

MINUTES**CERES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT****MEETING – BOARD OF TRUSTEES****August 10, 2017, 7:00 PM – District Office Board Room****2503 Lawrence Street – Ceres, California****REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING**

Present for the regular scheduled meeting were: President Teresa Guerrero, Trustees Betty Davis, Jim Kinard, Lourdes Perez and Valli Wigt, and Student Representatives Josh Madariaga and Allyson Zuleta-Alonzo. Absent: Faye Lane and Mike Welsh. Others present: Dr. Scott Siegel, Superintendent; Dr. Denise Wickham, Deputy Superintendent of Personnel Services; Dr. Amy Peterman, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services; Jay Simmonds, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services; and Dan Pangrazio, Assistance Superintendent of Business Services.

1. OPEN SESSION – 5:15 PM – District Office – Superintendent’s Office**a. Public Comment**

President Guerrero opened the meeting at 5:18 p.m. for public comment. There was no one wishing to address the Board.

b. Study Session – *Focus on Achievement Profiles***c. Adjourn to Closed Session****2. CLOSED SESSION – Superintendent’s Office****a. Public Employee – Discipline/Dismissal/Release (Government Code Section 54947)****b. Conference With Labor Negotiator (Government Code Section 54957.6)**

- Agency Designated Representatives: Scott Siegel, Denise Wickham and David Viss
Employee Organizations: CUTA and CSEA

c. Student Discipline/Expulsions (Education Code 35146)**d. Reconvene to Open Session****3. PUBLIC MEETING – 7:00 PM – Board Room**

The meeting was convened to Open Session, where President Guerrero called the Public Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with a quorum present. The salute to the flag was given and Ken Sylvia of Youth for Christ gave the invocation.

4. COMMENDATION/SCHOOL PRESENTATION SECTION

- a. None at this meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**a. Opportunity for the Board and Administration to Adjust the Published Agenda**

President Guerrero offered the opportunity to make adjustments to the published Agenda. Dr. Siegel requested the Information and Study item 10. i., Early Literacy to College, immediately follow the Consent section in consideration of the presenters. The agenda was so adjusted. For the purpose of the meetings minutes, the item appears in its agendized order.

6. HEARING SECTION**a. Public Hearing on District Sunshine Proposal - CUTA**

Deputy Superintendent of Personnel Services Dr. Denise Wickham reported that, at the Board meeting of June 29, 2017, the District presented its sunshine proposal for negotiations between Ceres Unified School District and Ceres Unified Teacher's Association (CUTA) for the 2017-2018 school year. The District is requesting to open Article X - Teaching Hours, Article XX - Professional Growth Plan (TEPS). Article XXII - Certificated Employee Benefits, and Article XXIV - Salary Schedule Provisions and Transferred Experience.

President Guerrero opened a public hearing on the District sunshine proposal for negotiations between the District and CUTA. With no one wishing to address the Board, the public hearing was closed.

c. Opportunity for Citizens to Address Items Not on the Agenda

President Guerrero opened a public hearing for those wishing to address an item not on the Agenda, and read aloud the guidelines relevant to public presentations to the Board.

Gerald Weese of Ceres addressed the Board regarding a mound of dirt at Hensley Junior High School that he said generates dust and has necessitated repairs to the swimming pool at his home adjacent to the school. Mr. Weese described his efforts to work through District staff regarding the dirt mound which he said first appeared in 2013, was temporarily removed, then reappeared and has expanded due to recent construction projects.

Dr. Siegel responded that Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Dan Pangrazio has attempted to reach Mr. Weese to schedule a meeting regarding the dirt mound and the District's mitigation efforts. Dr. Siegel noted that The Brown Act limits the Board's ability to respond to items not on the meeting agenda, and encouraged Mr. Weese to meet with Mr. Pangrazio.

Mr. Weese commented regarding the ongoing nature of his concerns, as well as a recent development in which members of a youth football team (that practices at Mae Hensley) ran up and down the dirt mound, exacerbating the dust.

Lynne Baker of Ceres addressed the Board in support of Mr. Weese, her neighbor. Ms. Baker reported that she finds dirt clods in her swimming pool, and would also like the dirt pile addressed.

Stella Vargas of Ceres also addressed the Board regarding the dirt mound at Hensley Junior High School, reporting similar concerns regarding her swimming pool.

Dr. Siegel encouraged the neighbors to meet with Mr. Pangrazio.

7. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

President Guerrero reported that no action was taken during Closed Session.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting of June 29, 2017
- b. Ratification of Warrants
- c. Ratification of Employment
- d. Ratification of Contracts and Agreements
- e. Disposal of District Property
- f. Recommended Rejection of Claim for Damages
- g. William's Settlement Complaint Report - 4th Quarter 2016-2017

- h. Quarterly Investment Report (Fourth Quarter 2016-2017)
- i. ASES After School Program Early Release Policy

Trustee Wigt moved and Trustee Kinard seconded to approve Consent Agenda items a-i. Ayes: Josh Madariaga, Allyson Zuleta-Alonzo, Lourdes Perez, Valli Wigt, Betty Davis, Jim Kinard and Teresa Guerrero. Absent: Mike Welsh and Faye Lane. Motion carried.

9. ACTION SECTION

- a. **Awarding the Best Value Instrument for Central Valley High School Six-Classroom Addition, Building M**

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Dan Pangrazio reported that, on June 21, 2017, a request for sealed proposals was sent to pre-qualified contractors to request qualifications per the lease-lease back construction delivery method for the six-classroom addition of building M at Central Valley High School. Four sealed proposals were received by the District on July 19, 2017, reviewed, scored, and interviews were held on July 24, 2017. JL Bray & Son, Inc. has been selected as the best value contractor through this process.

In order to move forward, the Board must approve the selection of the best value contractor and approve to form the attached Lease-Lease Back documents. Upon approval, pre-construction work will begin. JL Bray & Son, Inc. will also prepare a final Guaranteed Maximum Price proposal for action by the Board of Trustees at a later date.

Trustee Perez moved, and Trustee Davis seconded to Approve JL Bray & Son, Inc. as the best value instrument for the six-classroom addition at Central Valley High School, Building M. Ayes: Josh Madariaga, Allyson Zuleta-Alonzo, Lourdes Perez, Valli Wigt, Betty Davis, Jim Kinard and Teresa Guerrero. Absent: Mike Welsh and Faye Lane. Motion carried.

- b. **Proposed Revision of Stanislaus/Mother Lode AB86 Education Consortium Designee to read AEBG Stanislaus Mother Lode Consortium**

Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services Jay Simmonds presented for review and action by the Board of Trustees a revision to the Stanislaus/Mother Lode AB86 Education Consortium Designee, which is being updated to meet a State-required title change to AEBG Stanislaus Mother Lode Consortium.

Trustee Davis moved and Trustee Kinard seconded to approve as presented the State-required title change to AEBG Stanislaus Mother Lode Consortium. Ayes: Josh Madariaga, Allyson Zuleta-Alonzo, Lourdes Perez, Valli Wigt, Betty Davis, Jim Kinard and Teresa Guerrero. Absent: Mike Welsh and Faye Lane. Motion carried.

10. INFORMATION & STUDY

- a. **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Siegel reported a smooth start to the school year on Wednesday due to the efforts of teachers, administrators and support staff. Dr. Siegel commended the CUSD team for its outstanding performance. Dr. Siegel welcomed new Student Representatives to the Board Allyson Zuleta-Alonzo and Josh Madariaga. Dr. Siegel also extended wishes for a speedy recovery to Trustee Lane, who was not present due to an impending medical procedure.

- b. **Board Report**

Central Valley High School Student Representative Allyson Zuleta-Alonzo and Ceres High School Student Representative Josh Madariaga reported on athletics, academics and other activities at their respective schools.

The Trustees reported on their attendance at Back to School Nights.

c. Association Report

Karie Dias, President of California School Employees Association, Chapter 140 (CSEA), welcomed everyone back to another school year. Ms. Dias reported that she attended an annual CSEA conference in Las Vegas the prior week, the theme of which was “Everyday Heroes.” She thanked Drs. Siegel and Wickham for supporting CSEA by attending the conference on Friday, and the District for use of a van to travel to the conference.

JoDee Bonales, President of the Ceres Unified Teachers Association, had nothing to report.

d. Ceres Unified School District Sunshine Proposal to California School Employees Association

Director of Personnel Services David Viss presented the Ceres Unified School District sunshine proposal for the 2017-2018 negotiations (re-openers) between the District and California School Employees Association (CSEA). CSEA presented its Sunshine proposal on June 15, 2017, and the public hearing for CSEA’s sunshine proposal was held on June 29, 2017. The District is requesting to open Article XVI - Leaves, Article X - Employee Expenses and Materials, Article VIII - Health and Welfare Benefits, and Article VI and related Appendices - Salary Schedule (automatic re-opener). The sunshine proposal will be presented for public hearing on August 31, 2017.

e. Employee Attendance

Dr. Wickham presented information on employee attendance and trends for 2016-2017, including graphs of monthly absences for both classified and certificated staff.

