

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 14, 2017
Room 304 at 5:30 P.M.

OPEN SESSION

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER** by Board President
Meeting called to order at 5:31pm.

- 2) **ROLL CALL:**

Robert Feinberg (RF), Board President (2019)	x
Meg Rydman (MR), Secretary (2018)	x
Heather Fletcher (HF), Treasurer (2018)	x (arrived 5:33pm, left at 7:35pm)
Mark Swanitz (MS), Member at Large (2019)	_____
Melanie Sutton Hodgdon (MSH), Member at Large (2018)	x
Elizabeth Dowhower(BD), Member at Large (2020)	x
Linda Mayer (LM), Elementary Teacher Rep (2018)	x (left at 7:42pm when closed session was called to order)
Debbie Trujillo , Middle School Teacher Rep. (2018)	x (left at 7:42pm when closed session was called to order)
Jim Brown (JB), Superintendent College School District	_____

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Mark Palmerston (MP), Executive Director	x
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- 3) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** for November 14, 2017
Motion to approve the agenda: BD
Second: DT
Discussion: None
Vote: Approved 6-0-0

OPEN SESSION

- 4) **Public Comment**
None.

- 5) **Consent Agenda**
 - a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting October 24, 2017
Motion to approve the minutes: BD
Second: LM
Discussion: None
Vote: Approved 5-0-2

- 6) **Standing Reports**
 - a. Teachers' Report
 - Primary Grades**
 - Kindergarten
Kindergartners have been preparing for conferences. In language arts, they are working on rhyming, sentences, and decoding. In math, they are working with numbers.

 - First Grade
First graders are preparing for student-led conferences, creating and displaying multiple art, writing, and other creative works.

 - Second Grade
Second graders are currently preparing for student-led conferences and working on place value in math, words per minute in reading, communities and maps in social studies, and the life cycle in science.

 - Third Grade
Third graders are studying Chumash history, language, and culture, and they are working on creative writing as well as telling time and reading graphs. They are preparing for their play for the winter show.

 - Fourth Grade

No report.

Middle School

Language Arts

Fifth graders are reading Tuck Everlasting, focusing on writing and close reading strategies.

Sixth graders are reading Sign of the Beaver, focusing on vocabulary development and use.

Seventh graders are reading Stargirl, focusing on themes, grammar, and parts of speech.

Eighth graders are reading Ulysses, focusing on themes and literary elements.

Mathematics

Fifth graders are working with the online component of Math Expressions.

Sixth graders are studying area and how multiplication relates to area.

Seventh graders are working on integers and combining positive and negative numbers using all four math operations.

Eighth graders are developing their fluency with algebraic expressions and linear equations.

Social Studies

Fifth graders presented their state reports.

Sixth graders completed a unit on Ancient Man.

Seventh graders completed their Rome projects and creative pieces. They are working on a unit titled "Rise of Islam."

Eighth graders finished their "Twenty Important People of the US Revolution" slide projects. They took their first final exam in Constitution.

Science

No report.

Other Classes

Physical Education

Middle school students completed a project encompassing 5 components of fitness in a 2-3 minute routine.

Genius Hour

Students are deep into project-making.

Life Skills

Eighth graders worked on their half page for the yearbook, made a nutritious meal for their families including shopping and meal preparation, and created a first resume.

Music

No report.

Garden

No report.

Comments & Concerns

LM relayed that teachers feel they know how to get concerns addressed, so they don't feel a need to express concerns in this format.

Canvas - Students' and parents' understanding is appreciated as Canvas is implemented.

The Board discussed implementation successes and challenges.

b. PTSO Report

The minutes from the PTSO meeting dated November 6 were shared with the Board. MP highlighted that the jog-a-thon netted \$15000+, which represents a tremendous show of support on a single day event.

c. Treasurer's Report

MP reported that the draft of the audit showed no findings. Mercedes is to be commended.

RF handed out a report drafted in a different format using financial information provided by MP at meetings. This report added columns to see annual change and also what percentage of total budget

certain items make. The Board discussed a few questions, including TK revenue and expenditure, how it's reflected in the budget & where and why a few numbers don't appear to add up. MP provided clarification of some expenses on check register.

d. Director's Report

MP provided an update on negotiations. A mediator is set for December 11, starting at 8:30am. There will be another opportunity to order spirit wear soon.

