



San Juan Unified School District
Board of Education
3738 Walnut Avenue, Carmichael, California 95608

**Board of Education Minutes
October 22, 2024**

Regular Meeting
Board of Education
5:30 p.m.

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

The October 22 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.

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 expulsion in one case (Education Code section 48918[f]) and to discuss 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 Jr. ROTC led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Minutes Approved (D)

It was moved by Ms. Villescaz, seconded by Mr. Avey, that the minutes of the October 8 regular meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-1 [AYES: Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez; NOES: None: ABSTAIN: Creason].

Recognition: National School Psychology Week (E-1)

It was moved by Ms. Villescaz, seconded by Mr. Perez, to adopt Resolution No. A-443 proclaiming the week of November 11-15 as National School Psychology Week. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason].

High School Student Council Reports (F-1)

High School Student Council representatives Naina Jaduran from Bella Vista High School and Jason Perry and Bidaa Ahmad Saleh from Encina High School updated the board on the goals, activities and achievements at their respective schools.

Closed Session/Expulsion Actions (F-6)

Mr. Avey reported that the board voted unanimously to accept a hearing panel's recommendation of one expulsion in case number M-02.

Visitor Comments (G)

There were no general visitor comments.

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

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

Personnel (H-1)

Appointments, leaves of absence and separations – approved as submitted.

Purchasing Report (H-2)

Purchase orders, service agreements and contracts; change orders/amendments; and piggyback contracts – approved as submitted.

Gifts (H-3)

Acceptance of gift to Encina High School.

Revisions to Board Policy and Exhibit 0420.41 Charter School Oversight (H-4)

Approval of revisions to Board Policy 0420.41 Charter School Oversight and Exhibit 0420.41 Charter School Responsibilities and Exhibit 0420.41 Charter School Responsibilities.

Ratification of Committee Members (H-5)

Ratification of the appointment of Georgia Klostrakis to the Curriculum, Standards, Instructional and Student Services (C&S) Committee and Paul Roy to the Facilities Committee.

Land Acknowledgement Update (J-1)

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Harvey Oaxaca, Ed.D. presented the item and then introduced Director of Equity and Student Achievement Omar Field-Ridley and Program Specialist for English language arts and history-social science Heather Brandt who gave a presentation on the development of a land acknowledgement for school and district use. Mr. Field-Ridley spoke about Resolution No. 4143, the inclusion of tribes in the land acknowledgement and community feedback. Ms. Brandt talked about instructional practices related to the land acknowledgement and the teaching of accurate and inclusive history, and she discussed new recent legislation, Assembly Bill 1821. Mr. Field-Ridley discussed next steps.

Public Comments:

Maria Elena expressed support for the adoption of the land acknowledgement.

Lucero Soto expressed support for the adoption of the land acknowledgement.

Calvin Hedrick made comments about inclusivity and the land acknowledgement.

Kaylee Mize shared a historical story and expressed support for the land acknowledgement.

Josh Mize expressed support for the adoption of the land acknowledgement.

Kameiko Hostler spoke in support of the land acknowledgement.

Hattie Coleman expressed support for the land acknowledgement.

Sequoia Coleman spoke in support of the land acknowledgement.

Brianna Rose expressed support for the land acknowledgement.

Jessica Hilderbrand shared personal experiences and expressed support for the land acknowledgement.

Angelina Hinojosa spoke in support of the land acknowledgements.

Yahmonee Hedrick addressed the resistance to land acknowledgements, naming school districts who have adopted one.

Pyrose Bernasconi shared personal experiences as a native student.

Angela Luna spoke about native student suspension rates, the district's strategic plan and expressed support for the land acknowledgement.

Laura Yonemura emphasized that Nisenan needs to be removed from the land acknowledgement.

Tracy Tripp shared her personal experiences and expressed support for the land acknowledgement.

Susan Morla shared her personal experiences and expressed support for the land acknowledgement.

After 30 minutes of public comment, it was moved by Ms. Creason, seconded by Ms. Villescaz, to extend time to allow for the remainder of public comment. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason].

Bernadette Smith spoke about the history of the land and expressed support for the land acknowledgement.

Viola Williams encouraged the adoption of the land acknowledgement.

It was moved by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Ms. Villescaz, to adopt Resolution No. 4153, land acknowledgement for school and district use. MOTION CARRIED 5-2 [AYES: Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Creason, NOES: Kravchuk, Perez].

Public Hearing: Visions In Education Charter School Renewal Petition (J-2)

Dr. Oaxaca presented the topic and then introduced Visions In Education Charter School Chief Academic Officer Micah Studer and Director of Accountability and Data Services Soren Gutierrez, who gave a presentation about the Visions In Education charter school renewal petition. Dr. Studer and Mr. Gutierrez provided an overview of the charter school, including facts about programs and demographics, information about notable achievements and successes, and future goals. Ms. Costa declared the topic of the Visions In Education charter school renewal petition a public hearing and invited the public to speak. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed. Action was scheduled for December 17, 2024.

