

**Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 19, 2017**  
**Room 304 at 5:30 P.M.**

OPEN SESSION

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

*Meeting called to order at 5:35 PM.*

- 2) **ROLL CALL**

Meg Rydman (MR), Board President (2018)	X
Mark Swanitz (MS), Secretary (2019)	X
Heather Fletcher (HF), Treasurer (2018)	X
Melanie Sutton Hodgdon (MSH), Member at Large (2018)	X
Robert Feinberg (RF), Member at Large (2019)	X
Elizabeth Dowhower (BD), Member at Large (2017)	X
Roxanne Usher (RU), Middle School Teacher Rep. (2017)	X (left at 6:58 PM when closed session was called to order)
Linda Mayer (LM), Elementary Teacher Rep (2017)	X (left at 6:58 PM when closed session was called to order)
Jim Brown (JB), Superintendent College School District	—
OTHER ATTENDEES:	
Mark Palmerston (MP), Executive Director	X

- 3) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** for September 19, 2017

*Motion to approve the agenda: BD*

*Second: RF*

*Discussion: None*

*Vote: Approved 8-0-0*

- 4) **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Andrew Oman, CTA representative for the teachers, spoke about certificated staff negotiations. He presented the College School District Form 09 and advocated for a raise for teachers.*

- 5) **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting June 28, 2017

*Motion to approve the consent agenda: MS*

*Second: MSH*

*Discussion: None*

*Vote: Approved 5-0-3 (RF, LM and RU abstained)*

- b. Approval of Minutes for Meeting August 15, 2017

*Motion to approve the consent agenda: RF*

*Second: BD*

*Discussion: None*

*Vote: Approved 6-0-2 (MS and HF abstained)*

- 6) **STANDING REPORTS**

- a. Teachers' Report

**Primary Grades**

Kindergarten: Kindergarteners are busy with beginning of the year activities. They recently met their 2nd and 8th grade buddies. In language arts, they are beginning to explore the first few letters of the alphabet, focusing on letter sound and formation. In math, they are discussing numbers 1 through 5 and are furthering their math instruction during Calendar Counts time. In science, they are studying weather and season. Socially, they are learning about friendship and what it means to be a good friend to others.

1st Grade: First graders have started Genius Hour and are working with Coach Gills on a passion project, with a parent volunteer on iReady reading, and working with Ms. Pappas and Mrs. Kelleher in small groups. In language arts, they have begun their first Author Study and are beginning work on the creation of an ABC book. In math they are learning to compose two addend groups and to decompose a total group in addition to working on numeracy in addition and subtraction with 10. In social studies they have begun to learn about each other's names and how they received them. In science they are investigating solids.

2nd Grade: Genius Hour has also started for second graders. Garden will be starting soon. Students are enjoying meeting with the kindergarten and sixth grade buddies. In language arts they have chosen their independent reading books and are working on writing and grammar skills. In math they are working on addition and subtraction within 20. Science and social studies instruction begins this week.

3rd Grade: In language arts, third graders read Mulan and are now writing their own stories with a Chinese theme and making origami dragons. They are also reading during buddy time with their 7th grade buddies. This week and next, 7th grade buddies are teaching them to use Google slides. In math, they are working on their multiplication and division facts. In science, they have been learning botany and plant vocabulary terms and had a guest speaker from Lotusland. They are taking a field trip to Lotusland and the Moxi Museum on September 13.

4th Grade: Fourth graders are focusing on realistic fiction in language arts as they are reading Judy Blume's Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing. Students are also being encouraged to participate in the Battle of the Books. In math they are working on the first unit in Math Expressions. They are using Science a-z introducing them to the concepts of electric and magnetism in Science.

Music: Elementary students are focusing on temp, rhythm, and simple rhythmic patterns using percussion instruments, movement, and their voices. They are also learning about Amy Beach and her music as part of the composer of the Month series.

Garden: No report.

Genius Hour: Genius Hour started this week. Weeks 1 and 2 are centered on finding out what students are interested in learning, team building, and getting to know each other.

### **Middle School**

Language Arts: Fifth graders recently finished a unit on folktales and are now reading their first novel of the year, Ramona and Her Father, which focuses on the theme of family and togetherness. The unit will culminate with students interviewing an older relative and writing a personal narrative. In sixth grade, students are reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and exploring Dahl's use of figurative and descriptive language, methods of characterization as well as developing their own voice and integrating vivid and precise language into their writing. Seventh graders are reading Crispin and working on making inferences. The unit revolves heavily around text dependent questions and whole class discussions. They are also looking at the author's craft including such things as plot, character, mood, and symbolism. Eighth grade is studying The Outsiders. Students are engaging in mature discussion about themes such as reputations, cliques, stereotypes, identity, and social/class struggles and will choose one theme to develop into a multi-paragraph thematic explanatory essay.

Math: No report.

Science: In science, students are working very hard to re-establish consistent routines so that they are ready for lab work. In fifth grade, students are learning about biomes and the scientific method. Sixth grade is working on the scientific method and learning to write lab reports. Seventh graders are focusing on earth science and geology, while eighth graders are studying topics in chemistry, including states of matter.

