

MINUTES**CERES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT****MEETING – BOARD OF TRUSTEES****September 21, 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, Faye Lane, Lourdes Perez, Mike Welsh and Valli Wigt, and Student Representative Allyson Zuleta-Alonzo. Absent: Student Representative Josh Madariaga, who was attending a required school event. 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, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services.

1. OPEN SESSION – 5:00 PM – District Office – Conference Room C**a. Public Comment**

President Guerrero opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. for public comment. There was no one wishing to address the Board.

b. Study Session - Target Reserve Levels**c. Adjourn to Closed Session****2. CLOSED SESSION – Conference Room C****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 7:04 p.m. with a quorum present. The salute to the flag was given and Pastor Isaiah Herrera of A Place Of Mercy gave the invocation.

4. COMMENDATION/SCHOOL PRESENTATION SECTION**a. Beaver Elementary School Presentation – *Improving Attendance***

Principal Libby Holmes reviewed attendance data for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, noting an increase in chronic absenteeism from 7.3 percent to 8.3 percent. Ms. Holmes introduced Administrative Assistant Pedro Macias and teacher Gaylyn Barker who reported on Beaver Elementary's focus on improving attendance.

Mr. Macias reported on administrative actions including data monitoring, communication with families, home visits, attendance workshops, a daily attendance tracker, and recognition and prizes for perfect attendance.

Ms. Barker reported on efforts to connect school-wide attendance goals to individual classroom goals.

Ms. Holmes reported on other awareness efforts including video recordings that emphasize to parents the importance of the first 5 to 10 minutes of class.

At this time, President Guerrero thanked the presenters and offered the opportunity for those in attendance for the School Presentation to exit the 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 asked that action item 10. d., Family Engagement Presentation, immediately follow the Consent agenda, in consideration of the community members present to report. The agenda was so adjusted. For the purpose of the meetings minutes, the item appears in its agendized order.

6. HEARING SECTION

a. Level II and Level III Developer Fees Public Hearing

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Dan Pangrazio reported that, in order for the District to proceed with the collection of Level II and Level III Developer Fees, the Board of Trustees must adopt a resolution and approve a School Facilities Needs Analysis, as presented on the Action section of the agenda.

President Guerrero opened a public hearing on Level II and Level III Developer Fees. With no one wishing to address the Board, the public hearing was closed.

b. 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. With no one wishing to address the Board, the public hearing was closed.

7. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Trustee Lane reported that no action was taken during Closed Session.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting of August 31, 2017 and Special Meeting of September 13, 2017
- b. Ratification of Warrants
- c. Ratification of Employment
- d. Ratification of Contracts and Agreements
- e. Disposal of District Property

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

9. ACTION SECTION

a. Consideration of Student Expulsions

Trustee Davis moved, and Trustee Wigt seconded to uphold Student Expulsion Case Number EX01-17/18. Ayes: Lourdes Perez, Valli Wigt, Betty Davis, Mike Welsh, Jim Kinard, Faye Lane and Teresa Guerrero. Motion carried.

b. Supervisor of Accounting Job Description

Deputy Superintendent of Personnel Services Dr. Denise Wickham reported that staff is recommending that a Supervisor of Accounting position replace the confidential Lead Accountant position in Fiscal Services, based on research among districts throughout the state which reveals the growing necessity that this be an administrative role.

To prepare for this transition, Dr. Wickham presented for review and action by the Board of Trustees a Supervisor of Accounting job description which establishes and defines the wide variety of duties and responsibilities related to this new position. Under the direction of the Chief Financial Officer/Director of Fiscal Services, the Supervisor of Accounting will be responsible for accounting and financial services that will enhance the department's ability to serve the District. Salary placement is on the Classified Management salary schedule.

Trustee Lane moved and Trustee Welsh seconded to approve the job description as presented. Ayes: Allyson Zuleta-Alonzo, Lourdes Perez, Valli Wigt, Betty Davis, Mike Welsh, Jim Kinard, Faye Lane and Teresa Guerrero. Absent: Josh Madariaga. Motion carried.

c. Provisional Internship Permits

Dr. Wickham reported that, as required by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, staff is requesting that the following CUSD teachers be employed on Provisional Internship Permits:

Orlando Barba, Social Science Teacher, Argus High School - Teacher's College of San Joaquin program

Maria Rodriguez, Math Teacher, Central Valley High School - Brandman University program

Dr. Wickham noted that the teachers each possess a four-year degree and, upon successful completion of a credential program, will be eligible to obtain a preliminary credential.

