

Approved Revised Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Sequoia Union High School District
Wednesday, April 1, 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 4:35 p.m., on Wednesday, April 1, 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 4:36 p.m. to:</p> <p>a. CONSIDERATION OF STUDENT DISCIPLINES/EXPULSIONS</p> <p>b. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS, Agency Designated Representative: James Lianides; Employee Organizations: Sequoia District Teachers Association (SDTA)</p> | | |
| Opened Public Session 5:36 p.m. | President Weiner opened the Public Session of the regular meeting at 5:36 p.m. in Birch Conference Room at 480 James Avenue, Redwood City, California. | | |
| Roll Call | <table><tr><td>Present: Amanda Breslauer, Student Trustee Carrie Du Bois Alan Sarver Chris Thomsen Allen Weiner</td><td>Absent Laura Martinez, Trustee</td></tr></table> <p>Also Absent: Enrique Navas, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services</p> | Present: Amanda Breslauer, Student Trustee Carrie Du Bois Alan Sarver Chris Thomsen Allen Weiner | Absent Laura Martinez, Trustee |
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| Pledge of Allegiance | Sandra Rick, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, led the Board of Trustees and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. | | |
| Invitation to the Audience | <p>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.</p> <p>On a motion by Trustee Sarver, seconded by Trustee Thomsen, the Board of Trustees approved amending the agenda and moved Agenda Item 12b. Discussion of San Mateo County All-Mail Ballot Pilot Program, to be discussed prior to the Information Items.</p> | | |
| Approval of the Amended Agenda | On a motion by Trustee Sarver, seconded by Trustee Thomsen, the Board of Trustees approved the Agenda as amended. | | |
| 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, Trustees Du Bois, Sarver, Thomsen, and Weiner, with zero against, to expel students numbered 2014-15-25 and 2014-15-26 (names to appear in official minutes)—expel for the spring 2014-2015 semester and established December 15, 2015, as the date the students may apply for readmission. | | |
| Amended Consent Calendar | <p>Removed and voted upon later in the meeting.</p> <p>8g. Approval of CTE New Course Proposals: Mobile Apps Development and Drama I</p> | | |
| Approval of Amended Consent Calendar | On a motion by Trustee Thomsen, 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—Trustee Laura Martinez. | | |
| Approval of Amended Minutes for 3/11 & 3/18/15, Brd. Mtgs. | On a motion on the Consent Calendar the Board of Trustees approved the amended minutes for the March 11 and March 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’s JSA Club to Santa Clara on April 24-26, 2015; East Palo Academy | | |

students to Point Reyes on April 10-12, 2015, students to Muir Beach on April 18, 2015, students to Humboldt State University and Trinidad Beach on May 6-7, 2015; Menlo-Atherton High School AVID students to Santa Cruz on April 20-22, 2015, FHA-HERO students to Fresno on April 25-28, 2015, students to Cal Poly on May 3-4, 2015, and Woodside High School's AVID students to UC Santa Cruz and Beach Boardwalk on April 9, 2015.

Authorized Declaring
Property as Surplus

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.

Auth. Purchase of Microsoft
Software Licenses

On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees authorized the Superintendent to approve the purchase of Microsoft Software Licenses from PC Mall Gov. in the amount of \$62,093.

Approval of Job Description of
Guidance Counselor

On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the job description for Guidance Counselor.

Approval of Contract w/Biotech.
Ed. Consort for Gene Connection

On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the contract with Bay Area Biotechnology Education Consortium (BABEC) for the Gene Connection program.

Approval of Amended Agre. w/
Spencer Assoc. for Architect Svcs.

On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the amended agreement with Spencer Associates for the Culinary Arts Renovation Project in the amount of \$102,800 and the Room 128 Science Conversion Project in the amount of \$71,500 at Sequoia High School.

Special Recognition

Superintendent's Commendations

Superintendent Lianides recognized parents of Redwood High School students who recently completed the first Parent Project Class, where parents learn and practice specific prevention and intervention strategies for destructive behaviors. The parents recognized were:

Daniel Chavez
Martina Corona
Patricia Elizondo

Marcelina Hernandez
Sergio Tapia

Josefina Arate
Rafaela Zamora

These classes are facilitated by Carmina Chavez, District Parent Coordinator, and Jennifer Acuna of the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center. Parent programs are also underway at Sequoia and Menlo-Atherton high schools.

