



APPROVED

**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Agenda Item# 10.1h

Meeting Date: October 16, 2014

Subject: Approve September 18, 2014 Board of Education Meeting Minutes

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

Division: Superintendent's Office

Recommendation: Approve Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting for September 18, 2014.

Background/Rationale: None

Financial Considerations: None

Documents Attached:

1. September 18, 2014 Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Estimated Time of Presentation: N/A

Submitted by: José L. Banda, Superintendent

Approved by: N/A



Putting
Children
First

Sacramento City Unified School District BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AND WORKSHOP

Board of Education Members

Darrel Woo, President (Trustee Area 6)
Christina Pritchett, Vice President (Trustee Area 3)
Jay Hansen, Second Vice President (Trustee Area 1)
Jeff Cuneo (Trustee Area 2)
Gustavo Arroyo (Trustee Area 4)
Diana Rodriguez (Trustee Area 5)
Vacant (Trustee Area 7)
Asami Saito, Student Member

Thursday, September 18, 2014

4:30 p.m. Closed Session

6:30 p.m. Open Session

Serna Center

Community Conference Rooms

5735 47th Avenue

Sacramento, CA 95824

MINUTES

2014/15-06

1.0 OPEN SESSION / CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. by President Woo, and roll was taken.

Members present:

President Darrel Woo

Vice President Christina Pritchett

Gustavo Arroyo

Jeff Cuneo

Members Absent:

Diana Rodriguez (arrived at 5:15 p.m.)

Second Vice President Jay Hansen

A quorum was reached.

2.0 ANNOUNCEMENT AND PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

No public comment was requested on Closed Session items, and the Board retired to Closed Session.

3.0 CLOSED SESSION

While the Brown Act creates broad public access rights to the meetings of the Board of Education, it also recognizes the legitimate need to conduct some of its meetings outside of the public eye. Closed session meetings are specifically defined and limited in scope. They primarily involve personnel issues, pending litigation, labor negotiations, and real property matters.

- 3.1 *Government Code 54956.9 - Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated and Existing Litigation:*
- a) *Existing litigation pursuant to subdivision (a) of Government Code section 54956.9 (OAH Case No. 2014080030)*
 - b) *Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (d)(2) of Government Code section 54956.9*
 - c) *Initiation of litigation pursuant to subdivision (d)(4) of Government Code section 54956.9*
- 3.2 *Government Code 54957.6 (a) and (b) Negotiations/Collective Bargaining CSA, SCTA, SEIU, Teamsters, UPE, Unrepresented Management*
- 3.3 *Government Code 54957 – Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release*
- 3.4 *Government Code 54957 – Public Employee Appointment*
- a. *Principal, Parkway Elementary School*

4.0 CALL BACK TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called back to order at 6:38 p.m. by President Woo.

Members Present:

*President Darrel Woo
 Vice President Christina Pritchett
 Gustavo Arroyo
 Jeff Cuneo
 Diana Rodriguez
 Student Member Asami Saito*

Members Absent:

Second Vice President Jay Hansen

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Larae Monroe, a 3rd grade student from Ethel I. Baker School. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented by President Darrel Woo.

5.0 ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

General Counsel Jerry Behrens announced that by a vote of four affirmative votes, with Board members Hansen and Rodriguez absent, a special education matter known as OAH Case Number 2014080030 was approved. Superintendent Banda announced that the Board voted four to zero, with Board members Hansen and Rodriguez absent, to appoint Doyal Martin as the new Principal at Parkway Elementary School.

6.0 AGENDA ADOPTION

A motion was made by Vice President Pritchett and seconded by Member Arroyo to adopt the agenda. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the agenda.

7.0 SPECIAL PRESENTATION

7.1 Wellness Champions Recognition (Barbara Kronick)

Barbara Kronick recognized and presented certificates to Tim Keenan, parent at O. W. Erlewine Elementary School; Jen Lux, parent at Caleb Greenwood Elementary School; Jennifer Sparks, teacher at Ethel I. Baker Elementary School; Madelyn Strickland, senior student at New Tech High School; and Heather Deckard, District P. E. Coordinator. Also recognized, but not in attendance, were Tawney Lambert, nurse at Ethel I. Baker Elementary School; Amy Whitten, Principal at Caleb Greenwood Elementary School; Gloria Chung, analyst in the Budget Services Department; Tyler Mar with Healthcorps at American Legion High School; and the City of Sacramento START program.