Trustee Kinard moved and Trustee Perez seconded to approve the Provisional Internship Permits. Ayes: Allyson Zuleta-Alonzo, Lourdes Perez, Valli Wigt, Betty Davis, Mike Welsh, Jim Kinard, Faye Lane and Teresa Guerrero. Absent: Josh Madariaga. Motion carried.

d. Resolution for School Facilities Needs Analysis and Increase to Alternative School Facilities Fees (Level II and Level III Developer Fees)

Mr. Pangrazio reported that, in order to revise the Alternative School Facility Fees (Level II and III Developer Fees), the Board must approve a School Facilities Needs Analysis and adopt a resolution revising the fees. The Level II fees calculated for Ceres Unified School District are \$3.48 per square foot (down from \$4.28 per square foot currently). The Level III fees are double the Level II fees (\$6.96 per square foot) and may only be collected when the State has no bond money available to allocate to school districts. These fees affect residential developments. If adopted, the new fees will become effective on November 20, 2017.

Mr. Pangrazio presented for review and action by the Board of Trustees the School Facilities Needs Analysis for Ceres Unified School District, dated August 11, 2017 and the accompanying resolution.

Trustee Lane moved and Trustee Welsh seconded to adopt as presented Resolution No. 05-17/18 approving the School Facilities Needs Analysis and establishing the rate for alternative School Facilities Fees (Level II and III Developer Fees). Ayes: Allyson Zuleta-Alonzo, Lourdes Perez, Valli Wigt, Betty Davis, Mike Welsh, Jim Kinard, Faye Lane and Teresa Guerrero. Absent: Josh Madariaga. Motion carried.

e. **Proposed Revision to Board of Trustees 2017 Meeting Calendar**

Dr. Siegel reported that, at the organizational meeting of December 8, 2016, the Board of Trustees approved the 2017 meeting calendar. Subsequent schedule conflicts have necessitated that the regular meeting of November 16, 2017 be rescheduled to November 9, 2017. Due to Fiscal Services timelines, the November 16, 2017 date will remain on the calendar as a special meeting for a single budget item.

Trustee Perez moved and Trustee Wigt seconded to approve as presented the revision to the Board of Trustees 2017 meeting calendar. Ayes: Allyson Zuleta-Alonzo, Lourdes Perez, Valli Wigt, Betty Davis, Mike Welsh, Jim Kinard, Faye Lane and Teresa Guerrero. Absent: Josh Madariaga. Motion carried.

10. INFORMATION & STUDY

a. **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Siegel thanked both employee associations for a cordial and amicable atmosphere in recent negotiations.

b. **Board Report**

Student Representative Allyson Zuleta-Alonzo reported on athletics, academics and other activities at Central Valley High School. Ceres High School Student Representative Josh Madariaga was not present to report due to attending a mandatory school event.

The Trustees reported on their attendance at various site, District and community events.

c. **Association Report**

Karie Dias, President of California School Employees Association, Chapter 140 (CSEA), reported that negotiations the prior week went well. Ms. Dias expressed appreciation for the positive relationship between the District and CSEA.

JoDee Bonales, President of the Ceres Unified Teachers Association (CUTA), reported that a cordial atmosphere existed during the first day of negotiations, as well as in informal meetings with Drs. Siegel and Wickham, where concerns are openly heard. Ms. Bonales expressed appreciation for the positive relationships between both employee associations and the District.

d. **Family Engagement Presentation**

Coordinator of Student Support Services Brian Murphy reported that Ceres Unified School District has continued to expand its community partnerships to further engage families and promote physical activity opportunities at several school sites this year. Mr. Murphy introduced community members who presented information on this partnership.

Esther Postiglione of Cultiva la Salud reported on efforts to engage Central Valley residents in improving their health, with a focus on the Latino community. Ms. Postiglione reviewed Stanislaus County obesity statistics and presented a chart of students' fitness standards. Ms. Postiglione reported that areas of focus include leadership development, healthy eating, active living, and health equity. Ms. Postiglione reported on a two-part program that includes Latina Saludable leadership training for parents, and Dance Therapy. Participating schools include Caswell Elementary, La Rosa Elementary, Sinclear Elementary, Vaughn Elementary, Fowler Elementary, Parks Elementary, and Chavez Junior High School. Each site averages 10-25 adult and child participants, with benefits ranging from increased physical activity levels to positive social relationships in schools and the community.