Dr. Wickham presented a graph of Workman’s Compensation injuries reflecting 167 injuries, 52 percent of which were doctor-treated, compared with 143 injuries the prior year, 47 percent of which were doctor-treated. Dr. Siegel noted that these rates are reasonable when compared with other districts in the CRSIG (Central Region School Insurance Group) pool. Dr. Wickham reported that increased training is being provided to Paraprofessional IIIs, whose work with emotionally disturbed students contributes to their higher injury rate.

Dr. Wickham presented a chart of absences by day of the week, noting that Mondays and Fridays continue to have the highest rate of absences, with 7.2% of employees absent on any given Friday. Teachers averaged 7.23 days absent during the year (excluding CFRA/FMLA), compared with the U.S. average of 9.5 days. Seventeen percent of teachers were absent three days or less, 26 percent missed more than 10 days of school, and 10 teachers missed more than 25 percent of the school year, “freezing” their salary. Dr. Wickham noted that certificated absences are calculated based upon requests for substitutes and the data is not perfect, given that some certificated groups, such as nurses and instructional coaches, do not request subs.

Dr. Wickham reported on a law implemented in 2016 to provide an additional 12 weeks of partially paid baby bonding time, beyond maternity leave. Use of this leave, which was previously unpaid, has increased by approximately 29 percent. Dr. Wickham reviewed the top three dates of absences for both certificated and classified groups, noting that we gear up for predictable high-absence days, such as the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, with plenty of substitute availability. Dr. Wickham reviewed attendance incentives for certificated and classified staff.

f. Impact of State Budget

Mr. Pangrazio reported that Education Code 42127 requires school districts to notify the public of the impact of the State Budget on locally adopted budgets within 45 days of the signing of the State Budget. Mr. Pangrazio presented the 45-day public notice for the Ceres

Unified School District, noting that the budget adopted by the Board in June accurately reflects the realities of the State Budget except for a few noted exceptions within the letter, which will be reflected in the First Budget Revision.

Exceptions include a minor decrease in LCFF gap funding between the May revision and the enacted budget, and increases in the Prop 98 minimum guarantee. However, Test 3B – which protects education from deep cuts in times of low revenue – has been suspended for three years. Mr. Pangrazio presented a forecast of the impact of the Test 3B suspension which, in the event of a recession, could be significant. The enacted budget also relies heavily on revenue from capital gains tax. LCFF gap closure is projected by 2020.

Mr. Pangrazio presented a slide depicting purchasing power as impacted by CalPERS and CalSTRS increases outpacing COLA, and special education cost drivers. Mr. Pangrazio presented a chart of per-ADA revenues vs. expenses, and a slide on economic trends.

Dr. Siegel noted that we are anticipating little growth beyond the ability to cover increases in base operating costs. He asked that Mr. Pangrazio share the slide presentation with the Board.

g. Categorical Programs

As requested by the Board at the end of the prior fiscal year, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Dr. Amy Peterman provided an update on current categorical programs. While the LCFF eliminated the need for a large number of categoricals, districts still receive some federal funds. The Perkins Grant (vocational education) is also federally funded, but is not included in the presentation.

Dr. Peterman reported that Title I funding ensures that all children have a fair and equal opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach minimum proficiency on the state content standards and assessments. This funding targets the needs of low-achieving students enrolled in the highest-poverty schools. Eligibility is dependent on free/reduced lunch counts.

Dr. Peterman reported that Title II funding supports effective instruction to increase the academic achievement of all students. Eighty percent of eligibility is based on the District's low-income population.

Dr. Peterman reported that Title III funding supports language instruction for English Learners, with eligibility based on EL status, and services for immigrant students.

h. Academic Indicator - California Dashboard

Dr. Peterman reported that the California School Dashboard is a new accountability program which includes state and local Academic Indicators for all Local Control Funding Formula priorities. The intent of the program is to aid local educational agencies in identifying strengths, weaknesses, and areas in need of improvement, and to provide a process by which improvement will be determined and assisted. Unlike the single-number Academic Performance Index (API) previously used, the Dashboard incorporates multiple measures of student achievement and improvement that produce seven Academic Indicators. Colored performance categories denote status and change, with Green and Blue representing performance targets, and Red, Orange, or Yellow suggesting work to be done. Charter schools have their own Dashboard. Dr. Peterman reported that staff will present information relative to each of the Academic Indicators at future meetings.