Public Comment:

Ralph Merletti was disappointed that part of the description regarding one of the Wellness Champions included an association with Planned Parenthood.

7.2 Special Recognition of Volunteer Participants for Woodbine Elementary School Clean Up Day

Member Rodriguez first thanked President Woo for his participation in the event. A video was then shown which covered the history of clean up days at Woodbine in August of 2013 and August of 2014. The following participants were recognized; Member Rodriguez and Vice President Pritchett presented certificates to the following: Aminah Byoone, Terrence Gladney, Cesar Gutierrez, Sonia Gutierrez, Kavon King, Adelaida Lopez, Leslie Lopez, Max Mendoza, Rebeckah Pena, Isabella Ramirez, Stephanie Salinas, Francisco Sanchez, Ashna Singh, Alana Suruki, Taja Suruki, Lisa Torres, Karla Vargas, Tyeisha Velasquez, Nick Woods, and Kate Woolley. Also receiving certificates, but not present, were Angela Rosas, Kenya Corona, Sally Perez, David Perez, Cecilia Chavez, and Eri Aguilasoch.

Tyeisha Velasquez then gave information on Chicas Latinas de Sacramento, a non-profit, community service organization. Vice President Pritchett asked when and where the group meets. Ms. Velasquez replied that events can be found on Twitter, Facebook, or Meetup.com.

8.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public may address the Board on non-agenda items that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Please fill out a yellow card available at the entrance. Speakers may be called in the order that requests are received, or grouped by subject area. We ask that comments are limited to two (2) minutes with no more than 15 minutes per single topic so that as many people as possible may be heard. By law, the Board is allowed to take action only on items on the agenda. The Board may, at its discretion, refer a matter to district staff or calendar the issue for future discussion.

Angie Sutherland, Chair of the Community Advisory Committee for Special Education, reported on behalf of the Committee.

Nina Saferstein, a senior at George Washington Carver High School, expressed her concerns regarding the new shooting range near the school, asked the Board to oppose the opening, and thanked Vice President Pritchett for her support.

Rucha Powers, a parent at George Washington Carver High School, also expressed her concerns

regarding the planned opening of Sacramento Gun Club near the school.

Frank DeYoung spoke about a summer school program that was offered at Hollywood Park and Ethel Phillips Elementary Schools. This program was a month long for all children that were below basic. Mr. DeYoung spoke very positively of the program and said that it was greatly beneficial for his granddaughter and grandson. He would like to see the District implement more programs of this type.

Beverly Nowak, a sixth grade teacher at James Marshall Elementary School, has concerns about how classes with overages and under enrollments are handled. She feels that it takes too long to finalize class rosters at the beginning of the school year.

Tom Peixoto, a fourth/fifth grade teacher at James Marshall Elementary School, also has concerns regarding class rosters and the surplus of staff that can result.

Kris Rogers, a parent at Crocker Riverside Elementary School, shared photos that she took on the first day of school at Crocker Riverside. She has concerns regarding maintenance and fixtures at the school, most notably the classroom carpeting.

Jennifer Williams, a parent at Crocker Riverside Elementary School, is also concerned about maintenance and fixtures at the school, especially the bathrooms and mold issues.

Alex Visaya, Jr. made the announcement that funeral services for former Rosemont High School Principal Rob Jones will be held September 22, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church. A gathering will follow at the Scottish Rite Temple across from Sacramento State University.

Ralph Merletti spoke about the partial solar eclipse that will begin the afternoon of Thursday, October 23rd. He hopes that the District school sites will make plans for student viewing and in a safe manner.

Ian Arnold, representing SEIU, Local 1021, spoke about current contract negotiations. He feels the negotiation process has been positive. However, he feels the budgeting process could be improved for next year and hopes to see that happen. He also hopes to see staffing levels increase to what they were in the past in future negotiations, as well as wage disparity correction.

Rhonda Muller, a parent and volunteer at James Marshall Elementary School, has concerns about a teacher staffing reduction that was made at the school, as well as split classes. She feels parents should be informed before changes are made.

Member Rodriguez commented that she feels there needs to be a broader conversation regarding finding solutions for leveling as the issue comes up every year. She also feels the conversation needs to include teachers and parents that are experiencing effects of the current process. She would like a work group to be set up District wide. She also asked Mr. Merletti if he could provide assistance, resources, and/or a fact sheet regarding solar eclipse so that she can have conversations regarding this with the community and school principals to see if a watch party of some sort can be organized. She thanked Mr. Merletti for bringing this to the Board's attention. She also thanked Mr. DeYoung for advocating for District summer school programs.