Public Comment

None

Correspondence

None

Discuss San Mateo County
All-mailed Ballot Pilot Program

Superintendent Lianides said that last summer Governor Brown signed into law Assembly Bill (AB)2028, which authorizes San Mateo County all-mailed ballot pilot program to conduct up to three elections wholly by mail. This program provides a unique opportunity for all jurisdictions in the county, including SUHSD, to increase voter participation while substantially reducing the costs of conducting local elections. District voters will benefit by being able to vote by mail while still having polling place voting options on Election Day.

Jim Irizarry, Assistant Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder, said San Mateo County has been selected as the only urban county in the State. He noted that 57 percent of our voters vote absentee, and 77 percent cast ballots by mail. The potential benefits include increased voter registration and turnout, faster results with fewer human errors, and reduced costs. Assembly Bill 2028 gives the County authority to conduct up to three all-mailed ballot elections from 2015-17, which would not include the presidential elections in 2016. The success of the project is dependent upon participation of all cities and school district governing boards holding elections on that day. The County needs to have received resolutions from all entities 88 days prior to holding the all-mailed ballot election. In response to a question posed by President Weiner, Jamie Kuryllo, San Mateo County Registration and Elections Division, advised the County is predicting that 30 entities will be holding elections on November 3, 2015. She advised that more than 60 percent of voters received vote-by-mail ballot. Voters can still vote in person, there will be a ballot drop-off location 28 days prior to the election, and on election day the Election Center will be open until 8:00 p.m.

Ms. Kuryllo noted that resolutions need to be sent to the County by August 7, 2015, for the General Election on November 3, 2015.

Trustee Thomsen said the County is well-served by the Office of Elections, Assessor-Clerk-Recorder. He liked to go to the voting place but said we need to catch up with the times, and he would support this program.

In response to a question posed by President Weiner, there was agreement among the Board members to direct the Superintendent to move forward with the resolution to hold the all-mailed ballot election.

Update on Strategic Budgeting

Dr. Lianides said last month the Board adopted the Strategic Plan, and the next step in the process is to look at where the district is spending its dollars. Bonnie Hansen, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, has taken the lead and is presenting a draft of the Strategic Budgeting Chart that includes programs and budgets. He noted that this was a work in progress.

Bonnie Hansen reported the chart reflects three areas of focus where the district is spending its money: Academics, Support, and Passion for Learning. The largest area of expense is under Academics, and is Core Instruction (based on a six-period school day). She reviewed each of the key areas on the chart, provided budgetary information, and noted several areas where there was overlap—Professional Development overlapped into all three of the focus areas.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Thomsen, Superintendent Lianides advised that as the chart is refined better descriptors will be provided.

In response to a question posed by President Weiner, Superintendent Lianides said he noticed that sites get discretionary money from various sources that used to be categorical funds. The next step is to identify what is similar and different and the why and how the sites are utilizing these funds; this will help us be more strategic as we look at the budget. Most important is aligning strategic planning and addressing the key areas on the Dashboard. This chart needs further aggregation, and in time this will be a powerful instrument for the district.

Trustee Du Bois said she is interested in graduation rates, athletics, Aspirations Advocates; and looking at how much is spent determining whether the investment is working. She noted that transparency helps us with the community and these may be good questions for a retreat. In response to question posed by Trustee Du Bois, Superintendent Lianides said that his next step is developing a format that could easily be updated annually and aligned with the goals.

Trustee Sarver said this chart is something we have been talking about for a long time, and it has great value and transparency. If we can identify the pass-through money and how it is used, a more accurate picture can be provided of the services the district is providing.

Student Trustee Breslauer suggested putting the chart on the website with an explanation of the acronyms.

President Weiner said this is a potentially beneficial tool. Programs funded by outside revenue sources should be so noted. There should also be categories for “Administration” and “Infrastructure”; **some things do not fit into academics and should be called what they are. Where budget items include both revenues and costs, the budget instrument should show**ing the “net” rather than the “gross” payments. Some things do not fit into academics and should be called what they are. Ultimately, President Weiner said he is hoping for a tool that is not only diagnostic but prescriptive.

