



San Juan Unified School District

Board of Education

3738 Walnut Avenue, Carmichael, California 95608

**Board of Education Minutes
October 12, 2021**

Regular Meeting

Board of Education

5:30 p.m.

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

The October 12 regular meeting was called to order by the president, Paula Villescaz. The board meeting was held in person and also livestreamed on the district's YouTube channel.

Roll Call

Present:

Paula Villescaz, president

Michael McKibbin, Ed.D., vice president

Zima Creason, clerk

Pam Costa, member

Saul Hernandez, 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 and a student enrollment in one case (Education Code section 48918[f]) and to discuss with negotiator Daniel Thigpen, Senior Director of Labor Relations, 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 Ms. Villescaz, and four members of the Casa Roble Fundamental High School Air Force Junior ROTC led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. After the pledge, Ms. Villescaz explained the two methods (in person or electronically) available to submit public comment for tonight's meeting.

Minutes Approved (D)

It was moved by Ms. Creason, seconded by Dr. McKibbin, that the minutes of the September 28 regular meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

High School Student Council Reports (E-1)

High School Student Council representative Sariah Matthews from El Camino Fundamental High School updated the board on the goals, activities and achievements at the school.

Staff Reports (E-2)

Superintendent Kern provided information regarding in-person activities and events at schools, and he also shared information from the Sacramento County Public Health department regarding the student vaccine mandate.

Closed Session/Expulsion Actions (E-6)

Ms. Creason reported that the board voted unanimously to accept a hearing panel's recommendation of three suspended expulsions in case numbers S-01, S-04 and S-05. Ms. Creason also reported that the board voted unanimously to accept a hearing panel's recommendation of one enrollment in case number OS-09.

Visitor Comments (F)

[in person]

Luke Mullisen shared information about his personal experience with COVID-19.

Hilary Auer made comments in opposition of the student vaccine mandate.

Kelly Hudson spoke about the student vaccine mandate and safety.

[via electronic comment form, and read aloud by Communication Director Raj Rai]

Rachel shared her concerns about inconsistent safety standards throughout the district.

Veronica Guzman expressed concerns about the student vaccine mandate.

Daniella F. commented about a potential student protest next week regarding the vaccine mandate.

Karrin Vallin supports having a homecoming dance at Rio Americano High School.

Melissa Pruitt shared comments in support of the vaccine mandate.

Consent Calendar Approved (G-1/G-5)

It was moved by Ms. Costa, seconded by Ms. Creason, that the consent calendar items G-1 through G-5 be approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

Personnel (G-1)

Appointments, leaves of absence, separations and job descriptions/salary range change – approved as submitted.

Purchasing Report (G-2)

Purchase orders and service agreements and change orders – approved as submitted.

Gifts (G-3)

Acceptance of gifts to Bella Vista High School, Encina Preparatory High School, Laurel Ruff Transition School and Northridge Elementary School.

Disposal of Surplus Property (G-4)

Approval to dispose of surplus property pursuant to board policy 3270 and Education Code sections 17545 and 17546.

Resolution No. 3086: Lease-Leaseback Contract Award for LeGette Elementary School (G-5)

Adoption of Resolution No. 3086 awarding the lease-leaseback contract for Earl LeGette Elementary School to Flint Builders Inc., pursuant to Education Code section 17406.

K-8 Schools Update (I-1)

Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education and Programs Amberlee Townsend-Snider introduced the topic and provided an overview and update of the middle years programs (grades 6-8) at the district's K-8 schools. Ms. Townsend-Snider provided historical context about how sites became K-8 schools and she reviewed the course offerings by school site. Director of Elementary/K-8 Schools Cassie Bennett Porter discussed the middle years enrollment trends and she shared information captured during stakeholder listening sessions involving staff, students and parents, which included identifying the unique benefits and challenges of K-8 schools. After discussing next steps, staff answered questions from the board.

Mr. Hernandez said he was surprised and pleased by the variety of options that the elective wheel offers. Superintendent Kern made comments about developing creative solutions to address the inequities of course offerings. Ms. Costa spoke about the past meetings she attended when she was a staff member regarding the development of K-8 schools, stating that she was pleased to see the list of benefits come to fruition since the inception of the schools. In addition, Ms. Costa noted that the district made it abundantly clear at the time that K-8 schools were developed years ago that they were not middle schools, which she said may need to be reinforced to current families. Ms. Costa also said she was pleased to hear that the district is exploring creative staffing options regarding course offerings. Ms. Creason stated she appreciates staff taking the

time to get feedback from all stakeholders, she inquired about the high school preparedness of K-8 students and she acknowledged the staffing challenges regarding electives. Dr. McKibbin asked clarifying questions regarding the historical background of K-8 schools, credentialing requirements and wait lists, and he encouraged schools to develop marketing materials to showcase their unique programs. Ms. Villescaz made comments related to enrollment fluctuations and the balancing of course offerings across the district.

