

Approved Revised Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Sequoia Union High School District
Wednesday, August 13, 2014

Call to Order	The regular meeting of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees was called to order by President Weiner at 3:02 p.m., on Wednesday, August 13, 2014, in the Tea Garden Conference Room at Sequoia High School, in Redwood City, California.	
Recess to Closed Session	The Board of Trustees recessed to Closed Session at 3:03 p.m. to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. CONSIDERATION OF STUDENT DISCIPLINES/EXPULSIONSb. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS, Agency Designated Representative: James Lianides; Employee Organizations: Sequoia District Teachers Association (SDTA)c. SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION—GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957	
Opened Public Session at 5:51 p.m.	The Board of Trustees returned to Public Session at 5:51 p.m. in Birch Conference Room at 480 James Avenue, in Redwood City, California.	
Roll Call	Present: Carrie Du Bois Olivia Martinez Alan Sarver Chris Thomsen Allen Weiner	Absent None
Pledge of Allegiance	Student Trustee Amanda Breslauer 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 Martinez, seconded by Trustee Sarver, the Board of Trustees approved the Agenda.	
Report Out on Closed Session	President Weiner reported that the Board took action in Closed Session and unanimously approved the expulsion of Students No. 2014-15-1, 2014-15-2, 2014-15-3, 2014-15-4, and 2014-15-5 (names to appear in official minutes) for the spring 2013-14 semester, and fall 2014-15 semester, and established December 15, 2014, as the date that the students may apply for readmission.	
Approval of Consent Calendar	On a motion by Trustee Thomsen, seconded by Trustee Sarver, 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 Amended Minutes for June 25, 2014, Board Meeting	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the amended minutes for the June 25, 2014, Board meeting.	
Approval of Personnel Recommendations	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Personnel Recommendations as indicated.	
Approval of Field Trip	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the field trip request for Carlmont Football Team members to participate in overnight mini-camp at Carlmont High School on August 15-16, 2014.	
Approval of Contract for Communications Mgmt. System	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the contract for the communications management system provided by School Loop, Inc.	
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.	

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Approval of Contract for Cyber High Licenses & Services	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the contract for Cyber High licenses and services.
Approval of Contract for Brokerage Services	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the contract for brokerage services with Cassidy Turley.
Approval of Contract for Soccer Field Renovation at M-A	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the contract with Pacheco Brothers Gardening, Inc., for renovation of the soccer field at Menlo-Atherton High School.
Approval of Preliminary 2014-15 Categorical Budget for Wdsd. HS	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the preliminary 2014-15 categorical budget for Woodside High School.
Special Recognitions Superintendent's Commendations	Superintendent Lianides introduced and welcomed Student Trustee Amanda Breslauer and said he looked forward to hearing her comments representing the students' voices.
Public Comment	None
Correspondence	Trustee Weiner said he had received a letter from California School Boards' Association (CSBA) requesting nominations for a Director at Large from the Hispanic and/or Pacific Islander communities. He noted that nominations will be accepted until October 3 and requested members to contact him concerning recommendations.
Report on Ninth-Grade Transition Support Mentor Program	<p>Assistant Superintendent David Reilly reported that this past year a Transition Support Mentors (TSM) program was developed district-wide to mentor ninth-grade students identified as academically at-risk. The concept was developed in 2012-13 as a result of work conducted by the Transition Task Force. The mentors were staff members identified by each site's administration with the skill to connect with students. Approximately 60 students were mentored per site. Types of interventions included home connections; personalized school experiences for the families, and individual/group assessment meetings to determine causes of low Grade Point Averages (GPAs). Mr. Riley advised that the program success rate was variable. The most successful mentors were those who viewed things globally. The challenges included ninth-grade GPAs and attendance. He advised that the ensure consistency and a more centralized approach utilizing TSMs, the program will be under the guidance of the Director of Student Services. Staff has refined and expanded the scope of the program to become Sequoia Aspirations Advocates Program (SAAP) in partnership with the Quaglia Institute. There will be centralized accountability with the framework posted online that includes a web-based program called My Aspirations Action Plan (MAAP). The long-term vision is to adopt a ninth-grade cohort that will be self-propelling with a balance of qualitative and quantitative data.</p> <p>President Weiner said although the results are not that good, what is key is that we are looking at the program and what we have learned in terms of ongoing results for students. Staff is commended for its willingness to take up the challenge and make adjustments.</p> <p>In response to questions posed by Trustee Du Bois, David Reilly said he would look into the information requested on the school registration form. The site administration will identify and encourage learning to those students who are in foster care or receiving social services. The mentors will be spending concentrated time with at-risk students. Mr. Reilly reported that staff is most excited about sharing best practices and utilizing MAAP and virtual space where daily check-ins with students take place.</p> <p>Trustee Thomsen recognized the innovation and risk-taking staff had undertaken and noted the Board will want to see a baseline metric of the program. In response to a question posed by Trustee Thomsen, David Reilly advised that absenteeism will be improved by furthering a sense of belonging, not by police or court referrals. Trustee Thomsen suggested multiple strategies be utilized to reduce absences.</p> <p>Trustee Martinez advised that the district is to be commended for its proactive approach. She noted that there was not much emphasis on parent involvement.</p>