Dr. Peterman presented information on the academic indicators for English Language Arts and Math, which are based on California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) exam results for grades 3-8. (Grade 11 results are reflected in the College/Career Readiness Indicator.) Results are reported in four performance bands by the percentage of

students exceeding standards, meeting standards, nearly meeting standards, and not meeting standards. The Academic Indicator is reported as “distance from met.” Dr. Peterman reviewed 2015-2016 data that places CUSD in the Yellow category for English Language Arts and the Orange category for Math. Dr. Peterman also provided links to site, subgroup, and Whitmore Charter Schools data.

Dr. Siegel noted that the Academic Indicator presentation is available to the Board via Google Drive.

Dr. Peterman reported that she will share 2015-2016 data with the District stakeholder groups and discuss the actions and services within the Local Control Accountability Plan to garner input on what’s working and recommended changes. Data from the most recent CASSPP results has also been received and reviewed with site administrators.

i. **Early Literacy to College**

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Kirsten Saint introduced Susan Rich of the Stanislaus County Office of Education, and Amanda Hughes of the Stanislaus Community Foundation.

Ms. Rich reported on the origin of the Stanislaus READS program as part of a national reading campaign focused on early literacy. The program was piloted locally at eight schools in eight districts, with three challenge areas identified: school readiness, attendance, and summer learning. The pilot schools benefited from reading clubs in after-school programs, learning programs with principals, Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, and special funding to increase summer enrichment opportunities. Ms. Rich reported that Ceres Unified eagerly embraced a Kinder Student Enhance Profile (KSEP) to measure school readiness. Marketing materials focused on chronic absenteeism, emphasizing the importance of attending school for a full day every day. And the Stanislaus Community Foundation implemented a summer learning program. Ms. Rich reported that, as Stanislaus Reads grows and reshapes, it may resemble a cradle to career movement. Ceres Unified has been a powerful ally to the program.

Ms. Hughes reported that Stanislaus Futures is a twin initiative to Stanislaus READS, with a focus on improving the college-going culture in Stanislaus County. This program began as part of a larger private foundation and, now partnered with the Stanislaus County Office of Education, incorporates six districts including Ceres Unified, as well as Modesto Junior College and California State University, Stanislaus. Ms. Hughes provided statistics on college attendance after high school in Stanislaus County, and the necessity for bachelor’s degrees among the future work force. Ms. Hughes reported on the threefold focus of the Stanislaus Futures program – Access, Attain, Align – and efforts in each area. Like the Stanislaus READS program, Stanislaus Futures is beginning to arc around a cradle-to-career framework. Ms. Hughes thanked Ceres Unified for being a key player from the program’s inception, and promised to continue to meet strategically with districts to build and strengthen it.

Mrs. Saint highlighted efforts specific to Ceres Unified in our partnership with the Stanislaus County Office of Education, through Stanislaus READS, to promote early literacy and summer learning, and curb chronic absenteeism.

Dr. Peterman reported on the District’s Ceres is Serious about College campaign which spans K-12 and includes a focus on scholarships, FAFSA completion rates, fulfillment of college A-G requirements, and the addition of college transition learning directors at both comprehensive high schools.

j. **CUSD BP/AR 5116.1 and BP/AR 6145 Annual Review**

Dr. Siegel presented for mandated annual review by the Board of Trustees Board Policy (BP)/Administrative Regulation (AR) 5116.1 regarding Intradistrict Open Enrollment, and

BP/AR 6145 regarding Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities.

Dr. Siegel reported that BP/AR 5116.1 were updated in November 2016 in accordance with California School Boards Association (CSBA) recommendations. BP/AR 5116.1 and BP/AR 6145 were presented for review with no recommended changes.

k. **Board Policy May 2017 Revisions - 2nd Reading**

Dr. Siegel reported that, in the process of maintaining and updating our Board Policies and Administrative Regulations to comply with current law and California School Boards Association recommendations, a draft copy of the May 2017 updates and proposed revisions was made available for Board Member review and first reading at the June 29, 2017 meeting. The proposed revisions are being presented as a second reading at this meeting, and will be brought for action at an upcoming meeting.

11. RESEARCH

None at this meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

President Guerrero adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Siegel, Ed.D.
Secretary to the Board of Trustees