Vice President Pritchett commented that she agrees with Member Rodriguez's comments and she proposed that an agenda item be added in the near future regarding leveling of grades.

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Generally routine items are approved by one motion without discussion. The Superintendent or a Board member may request an item be pulled from the consent agenda and voted upon separately.

9.1 Items Subject or Not Subject to Closed Session:

9.1a Approve Grants, Entitlements and Other Income Agreements, Ratification of Other Agreements, Approval of Bid Awards, Approval of Declared Surplus

*Materials and Equipment, Change Notices and Notices of Completion
(Gerardo Castillo)*

- 9.1b *Approve Personnel Transactions (Cancy McArn)*
- 9.1c *Approve Minutes of the August 21, 2014 Board of Education Meeting (José L. Banda)*

Public Comment

None

Board Member Comments

None

President Woo asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. A motion was made by Vice President Pritchett and seconded by Jeff Cuneo. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.

10.0 BOARD WORKSHOP/STRATEGIC PLAN AND OTHER INITIATIVES

- 10.1 *Approve Resolution No. 2811: Estimate Gann Appropriation Limitation for 2014-15 and Gann Amendment Calculation for 2013-14 (Gerardo Castillo)* **Action**

Gerardo Castillo, interim CBO, presented the resolution to the Board. He described the Gann limit calculation, explained the calculation, and explained why we do it. As part of a continued movement to reduce government spending, the calculation came about in 1979 after Proposition 13 was passed in 1978. The intent of Proposition 4, passed in 1979, was to limit state and local government, including school districts, cities, and counties. The Gann limit says that all government spending, including counties and school districts, cannot be greater than the population and inflation. School districts use change in average daily attendance to determine the change in population. The calculation itself is comprised of property taxes and LCFE funds for school districts. Categorical funds are part of the State's Gann limit calculation; federal funds and local grants are not part of the calculation for either the State or school districts. The law requires school districts to adhere to the Gann limitation, it helps the State avoid being over its own Gann limit, and it helps determine each school district's Gann. If a district is over the limit, the Board can adopt a resolution to increase by the amount needed. The California Director of Finance is informed; he then reduces the State Gann limit by the same amount. The Gann limit, however, is largely a pro forma calculation that no longer constrains government expenditure. This is because the limit has grown significantly larger than the revenues the school districts receive. Mr. Castillo asked that the Board approve Resolution No. 2811.

Public Comment

None

Board Member Comments

Member Rodriguez thanked Mr. Castillo and informed the Board that she did have some questions before the Board meeting that Mr. Castillo was available to answer. She had asked if the District gains or loses from the Gann Limit. Mr. Castillo replied that there isn't a gain or loss. However, if the report is not submitted, the District would have the omission included in its audit report for non-compliance with the law. Member Rodriguez also remarked that the item had not been discussed in the past and asked why that was. Mr. Castillo explained that the item had been placed on the Consent Agenda in the past. Member Rodriguez commented that she feels it is discouraging for the State to put a cap on spending and education.

President Woo asked for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2811. Vice President Pritchett made a motion to approve, and Gustavo Arroyo seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

10.2 Board Governance Discussion (Board)

Conference

Superintendent Banda explained the request of the Board to have an initial discussion about school governance. There have been changes over time, and the Board is ready to take another look at their role and how they fit it and can continue to provide guidance. School board members work at the policy level to provide strong leadership to improve student achievement. Districts and school administrators work more at the operational level. They can work together as a governance management team to ensure that continuous improvement happens in the District. Continuous improvement efforts should address such things as setting vision, establishing goals, developing policy that guides the work, allocating resources to make sure that resources are there to support the work that has been outlined, and assuring accountability. The Board was provided with three different examples of guiding principles to initiate a discussion. One example comes from the California School Boards Association, another from a research article from the National School Boards Association, and the third from the Washington State School Directors' Association. These three resources attempt to spell out what the role of the Board is and how the Board can continue to work in their governance and policy role to lead the District forward and continue to improve and address student needs and issues.

President Woo then began the discussion by mentioning Foundations of Effective Governance, a course that was made available to the Board by Superintendent Banda. This course is presented by the California School Board Association and will give a foundation to where the Board can go regarding governance. President Woo, Member Rodriguez, Second Vice President Hansen, and Vice President Pritchett will attend. The California School Board Association also has a Masters of Governance Program. President Woo, Vice President Pritchett, and then President Patrick Kennedy had discussions with members of the California School Board Association about this program. These programs are provided at lower cost because the District has, and has had, membership with CSBA for several years. President Woo would like to first take the Foundations of Effective Governance class and then report back, share ideas, and then see where the Board would like to move from there.

