



**San Juan Unified School District**

Board of Education

3738 Walnut Avenue, Carmichael, California 95608

**Board of Education Minutes  
February 27, 2024**

**Regular Meeting**

Board of Education

5:45 p.m.

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

The February 27 regular meeting was called to order by the vice president, Saul Hernandez. The board meeting was held in person and was also livestreamed on the district website.

**Roll Call**

Present:

Saul Hernandez, vice president

Ben Avey, clerk

Paula Villescaz, member

Tanya Kravchuk, member

Manuel Perez, member

Zima Creason, member

Absent:

Pam Costa, president

**Announcement of Closed Session Topics/Closed Session Visitor Comments (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 a student enrollment in one case (Education Code section 48918[f]); personnel matters (Government Code section 54957) – three reassignments of certificated administrators; and to discuss with negotiator Melissa Bassanelli, Superintendent of Schools, 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 vice president, Saul Hernandez. Four members of the Casa Roble Fundamental 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 February 13 regular meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED 5-0-1 [AYES: Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: Hernandez; ABSENT: Costa].

**Recognition: Arts Education Month (E-1a)**

It was moved by Ms. Creason, seconded by Ms. Kravchuk, to adopt Resolution No. A-434 proclaiming the month of March as Arts Education Month. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [AYES: Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSENT: Costa].

**Recognition: National School Social Work Week (E-1b)**

It was moved by Ms. Villescaz, seconded by Mr. Perez, to adopt Resolution No. A-435 proclaiming March 3-9 as National School Social Work Week. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [AYES: Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSENT: Costa].

**High School Student Council Reports (E-2)**

High School Student Council representatives Claire Contreras and Dimah Adnan from Mira Loma High School and Keira Chandler and Madison Stewart from Casa Roble Fundamental High School updated the board on the goals, activities and achievements at their respective schools.

**Closed Session/Expulsion Actions (E-7)**

Mr. Avey reported that the board voted unanimously to accept a hearing panel's recommendation of one enrollment in case number OM-19. Mr. Avey also reported that the board voted unanimously to approve the reassignment of three certificated administrators including one director, one high school principal and one elementary vice principal.

**Visitor Comments (F)**

Jennifer Harris shared information about a recent meeting of the Captain Joseph House Foundation that took place at El Camino Fundamental High School.

Alyssa Carroll expressed her concerns regarding transitional kindergarten enrollment.

Norma Martinez spoke about the safety improvements at Sylvan Middle School.

Tathiana Sanchez spoke about the safety improvements at Bella Vista High School.

Lidia Melendez thanked the Family and Community Engagement department for its work.

Veronica Pascual thanked staff for its work related to the District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC).

**Consent Calendar Approved (G-1/G-4)**

Mr. Hernandez pulled item G-5. It was moved by Ms. Kravchuk, seconded by Mr. Perez, that the consent calendar items G-1 through G-4 be approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [AYES: Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSENT: Costa].

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

**Purchasing Report (G-2)**

Change orders and zero dollar contract – approved as submitted.

**Gifts (G-3)**

Acceptance of gifts to El Camino Fundamental High School and Lichen K-8 School.

**Surplus Property Report (G-4)**

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

**Consent Calendar Continued (H)****Certification of Absence: Saul Hernandez (G-5)**

Certification that the February 13, 2024, regular meeting, absence of board member Saul Hernandez occurred due to a hardship (family matter), pursuant to Education Code 35120(c) and Board Bylaw 9250.

It was moved by Mr. Avey, seconded by Ms. Creason, that the consent calendar item G-5 be approved. MOTION CARRIED 5-0-1 [AYES: Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: Hernandez; ABSENT: Costa].

**Arts Education and Proposition 28 Update (I-1)**

Interim Deputy Superintendent of Schools and Student Support Amy Slavensky, Ph.D., introduced the topic and Visual and Performing Arts Program Specialist Michael Dittmer who gave a presentation on the district's arts education programs and the related implementation of Proposition 28, which provides additional arts funding to schools. Mr. Dittmer highlighted the importance of arts education and spoke about the arts opportunities available to students in all grade levels. Mr. Dittmer also spoke about the projected growth for 2024-2025, which presents an opportunity to grow the arts programs by continuing

traditions and realizing new possibilities and partnerships, ensuring the potential reality of arts every day for every child in every school. Mr. Dittmer explained that the district kicked off the use of the funds at both the elementary/TK-8 and secondary levels, noting that a phased-in approach will take place at the elementary/TK-8 level during the third trimester, and some secondary sites were able to add additional sections to their second semester master schedule.

Public Comments:

Colleen Cadwallader spoke about the direct teacher grant program offered by the San Juan Education Foundation (SJEF).

Martin Ross expressed his support for Proposition 28.