In response to a question posed by Dr. Martinez, Dr. Lianides advised that in 2014-15 there will be adjustments made at some schools; for example, the mentor at M-A will be made a full-time position. Staff has also been working with Ravenswood City Elementary District and identified students in need of mentors. Trustee Martinez suggested looking at students who are not deemed the most at-risk but are in need and would flourish with a little support. David Reilly said when we start realizing a positive success, Quaglia could expand. Application of the framework has a transformative impact on the entire school.

President Weiner noted the absence of any Transition Support Mentors this evening. He observed that the GPA and attendance rates were low; and because the program description is different from what he is hearing described, it sounds like what it is missing is developing that sense of belonging. Connection to an adult is critically important; these mentors need to know their responsibility is to develop relationships with the students. David Reilly advised that the background reported what was done in 2013-14; developing that sense of belonging is the plan for 2014-15. He added that there were no Transition Support Mentors present tonight because of staffing changes.

Presentation of Findings from
Middlefield Road Redesign
Community Outreach Effort

Superintendent Lianides reported the County of San Mateo is facilitating a community engagement effort toward implementation of the North Fair Oaks Community Plan which provides a blueprint for community development over the next 20 years. The first phase of the work is redesigning Middlefield Road between Pacific and Fifth avenues.

Deputy County Manager Peggy Jensen advised that North Fair Oaks Forward is the initiative under which the following projects are progressing: opening of the Fair Oaks Center; providing additional services at North Fair Oaks Library; revitalizing Friendship Park, and redesigning Middlefield Road.

Ms. Jensen described community outreach activities and reported that the committee had received input from over 2,000 residents in the area. Suggestions included: increased safety and access to Middlefield Road, with the addition of cleanliness and attractive greenery. Access included dedicated bicycle lanes, parking, wider sidewalks, building redesign, eliminating billboards and implementing parallel parking. There was no clear direction if there should be three or four traffic lanes; she advised a decision is needed by August 28, 2014. It will take 4-5 years to complete this project. More information can be obtained at www.nfoforward.org.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Thomsen, Peggy Jensen advised that the road design work is the current focus, and it will take one and one-half years to make any zoning changes.

Sequoia Adult School Chief Operations Officer Lionel de Maine thanked Ms. Jensen and her team for their effort to engage with Adult School students. Mr. de Maine noted that the concerns evolve around parking. With the redesign of parking spaces to parallel, 128 parking spaces will be lost. Enforcement of the two-hour time limit will make it impossible for Adult School students to park on Middlefield Road when their lessons last three hours. Our students also park on neighborhood streets, and by enforcing posted permit parking there, Adult School students will not find parking and will not come to class. Mr. de Maine said we are working to find solutions but it is not looking hopeful.