Presentation of District’s Initial Bargaining Proposal to SDTA

Assistant Superintendent David Reilly and the district has limited re-openers for this round of bargaining for 2015-16 with the Sequoia District Teachers’ Association (SDTA), and Health and Welfare is under discussion. The district chose to address Article VII, Leaves, and proposes changes to the Side Letter Agreement related to East Palo Alto Academy. Mr. Reilly said that negotiations will commence shortly.

Update on Master Plans for
Carlmont, Sequoia & Woodside

Architect Aaron Jobson of Quattrocchi Kwok Architects (QKA) highlighted the overall organization and progress made on the master planning process. He noted that the master plans have total project cost estimates including soft costs.

Sequoia HS Master Plan

Mr. Jobson reported that with modest enrollment growth at approximately 100 students, in Phase Two we plan to upgrade the heating and ventilation (HVAC) system by adding air conditioning to the second floor, improve the music building, food service area, landscaping, the formal entry on Broadway, and conduct a traffic study to improve parking. Phase Three includes updating the Library, additional landscape, and improvements to the Multi-use Room.

Trustee Sarver suggested consideration be given to conserving water by installing turf fields, where appropriate, as soon as possible.

Trustee Thomsen said he agreed with Trustee Sarver's recommendation and noted that painting should be included as a Capital Repair Cost.

In response to a question posed by President Weiner, Dr. Lianides said staff intends to continue to provide updates to the Board, and ultimately the master plan will be brought back in late spring as an action item.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Du Bois, Superintendent Lianides advised that there buildings that have been donated, are not included in the master plan and will not be touched.

Carlmont HS Master Plan

Architect Carrick Boshart, from HMC Architects, reported several community committee meetings were held and good input was received; he recognized the input from members Jeff Selman and Kim Steinjann. Phase One includes a new two-story, ten classroom building to be placed near T-Wing. The Five-year Repair includes upgrades to electrical, HVAC, a new ADA accessible ramp to the baseball fields, and new electrical underground conduit upgrades which will be rolled into Phase One. Phase Two includes renovating the cafeteria, installing water filling stations, new book lockers, expanding the weight room, Boys' and Girls' showers, and bicycle storage. Phase Three includes replacing windows, expanding eating areas including additional furniture, and soundproofing classrooms.

In response to questions posed by Trustee Sarver, Architect Boshart said that the future demolition of T-Wing is tied into the new Phase One building and will allow for a court yard/outdoor classroom to meet the needs on the east side of the campus. In regard to parking, there would be huge costs involved in trying to excavate into the hill behind the school.

Trustee Thomsen said he did not like to see bond money spent on painting or parking. Aaron Jobson said that in general it was expressed that parking was a serious priority, however when the costs were discussed it was decided that these other things were more important than parking.

Woodside HS Master Plan

Architect Dale Krahn, HMC Architects, said the committee met 15 times and was comprised of teachers, staff, parents and students. Phase One includes a two-story ten-classroom building, located east of the gym and north of G-Wing; a new student plaza, and an expanded student drop-off/pickup area. Phase Two includes updating the kitchen and Multi-Use Room, installing additional food service stations and faculty restrooms; repairing the Track and Field Home bleachers, updating the Boys' and Girls' locker rooms; installing synthetic fields, solar panels, and improved lighting along Churchhill, and additional bicycle parking.

Sequoia District Teachers Association (SDTA) President Edith Salvatore encouraged staff to find a new name for the Sequoia High School field north of the football field. In regard to synthetic turf fields, she wanted to assurance that the Board is aware of the carcinogenic affect of crumbled tires, and the decisions made concerning synthetic materials will be as safe as possible.

Chief Construction Officer Matthew Zito said staff is aware of the expressed concerns.

President Weiner said of utmost importance is the knowledge that you are engaged with staff and members of the community. The Board can focus on a good process so that the recommendations made are the most important to the staff, students and parents at the sites.