ESSER III Expenditure Plan (I-2)

Deputy Superintendent of Schools and Student Support Melissa Bassanelli presented the item, explaining that school districts receiving ESSER III funds under the American Rescue Plan Act are required to develop a plan for how they will use the funds to address students' academic, social emotional and mental health needs, as well as how they will address the learning gaps that existed before, and were exacerbated by, the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Bassanelli recapped that on May 25, 2021, the governing board approved the Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Grant Plan, which included the utilization of ESSER funds to create a multi-year plan that provides supplemental instruction and support to students, including those identified as needing academic, social, emotional and other supports, and she noted that included within the ESSER III Expenditure Plan are actions identified within the ELO Grant Plan, as well as other actions identified utilizing stakeholder input.

After the presentation, board members made comments and posed questions, which staff answered. Ms. Costa stated she appreciates the robust community input and she posed questions related to school sites having the flexibility to change actions if staffing challenges arise, the offsetting of student body funds at the elementary and middle schools and the frequency of the instructional assistant training. Ms. Creason inquired about the ThoughtExchange process and the timeline to construct outdoor learning spaces. Dr. McKibbin asked questions about independent learners and financial aspects of the plan. Ms. Villescaz noted that outdoor learning spaces may already be available to some school sites that are adjacent to community parks, that she appreciates the investment in classified employee positions and she encouraged further connection with the foster youth and McKinney-Vento groups. Action was scheduled for October 26.

Construction Update (I-3)

Chief Operations Officer Frank Camarda presented the topic and introduced Director of Facilities, Construction & Modernization Nicholas Arps who provided information about the district's master plan priorities, the facilities process, and an update on the district's past and present construction projects for Bond Measures J, N and P. Mr. Camarda and Mr. Arps also discussed smaller-scale projects including classroom furniture replacement, information technology upgrades, maintenance and operations light modifications, and miscellaneous projects such as roofing and HVAC installations.

After the presentation, staff answered questions from the board. Mr. Hernandez thanked Mr. Camarda and staff for their continued work over the past two years during the pandemic, which he said has provided a ray of hope for students and parents, and he inquired about the balances of the bond funds. Ms. Costa echoed the comments made by Mr. Hernandez and she thanked staff for procuring the new classroom furniture in such a timely manner in order to meet health standards during the pandemic. Ms. Creason inquired about the role of the Facilities Committee and the adaptability of the master plan. Dr. McKibbin asked about the remaining high school signature projects, the light modification projects and energy efficient projects. Ms. Villescaz expressed thanks and appreciation to the community for passing the various bonds, which Mr. Camarda explained has allowed the district to launch major transformations at district schools. Ms. Villescaz also inquired about supply chain challenges during the pandemic, which Mr. Arps noted was an ongoing issue with procurement delays and shipping.

Early Literacy Support Block Grant Action Plan 2020-2023 (I-4)

Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools and Programs Amberlee Townsend-Snider presented the topic and shared that the grant will provide funds to Dyer-Kelly Elementary School over a three-year period for the development of a root cause analysis, needs assessment and a literacy action plan. Ms. Townsend-Snider explained the literacy action plan requires board approval per the California Department of Education requirements. Staff answered questions from the board.

It was moved by Ms. Costa, seconded by Dr. McKibbin, to approve the required elements of the 2020-2023 Early Literacy Support Block Grant action plan. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

Guest Teacher Salary Schedule (I-5)

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Paul Oropallo presented the topic, noting two amendments to include nurses and long term independent study (El Sereno) in the \$250 full day and \$125 half day rates. It was moved by Ms. Creason, seconded by Dr. McKibbin, to approve the proposed changes to the guest teacher salary schedule as amended. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

Williams Complaint Report (I-6)

General Counsel Linda Simlick explained that the district must report on the status of Williams-type complaints filed with the district per Education Code section 35186(d), which requires each school district to publicly report, on a quarterly basis, summarized data on the nature and resolution of all Williams-type complaints. Ms. Simlick stated that, during the time period from July 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021, there were no Williams-type complaints filed.

Board Reports (J)

Mr. Hernandez said that he participated in National Walk to School Day with students at Will Rogers Middle School.

Ms. Costa reported that she, and other board members, virtually attended the San Juan Education Foundation Evening with the Stars event and that she and Dr. McKibbin attended the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Region 6 delegates meeting. Ms. Costa also shared that she took part in CSBA's webinar "Governing in a Time of Chaos" and recommended it to other board members.

Ms. Creason thanked staff for her recent school sites visits, she acknowledged everyone who donated and/or volunteered to help with the Afghan Refugee Donation Drive and she noted it was National Custodian Day last week.

Ms. Villescaz reported that she and Superintendent Kern participated in a community meeting, hosted by Supervisor Desmond, to discuss plans to place and welcome Afghanistan refugees; that she was interviewed for an upcoming article in the CSBA publication; and that she and Dr. McKibbin attended the recent in-person Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee meeting.

Future Agenda (K)

There were no items added to the future agenda.

Visitor Comments (L) *[via electronic comment form, and read aloud by Communication Director Raj Rai]*

Karrin Vallin opposes a student vaccine mandate.

Adjournment (M)

At 9:16 p.m., there being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned.



Paula Villescaz, President



Kent Kern, Executive Secretary

Approved: 10/26/2021

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