

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING 11-17-2020 #1010
BOARD OF EDUCATION

CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE

The Board of Education President, Mrs. Barbara Laifman, called the regular meeting to order at 5:04 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 November 17th. 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. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE:** Government Code Section 54957
- B. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EMPLOYMENT:** Campus Supervisors, Walk-on-Coaches, Instructional Assistants I PE, Instructional Assistants I – Math, Extended Care Site Leader, Health Technician, Instructional Assistant II Special Education Sub, Instruction Assistants III Behavior
- C. 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 5:06 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE

The Board of Education President, Mrs. Barbara Laifman, called the regular meeting to order at 6:26 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

BOARD ABSENT

Charlotte Robertson, Student Board Member

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Tony Knight, Superintendent, Mr. Adam Rauch, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, Mr. Stew McGugan, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, Dr. Jay Greenlinger, Mr. Enoch Kwok, Director of Information Technology, 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, in this meeting's closed session for item III.c., by an 5-0 vote, approved the district's payment to PERS for \$8,499.73 to satisfy former employees' overpayment of retirement benefits in exchange for a full release of all claims. The Board took no other action in this meeting's closed session. Mrs. Laifman reported that the Board took no action in closed session at the October 28, 2020 or November 5, 2020 meetings.

FLAG SALUTE

Barbara Laifman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Drew Hazelton, the Board of Education pulled item B.1.b. from the agenda for this meeting and adopted the rest of agenda as presented. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

There was 1 public speaker on agenda item B.3.a. Review and Discuss Student Data Related to Placement in Mathematics Courses. 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 comment when the agenda item was called.

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Allen Rosen expressed his thanks to all the district teachers, staff, and everyone who has been working behind the scenes. Allen reported there was no MAC meeting in October, and the next one will be in November.

Board Member Drew Hazelton thanked all the teachers and staff for their hard work during these challenging times. Drew reported that he attended the first Safety webinar and Measure S Meeting. Drew congratulated Dr. Knight on his retirement and thanked him for his dedication and service to Oak Park while recalling his first meeting with Dr. Knight and how that impacted his decision to bring his family here.

Board Member Derek Ross acknowledged Dr. Knight on his retirement and recalled when he first met Dr. Knight while recording a video for Oak Park Now. Derek thanked Dr. Knight for his dedication to the community. Derek thanked the teachers and staff. He felt extremely privileged and lucky to be surrounded by such professionals within the school district. Derek wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving and expressed his gratitude for all the district's teachers and staff. Derek reported that he attended the Measure S meeting.

Board Member Denise Helfstein echoed the sentiments of the other Board members and acknowledged Dr. Knight on his retirement. Denise also thanked Supervisor Linda Parks and the county for organizing a free COVID testing mobile and the High school for hosting it at their site. Denise reported that she attended the Wellness Council meeting and the Oak Park High School PFA meeting. Denise observed a Friday advisory class at the Middle school and thanked Ms. Wenker for allowing her to observe.

Board Member Barbara Laifman reported that she attended the Curriculum Council meeting, EEAC meeting, and the GATE DAC meeting. Barbara thanked the staff for organizing the safety webinars. Barbara also congratulated Dr. Knight on his retirement and recalled the motto that Dr. Knight had established at the time he was the Principal of Oak Hills Elementary School "Where every child is valued" and Barbara felt that Dr. Knight truly embodies the motto.

Student Board Member Charlotte Robertson sent in the following report, and Board President Mrs. Barbara Laifman read the report. ASB just finished our food drive with an incentive for spirit points, and it was incredibly successful. We had an overwhelming amount of donations! We're currently working on our winter rally and spirit week, which hopefully brings some students optimism. We're planning a winter toy drive, which is coming up soon as well, and students have been discussing hybrid/distance learning as we have been most of the year. Freshmen want to do hybrid learning, whereas sophomores and juniors prefer distance.

Superintendent Tony Knight said he sent a memo on November 13, 2020, announcing his retirement effective June 30, 2021, and at this meeting, Dr. Knight officially announced his retirement to the Board and the community. Dr. Knight stated that this was the 1010th meeting and that he attended almost every meeting in the District. Dr. Knight expressed his gratefulness to the board, teachers, staff, parents, and students for the opportunity to serve the district. Dr. Knight also stated he was a guest lecturer in all three of Kathy Schultheis English III AP classes and really enjoyed it.

REPORT FROM OAK PARK EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Vicky Raven, the Executive Director of Oak Park Education Foundation congratulated Dr. Knight and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Vicki reported OPEF will be hosting the last of the Friday enrichment classes this Friday. After that, the foundation is looking to see if they will charge for the classes as opposed to providing them for free. OPEF is going to launch a Giving Tuesday social media campaign and is looking for a Friday Enrichment chair. OPEF has started discussing the Summer school program.

