



**San Juan Unified School District**

Board of Education

3738 Walnut Avenue, Carmichael, California 95608

**Board of Education Minutes  
October 10, 2023**

**Regular Meeting**

Board of Education

5:30 p.m.

**Open Session/Call to Order/Announcement of Closed Session Topics (A)**

The October 10 regular meeting was called to order by the president, Zima Creason. The board meeting was held in person and was also streamed to the district's YouTube channel.

**Roll Call**

Present:

Zima Creason, president

Pam Costa, vice president

Saul Hernandez, clerk

Ben Avey, member

Paula Villescaz, member

Tanya Kravchuk, member

Vacant:

Trustee area 7, member

**Visitor comments: Closed Session (A-1)**

There were no closed session visitor comments.

**Closed Session (B)**

The meeting was then recessed with the board convening in closed session to consider student expulsions in three cases (Education Code section 48918[f]) and to discuss with negotiator Melissa Bassanelli, Superintendent, regarding CSEA Chapter 127 General/Operations support, Chauffeurs/Teamsters Local No. 150 Transportation, Supervisors, Teachers and Certificated Supervisory units; and regarding non-represented groups: management and confidential units (Government Code section 54957.6).

**Reconvene Open Session/Pledge of Allegiance (C)**

At 6:30 p.m., the meeting was called back to order by the president, Zima Creason. Four members of the Del Campo High School Air Force Jr. ROTC led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes Approved (D)**

It was moved by Ms. Villescaz, seconded by Ms. Kravchuk, that the minutes of the September 26 regular meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Creason, Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk].

**High School Student Council Reports (E-1)**

High School Student Council representatives Navya Alqarwani from Bella Vista High School and Breanna Cabral from El Camino Fundamental High School updated the board on the goals, activities and achievements at their respective schools.

**Staff Reports (E-2)**

Associate Superintendent Debra Calvin, Ed.D., provided an update on the College Week activities that took place.

**Closed Session/Expulsion Actions (E-6)**

Mr. Hernandez reported that the board voted unanimously to accept as written two stipulated suspended expulsions in case numbers S-07 and S-08 and one stipulated expulsion in case number S-09.

**Visitor Comments (F)**

There were no general visitor comments.

**Consent Calendar Approved (G-1/G-9)**

It was moved by Ms. Costa, seconded by Mr. Avey, that the consent calendar items G-1 through G-9 be approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Creason, Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk].

**Personnel (G-1)** - Appointments, leaves of absence and separations – approved as submitted.

**Purchasing Report (G-2)**

Change orders, construction and public works bids, piggyback contracts and zero-dollar contract – approved as submitted.

**Business/Financial Report (G-3)**

Notices of completion – approved as submitted.

**Gifts (G-4)**

Acceptance of gifts to Cowan Fundamental School, Earl LeGette Elementary School, Encina Preparatory High School and Northridge Elementary School.

**Surplus Property Report (G-5)**

Approval to dispose of surplus property pursuant to Board Policy 3270 and Education Code sections 17545 and 17546.

**High School Scholarship Award (G-6)**

Approval of 2023 Ose Family Community Service Award for Rio Americano High School.

**Special Education Community Advisory Committee Membership (G-7)**

Ratification of Heather Harper as a committee member to the Special Education Community Advisory Committee.

**Facilities Committee Membership (G-8)**

Ratification of Josh Alvarado as a committee member to the Facilities Committee.

**Curriculum, Standards, Instructional and Student Services Committee Membership (G-9)**

Ratification of Mindy McIntyre as a committee member to the Curriculum, Standards, Instructional and Student Services (C&S) Committee.

**2022-2023 End of Year Data Summary (I-1)**

Interim Deputy Superintendent of Schools and Student Support Amy Slavensky, Ph.D. introduced Director of Continuous Improvement and LCAP Gianfranco Tornatore, Ed. D. and Assistant Director of Assessment, Evaluation and Planning Christopher Smith who gave a presentation on the 2022-2023 end of year data results, including the results of the 2023 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) tests. Dr. Tornatore shared information about the types of data, how it is reported and an update on the changes to the California School Dashboard. Mr. Smith presented the 2022-2023 end of year data results, focusing on English language arts, mathematics, English language proficiency, chronic absenteeism and suspension. Mr. Smith also presented data for specific student groups including English learners, low socioeconomic status, foster youth, homeless, student with disabilities, African American, Hispanic and White. Dr. Tornatore explained how the district is responding to the data, noting the successes, challenges and actions to improve student outcomes. Principals Beth Wahl and Roxanne Stellmacher shared how they used data to guide improvement work at Lichen K-8 School.