Dragon families shared lunch on Monday.

The Thanksgiving Feast is Friday.

MP and MR will attend the Charter Schools Development Center's Conference in San Diego. MP is presenting a session titled, "Developing School Culture through Family and Buddy Programs."

The school received a generous donation of new kitchen trays.

It was an honor to host Veterans from our school community.

The Winter Show is scheduled for Thursday, December 7. The facilities are not available Friday.

In December, first grade is moving into the classroom formerly occupied by the State Preschool.

Room 304 is transforming into a creative space for arts & crafts, robots, laptop, musical equipment and more. The Multipurpose space (currently room 304) is moving to room 305, the current 1st grade room.

7) **Discussion Items**

a. State Accountability: Priority 2: (Implementation of State Standards)

MP provided a brief review of background information related to LCFF, the Dashboard, and the four local indicators.

The priorities reviewed tonight were Priority 2 Implementation of State Standards and Priority 6 Student Perceptions of Safety and Connectedness.

The Board reviewed the process the staff used to review its progress in the implementation of state academic standards, as required in Local Indicator: Priority 2 Implementation of State Standards. The Board also review the results as reflected in Option 2, Reflection Tool. There was a question about the status of history/social science, systemically and in the school. There was also a question clarifying how the teachers' scores were aggregated.

b. State Accountability: Priority 6: (Student Perceptions of Safety and Connectedness)

The Board reviewed the results from the survey administered by school staff to assess student perceptions of school safety and connectedness. MP selected a local survey instead of the California Healthy Kids Survey. MP noted that the three areas rated highest are mission-aligned/driven components, including safety, high expectations, and involvement of parents & community.

c. Budget Presentation-Restricted Funds and 3-Year Budget Projections

MP presented information to the Board to further its understanding of restricted funds and the intricacies of 3-year budget projections. Topics included: the five "restricted" revenue sources - Lottery, Education Protection Account (EPA), Educator Effectiveness, and CA Clean Energy Jobs Act; 3-year budget projections - school assumptions, revenue assumptions, and expenditure assumptions; and next steps. MP asks the Board to consider are these accurate assumptions or are there others we might think about? In future meetings, the Board will look at more specific areas, such as special ed, revenue, staffing and employee costs, and textbooks & supplies, among others. We must make sure as we build three year budget that it is accurate and is as reflective of our school's mission as possible.

8) **Action Items**

a. Discussion and Approval of 2017-2018 First Interim Budget

Motion to approve the first interim budget: MR

Second: MSH

Discussion: Projected revenue above expenditures has increased to the negative rather significantly. Increased deficit spending is of great concern. Last year at this time, we were at about \$120,000 deficit spending. At the end of last year, we ended with a more slight deficit. MP recommends taking a closer look at very specific components of budget to get a better understanding of the estimates, expenses, and where there might be some flexibility.

BD expressed concern that there isn't anywhere we can fix it to change the deficit spending.

HF commented that one option is to direct to MP to see if there are any changes that can be made before approving. HF stated that her vote would be no, but she had to leave. HF stated that she is not in favor of deficit spending and we continue to eat further into ending fund balance.

MP indicated that we don't have enough information at this time to make many easy, feasible changes. The easiest and most direct places that we have any flexibility directly impact core values. He is not ready to make any recommendations at this moment.

BD pointed out that we're potentially approving deficit spending with the hope that we'll be able to fix it later.

MSH also expressed concern with deficit spending, asking are there things in budget we could ask PTSO to support further? She commented that we might need to do more fundraising to have a balanced budget. She appreciates the time and energy MP put into crafting the 1st interim, but is respectfully concerned.

DT suggested having teachers participate in studying the same areas as Board.

Vote: Approved 4-2-0

9) **Next Board Meeting Date**

a. Regular Board Meeting December 12, 2017

10) Public Comment on Closed Session Item

None.

CLOSED SESSION

Closed session was called to order at 7:42pm.

1) CERTIFICATED TEACHER NEGOTIATIONS

2) PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION-Executive Director

Closed session adjourned and open session resumed at 7:54pm.

OPEN SESSION

11) Report out from Closed Session

MP informed the Board about the current status of negotiations and the scheduled mediation with the certificated staff.

MP discussed timelines and processes related to Executive Director's evaluation.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.