Ms. Kravchuk expressed excitement about the increase in arts programs and inquired about the legislation requirements, which Mr. Dittmer explained. Ms. Creason uplifted the team approach, acknowledging the work of arts educators, the SJEF funding to augment the cost of materials, and the continued workforce shortage.

**Nutrition Services Update (I-2)**

Chief Operations Officer Frank Camarda introduced Director of Nutrition Services Sneha Nair who gave a presentation about the work of the Nutrition Services department. Ms. Nair reviewed the program requirements and California Universal Meals, and she also presented information regarding meal counts, revenues, expenses and funding sources. Ms. Nair discussed the successes and challenges that have taken place during the 2023-2024 school year, sharing that one goal is to move away from processed and pre-made meals and to provide 40 percent freshly prepared onsite meals weekly.

Public Comment:

Martin Ross shared information about the work of the Health Education Council.

Ms. Villescaz thanked the Nutrition Services team for their efforts and made comments regarding the districtwide Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), federal grants, community partners and the rising cost of food, and she acknowledged the increase in the number of meals served. Ms. Creason recognized the work of the Nutrition Services staff, sharing some of her experiences during her school site visits. Mr. Avey commented on the improvement in cafeteria lines and inquired about the increase in costs versus the reimbursement rate, which Ms. Nair addressed. Ms. Kravchuk spoke about kitchen equipment and infrastructure, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) farm, and the Harvest of the Month program.

**Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 0410 Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities (I-3)**

It was moved by Ms. Villescaz, seconded by Ms. Creason, to approve the revisions to Board Policy 0410 Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities and the new accompanying exhibit. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [AYES: Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSENT: Costa].

**Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 1312.2 Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials (I-4)**

It was moved by Mr. Avey, seconded by Mr. Perez, to approve the revisions to Board Policy 1312.2 Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials and the new accompanying exhibit. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [AYES: Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSENT: Costa].

**Recommendation for Reduction in Particular Kinds of Services (TK-12 Certificated) (I-5)**

It was moved by Ms. Creason, seconded by Ms. Kravchuk, to adopt Resolution No. 4116, reducing or discontinuing particular kinds of services and the corresponding amount of TK-12 certificated staffing that will be reduced as a result. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [AYES: Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSENT: Costa].

It was moved by Mr. Perez, seconded by Mr. Avey, to adopt Resolution No. 4117, establishing criteria to apply to break a tie in seniority for TK-12 certificated staff affected by program reductions and who have the same date of hire. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [AYES: Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSENT: Costa].

**Recommendation for Reduction in Particular Kinds of Services (Early Childhood Education) (I-6)**

It was moved by Ms. Villescaz, seconded by Ms. Kravchuk, to adopt Resolution No. 4118, reducing or discontinuing particular kinds of services and the corresponding amount of early childhood education certificated staffing that will be reduced as a result. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [AYES: Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSENT: Costa].

It was moved by Ms. Kravchuk, seconded by Ms. Creason, to adopt Resolution No. 4119, establishing criteria to apply to break a tie in seniority for early childhood education certificated staff affected by program reductions and who have the same date of hire. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [AYES: Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSENT: Costa].

**Recommendation for Reduction in Particular Kinds of Services (Adult Education) (I-7)**

It was moved by Mr. Avey, seconded by Ms. Kravchuk, to adopt Resolution No. 4120, reducing or discontinuing particular kinds of services and the corresponding amount of adult education certificated staffing that will be reduced as a result. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [AYES: Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSENT: Costa].

It was moved by Ms. Creason, seconded by Mr. Perez, to adopt Resolution No. 4121, establishing criteria to apply to break a tie in seniority for adult education certificated staff affected by program reductions and who have the same date of hire. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [AYES: Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSENT: Costa].

**Notice of Intent to Reduce or Discontinue Certain Classified Positions (I-8)**

It was moved by Mr. Perez, seconded by Mr. Avey, to adopt Resolution No. 4122, reducing or eliminating certain classified positions, effective June 30, 2024, due to lack of work and/or lack of funds. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [AYES: Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSENT: Costa].

**California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly Election (I-9)**

The board may wish to cast a vote for no more than two (2) candidates for subregion 6-B of the CSBA Delegate Assembly.

It was moved by Ms. Villescaz, seconded by Ms. Creason, to cast a vote for ballot candidate Christine Jefferson (Twin Rivers USD). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [AYES: Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSENT: Costa].

It was moved by Ms. Kravchuk, seconded by Mr. Avey, to cast a vote for ballot candidate Ken Barnes (Robla School District). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [AYES: Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSENT: Costa].

**Board Reports (J)**

There were no board reports.

**Future Agenda (K)**

There were no items added to the future agenda.

**Adjournment (L)**

At 8:02 p.m., there being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned.

  
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Pam Costa, Board President

  
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Melissa Bassanelli, Secretary

Approved: 03/19/2024  
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