Parent Laura Calvillo reported on efforts supported by Ceres Partnership for Healthy Families to aid parents in working with schools to support children in eating better, moving

more, and living healthier lives. Ms. Calvillo expressed appreciation to the District for the opportunity to be a Dance Therapy instructor, noting that families have reported benefits such as weight loss and no longer being dependent on insulin for diabetes.

Parent Elisa Aguirre expressed appreciation to Trustee Perez for championing the Dance Therapy program, and to the Board of Trustees for the opportunity to work with families through schools. Ms. Aguirre reported on the benefits of the program and expressed a desire to see it expand to additional schools.

e. Grad Rate Indicator - California Dashboard

Coordinator of Educational Services Dr. Jessie Ceja presented information on the Graduation Rate Indicator as part of the California School Dashboard. Dr. Ceja reviewed the formula for calculating graduation rates, noting that students who earn a certificate of completion count in their cohort, but do not count as having graduated. Graduation rate is the only Dashboard Indicator with a three-year weighted average.

With a graduation rate of 88.9 percent in 2015 and a -.9 percent change rate, Ceres Unified fell in the yellow range on the Dashboard. Dr. Siegel noted that the slight decline coincides with a decision to take back students from the county's community school a few years ago in order to better serve this high-risk population.

Dr. Ceja reviewed graduation rate data by site and subgroup, noting that Argus High School will be part of an alternative model being developed by the state. Whitmore Charter School's data is reflected in a separate report.

In response to a Board member question regarding the availability of training for the community to understand the Dashboard, Dr. Siegel responded that this has been occurring through stakeholder groups, but can be done on a broader level.

f. 2017-2018 Class Assignment Data

Dr. Ceja reported that, as required by Board Policy 6152, Senate Bill 359, the California Mathematics Placement Act, and Assembly Bill 1012, the Educational Services division has reviewed class assignment data for students enrolled in comprehensive high schools, and staff have taken steps to ensure ninth grade students are placed appropriately in mathematics, using the Ceres Unified Mathematics Placement Protocol. Dr. Ceja reviewed math placement data for 2017-2018.

Dr. Ceja reported that student schedules have also been reviewed to ensure appropriate placement in courses with educational content and that students are not repeating a course in which they have previously earned grades required to graduate and/or meet University of California/California State University a-g requirements. Dr. Ceja reported that 97.02 percent of high school students are enrolled in courses with educational content, and 2.98 percent are enrolled as student assistants, mainly at Ceres High School for one period per day. Dr. Ceja reviewed the corresponding data, as well as data for repeated course enrollment in 2017-2018.

g. Facility Projects Update

Mr. Pangrazio introduced Director of Maintenance Ken Hines who provided an update on the status of construction projects around the District.

Mr. Hines presented photos of recently completed projects that include Proposition 39 energy conservation projects; a six-classroom addition at Ceres High School; grinding and polishing of the Hidahl Elementary kitchen/cafeteria floor; replacement of the District Office roof; concrete flatwork replacement at Blaker-Kinser Junior High; track improvements, logo replacement on the gym floor, and library reconfiguration at Hensley Junior High; stadium lighting and gym floor painting at Central Valley High School; asphalt repair and seal-

coating of various parking lots and playgrounds; and the swine barn at the District Ag Center.

Mr. Hines presented photos of projects currently underway including fencing at Walter White, Westport and Hensley Elementary Schools.

Mr. Hines reported that upcoming projects include a District-wide shift from ADT and Tri-signal security to Sonitrol; replacement of the playground equipment at Vaughn Elementary due to a fire; and a six-classroom addition at Central Valley High School using the lease lease-back process, with a targeted occupancy date of August 2018.

Mr. Pangrazio reported that there are no projects out to bid. Hardship projects at the Division of the State Architect for approval (if eligible) include a six-classroom addition at Caswell Elementary, an eight-classroom addition at Central Valley High School, and two four-classroom additions in two phases at Vaughn Elementary. Dr. Siegel noted that a study session will be held regarding the hardship projects.