Sequoia Adult School Student Idolina Sandoval said it is important to have parking close to the school, where students learn English to get better jobs and help their children. If there is no parking, we cannot attend class. Ms. Sandoval urged the committee to include more public parking for Adult School students.

Sequoia Adult School Student Santiago Ojeda said he lives in East Palo Alto and needs to learn English at the Adult School. Every night before class he spends 20 minutes looking for parking.

Sequoia Adult School Student Carlos Alas said it is an issue now trying to find parking. Changing to parallel parking will make it worse. Another option would be to change to back-in angled parking, which would keep the current number of parking spaces available.

Sequoia Adult School Student Jesus Codinas noted the downside to attending Sequoia Adult School is finding a parking space, and he usually needs to park five blocks away from school.

President Weiner said he hoped that those involved take into account the benefits of what public education offers. It is an important function that contributes to a healthy community; if we impose unreasonable burdens on students and make education more difficult to attain, we are doing a disservice to our community.

Discuss Strategic Planning & the
Pivot Learning Partners Proposal

President Weiner said last year a Strategic Planning committee was created; Trustees Du Bois and **Thomsen** conducted research, which resulted in discussion of this proposal being brought forward.

Superintendent Lianides said we need to hear from Trustees Du Bois and **Thomsen**, and the potential consultants; he noted that a key portion of this item is for the Board to formally discuss its interest and commitment to engage in this process.

Trustee Thomsen reported that following much research, he and Trustee Du Bois interviewed two firms both who came highly recommended to us, and they both agree that Pivot Learning Partners would do a good job. We liked the professionalism of the personnel, their approach and commitment to education. We also liked the time commitment to complete the process by December.

Trustee Du Bois said she thought the Pivot proposal would be an approach that would work for all Board members. She liked this organization because it comes from the superintendent's perspective—both coach/consultants, Barbara Young and Cathy Townsley, are retired superintendents.

Superintendent Lianides noted that he had met with the Pivot consultants in June and then again in July when he knew that this discussion item was coming forward.

Barbara Young, Coach/Consultant Pivot Learning Partners, introduced their strategic planning proposal for closing the equity gap. She noted that Pivot Learning has been involved with 80 school districts in California and is scheduled to work in Ravenswood City and Belmont-Redwood Shores elementary districts. At Pivot is a non-profit organization designed to revitalize education. We address strategic planning differently—the work is student-centered. The first part of the process is outreach to principals, faculty, and students. We gather profile information identifying strengths and areas of need, which forms the Strategic Planning Steering Committee comprised of a wide representation of constituents. As the plan is developed there are check points along the way. Most districts come up with one key statement. A “Strategic Direction” is developed, which provides the superintendent and board with direction and drives budget decisions. Ms. Young stated that we develop the “What,” and the “How” is implemented by staff. She reviewed the proposed timeline.

In response to questions posed by President Weiner, Trustee Martinez said she was surprised to see this item on the agenda because she did not think we were ready to jump in with the many other items the Board and staff is currently dealing with. She is familiar with strategic planning and has been involved on many levels in this process. She expressed reservations at placing an additional burden on staff at this time.

Trustee Sarver said when he looks at the same set of challenges he draws the opposite conclusion. Because of the large number of issues with which we are dealing, there needs to be a single vision as to where the district is going. A clear strategic plan is critical to the success of the district moving forward.

President Weiner said it not the strategic plan but the planning process that is beneficial. He noted it is a relatively compressed planning process and will increase the likelihood of focusing on fewer goals. We are going through Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), establishing small schools and alternative education at Redwood. Do we need to hold off on that other work while we run this process?

Superintendent Lianides noted that what Redwood High School looks like belongs in the “How” not in the “What.” The strategic plan is a view of the district from above. There will never be an optimal time to do this.