Discuss “School Principles” for
Menlo Park Small School

Assistant Superintendent David Reilly reviewed the three “school principles” upon which to base the development of the Menlo Park small school: Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM)-focus, Linked Learning, and a partnership with the San Mateo County Community College District. Mr. Reilly reported the location of the small school site in Menlo Park presents great potential for the district to foster development of industry partnerships and collaborations. Situated within a nexus of STEM-centered companies, service providers, and research organizations, the Menlo Park school has the potential to realize a Linked Learning approach to preparing students for both college and careers. We have surveyed our community and sense a high interest of our constituents, and the neighboring areas are in sync with this proposal. The proposal is to focus on STEM and to build a team. Staff recommends a pedagogical approach based on the Common Core Standards comprised of a hybrid blend of Linked Learning and Direct Interactive Instruction. There is much research available, and we have the opportunity to be innovative with this structure. It is going to take the Board, the senior staff, and school leadership to come together and challenge ways of thinking. Staff recommends a partnership with the Community College District with the goal of offering content-specific courses that will provide students with the practical and theoretical knowledge to apply to work-based learning environments.

Trustee Du Bois said this could be good. However, there were concerns expressed to her, and she suggested obtaining community input.

Mr. Reilly said he welcomed the opportunity to talk, and said we will need to educate. It is natural to have opposition at first.

Assistant Superintendent Bonnie Hansen suggested developing structure to the model before approaching the community for input.

Trustee Thomsen said the first draft is commendable. He suggested a broader approach, and said he wanted to serve the entire community.

Trustee Sarver said he is excited about the process and seeing this project coming aboard; this combination of components is the right way to proceed. Linked Learning has been demonstrated to be the most effective approach. The partnership with the Community College is bringing in greater areas of STEM which will make it a more student-centered environment. Trustee Sarver said he would like to serve on the task force.

President Weiner said he is pretty enthusiastic and believes this is a district that has been working toward developing innovative program. He noted that the model has to be driven by a coherent set of ideas that lead to the vision. The views of the community need to be taken into account. President Weiner said that a task force is a great idea.

In response to a question posed by Student Trustee Breslauer, Mr. Reilly advised that STEM is offered at any school, what is unique at this school is the pedagogical structure.

President Weiner said it is clear you have the support of four Board members to build the concept. Trustee Du Bois said she was okay with moving forward, and suggested reaching out to SRI who conducted a study on Linked Learning.

Superintendent Lianides said we have met with community members representing North Fair Oaks, East Palo Alto, and Menlo Park, and have also received a summary of the Community College District’s Board discussion, and they want to be part of the committee. Key is that we have received a green light from the Board to move forward.

David Reilly said there could be two Board representatives on the task force. President Weiner said most useful is for Board members to be there learning with the experts. There seems to be strong support moving forward with the task force. I would like to hear comments from Trustee Martinez, who is connected the Menlo Park community, to see if she should be on the task force. The Board is in agreement to move forward with the plans and to include community participation on the committee.

Discussion of Possible Board
Retreat

Dr. Lianides said due to the recent appointment of Trustee Laura Martinez, there was discussion at the last meeting of a possible Board Retreat to discuss Board goals and implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Trustee Du Bois said she would like to participate in a Retreat and spend a little time discussing a different style of communication. She recommended hiring Facilitator Dana Tom.

Trustee Sarver suggested, and Trustee Thomsen concurred, to holding a Board Retreat to discuss implementation of the Strategic Plan.

President Weiner said there was consensus to hold a Retreat; this item will be brought back in two weeks, and a date for the Retreat would be set at that time.

Public Hearing Opened at
8:49 p.m.

President Weiner opened the Public Hearing at 8:49 p.m. on SDTA's Initial Bargaining Proposal to SUHSD for 2015-16; no comments were received.

Public Hearing Closed at
8:49 p.m.

President Weiner closed the Public Hearing at 8:49 p.m. on SDTA's Initial Bargaining Proposal to SUHSD for 2015-16.

