

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING 10-21-2020 #1007
BOARD OF EDUCATION

CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE

The Board of Education President, Mrs. Barbara Laifman, called the regular meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. On March 17, 2020, Gov. Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 that, in part, authorized governing boards to hold public meetings via teleconference. Governing boards must still provide advance notice of each public meeting in accordance with the Brown Act and make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to observe the meeting and/or to address the governing board on agenda and non-agenda items.

Based on these guidelines, the OPUSD Board of Education held a video conference/teleconference regular meeting on October 21st. Members of the public were able to observe the meeting using a published live stream link. Members of the public were able to submit comments via an online form which opened at 4:30 pm on the day of the meeting and remained open for submission of comments until the end of the meeting.

BOARD PRESENT

Mrs. Barbara Laifman, President, Mr. Allen Rosen, Vice President, Mr. Drew Hazelton, Clerk, Mr. Derek Ross, Member, and Mrs. Denise Helfstein, Member

BOARD ABSENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Board President, Barbara Laifman reported that in Closed Session the Board would be discussing:

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S GOALS

B. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE: Government Code Section 54957

C. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EMPLOYMENT: Student Workers Technology, Computer Technician, Instructional Assistant I Grade Level, Temp Instructional Assistants I – Literacy & Numeracy, Temp Instructional Assistant I Literacy and Reading, Instructional Assistants I Literacy and Reading, Instructional Assistant II Special Education, Instruction Assistant III Behavior

D. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION:

(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)

Name of Case: OAH No. 2020090177

E. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS: Government Code 54957.6

Agency designated representatives: Adam Rauch and Stewart McGugan

Employee organizations: Oak Park Teachers Association & Oak Park Classified Association

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:08 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE

The Board of Education President, Mrs. Barbara Laifman, called the regular meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.

BOARD PRESENT

Mrs. Barbara Laifman, President, Mr. Allen Rosen, Vice President Mr. Drew Hazelton, Clerk, Mr. Derek Ross, Member, Mrs. Denise Helfstein, Member, and Charlotte Robertson, Student Board Member

BOARD ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Tony Knight, Superintendent, Mr. Adam Rauch, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, Mr. Stew McGugan, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, Dr. Jay Greenlinger, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Brendan Callahan, Director of Bond Program, Sustainability, Maintenance and Operations, Mr. Enoch Kwok, Director of Information Technology, Mr. Kevin Buchanan, Principal of Oak Park High School, Mrs. Holly Baxter, Coordinator of Safety and Equity, and Mrs. Ragini Aggarwal, Executive Assistant.

REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

Board President, Barbara Laifman, reported that the Board took no action in closed session. Mrs. Laifman reported that the Board also took no action at the October 14, 2020 and October 16, 2020 closed session meetings.

FLAG SALUTE

Barbara Laifman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Student Board Member, Charlotte Robertson, cast a preferential vote to approve the adoption of the Agenda. On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education adopted the agenda as presented. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

There were 37 public speakers on various items on the agenda. Due to this meeting's electronic nature and to maintain the integrity of providing an opportunity for public comment, the Board President read the public comments when the agenda item was called.

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The Board recognized Brandon McFadden and Judie Berro for their outstanding volunteer contributions and presented them with the Partners in Education Award.

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Allen Rosen stated that he wanted to relinquish his time as there were a lot of public comments and he wanted to give a chance so that everyone could be heard.

Board Member Drew Hazelton thanked all the teachers and staff for their hard work during these challenging times.

Board Member Derek Ross stated that he felt extremely privileged and lucky to be surrounded by such professionals within the school district, not only just the teachers and staff but seeing Brandon and Judy and our partners, we have a wonderful community that supports our school district. Derek stated we are having to make decisions that we normally wouldn't have to make. Derek was extremely grateful to be surrounded by so many passionate people who really care for the District. Derek reported that he attended four Diversity and Equity Task Force meetings, and he was really proud of the work being done at the District and facilitated by Dr. Walker.