The work on defining the future of Redwood and small schools is work that cannot wait—we need to start that work. Dr. Lianides said he did not see a conflict with taking a view of the district from higher up and setting down major priorities.

Superintendent Lianides asked if the Board was committed to this level of outreach and what others say about district's major priorities. He noted this fall the district will have task forces on Small Schools, Redwood High School, Strategic Planning, and Career Technical Education. It will be a challenge to build these task forces, he planned to meet with principals and his staff, and find volunteers. Dr. Lianides said the strategic plan was doable; he had worked under a strategic plan at Pacifica for seven years, he said it was a great filter. They made a living document be the "How" which was revisited periodically. He noted that we may find that many priorities are set that strategic planning will not alter. We will come up with a vision for the district that is more unified about what we are as a district. The Superintendent said he was prepared to move ahead with this and noted there are roles for many people.

Trustee Martinez said the \$35,000 expended for the consultant would be better spent on communications for the district. While she did not think this is the time to do this, Dr. Martinez said she will support the decision that the Board makes.

Sequoia District Teachers Association (SDTA) President Edith Salvatore said she was supportive of the strategic planning process.

Cathy Townsley, of Pivot Learning Partners, said it is important to decide what the purpose of a strategic plan is. A strategic plan can be a concise communication tool.

In response to questions posed by President Weiner, four Board members indicated they would vote "yes" in favor of moving forward with a strategic plan and the proposal put forth by Pivot Learning Partners. Barbara Young noted that the constituent committee develops the plan, and when it gets to the Board there can be higher level questions which work down in discussion. A key component is the people on the committee.

Trustee Martinez said the nature of a high school district is very different from elementary districts and Pivot does not have experience with high school districts. Ms. Young advised that she has been superintendent in a high school district and has worked with high school staff. In response to a question posed by Trustee Martinez, Trustee Du Bois said she and Trustee Thomsen had attended a San Mateo County School Boards Association meeting on strategic planning and spoke to people in other districts and then came up with the two very best firms to interview. President Weiner noted that two Board members had been designated to serve on a committee to look at strategic planning. They have spent time investigating and came back with a recommendation. The President said he was inclined to be differential to their recommendation. President Weiner noted that this item will be brought back for action at the next meeting.

The Board took a short recess at 8:15 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Discuss Rev. AR5116.1,
Intradistrict Open Enrollment
& Adjustment Transfers

Superintendent Lianides report that revising AR5116.1, Intradistrict Open Enrollment and Adjustment Transfers, is a companion piece to the change in boundaries approved by the Board on June 25, 2014, and includes some procedural edits to the Administrative Regulation (AR). He worked closely with Director of Student Services Donald Milhaupt during the process of revising the AR. In the future the vast majority of Open Enrollment transfers will involve even exchanges of students within schools. The goal is to grant as many transfers as possible, to do even exchanges of students and eliminate transfers being rescinded. There are many parents participating in Open Enrollment who want a specific school. This allows us to move to a new level in a fair process and addresses The Avenues and Tinsley students and creates a road map on how Open Enrollment will be treated this fall. The revised administrative regulation has been approved by County Counsel. Dr. Lianides noted if the AR is adopted, Sequoia parents wanting their students to attend Carlmont need to submit Open Enrollment requests to participate in a lottery held in the third week of January; if the transfer is granted, the parent cannot reverse their request after the fact.

Trustee Du Bois observed that some kids realize that they have made a mistake and want to change their minds. We believe in choice and we are taking away this choice option. Dr. Lianides said we do grant transfer requests for students with compelling needs.

Trustee Martinez noted that this is a pretty significant cultural change within the district that could create fallback. She hoped there would be a campaign starting this year with seventh and eighth grade parents advising them that once approved, transfer requests cannot be reversed.