Member Arroyo would like to first bring the item of Coherent Governance for elimination from our policies. We have a binder of Board policies that the Board used to operate for many years. The Board can continue to go there, use those policies, and still not curtail any further Board development or training for which the Board can move forward. Member Arroyo then explained what Coherent Governance is for those in attendance. The original purpose of Coherent Governance came about because some Board members felt that the Board was micro-managing and getting into discussions that were hampering the Board from getting through with its business. So Coherent Governance attempted to describe, in a very detailed manner, the role of the Board and how it would engage with the Superintendent. It also prescribed that the only point of contact between the Board and the District was through the Superintendent. While that is a governance model that existed even before, it really curtailed a lot of the dialogue that could have existed between the Board and the District. Member Arroyo then showed a visual that he used in the past to explain Coherent Governance to people. It showed the U.S. and California Constitutions, giving the framework to operate, the Education Code within California which prescribes the statutes that we must operate under, and then Board by-laws which must not be in conflict. Finally there was the Coherent Governance model that gave even more specificity and in effect restricted the Board from doing some of its work. People advocating for Coherent Governance were looking for a Board that had a balance, understanding its role of policy and of working in collaboration with the Superintendent. However, it seems we ended up with a system of governance that was less transparent and circumvented the Board in some instances. Member Arroyo agrees that we should not micro-manage the Superintendent; this is why the Board hires someone with many years of experience and has the knowledge to run schools and handle District administration. He also feels through that the District should use current laws,

statutes, and our by-laws to govern in collaboration with the Superintendent. Training and team development at Board level should also be utilized to achieve this goal. Member Arroyo then specifically asked that the Board bring this item to the next Board agenda so that a vote can be taken to eliminate Coherent Governance.

Member Rodriguez agrees with Member Arroyo's position on Coherent Governance. She also mentioned though that there were some positive aspects that should be considered. Specifically the monitoring of policies within committees. This includes implementation, adoption, inclusion on agenda, proper recording of minutes, and scheduled meetings and monitoring. Member Rodriguez also stated that the Board can operate with current policy until committees are established and does not feel Coherent Governance is needed.

Member Cuneo stated that what he has seen lacking is a holistic accountability model that all can agree on and have a discussion around the focuses on achievement in the classroom, conditions around learning, and what is expected from staff. This would include all staff: custodians, principals, administration, teachers, etc. He feels the Board made strides with the Guide to Success; that it was inclusive and addressed concerns of the community. He also feels that moving forward the over arching theme needs to focus on achievement, student outcomes, and accountability. Regarding accountability, Member Cuneo clarified that the emphasis on accountability should not be in a negative way, but a focus on continuous improvement in practices, policies, instruction, and delivery of resources. A common conversation piece is required, which he feels is Guide to Success, otherwise the Board will be ineffective. He believes the Guide to Success can change the paradigm of how the District and Board operates and will allow for committee structures within that paradigm.

Vice President Pritchett thanked the Board for their comments on this issue and said that in addition to attending classes and gathering information, she advocates for Board workshops, retreats, and working together. She is looking forward to the CSBA conference next week and getting together with her fellow Board members to share information afterward.

Member Rodriguez thanked Member Cuneo for his comments. She feels that Coherent Governance tried to tie in and do too much with tenants such as accountability, student achievement and outcomes, classroom environment, etc. Those things should fall under strategic plan. The current strategic plan is very disconnected from everything else. Superintendent Banda will be looking at the strategic plan and updating. Member Rodriguez feels the Board needs to separate strategic plan versus policy. Strategic plan sets the goals while policy aligns the goals. Therefore Coherent Governance is not needed, and is actually an obstacle to achieving desired outcomes. Strategy should be in place first, then the Board can align policies to the strategic plan by bringing to appropriate committees so that the Superintendent implements throughout the District. Such policies include finance, teaching and learning, and physical structures.

Member Cuneo does not disagree with any of Member Rodriguez's comments and also agrees with Member Arroyo regarding comments that the governance that came before Coherent Governance can probably be just as well served as the Coherent Governance structure. Member Cuneo would like a more coherent conversation at the Board level around specific policies and then follow up with regular monitoring in general and of implementation as well. He would like the Board to have accountability for decision made and to effectively understand ramifications of policies on students, to understand if the policies are working or not. If they are not working, conversations should then occur to decide what should be done.