UPDATE ON COVID-19 IMPACT ON OAK PARK USD SCHOOLS

Dr. Knight provided an update on the county's COVID numbers and that the county has moved back to the Purple tier. Dr. Knight also talked about the small group advisory and stated that the District is continuing with the reopening plans for January in hope that the county will be back in the Red tier and remain in the Red tier for two weeks. Dr. Knight stated that he intended to open the schools whenever the county allows us to open it. Holly Baxter, Safety and Equity Coordinator, provided an update on the screening procedures and shared more information about safety protocols and preparations underway for reopening the schools when the county allows us to do so.

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 October 21, 2020 , Special Board Meeting held on October 28, 2020 and Special Closed Session Meeting held on November 5, 2020](#)
- c. [Ratify Purchase Orders - October 1 – October 31, 2020](#)
- d. [Approve Agreement with Loyola Marymount University for School Leadership and Administrative Fieldwork – November 2020-June 2021](#)
- e. [Approve Change Order #2 Measure S Project 18-21S, Classroom Replacement at Medea Creek Middle School, Agreement with NV5 West Inc.](#)
- f. [Approve Renewal of Contract with Super CO OP\(USDA\) Foods and Purchase Delivery](#)

B2. BUSINESS SERVICES

- a. [Approve Resolution #2020-22, Participation in District of Choice Program for School Year 2021-2022](#)

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education approved Resolution #2020-22, Participation in District of Choice Program for School Year 2021-2022. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

- b. [Approve Consultant Agreement for Elementary and Middle School Garden Program](#)

On motion of Denise Helfstein, seconded by Derek Ross, the Board of Education approved Consultant Agreement for Elementary and Middle School Garden Program contingent that asked a sentence be added that when the schools reopen for Hybrid learning, 2Eden Design professionals conduct in-person and virtual lessons to accommodate both Hybrid and Distance learning models. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0. Barbara Laifman recused herself as Debra Leith the proprietor of 2Eden Designs had done work in her backyard.

- c. [Authorize Measure S Project 20-23S HVAC Upgrades Districtwide](#)

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Drew Hazelton, the Board of Education authorized Measure S Project 20-23S HVAC Upgrades Districtwide. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

- d. [Authorize Measure S Project 20-26S Medea Creek Middle School Computer Lab Apple iMac Refresh and Approve Associated Purchases](#)

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education authorized Measure S Project 20-26S Medea Creek Middle School Computer Lab Apple iMac Refresh and approved Associated Purchases. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

- e. [Approve Revised Resolution #2020-08 Authorizing the Increase to the Maximum Amount of Borrowing in Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes \(TRAN\) for 2020-2021](#)

On motion of Denise Helfstein, seconded by Derek Ross, the Board of Education approved Revised Resolution #2020-08 Authorizing the Increase to the Maximum Amount of Borrowing in Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRAN) for 2020-2021. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0. Barbara Laifman recused herself due to a remote interest as an employee of CSBA.

- f. [Approve Revised Coronavirus Relief Expenditures](#)

On motion of Barbara Laifman, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education approved Revised Coronavirus Relief Expenditures. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

g. Approve the Re-appointment of an Oak Park Citizens' Oversight Committee Member and Authorize a Recruitment Process for a New Member for the 2020-22 Term

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Denise Helfstein, the Board of Education approved the Re-appointment of an Oak Park Citizens' Oversight Committee Member and authorized a Recruitment Process for a New Member for the 2020-22 Term. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0. Board Members Denise Helfstein and Drew Hazelton agreed to serve on the member selection subcommittee.

B3. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

a. Review and Discuss Student Data Related to Placement in Mathematics Courses

There was one public speaker on this item, Mrs. Cathy Lory, Oak Park High School Math Department Chair who submitted a comment via an online form. Board President, Barbara Laifman, read the comment aloud. The Board reviewed student data shared by Dr. Jay Greenlinger related to placement in mathematics courses offered at OPUSD's middle school and high schools to ensure that students who are qualified to progress in mathematics courses based on their performance on objective academic measures are not being held back disproportionately on any subjective or discriminatory basis. The Board recommended that this data be shared with the District's Equity Consultant Dr. Walker and requested staff to share the feedback from Dr. Walker. The Board would like to review data that reflects achievement levels in addition to the classes students are enrolled in.