Trustee Sarver noted that this administrative regulation has historically impacted one-third of our incoming ninth graders. This regulation accurately captures the things we have been talking about but will have a large impact on individuals coming to the district. We have clearly been a district of choice, and by rescinding **a request after the end of the Open Enrollment period, an entering 9th grade family** could evoke some chaos.

Dr. Lianides advised the other benefit is the staffing charts for the upcoming school year are created in early spring, and the district could come up with a situation where schools are over or under staffed. We have to be strategic in utilizing resources. We will also have conversations with our partner district schools—communication is a key consideration.

President Weiner observed that this change will be controversial. In response to questions posed by President Weiner, Superintendent Lianides advised that the default for Tinsley students could not be reversed because record keeping would be difficult. In addition, the Superintendent said when the administrative regulation is approved staff will communicate with seventh- and eighth-grade parents. President Weiner said he will send Superintendent Lianides his suggestions to clarify some inconsistency of language in AR5116.1.

Superintendent Lianides said he will send the President a soft copy of AR5116.1, and will bring back the administrative regulation, with edits, for action on September 3, 2014.

Adoption of Res. No. 1524
Closing Commercial Property
Loophole

Ian Fregosi, a member of Evolve, a local non-profit group dedicated to increase funding for public education noted that since 1978 there has been a drop in public education funding and property tax has shifted onto working families. The community was forced to pass parcel tax bonds, which is not enough funding for schools. California is 49th in education funding in the Nation. This is changing our students' opportunities for success and the future of California. Commercial property taxes are not reassessed regularly. Today commercial property accounts for 19 percent of revenue, leaving 81 percent on residential property owners. Commercial property rarely changes hands. The world's corporations are being under-taxed. Ironically, Proposition 13 has shifted the burden onto people and away from corporations. We urge the Board to adopt Resolution No. 1524.

On a motion by Trustee Thomsen, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1524, in Support of Closing the Commercial Property Loophole. Voting "yes,"—Student Trustee Breslauer; Trustees Du Bois, Martinez, Sarver, Thomsen, and Weiner; voting "no"—none, and absent—none.

Discuss Board Study Session
on Alternative Schools

President Weiner advised that the Board needs assurance that Redwood High School as a 21st century program prior to facilities planning. Dr. Lianides said staff is forming a Redwood Task Force consisting of two Board members, representatives of the Redwood staff, district and site administration and counseling staff. If the Study Session were postponed to either September 10 or 24, it would result in a much richer discussion.

Edith Salvatore said she concurred with the Superintendent's recommendation to hold the Study Session in September. The Redwood staff is very interested in being involved.

Trustee Du Bois said she would like to hear from staff concerning what is working and not working. She asked if there was a way to keep students who were behind in credits at the comprehensive high school sites, and she would like to hear about what other districts are doing.

Dr. Lianides said we can look at San Mateo Union High School District; it is a different model but is still a segregated site. We need to look at what is best for at-risk students to prepare them for

college and career. The Redwood program is based on a 1960s continuation high school model, and currently the vast majority of Redwood students don't have jobs.

The other part of the equation for this task force is that this is a districtwide challenge and concern. Currently Redwood serves 340 students; if it were a full-day program it will need to serve fewer students. The task force needs to be comprised of not only Redwood staff but comprehensive high school staff and representatives from Adult School. Superintendent Lianides said he was prepared to hold the Study Session on Wednesday, September 10 at 3:30 p.m. at Redwood High School with the task force in place.

Trustees Du Bois and Weiner volunteered to serve on the Alternative School Task Force. Trustee Du Bois suggested holding two study sessions to get different perspectives.

Acceptance of Response to
Grand Jury Report as amended
on Charter Schools

President Weiner advised that a response has been prepared to the Superior Court of San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury in regard to its report, "Educational Frenemies: Can Charter Schools Inspire Better Student Outcomes in Public Schools in San Mateo County?"

Comments and suggestions for minor changes to the response letter were made by Trustees Martinez, Sarver, Thomsen and Weiner.