Mr. Pangrazio reported that projects in design include modernization of the freshman hall, small gym and locker rooms at Ceres High School; replacement of portables in five phases at Fowler Elementary; and a Parks Elementary kitchen remodel. In initial planning stages are shade structures at elementary schools, new marquees at Caswell Elementary and Hensley Junior High, and a District Ag Center barn to house large animals.

Mr. Pangrazio presented a map of the Fowler project with options for keeping the kindergarten area in its current location, or relocating it and adding a play area that would require a redesign of the adjacent baseball field. Dr. Siegel noted that the architect is focusing on the first phase of the project until the realities of state funding are known.

Mr. Hines reported on change orders and use of contingencies. Mr. Hines noted that the next update is scheduled for December 7, and a facilities tour is scheduled on October 30.

h. Actuarial Study of Retiree Health Benefits Liabilities

Mr. Pangrazio reported that, under GASB 45, the District is required to conduct periodic actuarial studies of the liabilities incurred due to retiree health benefits. Currently the District pays for retiree health benefits as they are expended, not as they are earned. GASB 45 requires that school districts at least be aware of the dollar amounts of the incurred future liability.

Mr. Pangrazio presented for review by the Board of Trustees the actuarial report with pages 8-11 summarizing the findings as follows:

- 1) The District incurs a liability of approximately \$1.3 million on an annual basis toward future retiree health benefits costs.
- 2) The District has amassed a liability of approximately \$14.4 million in future retiree health benefits costs from all prior years. Since this liability will be paid out over the coming decades, the study suggests that an annual contribution of \$2,040,996 million for 30 years would be sufficient to retire the liability.
- 3) Since the District budgets approximately \$589 thousand annually to pay for retiree benefits through a “pay-as-you-go” model, a budget increase of just over \$1.4 million would be necessary to fully fund this liability as it is incurred.

Mr. Pangrazio reported that staff have discussed these findings with the District’s auditors and have ascertained that the only negative consequence of not following the recommendations is that the liability will be listed in the Annual Audit.

i. **Dual-language Program**

Dr. Siegel presented preliminary information on a possible expansion of the District’s dual-language program.

Dr. Siegel reviewed wait lists by grade-level for the existing dual-language program at Lucas Elementary, which include 78 students for kindergarten, 90 for first grade, and 54 for second grade. While expansion at Lucas Elementary is not possible, there are not quite enough students for a new school (90 to 96 students per primary grade level); however, converting space for a dual-language program at an existing site is a possibility.

Dr. Siegel reviewed criteria for selecting such a site, including strong community support to ensure the likelihood of future students shifting to the new dual-language program; limited special education since students cannot mainstream into Spanish-speaking classrooms; and not being overimpacted.

Dr. Siegel reported that, if the Board wishes to proceed in this direction, staff will identify the best site to house the program, which would begin with kindergarten-only in 2018-2019 and achieve full implementation in seven years. The site would be presented to the Board at a future meeting, a community meeting would be held to ensure support, and formal approval would take place ideally by the end of January.

Dr. Siegel noted that the program requires only two teachers per year when rolled out a grade level at a time; some staff may be displaced to other sites over time. Priority would be given to students within the site’s attendance boundary, then intradistrict, then interdistrict, with siblings having priority.

The consensus of the Board was to proceed in this direction.

j. **Board Policy 5113.2 Work Permits Revision**

Mr. Simmonds reported that staff is requesting a Board policy change regarding work permits for unique situations in which students who have below a 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) and who are on track to graduate, may be issued a work permit. This proposed change would be utilized on a very limited basis, with the approval of the Superintendent or designee, and work permits could be revoked if necessary.

Mr. Simmonds presented the proposed revision for review for review by the Board of Trustees. This item will be brought for action at a subsequent meeting.

k. **Board Policy July 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 the California School Boards Association recommendations, a draft copy of the July 2017 updates and proposed revisions was made available for Board Member review and first reading at the August 31, 2017 meeting.

Dr. Siegel noted that the July policies contain a proposed revision to Board Policy (BP) 0100 - Vision, but the Board has the option to pull this policy should they wish to either maintain it as written, or review and revise it at a later date. The consensus of the Board was to omit BP 0100 from the July 2017 updates and proposed revisions for review at a subsequent meeting.

11. **RESEARCH**

“State adopts plan required by federal education law; here's what's in it,” *EdSource*, September 13, 2017

12. ADJOURNMENT

President Guerrero adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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