Social Studies: No report.

Physical Education: P.E. classes have finished most of their first trimester benchmarks and have begun their first sports unit: basketball. Mrs. Gills is also pursuing a grant through Adidas to purchase heart rate monitors to track student progress over their whole educational careers at SYVCS.

### b. PTSO Report

PTSO President Jessica Yacoub gave a report about the recent activities of the Parent Teacher Student Organization. She also asked for feedback about what the board's view of the role of PTSO should be.

c. Treasurer's Report

*HF gave the treasurer's report. She specifically called out that the August/September lunch collection of \$5800 is lower than 2016-17. She also pointed out a service charge from the bank. She noted a net profit of about \$3000 from the Mixed Bag fundraiser. The ending balance of the 401 account in August was \$24,928.*

*MP also referred board members to the reports in the board packet for details on general operating budgets. MP answered a few questions from board members about details of the budget.*

d. Director's Report

*MP gave his report.*

7) **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

a. Suicide Prevention Policy

*MP shared that a former SYVCS student recently took his own life and that a suicide prevention policy will be brought before the board at a future meeting.*

b. Board Organization

*MR expressed that she is stepping down as president and that she was willing to take the role of secretary. MS shared that he was stepping down as secretary. HF said that she would like to step down if someone else would be willing to step up but that she would continue if no one was willing.*

8) **BOARD BUSINESS**

a. Recognition of Teacher Representatives to the Board

*Motion to recognize Linda Mayer and Roxanne Usher as teacher representatives to the board: BD  
Second: MSH  
Discussion: None  
Vote: Approved 6-0-2 (LM and RU abstained)*

b. Recognition of Continuing Board Member — Beth Dowhower (2020)

*Motion to recognize Beth Dowhower as a continuing member of the board: MSH  
Second: LM  
Discussion: None  
Vote: Approved 7-0-1 (BD abstained)*

c. Nominate and Vote on Executive Board Members

*The board nominated and voted on 2017-18 Executive Board members as follows:*

*Motion to nominate Robert Feinberg for the office of Board President: BD  
Second: LM  
Discussion: None  
Vote: Approved 7-0-1 (RF abstained)*

*Motion to nominate Meg Rydman for the office of Board Secretary: LM  
Second: BD  
Discussion: None  
Vote: Approved 7-0-1 (MR abstained)*

*Motion to nominate Heather Fletcher for the office of Board Treasurer: MSH  
Second: RF  
Discussion: BD suggested a back-up plan in the event that HF's schedule gets too busy after the birth of her child. HF offered to train someone if necessary.  
Vote: Approved 7-0-1 (HF abstained)*

d. Discuss and Vote on Board Calendar for 2017-2018

*The board discussed MP's proposed board calendar for 2017-2018.*

*Motion to approve the board calendar for 2017-2018 as proposed: BD*

*Second: RF*

*Discussion: None*

*Vote: Approved 8-0-0*

e. Discuss and Approve Members of the Policies Committee

*The board discussed the establishment of a policies committee and appointed the following members:*

*Motion to appoint Beth Dowhower, Debbie Trujillo and Linda Mayer as members of the Policies Committee: MS*

*Second: MSH*

*Discussion: None*

*Vote: Approved 6-0-2 (BD and LM abstained)*

9) **ACTION ITEMS**

a. Accept Unaudited Actuals for fiscal year 2016-2017

*MP presented the unaudited actual report and noted that the actuals were very close to the second interim except for a one-time expense to rectify an accounting error made in booking SISC health and welfare benefits by the College School District's 2015-16.*

*Motion to accept unaudited actuals report for fiscal year 2016-2017: MS*

*Second: MSH*

*Discussion: None*

*Vote: Approved 8-0-0*

b. Approval of Overnight Field Trips

- i. 6th grade: Camp Ocean Pines, Cambria
- ii. 7th grade: CIMI Camp, Catalina Island
- iii. 8th grade: AstroCamp, Idyllwild

*Motion to approve overnight field trips for 6th, 7th and 8th grades: BD*

*Second: RF*

*Discussion: MSH asked whether we were still asking for specific donations for field trips. MP explained that it was his goal to avoid that this year. BD asked if busing for the 6th grade camp was included. MP said that it was. HF asked that in the future, this agenda item show an itemized budget and an explanation of the anticipated learning experience.*

*Vote: Approved 8-0-0*

10) **NEXT BOARD MEETING DATES**

a. Regular board meeting October 24, 2017.

11) **PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEM**

*There was no public comment on the closed session item.*

**CLOSED SESSION**

*Closed session called to order at 6:58 PM.*

12) **CERTIFICATED TEACHER NEGOTIATIONS**

*Closed session adjourned and open session resumed at 7:17 PM.*

OPEN SESSION

13) **REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION**

*MP informed the board about the current status of negotiations with the certificated staff. Board gave direction for negotiations.*

14) **ADJOURNMENT** by Board President

*Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.*