



San Juan Unified School District

Board of Education

3738 Walnut Avenue, Carmichael, California 95608

**Board of Education Minutes
March 19, 2024**

Regular Meeting

Board of Education

5:15 p.m.

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

The March 19 regular meeting was called to order by the president, Pam Costa. The board meeting was held in person and was also livestreamed on the district website.

Roll Call

Present:

Pam Costa, president

Saul Hernandez, vice president

Ben Avey, clerk

Paula Villescaz, member

Tanya Kravchuk, member

Manuel Perez, member

Zima Creason, member

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 student expulsions in five cases and student enrollment in one case (Education Code section 48918[f]); to discuss one personnel matter – public employee appointment/employment – interim deputy superintendent (Government Code section 54957); to conference with legal counsel – existing litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1). California School Employees Association v. Alameda Unified School District, et. al. Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. 22CV005456; and to discuss collective bargaining matters – discussion with negotiator Daniel Thigpen, Executive Director, Labor Relations and Government Affairs, 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, Pam Costa. 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 Mr. Perez, that the minutes of the February 27 regular meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-1 [AYES: Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: Costa].

Recognition: Week of the Young Child (E-1a)

It was moved by Ms. Kravchuk, seconded by Mr. Perez, to adopt Resolution No. A-436 proclaiming the week of April 6-12 as Week of the Young Child. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason].

High School Student Council Reports (E-2)

High School Student Council representatives Noah McCray and Jacob Lasquete from Meraki High School and Brian Anderson and Kimberly Beren from El Sereno 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 expulsion in case number S-23 and two suspended expulsions in case numbers S-24 and S-27, and the board also voted unanimously to accept as written one stipulated expulsion in case number S-29, one denied enrollment in case number RA-07 and one violated suspended expulsion in case number M-17.

Visitor Comments (F)

Larisa Babchanik expressed opposition to the proposed fencing project at Del Campo High School near Moraga Drive.

Matt Ceccato spoke about the San Juan Education Foundation scholarship programs.

Melanie Staley made comments about available resources for a Cowan Elementary School student who needs extra assistance.

Consent Calendar Approved (G-1/G-7, G-9, G-10)

Superintendent Bassanelli pulled item G-8. Ms. Costa pulled item G-11. It was moved by Ms. Creason, seconded by Ms. Villescaz, that the consent calendar items G-1 through G-7, G-9 and G-10 be approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason].

Personnel (G-1)

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

Purchasing Report (G-2)

Purchase orders and service agreements, change orders, construction and public works bids, piggyback contracts, zero dollar contracts and bids/RFPs – approved as submitted.

Business/Financial Report (G-3)

Notices of Completion and warrants and payroll – approved as submitted.

Gifts (G-4)

Acceptance of gifts to Bella Vista High School, Choices Charter School, Laurel Ruff Transition School, Mesa Verde High School, San Juan High School and Skycrest 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.

Resolution No. 4123: District Election Order (G-6)

Adoption of Resolution No. 4123 District Election Order.

2024-2025 Head Start/Early Head Start Grant (G-7)

Approval to submit and implement, if funded, the following grant: Head Start and Early Head Start Grant 2024-2025.

Resolution No. 4124: Mesa Verde High School Lease Amendment No. 3 (G-9)

Adoption of Resolution No. 4124 approving the third amendment to the lease for the Mesa Verde High School Outdoor Learning Facilities project no. 210-9513-P1 between San Juan Unified School District and Robert A. Bothman Construction.

Ratification of Committee Member (G-10)

Ratification of Olivia O'Neil as a committee member to the Special Education Community Advisory Committee.

Consent Calendar Continued (H) (G-8, G-11)**Short-Term Expanded Learning Program Site Facilitator Position (G-8)**

Approval of a short-term Expanded Learning Programs Site Facilitator position for Student Support Services from 03/20/2024 until 08/05/2024.

Superintendent Bassanelli explained that staff would like to remove this item from the consent calendar, as this short-term position is no longer necessary and was filled instead through a temporary assignment.

Certification of Absence: Pam Costa (G-11)

Certification that the February 27, 2024, regular meeting, absence of board member Pam Costa occurred due to illness (medical), pursuant to Education Code 35120(c) and Board Bylaw 9250.

It was moved by Mr. Avey, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, that the consent calendar item G-11 be approved. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-1 [AYES: Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: Costa].

Bond Opinion Research Results (I-1)

Chief Operations Officer Frank Camarda introduced the topic, explaining that FM3 Research was hired to conduct a community opinion survey to assess the level of support for the district to move forward with a potential bond measure in November 2024. Mr. Camarda then introduced Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3 Research) Senior Vice President Lucia Del Puppo, who gave a presentation on the key findings of a districtwide survey that was conducted during December 11-17, 2023. The survey involved 615 telephone and online interviews (in both English and Spanish) of likely November 2024 voters in the San Juan Unified School District. Ms. Del Puppo shared detailed information regarding the survey specifics and methodology used to gather feedback, as well as the mood of voters, key areas that resonate with voters, ballot language tested, the level of support for different bond amounts, areas of less importance to voters and the percentage levels in support of a potential bond measure. Ms. Del Puppo then presented a list of conclusions.