Board Member Denise Helfstein thanked the families, students, and staff for going above and beyond to make the unprecedented situation with distance learning more tenable while facing huge challenges and struggles. Denise acknowledged the many parents and students and teachers who have emailed the board or shared their views via social media or calls or emails about the urgent need that they feel to return students to our school campuses. Denise reported that she attended the Safe Kids Task Force meeting, the Wellness Council meeting and the Measure S meeting this month. Denise was able to observe two Google meet distance learning classes at the high school and expressed her thanks to Mr. Weintraub and Mr. Jackson Hall for allowing her to observe and Mr. Buchanan for arranging it.

Board Member Barbara Laifman reported that she attended the Curriculum Council meeting, EEAC meeting, and the GATE DAC meeting. Barbara thanked everyone for the communication sent to the board and wanted to express that the board and the staff are all looking out for the best interests of the students with the least disruption to the educational program as possible during this challenging situation.

Student Board Member Charlotte Robertson reported that ASB was wrapping up the digital homecoming this week and has been furthering efforts to push for change in the matters of mental health and diversity for students. ASB was working to create a Wellness Room or Center for students when we do return to campus. Charlotte felt that there was a pretty large disconnect with the students at the moment in terms of distance learning as it was a big adjustment, and now students are hitting a plateau point.

Superintendent Tony Knight thanked Charlotte for her remarks and thanked all the teachers, staff, students, parents, and administrators for keeping the distance learning program going. Dr. Knight shared that the District held a virtual District of Choice Information Night in October, which was livestreamed and recorded for people to watch later.

REPORT FROM OAK PARK EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Scott Star, the Chair of Oak Park Education Foundation, reported that OPEF is continuing with the Friday enrichment program and they have received a lot of positive feedback as people are really enjoying the extra classes. OPEF is hoping to offer classes again in the spring however one of the concerns is the funding as their fundraising has been a little bit on the low side. OPEF is looking at hosting their second annual golf tournament on March 19th provided the COVID-19 restrictions permit them to hold the event.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Enoch Kwok, Director of Information Technology, Ellen Chevalier, Lead Technology TOSA, Ericka Jauchen, Technology TOSA, and 1:1 Chromebook Program Manager, shared a presentation with the board.

UPDATE ON COVID-19 IMPACT ON OAK PARK USD SCHOOLS

There was one public speaker on this agenda item who submitted a comment via an online form. Board President, Barbara Laifman, read the comment aloud. Brendan Callahan, Director of Bond Programs, Sustainability, Maintenance, and Operations, along with Holly Baxter, Coordinator Safety & Equity, shared a presentation regarding the safety preparations for students returning to on-campus instruction.

Student Board Member Charlotte Robertson left the meeting at 7:50 pm.

B.1. CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education approved the Consent Agenda. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0

- a. [Approve Minutes of Regular Board Meeting September 15, 2020 and Board Retreat Meeting held on October 4, 2020, and Special Closed Session Meetings held on October 14, 2020 and October 16, 2020](#)
- b. [Approve Public Employee/Employment Changes 01CL24751-01CL24779 & 01CE10426-01CE10507](#)
- c. [Ratify Purchase Orders - September 1 – September 30, 2020](#)
- d. [Approve Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints – October 2020](#)
- e. [Approve the Disposal of Obsolete or Surplus Instructional Materials, Books, and/or Library Books](#)

B2. BUSINESS SERVICES

- a. [Approve Resolution #2020-20 Authorizing the Issuance of Oak Park Unified School District General Obligation Refunding Bonds](#)

There was one public speaker on this agenda item who submitted a comment via an online form. Board President, Barbara Laifman, read the comment aloud.

