a broader process, such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), Biotech, and referred to David Reilly's presentation that further develops the concept pulling together key items creating unique learning experiences and also attracts students. Dr. Lianides requested direction from the Board.

Trustee Du Bois said she worried about a single theme; she liked the idea of partnering with the community college district. She likes the concept of a "Classical Education" experience and suggested there be lots of options at the small school. She wants to attract students from all communities.

Trustee Thomsen said we may want to redirect the focus. Most of us see this small school as a unique opportunity and asked about the goals. He liked the idea of working with the community college district but said it is exploratory.

President Weiner said if we had a clearer sense of what the goals are, a process could be developed. Trustee Sarver noted he has talked about Linked Learning for two years, but it has not been agreed upon.

Assistant Superintendent David Reilly said he is proposing a neo-modern approach to school design; whereby the students stand at the center and the teachers and staff surround them. Mr. Reilly proposed the key building blocks of the small school be Linked Learning, STEM, partnerships with community college and industry; all of which are connected to the Strategic Plan. He listed considerations for the school structure and noted program should be aspirations-based. The Assistant Superintendent reported that next steps include bringing together a task force of all stakeholders, and presenting the concepts to parents and community members.

Bonnie Hansen, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, said she liked Mr. Reilly's proposal and said it is an exciting opportunity to work with a smaller group of students. She was also supportive of working with the community college district, because it allows under-represented students to get that community college experience.

Trustee Sarver said last week's meeting with the community college district was a positive undertaking. He likes the bolder structure design potential for Common Core. These small schools are the formative opportunity for our district and the way we serve our students and the community. This needs to be a Board plan that transforms the school experience, and there is community support for this approach.

Chief Facilities Officer Matthew Zito advised that in order for the district's consultant for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to proceed we need direction concerning a few elements. He asked if the program would be STEM oriented.

Trustee Du Bois expressed caution that new programs are not usually successful when dealing with under-served students; and time should be spent on looking at best practices and what works.

Trustee Sarver advised that Linked Learning is bringing up the most at-risk students. In response to a question posed by Trustee Sarver, Assistant Superintendent Reilly said the program would be student-driven and on any given year Common Core could be engaged; there could be a variety of specific themes.

Student Trustee Breslauer said it sounds cool and noted that students will miss out on activities like performing arts. She asked what colleges would see on students' transcripts. Mr. Reilly said whatever design we use we are going to have extra-curricular sections and standards-based report cards.

President Weiner requested examples of this approach, and said we have to know that if we sell it the will students come. President Weiner recommended looking to the district's leadership to build a model.

Superintendent Lianides advised that we are looking at the fall of 2018 to open the small school, and right now we need to know key pieces of certain elements that can continue the process to stay on target for 2018. In response to a question posed by President Weiner, Dr. Lianides advised for the purposes of CEQA, our best estimate of where the students would come from would be one-third from East Palo Alto/Belle Haven, one-third from Redwood City/North Fair Oaks area, and one-third from Menlo Park, west of Highway 101.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Thomsen, Matthew Zito advised that there is enough time to design the elements and the building will be flexible and include spaces for collaboration and learning activities.

Assistant Superintendent Hansen said she shared Trustee Thomsen's concern to do this right, and she suggested bringing back to the Board some iterations of the design plan because there is a little time to do this well.

Assistant Superintendent Enrique Navas said there is an escalation of costs on the horizon, and in reality we are dealing with limited resources.

Matthew Zito stated if there are quality teachers and a good principal you can mitigate having a clear vision—people are attracted by quality. The danger is designing a school by committee; the focus should be on two or three things, and Common Core should drive the focus.

President Weiner recommended that staff brings back a list of **principles** to be converted to recommendations. We want to build a school that is based on learning and delivering Common Core skills that advances exploration of the Quaglia goals. Important principles should include a programmatic vision; it may be project-based Linked Learning or non-Linked Learning with a particular career theme within an industry.

Matthew Zito suggested curricular enhanced features not offered at the comprehensive high school. He noted that Ravenswood district staff is very interested in higher college expectations for its students.

	<p>Superintendent Lianides said he would develop a mission concept paper that covers these main points and will bring it back to the Board for discussion.</p>
Public Hearing	<p>None</p>
Adoption of Strategic Plan	<p>Assistant Superintendent Bonnie Hansen presented the most recent edition of the SUHSD Strategic Plan.</p> <p>There was discussion and agreement by the Board, to add a fourth bullet point under “Passion for Learning” to read as follows: Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Have access to courses and programs to promote their development as well-rounded members of society.”</li></ul> <p>Mrs. Hansen said she would insert the additional bullet and would post the Strategic Plan on the district website.</p> <p>On a motion by Trustee Sarver, seconded by Trustee Du Bois, the Board of Trustees adopted the SUHSD Strategic Plan as amended.</p>
Approval to Hire Consultant for Constructability Reviews of Phase One Projects	<p>In response to questions posed by Trustee Thomsen, Superintendent Lianides advised that the Board approves all contracts over \$35,000. This proposal is from a highly-skilled estimator. The firm will help save the district money, correct potential issues, and create a smoother construction process.</p> <p>On a motion by Trustee Thomsen, seconded by Trustee Sarver, the Board of Trustees approved hiring Greystone West Company in the amount of \$95,000 to provide constructability review services for Carlmont, Menlo-Atherton, Sequoia and Woodside high schools’ Phase One projects.</p>
Board of Trustees’/Supt’s. Comments & Committee Reports	<p>Superintendent Lianides reported that the selection process for the Carlmont and Menlo-Atherton high school principals was moving along; the application window has closed, and the consultant is working on evaluating the candidates. We anticipate receiving input from parents and students, and should bring recommendations to the Board on April 15. Dr. Lianides said Open Enrollment closed a week ago, and there were 40 percent fewer applications than last year. We were able to accommodate most requests; the Board will receive a report at the next meeting.</p> <p>Trustee Sarver he attended the PTA Founders’ Day lunch, where the County honored Woodside Instructor Arlene Kolber for her 48 years of working with students and Team 100 Robotics. He visited the BUILD program, which was exciting. He enjoyed the Carlmont Chamber Music night, where he saw Student Trustee Breslauer perform. Sadly, he attended a memorial service for Carlmont staff member Nan Herrington, who was a remarkable force in the Belmont community. Tomorrow evening we will attend the Sequoia Awards, and will soon meet with the Ravenswood Two-by-Two and Four Corners groups.</p> <p>Trustee Du Bois said she visited Stanford Design School, interviewed several Kent Award applicants, and attended a San Mateo County School Boards Association program on equity and education.</p> <p>Student Trustee Breslauer reported that last Friday Carlmont held its Heritage Fair, among the activities was a performance by the Black Student Union which included reference to issues of the day and a poem about equality.</p>
Meeting Adjourned at 8:56 p.m.	<p>On a motion by Trustee Sarver, seconded by Trustee Thomsen, the Board of Trustees adjourned its meeting at 8:56 p.m.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p>Allen Weiner, President</p> <p>Alan Sarver, Vice President/Clerk</p>