

Approved Revised Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Sequoia Union High School District  
Wednesday, October 22, 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 4:02 p.m., on Wednesday, October 8, 2014, 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>CONSIDERATION OF STUDENT DISCIPLINES/EXPULSIONS</li><li>CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS, Agency Designated Representative: James Lianides; Employee Organizations: Sequoia District Teachers Association (SDTA); Sequoia Adult School Federation of Teachers, and American Federation of State, Local, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)</li><li>CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS Agency Negotiator: James Lianides; terms and conditions; APN 046-112-530, 055-243-030</li><li>CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION Subdivision (a) of Section 54956.9 of the California Government Code<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Milburn vs. SUHSD</li></ul></li></ol>		
Opened Public Session at 5:39 p.m.	The Board of Trustees returned to Public Session at 5:39 p.m. in Birch Conference Room at 480 James Avenue, in Redwood City, California.		
Roll Call	<table><tr><td><b>Present:</b> Amanda Breslauer, Student Trustee Carrie Du Bois Alan Sarver Chris Thomsen Allen Weiner</td><td><b>Absent:</b> Trustee Olivia Martinez</td></tr></table>	<b>Present:</b> Amanda Breslauer, Student Trustee Carrie Du Bois Alan Sarver Chris Thomsen Allen Weiner	<b>Absent:</b> Trustee Olivia Martinez
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Pledge of Allegiance	Student Trustee 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 Thomsen, 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 Trustees Du Bois, Sarver, Thomsen and Weiner unanimously approved the expulsions of Student Numbers 2014-15-9 and 2014-15-10 (names of appear in official minutes) for the fall of 2014-15 semester and the spring of 2014-15 semester and established May 15, 2015, as the date that the students may apply for readmission.		
Approval of Consent Calendar	On a motion by Trustee Thomsen, seconded by Trustee Sarver, the Board of Trustees approved the Consent Calendar. Voting “yes,”—Student Trustee Breslauer; Trustees Du Bois, Sarver, Thomsen, and Weiner; voting “no”—none, and absent—Trustee Martinez.		
Ratified Contracts under \$35,000 Report	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees ratified the district contracts under \$35,000 report as presented.		
Approval of Minutes for October 8, 2014, Board Meeting	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the minutes for the October 8, 2014, Board meeting.		
Approval of Personnel Recommendations	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Personnel Recommendations as indicated.		

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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 Performing Arts students to travel to Utah on February 24-March 1, 2015; Jazz Ensemble students to New York City on April 16-21, 2014; Redwood High School REAL students to travel to Kennedy Middle School in Redwood City on November 6, and Woodside High School's Green Academy students to tour Año Nuevo State Park in Pescadero on February 20, 2105.
Approval of Warrants	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Warrants for September 2014, totaling \$6,416,065.31.
Approval of Monthly Financial Reports	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted the Monthly Financial Reports for September 2014.
Acceptance of Gifts	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted the gifts and requested the Superintendent to send letters of appreciation to the donors where appropriate.
Approval of Agreement with Peninsula Family Services	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the agreement with Peninsula Family Services for child development services at Redwood High School for 2014-15 school year.
Approval of CAHSEE Waiver	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) waiver as requested.
Approval of Extension of Superintendent's Contract	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved Addendum Number 3 of the Superintendent's contract to extend the term of service through June 2017.
Special Recognitions	
Superintendent's Commendations	Superintendent Lianides recognized the following 2015 semifinalists in the National Merit and the National Achievement scholarship programs.  Matthew Baszucki    Adam Cobb            Alexander Iyer            Nathan Orttung            Maxwell Ware            James Xie Michael Bereket    Ryan Cole            Christopher Jarrett            Erin Perrine            Katherine Webb Allison Clark        Aarooran Durairaj        Healey Montague-Alamin        Thomas Richards        Alexander Wu
Public Comment	Tao Shu spoke in regard to the district's credit transfer policy from outside institutions and colleges; she said the weight of course credit should be based on the rigor of the course. Ms. Shu noted that financially disadvantaged students should be encouraged to attend community colleges, who offer free classes to high school students.
Correspondence	None
Update on Implementation of Common Core State Standards	Bonnie Hansen, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, reported that Common Core State Standards reflect a higher level of questions with a fewer number of standards that are much clearer. Mrs. Hansen reviewed Common Core strategies for Mathematics (Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2), Literacy and Writing, Curriculum, English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. She also provided an update on Instructional Strategies, Smarter Balanced Assessments, Technology, Budget, and Communication.  In response to a question posed by Student Trustee Breslauer, Brandon Lee, Director of Research and Assessment, advised that only 11 <sup>th</sup> graders take Smarter Balanced Assessments, and all testing will be completed prior to Spring Break which is at the end of April.  Trustee Thomsen said he was excited about Common Core, however, we need to be patient. He wants assurance that the district has the resources to do the job. He requested more information concerning parental communication, the practice tests and suggested emphasizing formative rather than a summative approach.  In response to a question posed by Trustee Du Bois, Bonnie Hansen said Common Core is not more difficult, and it is actually good news for at-risk students. Trustee Du Bois said that teachers need to be well-supported.