Approval of WASC/SPSA
Site Plan for Redwood HS

Principal Miguel Rodriguez reviewed the Redwood High School Site Plan. He reported Redwood had 309 students enrolled with a cumulative total of 476 students for 2014-15. He reviewed data on ethnicity, attendance, suspension/expulsion rates, English Language Learner (ELL)/California English Language Development Test (CELDT) levels, graduation rates, drop-outs, and California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) data. Principal Rodriguez reviewed the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) goal actions taken for 2014; he noted two-thirds of students are scheduled to attend school for a full-period day; there is focus on increasing CAHSEE successes, the same instructor will teach CAHSEE prep. Actions for 2014 included: increasing attendance, hiring a bilingual parent liaison, offering the Parent Project, weekly teacher goals, home visits, quarterly attendance recognition, and Student Study Team (SST) collaboration with the Counseling team. In regard to improving school culture and pride, Redwood will continue the partnership with Quaglia Institute. Extra-curricular activities include the Quiet Time program, cultural celebrations; developing partnerships with the community, Sequoia Health Care District, and Adult School. Redwood plans to engage small learning communities, provide culturally-relevant professional development practices, and employ resources to re-structure summer school. Principal Rodriguez presented a proposed architectural drawing of a future facility to house Redwood High School students.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Du Bois, Principal Rodriguez said many of our students have serious challenges, and we continue to raise expectations.

Trustee Thomsen suggested that perhaps next year progress will be reported on the strategies implemented. He said he would vote in favor of the Redwood Site Plan.

Trustee Sarver said we are looking at our most at-risk students, a major transformation is in place, and it is challenging to measure results. We want to measure positive outcomes for these students.

Assistant Superintendent Bonnie Hansen said this site plan is a tool for the comprehensive high schools, and it is difficult to align Redwood Continuation High School data with the plan.

President Weiner advised that last year the report did produce a process for implementing the Redwood Task Force to produce change. He agrees it will be a challenge to evaluate going forward, and he expressed caution that next year we will only be about six weeks into implementation, which is very early to evaluate a program. Passing CAHSEE is not necessarily an issue of proficiency, the difference in the outcomes has to do with **affective** ~~effective~~ domain and challenges kids have getting to school. He told Principal Rodriguez he liked the outstanding modeling and high standards that you set. President Weiner noted the issue of English Learners is a problem unlike learning disabilities; he stated that teaching language skills is what we **ought to be** good at, **and that this is an area where sound educational strategies could improve performance.**

On a motion by Trustee Du Bois, seconded by Trustee Sarver, the Board of Trustees approved the WASC/SPSA Report for Redwood High School.

Approval of CTE New Course
Proposals: Mobile Apps Dev.
and Drama I

In response to a question posed by Trustee Thomsen, Superintendent Lianides advised that the moratorium in regard to new Career Technical Education (CTE) courses had been lifted when the criteria had been developed for approving courses. He noted that Trustee Sarver has been participating on the Career Technical Education (CTE) task force. The proposed new course at Sequoia High School, Mobile Apps Development, will be funded by Facebook.

On a motion by Trustee Sarver, seconded by Trustee Du Bois, the Board of Trustees approved the new CTE courses, Mobile Apps Development and Drama I, as presented.

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

Superintendent Lianides announced the district will be receiving two Kent Awards on May 11, Adapted Physical Education Program—Be Safe, Be a Friend, Have Fun, and Menlo-Atherton High School's—Partnership for Success. Interviews will be conducted on Thursday and Friday for the Principal positions at Carlmont and Menlo-Atherton high schools, and a recommendation will be presented at the next meeting.

Trustee Sarver reported good work being done with the CTE Task Force. He attended the Academy Career Fair at Canada College, a County Biotech meeting discussing business partnerships, a Four Corners meeting, a meeting on UC "a-g" college articulation courses, and tomorrow will attend Senator Jerry Hill's meeting on the reserve cap with superintendents and board members from local basic aid districts.

Trustee Thomsen said our students live in a high pressure environment and there are serious consequences. He suggested an agenda item to discuss Board policy on homework and noted that the Board should look at work loads and disciplines at the school sites.

Student Trustee Breslauer suggested that the new policy also include a clause concerning "dead" week and teaching new material during "dead" week. She would like to be involved in the discussion.

President Weiner said the biggest problem is not the amount of homework but the content quality of much of the homework. We should discuss these issues with the faculty because not much will change unless staff is engaged.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

On a motion by Trustee Sarver, seconded by Trustee Thomsen, the Board of Trustees adjourned its meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Allen Weiner, President
Alan Sarver, Clerk