Cellphone Policy (J-3)

Chief of Staff Trent Allen gave a presentation regarding cellphone restriction policies and practices. Mr. Allen discussed research findings related to academic performance, classroom behaviors and safety, and he also provided information about the district's current policies and practices. Principal Michael Magliola and Teacher Katherine Seefloth shared details about the new cellphone policy implemented at Winston Churchill Middle School at the beginning of the school year, noting the successful rollout of the red/yellow/green zone approach. Mr. Allen then spoke about recent legislation, Assembly Bill 3216, which requires that all local education agencies to develop and approve a policy restricting student cellphone use, utilizing a comprehensive engagement strategy to gather input from stakeholders. Mr. Allen presented the proposed timeline for implementation in August 2025.

Board members provided input. Ms. Villescaz expressed support for more cellphone restrictions in classrooms, acknowledged the gap between the current policy and its practice, stressed the importance of incorporating student, staff, and parent voices, and noted the policy should be age-appropriate. Mr. Perez supported the idea of putting cellphones away during class but opposed locking them up, citing the need for accessibility in emergencies. Ms. Creason advocated for a more restrictive approach but suggested strengthening alternative communication mechanisms rather than enforcing a full ban. Ms. Creason also emphasized that communication is paramount, particularly in helping parents manage cellphone and social media use at home, and she suggested training for parents on how to protect their children. Mr. Avey shared that he believes a stricter approach is better, advocating for the elimination of opportunities for variance, and he acknowledged the need for cellphone use in emergencies and medical situations. Mr. Avey noted that limiting cellphone use has reduced bathroom meetups and students' ability to coordinate during class time, and he expressed support for the zone approach but

emphasized that rules should not be open to wide interpretation. Ms. Kravchuk expressed support for cellphone use when it is conducive to learning, advocated for uniformity across the district, and agreed with the zone approach while encouraging exploration of available options for pouches and other implementation ideas. Ms. Kravchuk also highlighted the issue of cellphone addiction and suggested that awareness assemblies would complement the policy. Mr. Hernandez shared a story about students receiving 1,000 cellphone notifications during one class period. Ms. Costa recounted a story about cellphone use during her recent visit to Winston Churchill Middle School, spoke about the creativity of her grandchildren in the absence of technology, and emphasized the importance of communication with the community. Mr. Allen summarized the guidance that board members provided regarding the establishment of a cellphone policy, which included the need for clarity, uniformity, communication, age-appropriateness and stakeholder participation.

2023-2024 End of Year Data Summary (J-4)

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 2023-2024 end of year data results, including the results of the 2024 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, which includes the addition of California Science Test (CAST) performance. Mr. Smith presented the 2023-2024 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 that are reported on the California School Dashboard. Dr. Tornatore explained how the district is responding to the data, noting the successes, areas for growth and actions to improve student outcomes. Principal Christina Allison shared information about the work that is taking place to improve academic achievement at Howe Avenue Elementary School.

Board members made comments and posed questions which staff addressed. Ms. Villescaz congratulated Howe Avenue Elementary School on its success, and she noted the district's growing gap between home and in-school suspension rates. Mr. Avey made comments about the effectiveness of certain actions and initiatives, the downward trend in English-Language Arts and math scores, and the impending decline in funding even though the need for resources remains high. Ms. Creason raised two points – understanding of why the district is trending this direction and the fundamental question of what we are teaching to. Ms. Kravchuk asked a clarifying question about long-term English learners (LTEs) and inquired about the ability to track the success of student programs. Mr. Hernandez shared a personal story and expressed confidence in the district's ability to improve. Ms. Costa expressed thanks for including the CAASPP sample questions in the board item, noting that people often underestimate the amount of reading required to take the test and that the test format can be confusing to some. Ms. Costa also acknowledged that, while everyone is disappointed with the results, the district is giving 100 percent effort. Ms. Costa also thanked Principal Allison for her uplifting presentation.

Public Hearing: Conveyance of Easement at Northridge Elementary School to Fair Oaks Water District (J-5)

Chief Operations Officer, Frank Camarda, presented the item. Ms. Costa declared the topic of conveying a temporary construction easement at Northridge Elementary School a public hearing and invited the public to speak. There being no questions or comments from the public, Ms. Costa declared the public hearing closed. It was moved by Ms. Creason, seconded by Ms. Kravchuk, to adopt Resolution No. 4157, conveying one temporary construction easement at Northridge Elementary School to the Fair Oaks Water District. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason].

Intent to Convey Easement at Katherine Johnson Middle School to Sacramento Area Sewer District (J-6)

Mr. Camarda presented the item. It was moved by Mr. Avey, seconded by Ms. Villescaz, to adopt Resolution No. 4158, authorizing the intent to convey a permanent easement at Katherine Johnson Middle School to the Sacramento Area Sewer District and to call a public hearing to be held on November 19, 2024. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason].

Board Reports (K)

Ms. Costa reported that she attended the Families Matter Conference at Arden Middle School, and she thanked the Family and Community Engagement team for organizing such a great event.

Future Agenda (L)

Ms. Kravchuk requested that the topic of high school parking fundraisers be added to a future agenda. Following board discussion, the item was not added to the future agenda due to lack of consensus. Superintendent Bassanelli said the topic could be addressed during a staff report, which the majority of board members supported.

Adjournment (N)

At 9:37 p.m., there being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned.



Pam Costa, Board President



Melissa Bassanelli, Secretary

Approved: 11/19/2024

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