Trustee Sarver said the positive report was most transformative, and he enjoyed hearing what is being undertaken by our faculty across the district. He noted curriculum is emerging and we need to be careful not to get beyond the next step. The resources and support need to be in place, and the state must recognize that this is more than a two-year investment.

**In response to** President **Weiner**'s question concerning professional development, Mrs. Hansen advised that it is better for students and teachers to be present in the classroom; she noted that it is more expensive for teachers to participate in professional development and paying them on time sheets. In response to a question posed by President Weiner, Superintendent Lianides advised that the quality of instructional materials will drive the selection process in regard to digital-based, text-base or hybrid textbooks.

Update on Progress of Local Education Agency (LEA) Plan

Coordinator of English Learners and Special Programs, Isabel Cervantes-Falk reported that the 2013-14 Local Education Agency (LEA) Plan consisted of actions implemented and an analysis of summative assessment data. Ms. Cervantes-Falk advised that strategies included Direct Interactive Instruction (DII) relative to the coaching cycle, Common Core implementation, a new Subject Area Council for the Special Education inclusion model, parent participation, and student-teacher support relative to student achievement. The District Parent Coordinator Carmina Chavez, coordinated meetings with more than 2,700 parents. The Common Core Personalized Learning Community met four times during the year. Ms. Cervantes-Falk reported that student support sections were increased at Program Improvement (PI) high schools in both English and mathematics. Two sites participated in Build, and there are two Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) classes per grade level at each site. Points to ponder include tracking students' progress; better alignment between LEAs, Local Control Agencies, and the district's Dashboard, and consideration of including California English Language Development Test (CELDT) and tenth-grade California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) scores on the Dashboard.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Du Bois, the Director of Research and Assessment Brandon Lee advised that students can take the CAHSEE seven times during their high school careers.

Trustee Thomsen said he liked the stated Instructional Strategies; he suggested aligning Objectives, Lesson Sequence, Student Engagement, and Group Work/modeling New Skills. He suggested including the Dashboard in the report and said the state was trying to raise reasonable questions.

Trustee Sarver said for future reports, it would be helpful to be able to leverage off the Dashboard and look at year-end trends.

President Weiner noted this report is filed because of a statutory obligation that may or may not indicate how we are doing. President Weiner noted other **procedural and reporting** mechanisms were helpful; he suggested focusing on what is important to this Board and making the determination if **more elaborate efforts in discharging any given** obligation is prudent utilization of district resources.

District's Initial Bargaining Proposal to AFSCME Supervisors' Unit

Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, David Reilly noted that the American Federation of State, Local, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Supervisors refers to employees who are plant managers and supervisors reporting to directors such as the Transportation supervisor and Maintenance and Operations lead employees. Mr. Reilly noted that the language of the contract is being refined.

Discuss Revised Board Policy BP3513.3, Tobacco-Free Schools

Superintendent Lianides advised that staff is updating this policy to include addressing the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems on district properties and during school-related events. He noted BP3513.3 will be brought back for adoption at the next meeting.

Discuss Strategic Planning Process

Superintendent Lianides reported that at the last Board meeting there had been discussion that members wanted to be more actively involved in the strategic planning process and it would be advantageous to obtain additional input from parents, students, teachers and staff to provide the writing subcommittee a broader base of information from which to develop the strategic plan. Dr. Lianides said the Strategic Planning Committee met and suggested developing a survey and providing parents another opportunity to comment. This instrument would be written by the

subcommittee on November 6 and sent out on November 20. In December the subcommittee would report back and obtain input from the Strategic Planning Committee and the Board. The subcommittee would meet again and in late January present a preliminary draft to the overall committee; the Strategic Plan will be presented to the Board at its February 4 meeting with adoption of the plan taking place on February 18, 2015.

Trustee Thomsen said he thought the October 21 Strategic Planning Committee meeting went well, and that the plan was moving in the right direction. He distributed a listing of "Big Ideas," which had been developed by four groups working independently on October 21.

President Weiner said he was encouraged by the adjustments made to develop a broader range of respondents and an instrument to express concerns.

Sequoia District Teachers' Association President Edith Salvatore said she was pleased to see the information on the committee's deliberations. She noted teachers are working tirelessly implementing Common Core, DII, and new technology. Having a unifying goal stating what the district wants for students would bring everyone together. Utilization of technology has been identified as a critical area where our students need to be successful after high school.

President Weiner noted one of the useful ideas coming from this process was the division between the "What" and the "How." He emphasized that **this phase of** the Strategic Plan should focus on the "What."

Trustee Du Bois said she was happy with the enhanced process for developing the Strategic Plan. She wants assurance that the planning process embraces a broad range of students.