Board member asked questions and made comments, which Ms. Del Puppo and Mr. Camarda addressed. Ms. Creason inquired about the survey type, the sample population polled and athletic field lighting. Ms. Villescaz made comments about the bond amount, the sample population polled and the impact of positive messaging. Mr. Avey inquired about the Assembly Bill 195 ballot label requirement, voter turnout and the timing of the polling. Mr. Hernandez expressed confidence that voters will be able to see the progress that has been made with district facilities with the last three bond measures. Ms. Kravchuk asked about the timing of the bond measure related to the upcoming presidential election.

Mr. Camarda then provided a timeline of next steps to determine if the bond measure is a viable path forward, which includes community engagement, some of which could be embedded into the already scheduled Facilities Master Plan community input meetings, and a tracking survey. Mr. Avey asked if the new Facilities Master Plan would be complete by the election, which Mr. Camarda said it would be close to being done and general costs would likely be available. Ms. Creason emphasized the importance of enhancing board members' understanding of the potential bond measure and the Facilities Master Plan as they engage with community members. Mr. Hernandez inquired about board members serving on a bond committee. Ms. Costa highlighted the importance of ensuring that both school sites and board members are well-informed on the issue.

Dress Code Policy Update (I-2)

Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education and Programs Kristan Schnepf gave an update on the process for revising the student dress code policy, which began in 2019. Ms. Schnepf provided background information, discussed the need to create a consistent dress code policy and shared information about the dress code survey that was conducted. Additionally, Ms. Schnepf explained the convening of the dress code committee and the process the committee has undertaken since September 2022. Ms. Schnepf also provided information about the collaboration with labor partners, principal and vice principals. Lastly, Ms. Schnepf shared the communication plan to promote the upcoming public review period that will take place this spring, seeking to increase participation and gather feedback and input on the draft policy which will help to inform the final student dress code policy. Board members made comments and posed questions, which staff addressed.

Ms. Creason encouraged staff to provide some historical context at the community outreach meetings. Ms. Kravchuk expressed appreciation for the outreach and the effort to get the community involved and she inquired about some of the language in the dress code policy. Mr. Hernandez inquired about the language in the current dress code board policy, which Superintendent Bassanelli explained the intent is to bring back proposed revisions to Board Policy 5132 which would eliminate that wording.

Ms. Villescaz shared that she agrees with the importance of providing context during the community meetings and she commented about safety and minimizing loss of class time. Ms. Costa thanked staff for their work as well as the efforts spent to meet the needs for all in the community.

2023-2024 Second Interim and Budget/Financial Status Report (I-3)

Chief Financial Officer Joel Ryan presented the 2023-2024 Second Interim Report, certifying the Second Interim Report as positive, with the understanding of the fiduciary responsibility to maintain fiscal solvency for the current and subsequent two fiscal years. The Second Interim Report reflects actual revenue and expenditures through January 31, 2024, forecasts the remainder of the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and provides a multi-year budget projection for years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. Mr. Avey inquired about the COLA projections, which Mr. Ryan addressed. It was moved by Ms. Villescaz, seconded by Mr. Perez, to approve the 2023-2024 Second Interim Report with the positive certification of the district's ability to meet its financial obligations for the current fiscal year and subsequent two fiscal years. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason].

2024-2027 District Transportation Plan (I-4)

Mr. Camarda presented the item. Board members made comments and posed questions, which staff addressed. It was moved by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Ms. Creason, to approve the 2024-2027 District Transportation Plan. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason].

Board Reports (J)

Ms. Villescaz reported on her site visits to Katherine Johnson Middle School, Encina Preparatory High School and Meraki High School, and she spoke about the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) Teachers of the Year recognition at a recent Sacramento Kings game.

Ms. Kravchuk shared details of her site visits to Cameron Ranch Elementary School, Thomas Kelly Elementary School, and Rio Americano High School, and she reported that she, along with Mr. Hernandez, attended Sports-A-Rama at Del Campo High School.

Mr. Avey provided details about meetings he attended including the Citrus Heights 2x2 meeting, the Citrus Heights City Council meeting, a learning session regarding the System of Professional Growth and a meeting of the Community Advisory Committee.

Mr. Hernandez spoke about the recent passing of a Del Campo High School student, acknowledging the significant support that the family has received from the Del Campo school community.

Future Agenda (K)

There were no items added to the future agenda.

Closed Session Continued (B)

At 8:37 p.m., Ms. Costa announced that the board would return to closed session to continue item B-4, collective bargaining matters. Ms. Costa then recessed the meeting in memory of Ava Bolima.

Adjournment (L)

At 9:24 p.m., Ms. Costa stated there were no closed session actions to report, and there being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned.



Pam Costa, Board President



Melissa Bassanelli, Secretary

Approved: 04/09/2024

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