Board members made comments and posed questions. Mr. Avey expressed concerns about the data, acknowledged the initiatives at Lichen K-8 and expressed hope that the Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) funded strategies will soon yield results. Ms. Villescaz commented on shifts in the final data, efforts at Lichen K-8, extra support for newcomer students and post-ELO plans. Ms. Kravchuk expressed concerns regarding the data, noting encouragement from the progress points at Lichen K-8 School, and she inquired about identifying school sites for additional support, which Dr. Tornatore addressed. Ms. Costa commented on CAASPP, other assessment methods, outcomes at Lichen K-8, the Smarter Balanced sample test,

chronic absenteeism and staff hiring, and she anticipates academic improvements in the next year. Mr. Hernandez expressed confidence in the district's current plan, feeling it is moving forward in the right direction. Ms. Creason recognized the innovative efforts of school sites to address chronic absenteeism and the need for ongoing conversations about growth versus proficiency. Ms. Creason also thanked Ms. Wahl and Ms. Stellmacher for their leadership, noting the connection between the positive climate survey and outcomes at Lichen K-8.

### **Inclusive Practices (I-2)**

Associate Superintendent of Educational Services Debra Calvin, Ed. D., introduced the topic and Director of Special Education Vanessa Adolphson, Director of Professional Learning and Innovation Nicole Kukral and Preschool Teacher Melissa Hightower who gave a presentation on the work and current priorities of the Special Education department. Ms. Adolphson spoke about the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the district's guiding documents, and collaborative efforts with family, community, school sites and support staff. Ms. Kukral reviewed four areas of professional development which included behavior training, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), co-teaching and equitable grading practices. Ms. Hightower shared information about the Blended Preschool program. Dr. Calvin addressed current challenges, implemented strategies and next steps.

### Public Comments:

Ryan Digman spoke about barriers to education, inclusive practices and parent involvement.

Benjamin Hesch shared his experiences as a special education student in the district.

Marsha Hesch spoke about her son's experiences as a special education student.

Board members made comments and posed questions. Mr. Avey shared that he hears from parents who don't feel part of the IEP (individualized education program) team, noting that he hopes this is something that is being addressed. Ms. Villescaz asked clarifying questions about the co-teaching model, which Ms. Kukral addressed. Ms. Villescaz also highlighted the need for smaller class sizes and adequate staffing for full inclusion. Ms. Kravchuk inquired about Naviance, professional development, UDL and equitable grading practices, which staff answered. Ms. Kravchuk also reported on her visit to the Blended Preschool program at Ralph Richardson Center. Ms. Creason made comments about UDL, bullying and equitable grading practices, which Ms. Adolphson addressed. Superintendent Bassanelli talked about the formation of a Special Education Task Force, which aims to strengthen the special education program.

### **Resolution No. 4101: Arcade Fundamental Middle School Lease Amendment No. 6 (I-3)**

Chief Operations Officer Frank Camarda presented the item, explaining that an increase in contingency is necessary to cover the cost of unforeseen soil conditions that the district is required by law to remediate. Board members asked questions, which staff addressed. It was moved by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Ms. Costa, to adopt Resolution No. 4101, approving the sixth amendment to the lease agreement for the Arcade Fundamental Middle School project no. 001-9512-P1 between San Juan Unified and Clark & Sullivan Builders Inc. dba Clark/Sullivan Construction. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Creason, Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk].

### **Resolution No. 4102: Katherine Johnson Middle School Lease Amendment No. 6 (I-4)**

Mr. Camarda presented the item, explaining that an increase in contingency is necessary to cover the cost of unforeseen soil conditions that the district is required by law to remediate. It was moved by Ms. Villescaz, seconded by Mr. Avey, to adopt Resolution No. 4102, approving the sixth amendment to the lease agreement for the Katherine Johnson Middle School new construction project no. 055-9512-P1 between San Juan Unified and Flint Builders, Inc. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Creason, Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk].

### **Variable Term Waivers (I-5)**

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Rebecca Toto, Ed.D. presented the item. It was moved by Ms. Villescaz, seconded by Ms. Kravchuk, to approve the submission of six Variable Term Waivers to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Creason, Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk].

### **Assignment of Teachers Outside Regular Base Credential (I-6)**

Dr. Toto presented the item. It was moved by Ms. Kravchuk, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, to adopt Resolution No. 4103 authorizing the assignment of 55 certificated employees to areas outside their authorized credential during the 2023-2024 school year per Education Code sections 44256(b), 44258.2, 44263 and 44865. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Creason, Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk].

**Provisional Internship Permits (I-7)**

Dr. Toto presented the item. It was moved by Mr. Avey, seconded by Ms. Kravchuk, to approve the submission of four Provisional Internship Permits to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing effective August 8, 2023 through June 5, 2024. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Creason, Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk].

**Board Reports (J)**

Ms. Kravchuk spoke about a recent school site visit that she made and common humanity.

**Future Agenda (K)**

There were no items added to the future agenda.

**Adjournment (L)**

At 9:13 p.m., there being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned.



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Zima Creason, Board President



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Melissa Bassanelli, Secretary

Approved: 10/24/2023

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