Superintendent Lianides said he would amend the letter and send it to the San Mateo County Superior Court Civil Grand Jury.

On a motion by Trustee Martinez, seconded by Trustee Thomsen, the Board of Trustees accepted the district's amended response to the Civil Grand Jury Report on "Educational Frenemies: Can Charter Schools Inspire Better Student Outcomes in Public Schools in San Mateo County?"

Adoption of Res. No. 1522,
as amended, Declaring Results
of School Bond Election
Held on 6/3/14

Enrique Navas, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services, advised that Resolution No. 1522, Declaring Results of School Bond Election Held on June 3, 2014, Exhibit A, was revised under Item 2., whereby the date was changed to "March 7, 2014."

Trustee Martinez noted that the district is extremely fortunate to have held this election in June; if we had waited until November we would only be half-way through the process.

On a motion by Trustee Martinez, seconded by Trustee Sarver, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1522, as amended, Declaring Results of School Bond Election Held on June 3, 2014. Voting "yes,"—Student Trustee Breslauer; Trustees Du Bois, Martinez, Sarver, Thomsen, and Weiner; voting "no"—none, and absent—none.

Tabled Adoption of Amended
Res. No. 1523, Calling Upon
Legislature to Repeal Local
Reserves Cap

President Weiner noted that this is big issue. Dr. Lianides said the state legislature provided very little opportunity for discussion or input from school districts, and many school districts are adopting resolutions to go on record that they oppose this local reserves cap.

President Weiner suggested amending the resolution on page 1, second to the last paragraph, following "*fluctuations in the collection of local property tax,*" to add the words, "**projected enrollment growth.**" In addition, following the phrase "*to maintain fiscal solvency,*" add "**projected to meet unfunded liabilities for post employment benefits.**"

Trustee Sarver suggested changing a word on page 1, third paragraph, first line, from "*subsidiary*" to "**subsidiarity.**"

Edith Salvatore noted that SDTA wanted to go on record stating that the district can do its business with the 15 percent reserve cap allowed under this plan. She said that the district has done a good job building its reserves.

Enrique Navas advised that the restriction cannot exceed double the cap requirement; in SUHSD's case the cap is at 3 percent, and the district would not be allowed to exceed a 6 percent reserve.

President Weiner recommended that staff amend Resolution No. 1523 and bring it back for adoption at the next meeting.

Approval of Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators	<p>Assistant Superintendent David Reilly advised that even though staff anticipates the district's ability to recruit highly-qualified teachers, it is important and a safety measure to have this declaration in place in the unlikely event that the district is unsuccessful in recruiting teachers in limited subject areas.</p> <p>On a motion by Trustee Thomsen, seconded by Trustee Sarver, the Board of Trustees adopted the Declaration of Need for Fully-Qualified Educators as presented.</p>
Board of Trustees'/Supt's. Comments & Committee Reports	<p>Superintendent Lianides announced that teachers return to work tomorrow, and they will be working on technology professional development. Friday is Convocation, which is the annual opening day event of the school year. It will be held at Sequoia High School, and staff will return to their sites after that.</p> <p>Trustee Du Bois said County Superintendent of Schools Anne Campbell took her on an amazing educational tour through Hillcrest; she toured East Palo Alto Academy (EPAA) with Principal Morgan Marchbanks, and she met with a group of Sequoia High School parents concerned about the loss of the Opportunity Program and students living in poverty. Trustee Du Bois said she has plans a tour in Oakland with Jeffrey Duncan-Andrade, a Professor at San Francisco State University, who is interested in charter schools and believes that students need to attend neighborhood schools.</p> <p>Student Trustee Breslauer asked for confirmation that the district's student information system would be School Loop and celebrated the fact that the district would no longer be utilizing Infinite Campus.</p>
Meeting Adjourned at 9:31 p.m.	<p>On a motion by Trustee Sarver, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees adjourned its meeting at 9:31 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Allen Weiner, President

Alan Sarver, Clerk