b. Approve Additional Instructional Materials for English 1 Course at OPHS

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education approved Additional Instructional Materials for English 1 Course at OPHS. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

c. Approve Additional Instructional Materials for English 2 CP Course at OPHS

On motion of Denise Helfstein, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education approved Additional Instructional Materials for English 2 CP Course at OPHS. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

d. Approve Additional Instructional Materials for English 1V Honors Course at OPHS

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Denise Helfstein, the Board of Education approved Additional Instructional Materials for English IV Honors Course at OPHS. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

B4. HUMAN RESOURCES

a. Approve COVID-19 Testing Agreement for Employees with Quest Diagnostics for 2020-2021

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Denise Helfstein, the Board of Education approved COVID-19 Testing Agreement for Employees with Quest Diagnostics for 2020-2021. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

b. Approve COVID-19 Testing Agreement for Employees with Curative Labs Inc. for 2020-2021

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Denise Helfstein, the Board of Education approved COVID-19 Testing Agreement for Employees with Curative Labs Inc. for 2020-2021. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

c. Approve Variable Term Waiver Request

On motion of Barbara Laifman, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education approved the Variable Term Waiver Request. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

B5. BOARD

a. [Approve Selection of Annual Organizational Board Meeting – December 15, 2020](#)

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Denise Helfstein, the Board of Education selected the Annual Organizational Board Meeting as December 15, 2020. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0. This date must be selected at a regularly scheduled Board meeting 15 days before the annual organizational meeting. Newly elected Board Member Tina Wang and reelected Board member Denise Helfstein will take the oath of office to serve a 4-year term at this meeting. The Board will also name the new President, Vice President, and Clerk of the Board.

b. [Superintendent Search Process](#)

On November 13, 2020, Superintendent Dr. Tony Knight announced his retirement effective June 30, 2021. The Board of Trustees formally accepted Dr. Knight's retirement at this meeting. The Board discussed putting out a request for a proposal from search firms to help guide this process. The request for proposal would be sent out on November 18th, with the due date to submit the proposal by December 2. The Board will review the proposal from the search firms at a special meeting and invite selected firms to present their proposal to the Board at the December meeting. Once the Board selects a search firm, the firm will guide the process for the next Superintendent, including input from students, staff, families, and the community to find the most qualified and best candidates for our District. The new Superintendent will begin on July 1, 2021.

B5. BOARD POLICIES

a. [Approve Amendment to Administrative Regulation 4030 Nondiscrimination in Employment – First Reading](#)

On motion of Denise Helfstein, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education approved Amendment to Administrative Regulation 4030 Nondiscrimination in Employment as first and final reading. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

b. [Approve Amendment to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 Sexual Harassment – First Reading](#)

On motion of Barbara Laifman, seconded by Drew Hazelton, the Board of Education approved Amendment to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 Sexual Harassment as first and final reading. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

c. [Approve Adoption of New Administrative Regulation and Exhibit 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures– First Reading](#)

On motion of Allen Rosen, seconded by Denise Helfstein, the Board of Education approved Adoption of New Administrative Regulation and Exhibit 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures as first and final reading. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

d. [Approve Amendment to Board Policy 4151/4251/4351 Employee Compensation – First Reading](#)

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education approved Amendment to Board Policy 4151/4251/4351 Employee Compensation as first and final reading. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

e. [Approve Amendment to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5145.3 Nondiscrimination/Harassment – First Reading](#)

On motion of Allen Rosen, seconded by Derek Ross, the Board of Education approved Amendment to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5145.3

Nondiscrimination/Harassment as first and final reading. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

f. Approve Amendment to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5145.7 Sexual Harassment – First Reading

On motion of Denise Helfstein, seconded by Drew Hazelton, the Board of Education approved Amendment to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5145.7 Sexual Harassment as first and final reading. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

g. Approve Adoption of New Administrative Regulation and Exhibit 5145.71 Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures– First Reading

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Drew Hazelton, the Board of Education approved Adoption of New Administrative Regulation and Exhibit 5145.71 Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures as first and final reading. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

h. Approve Amendment to Board Bylaw E9270 – Conflict of Interest and Revise Conflict of Interest Code - First Reading

On motion of Allen Rosen, seconded by Denise Helfstein, the Board of Education approved Amendment to Board Bylaw E9270 – Conflict of Interest and Revise Conflict of Interest Code as first and final reading. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

The Board discussed holiday staff appreciation, Dr. Knight recommended that this year we put this on hold as we cannot gather, and it would make sense to revisit this once we know if are able to gather as a group.

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Drew Hazelton, there being no further business before this Board, the Regular meeting is declared adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Date

President of the Board

Date

Clerk or Secretary of the Board