

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 25, 2017
Room 304 at 5:30 P.M.

OPEN SESSION

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER** by Board President

Meeting called to order at 5:31 PM.

- 2) **ROLL CALL**

Meg Rydman (MR), Board President (2018)	X
Mark Swanitz (MS), Secretary (2019)	X
Heather Fletcher (HF), Treasurer (2018)	X (arrived at 5:33 PM)
Melanie Sutton Hodgdon (MSH), Member at Large (2018)	X
Robert Feinberg (RF), Member at Large (2019)	X (arrived at 5:34 PM)
Elizabeth Dowhower (BD), Member at Large (2017)	X (left at 7:43 PM)
Roxanne Usher (RU), Middle School Teacher Rep. (2016)	
Linda Mayer (LM), Elementary Teacher Rep (2017)	X (arrived at 6:04 PM)
Jim Brown (JB), Superintendent College School District	X
OTHER ATTENDEES:	
Mark Palmerston (MP), Executive Director	X (arrived at 6:00 PM)

- 3) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** for April 25, 2017

Motion to approve the agenda: MSH

Second: MS

Motion to insert new item 4 "PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS" and renumber the rest of the agenda: BD

Second: MS

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved: 5-0-1 (HF abstained, because she arrived late.)

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 5-0-1 (HF abstained, because she arrived late.)

- 4) **PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

There was no public comment on closed session items.

CLOSED SESSION (5:30 PM-6:00 PM)

Closed session called to order at 5:34 PM.

- 5) **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION** Executive Director

Closed session adjourned and open session resumed at 6:00 PM.

OPEN SESSION

- 6) **REPORT** from Closed Session

The Board reached consensus on the Executive Director's revised evaluation document, including the Personnel Committee's revisions based on Board input from the March 28, 2017 meeting. The Board also voted 7-0-0 to authorize funds not to exceed \$1000 in legal fees for legal consultation on the terms of the executive director's contract.

- 7) **PHOTO OF BOARD** for Yearbook

The Board of Directors were photographed for the SYVCS 2016-17 yearbook.

8) **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Layla, Andy, Lauren, James and Kaitlyn, 8th graders, introduced themselves and explained that they were in attendance to earn their community service hours. Moms, Sarah and Jennifer, were also in attendance with the 8th graders.

9) **CONSENT AGENDA**

a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting March 28, 2017

Motion to approve the consent agenda: BD

Second: MS

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 8-0-0

10) **STANDING REPORTS**

a. Teachers' Report

Primary Grades

Kindergarten: Kindergartners are working on punctuation, capitalization, and writing complete sentences in language arts. For math, they are continuing to explore subtraction and review addition. Last week, they talked about recycling and learned a song about the importance of keeping Earth clean.

1st Grade: No report.

2nd Grade: No report.

3rd Grade: In science third graders are learning about tide pools in anticipation of an upcoming field trip to the tide pools at Hollister Ranch. The culminating project is a Google Slides presentation with embedded pictures and videos and transitions and animations about a sea life animal. They are also working on science fair projects. They are learning about factions and taking some practice tests in math as they gear up for the Smarter Balanced Assessment. In language arts, they are reading two Newbery Award-winning books: Holes and Mr. Popper's Penguins.

4th Grade: Fourth graders are studying the novel, By the Great Horn Spoon! about the California Gold Rush in language arts. In social studies they are learning about the Gold Rush and early California statehood. Geometry is the focus in mathematics. Students are preparing for the Smarter Balanced Assessment by having individual goal-setting conferences, going through practice test questions in math and language arts, and discussing test-taking strategies.

Music: No report

Garden: Friday we had an excellent Earth Day Celebration with all students planting, picking and pledging.

Genius Hour: While Genius Hour in the first two trimesters was more student lead with much teacher prompting, this last one is 100% student driven. Student interest is high and some of the topics covered are Leprechauns, Titanic, Pluto, Loch Ness Monster, panthers, and the universe. Projects are now being created with work delegated to students at all levels to take part in their final research and plan for sharing the information with the class.

Middle School

Language Arts: Fifth graders just finished reading Esperanza Rising and examined elements of plot and how character and setting are connected. Next they will be starting a short story mini-unit where students will discuss theme and various other literary elements. In sixth grade, students are reading Number the Stars and exploring how the author carefully reveals subtext and integrates elements of foreshadowing and suspense. The seventh graders are reading The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and using various reading strategies to explore Twain's rich text. We are also looking closely at the author's craft and analyzing Twain's themes and writing style. Finally, eighth graders are reading The Watsons Go to Birmingham and looking at the Civil Rights Movement and by reading various poetry as well as non-fictional texts written by Martin Luther King.

Social Studies: No report

Science: Science assessments this year will be piloted through a new online assessment platform. We begin this week with 5th and 8th graders. This year, scores will not be reported to the school or students, as this is a pilot much like the first year of the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

Math: The fifth grade students are wrapping up a unit on place value with measurement conversions. They have used the place value chart as a tool to convert units in the Metric System and are applying conversion concepts learned to convert customary units. They will wrap up the year with multiplying and dividing decimals and fractions. Sixth graders are using area models to understand rules for multiplying fractions and mixed numbers. They will also use models to understand division using decimals. The year will conclude with finding the area of various polygons and working with ratios and rates. In the seventh grade, students have been using percent to decimal conversions to determine percents of numbers to find real life percents such as tax and discounts, then calculating the final value. We are working with proportions to understand relationships of numbers in a table, a graph, or an expression. Seventh grade end the year with compound probability and angles. Eighth graders have been solving systems of equations using graphs and algebraic strategies and will finish the year with geometric transformations and work with angles.