Member Rodriguez stated that what Member Cuneo described is how the Board used to function before Coherent Governance was adopted. Committees were established with each committee chair being required to report work done to the Board at least once a month. Each committee also had to meet at least once a month. Under Coherent Governance there were not many committees and those that existed did not meet very often.

Member Arroyo stated that he agrees with Member Cuneo that having an effective model of governance that ensures goals are met and accountability happens will not happen with Coherent Governance. He would rather see a simpler but more effective version of governance where the agenda of what really needs monitoring is set. He also agrees that many times in the past policy was set, but then feedback was not received afterward. He feels the entire Board is in agreement on this point. He likes the idea of committees, but wants to make sure the Board has a very deliberate understanding of what committee work is for and what it is out there to achieve. He does not want to create another layer of demands on staff authority that is already stretched. Member Arroyo feels the idea of the committee is to study and discern and then report back information so that it is more easily digested and the Board is better off from understanding that information.

Public Comment:

Ian Arnold stated that his comment is the same as that which he gave a year ago: He feels that Coherent Governance did not work, and that it is not the Board's place to micro-manage the Superintendent. The Board should set policy and give the Superintendent broad authority to carry it out, yet hold the Superintendent accountable. He also agrees that this is time consuming and therefore requires having committees.

Angie Sutherland, a parent of a student at Hollywood Park, stated that she agrees with the comments of Member Cuneo and Member Rodriguez. She does not know if the Board has its own strategic goals and objectives. She hopes District committees start again and that there be liaisons from the Board at all of the parent advisory committees. She does not know if DELAC or Sacramento Council of PTA has one; she believes Member Pritchett is the DAC liaison. CAC does not have one.

President Woo said that the Board is asked to provide direction to staff on the next step. He mentioned there are a number of the Board attending a workshop on governance and reporting back, but for the next agenda he would like to include the elimination of Coherent Governance as a model to be followed by the Board.

Superintendent Banda stated that he appreciated all the Board comments. He feels everything highlighted is important because it is a team effort, elected Board members working in conjunction with the Superintendent, who has his leadership team, to set course. He believes it will take a little time, but is looking forward to the conversation, and feels the available trainings are going to be helpful. He also agrees with Vice President Pritchett that it also takes conversation and not just training. Set up of Saturday retreats or other convenient times have been discussed in Executive Committees. There also needs to be thoughtful discussion regarding what committees are set up and what their purpose will be. It is a team effort and the strategic plan will be a key part of that, setting the foundation for priorities and the work that is to be done. The Board goals then become Superintendent goals, with an emphasis on focus and transparency.

11.0 BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS

Receive Information

11.1 Business and Financial Information:

- Purchase Order Board Report for the Period of July 15, 2014 through August 14, 2014
- Report on Contracts within the Expenditure Limitations Specified in Section PCC 20111 for July 1, 2014 through August 31, 2014

11.2 Head Start/Early Head Start Reports

Public Comment:

Ralph Merletti had a comment on Item 11.1. He is concerned with a District vendor on purchase order number B15-00342, Stericycle, Inc. He stated that part of their business is abortion related, and he urged the Board to find a life affirming vendor.

12.0 FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES / LOCATIONS

- ✓ *October 2, 2014 4:30 p.m. Closed Session; 6:30 p.m. Open Session; Serna Center, 5735 47th Avenue, Community Room; Regular Workshop Meeting*
- ✓ *October 16, 2014 4:30 p.m. Closed Session; 6:30 p.m. Open Session; Serna Center, 5735 47th Avenue, Community Room; Regular Workshop Meeting*

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Woo asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting; a motion was made by Member Rodriguez and seconded by Vice President Pritchett. The motion was passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.


José L. Banda, Superintendent and Board Secretary

NOTE: The Sacramento City Unified School District encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. If you need a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the public meeting, please contact the Board of Education Office at (916) 643-9314 at least 48 hours before the scheduled Board of Education meeting so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate you. [Government Code § 54953.2; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, § 202 (42 U.S.C. §12132)] Any public records distributed to the Board of Education less than 72 hours in advance of the meeting and relating to an open session item are available for public inspection at 5735 47th Avenue at the Front Desk Counter and on the District's website at www.scusd.edu