Trustee Sarver said he liked that the process was becoming more inclusive and broadening in scope. It is most important to build community awareness, and the Strategic Plan should identify what we are doing and long-term goals.

In response to a question posed by President Weiner, Superintendent Lianides said Board members should send him their comments in regard to the information distributed by Trustee Thomsen.

Public Hearing Opened 7:44 p.m. President Weiner opened the public hearing at 7:44 p.m. on the Bargaining Proposal received from AFSCME's Supervisors' Unit to the Sequoia Union High School District.

Public Hearing Closed at 7:44 p.m. There were no comments received, and President Weiner closed the public hearing at 7:44 p.m.

Public Hearing Opened 7:45 p.m. President Weiner opened the public hearing at 7:45 p.m. on SUHSD's Bargaining Proposal to AFSCME's Maintenance and Operations (M&O) and Office, Technical, and Paraprofessional (OT&P) Units.

Public Hearing Closed at 7:45 p.m. There were no comments received, and President Weiner closed the public hearing at 7:45 p.m.

Approved Ratified Agreement with SDTA for 2014-2016 Assistant Superintendent David Reilly noted that Board members had received a summary of the collective bargaining agreement with Sequoia District Teachers' Association (SDTA), and mutual progress has been made toward improving the agreement. He appreciates the accuracy and the transparency nature in which financial affairs are conducted. He found SDTA to be very reasonable in understanding the challenges faced by the district. It was a productive process which has resulted in strengthening the district.

President Weiner said we have an obligation to reward our teachers and at the same time to preserve and safeguard the fiscal solvency of the district. The Board is appreciative to both sides.

Edith Salvatore thanked both David Reilly and Assistant Superintendent Bonnie Hansen, and said SDTA is pleased to come to agreement for two years, with partial reopeners on salary and benefits. Mrs. Salvatore reported that SDTA members ratified the agreement with a resounding 98.4 percent vote; she said both sides are progressing, and she looked forward to working together.

On a motion by Trustee Du Bois, seconded by Trustee Sarver, the Board of Trustees approved the Ratified Agreement with Sequoia District Teachers' Association for 2014 through 2016.

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

Trustee Du Bois reported that the Redwood Task Force is a strong group of individuals. She noted that one-third of Redwood students have jobs. Trustee Du Bois said we have learned that there are problems with attendance and truancy. Students involved in the Teen Age Parenting Program (TAPP) or Redwood Environmental Academic Leadership (REAL) programs have better attendance.

President Weiner said if the goal is to ensure that more students graduate on time it makes sense moving to a six-period day. It would provide opportunities for additional student engagement. He suggested creating the opportunity for students behind in credit to enroll at Redwood earlier in order to lessen the number of fifth-year seniors.

In response to a question posed by President Weiner, Superintendent Lianides advised that he met with Principal Rodriguez and two counselors at Redwood and said that steps can be taken to significantly improve outcomes at Redwood. He noted that input from two Redwood students added to the richness of the task force meeting. Dr. Lianides advised that the Career Technical Education (CTE) Task Force meets tomorrow, and there is much activity underway moving forward.

Trustee Sarver attended an elected officials' meeting with Assemblymen Jerry Hill and Kevin Mullin concerning education funding and the local control reserve cap. He noted that President Weiner was brilliant at engaging the audience and contributing to the conversation at **Assemblyman Rich Gordon's the Redwood City** Education Update. Trustee Sarver also visited the Design Tech High School in San Mateo, which is a first-year charter school. He reported having a meeting scheduled with Oracle, visited with Facebook staff, and met with Ravenswood City Elementary District for a "two-by-two" meeting, which was extremely positive.

Trustee Du Bois said the meeting with Ravenswood was good. The East Palo Alto program, "Live in Peace" is working with the district's most at-risk students at Green Street. She and Trustee Sarver attended an amazing choral performance at Carlmont. She announced that Edmund Harris, Belle Haven Community Leader, had passed away. Trustee Du Bois noted as a parent she thought School Loop was a good tool, but suggested modifying the system to send out grades less frequently.

Trustee Thomsen reported that Jennifer Bester would like comments how basic aid districts will be impacted by California Proposition 2, Rainy Day Budget Stabilization Fund Act, which is on the November 4 ballot. He and Trustee Martinez attended a SUHSD Athletic Directors' meeting where challenges were discussed concerning the impact of enrollment growth.

Student Trustee Breslauer reported that the Student Advisory Council met last week, and she enjoyed hearing about what is going on at the other high schools.

Meeting Adjourned to Closed  
Session at 8:10 p.m.

On a motion by Trustee Thomsen, seconded by Trustee Sarver, the Board of Trustees adjourned to Closed Session at 8:10 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned Closed  
at 8:20 p.m.

The Board of Trustees adjourned Closed Session at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen Weiner, President

Alan Sarver, Clerk