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education approved Resolution #2020-20 Authorizing the Issuance of Oak Park Unified School District General Obligation Refunding Bonds. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

- b. [Approve Resolution No. 2020-21, Applying for State Grant Funding Beyond State Bond Authority for Measure S Modernization Projects, 18-20 S Red Oak Elementary Modular Replacement](#)

On motion of Drew Hazelton, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education approved Resolution No. 2020-21, Applying for State Grant Funding Beyond State Bond Authority for Measure S Modernization Projects, 18-20 S Red Oak Elementary Modular Replacement. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

- c. [Approve Service Contract for District's Security Camera System](#)

On motion of Denise Helfstein, seconded by Drew Hazelton, the Board of Education approved Service Contract for District's Security Camera System. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

- d. [Approve Acceptance of Donations](#)

On motion of Barbara Laifman, seconded by Drew Hazelton, the Board of Education approved the Acceptance of Donations with thanks. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

B3. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- a. [Approve Revised GPA Designation on the Oak Park High School Transcript](#)

There were three public speakers on this agenda item who submitted comments via an online form. Board President, Barbara Laifman, read the comments aloud.

On motion of Drew Hazelton, seconded by Denise Helfstein, the Board of Education approved Revised GPA Designation on the Oak Park High School Transcript. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

b. Approve Addendum to the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Ventura County Office of Education and Oak Park USD

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education approved Addendum to the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Ventura County Office of Education and Oak Park USD. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent -0.

At 10:30 pm on motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education approved to extend the meeting until midnight. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent -0.

B4. HUMAN RESOURCES

a. Approve Revised Memorandum of Understanding Between Oak Park Unified School District and the Oak Park Teachers Association Regarding Instruction in the Hybrid Learning Model for Elementary Schools

There were thirteen public speakers on this agenda item who submitted comments via an online form. Board President, Barbara Laifman, read the comments aloud.

On motion of Barbara Laifman, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education approved Revised Memorandum of Understanding Between Oak Park Unified School District and the Oak Park Teachers Association Regarding Instruction in the Hybrid Learning Model for Elementary Schools expressing that this decision is being made since we want our kids to feel educated and supported and that this is the way to insure it and this is the way to do it. We've heard the alternatives and it's going to be a huge disruption at the elementary schools if we reopen the school now. It would require 500 students to change teachers with an additional 100 students who would need to change both teachers and schools. Secondary schools should look at alternative ways of bringing kids back onto campus. Also offer as much support as we can to the teachers so that they feel they have what they need to be successful and to remain mindful of the teachers mental and emotional well-being given how hard our teachers push themselves and we should help to keep themselves balanced and to know they care about our students so much and that this been a really hard thing to do. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent -0.

b. Approve Memorandum of Understanding Between Oak Park Unified School District and the Oak Park Teachers Association Regarding Instruction in the Hybrid Learning Model for Secondary Schools

There were eighteen public speakers on this agenda item who submitted comments via an online form. Board President Barbara Laifman and Board member Drew Hazelton read the comments aloud.

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education approved Memorandum of Understanding Between Oak Park Unified School District and the Oak Park Teachers Association Regarding Instruction in the Hybrid Learning Model for Secondary Schools with the same conditions as were put forward in the motion for Item B.4.a. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent -0.

On motion of Barbara Laifman, seconded by Derek Ross, the Board of Education tabled Items B.5.a through B.5.c and B.6.a. through B.6.e. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent - 0.

There was one public speaker on agenda item B.5.c. who submitted a comment via an online form. Board President, Barbara Laifman, read the comment aloud.

B5. BOARD

- a. Approve Board Goals for 2020-2021
- b. Approve Revised 2020 Governance Handbook
- c. Review and Approve 2020-2021 Moral Imperatives and District Goals

B5. BOARD POLICIES

- a. Approve Amendment to Board Policy and Exhibit 3555 Nutritional Program Compliance – First Reading
- b. Approve Amendment to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5144.1 Suspension and Expulsion Due Process – First Reading
- c. Approve Amendment to Board Policy and Exhibit 5145.6 Parental Notifications – First Reading
- d. Annual Review of Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5116.1 Intradistrict Open Enrollment – First Reading
- e. Annual Review of Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6145 Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities – First Reading

On motion of Barbara Laifman, seconded by Denise Helfstein, there being no further business before this Board, the Regular meeting is declared adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

Date

President of the Board

Date

Clerk or Secretary of the Board