Physical Education: PE is currently doing a track and field unit in preparation for the middle school track meet on Friday May 19.

b. PTSO Report

No report.

c. Treasurer's Report

HF presented the treasurer's report, stating that as of March 31, 2017 we had an ending Fund 401 balance of \$52,776.51. HF explained that she would be transferring about \$10,000 to the County treasury for safekeeping and that she would be continuing to look for funds to transfer to bring down the balance.

d. Director's Report

MP reported that this month has been extremely busy. He specifically remarked on two recent, very successful events: Performing Arts Week and Earth Day Celebration. He reported also reported on our 2017-18 TK-K anticipated enrollments. He is expecting at least five and maybe as many as eight transitional kindergarten students who may be served in the College School TK classroom. We also have a full kindergarten class with five students on the waiting list. Kindergarten registration is planned of May 17, where all the new kindergarteners and their parents will come to meet with various school personnel. MP also reminded the Board about Open House next Wednesday, May 3, and about the upcoming State assessments. Students will be taking the science pilot test this wee, followed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment in English and math May 8-19.

11) **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

a. LCAP Goal 1, Action 3: Innovation

MP shared some slides developed by the staff addressing LCAP Goal 1, Action 3 having to do with creating an innovative educational environment. The staff met to define "innovation" as it relates to SYVCS, identify current innovative practices and identify practices that are not innovative. They discussed a timeline getting to this goal. The timeline began with defining "innovation," moved to developing a rubric to evaluate innovation, and ultimately applying the rubric to develop a plan to become more innovative.

b. Review of LCAP

MP reviewed the four LCAP goals and discussed progress on the LCAP emphasizing that the County Office of Education has strongly encouraged limiting goals and actions in the LCAP to increase focus and promote brevity. MR asked MP to look at whether or not the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) should be included more explicitly in the LCAP.

c. Board Survey Results

MR reminded the Board that we surveyed the public and ourselves several months ago and asked the Board what format a discussion about the results might take. HF suggested we take the items one by one

and have a discussion on each individually. HF also mentioned that perhaps this would be better done in a dedicated setting. MP suggested, perhaps, we meet for an hour before a future board meeting. MR suggested that a special meeting might be better. MP asked if the Board would like a facilitator in the form of our pro-bono attorney in attendance. MR opined that she didn't think that was necessary at this time but might be helpful in the future. MP offered to send around a "Doodle" with suggested dates and times to try to schedule an afternoon meeting sometime in May. There was also discussion of the need to do some board training and norming and a suggestion that the board might need to assess how agenda items are set to give the board more input.

d. School Lunch Program

MP discussed our agreement with Country Catering and some concerns HF has with the revenue generated by the lunch program. Revenue through March has been steadily declining year-over-year from a high of \$50,110.75 in 2013-14 to \$29,062.50. It's difficult to pinpoint why, because meals sold vary from month to month because of differences in the number of days. MP explained that he went to Solvang School to study their program. Solvang is experiencing some of the similar problems. MP shared some possibilities going forward such as contracting with Solvang or running the hot lunch program in-house. MP identified several top-selling items and lower-selling items. High volume sales include some of the less healthy options, such as pizza. MSH asked are we going to prioritize volume over nutrition? MR pointed out that we pay a flat fee per month and that in order to pay the bills we do have to sell a certain number of lunches, so volume does have to be at least part of the discussion. MSH asked if a group of students in the audience would share their opinions. Their opinions were varied. As to quality, some students liked it; others didn't. Several shared that the menu is fairly repetitive. RF refocused the discussion to the fiduciary responsibility of the board to provide at least a break-even lunch program. MP expressed that he believes that our kitchen needs to be used to prepare and serve our students food, but suggested that perhaps an innovative solution would be to make our kitchen part of a broader network of school kitchens in the Valley to prepare more diverse offerings. MSH reminded the Board of our goal, stated on the contract with Country Catering, to provide healthy lunches and asked what accountability there was for that. LM suggested getting eighth graders involved in menu planning. MP acknowledges the need to make some serious changes and that he will continue looking at options and making a recommendation. HF expressed concerns with the fact that the contract hasn't been renegotiated since 2014. HF asked MP to investigate a per meal contract and make a definitive recommendation about contract renewal by June 19, 2017.

12) **ACTION ITEMS**

a. Resolution in Support of Staff Appreciation Week

MP asked the Board to adopt a formal resolution honoring the staff's dedication and hard work.

Motion to adopt the resolution: BD

Second: HF

Discussion: MR expressed her thanks for the staff and encouraged the Board to adopt the resolution.

Roll Call Vote:

Meg Rydman	Aye
Mark Swanitz	Aye
Heather Fletcher	Aye
Melanie Sutton Hodgdon	Aye
Robert Feinberg	Aye
Elizabeth Dowhower	Aye
Linda Mayer	Aye
Jim Brown	Aye

13) **BOARD ADVANCED AGENDA**

The board discussed the Board Advanced Agenda. The advanced agenda shows upcoming meeting dates and agendas and gives board members the opportunity to add agenda items to future agendas.

14) **PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

There was no public comment on closed session items.

CLOSED SESSION

Closed session called to order at 7:13 PM.

- 15) **CERTIFICATED TEACHER NEGOTIATIONS**
- 16) **PERSONNEL MATTERS PURSUANT TO GOV CODE 54957**
- 17) **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION** Executive Director

Closed session adjourned and open session resumed at 8:34 PM.

OPEN SESSION

- 18) **REPORT** from Closed Session

The Board reviewed the teachers' latest requests in negotiations and gave the Executive Director direction to help settle negotiations. The Board also reviewed a compensation study on the Executive Director's salary when compared to similar positions in the area.

- 19) **ADJOURNMENT** by Board President

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.