

**MINUTES OF ORGANIZATIONAL BOARD MEETING 1-18-2022 #1051
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE

The Board of Education President, Mr. Drew Hazelton, called the regular meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. at Oak Park High School Presentation Room, G9, 899 N. Kanan Road, Oak Park.

Members of the public were able to observe the meeting using a published live stream link or attend in person. Members of the public were able to submit public comments via an online form before the board meeting as well as submit them at the Board meeting as outlined in the agenda.

BOARD PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Jeff Davis, Superintendent, Mr. Adam Rauch, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Mr. Stewart McGugan, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, and Mrs. Ragini Aggarwal, Executive Assistant and Communications Coordinator.

BOARD ABSENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Board President, Drew Hazelton 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 Supervisor, Walk-on-Coaches, Custodian Sub, Instructional Assistants I Math, Instructional Assistant I PE, Administrative Assistant HR - Sub, and Numeracy Intervention Teacher, Guest Teachers
- C. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS:** Government Code 54957.6
Agency designated representatives: Adam Rauch and Stewart McGugan
Employee organizations: Oak Park Teachers Association and Oak Park Classified Association

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:03 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE

The Board of Education President, Mr. Drew Hazelton, called the regular meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

BOARD PRESENT

Mr. Allen Rosen, President, Mr. Drew Hazelton, Vice President, Mr. Derek Ross, Clerk, and Mrs. Denise Helfstein, Member, Mrs. Tina Wang, Member. Denise Helfstein attended the meeting via teleconference from the following location 6135 Bryndale Avenue, Oak Park, CA 91377.

BOARD ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Jeff Davis, Superintendent, Mr. Adam Rauch, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, Dr. Jay Greenlinger, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Brad Benioff, Director of Student Support and School Safety, Jenny DaCosta, Principal Medea Creek Middle School, Mat McClenahan, Principal Oak Park High School, and Mrs. Ragini Aggarwal, Executive Assistant and Communications Coordinator.

FLAG SALUTE

Drew Hazelton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

Board President Mr. Drew Hazelton reported that the Board took no action in closed session at the January 11, 2022, Special Meeting and also no action was taken in the closed session at tonight's meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Student Board Member cast a preferential vote to approve the agenda as presented.

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education adopted the agenda as presented. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Rosen, Ross, Wang. No - 0. Absent – 0.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

One comment was submitted via the online comment form on a non-agenda item, and President Drew Hazelton read the comment. There were two public speakers at this meeting on Agenda Items and they addressed the Board when the items were called.

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member, Tina Wang welcomed everyone after the Winter Break. Tina thanked the staff and site administration for their efforts to enhance student and staff safety during the pandemic and the return to school after the holiday break. Tina acknowledged the COVID response team for their outstanding work. Tina shared a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Junior "Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."

Board Member Denise Helfstein wished everyone a Happy New Year. Denise commended the staff and especially the COVID response team on their hard work and perseverance. Denise commended our students for following protocols, diligently wearing masks, especially the senior class students with their college applications.

Board Member Derek Ross thanked OPUSD students for their resilience and vigilant they have been.

Board Member Allen Rosen wished everyone a Happy New Year. Allen pointed out how incredible the response that has been from our staff and students during the pandemic.

Board Member Drew Hazelton thanked staff for delivering the test kits and shared that he heard great feedback from the families. Drew provided an update on the Board Member vacancy - The District has received 4 applications for filling the Board Member Vacancy. A subcommittee of the Board comprising of Denise Helfstein and Drew Hazelton will review the applications and confirm that the eligibility requirements have been met. The list of candidates being invited for interview at the January 27, 2022

Special Board meeting will be posted and communicated on January 20, 2022. The application period has now closed and if anyone has questions, they should contact Ragini Aggarwal at 818-735-3206.

Student Board Member Nikita Manyak thanked everyone for allowing the students to come back this semester. Nikita commended the students on their comradery and their positive outlook during this stressful situation. Nikita shared that ASB is planning a blood drive in February.

Superintendent Jeff Davis wished everyone a Happy New Year and acknowledged the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. Dr. Davis thanked the guest teachers and also acknowledged our Human Resources department on making sure all classes were covered. Dr. Davis also thanked the administrators and TOSA for filling in at schools and helping at sites and commended our students for their resilience and perseverance. Dr. Davis also shared that the college and career counselor position has been posted with an increased salary.

REPORT FROM OAK PARK EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Scott Star provided an update on the Oak Park Education Foundation

UPDATE ON OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL PROPOSED BELL SCHEDULE CHANGES -

OPHS Principal Mat McClenahan gave a presentation about the background, process, and options for a proposed new bell schedule in 2022-23. This is taking place because of SB 328, a new California law that prohibits public high schools from starting any earlier than 8:30 a.m. Mr. McClenahan discussed several considerations that went into creating the four proposed options, such as the need for student support, length of the school day, instructional minutes, scheduling, equity, impact on part-time instructors, and unintended consequences. He also shared that the next steps in the new bell schedule adoption process

OPTA President Russ Peters and OPTA Vice President Cathy Lory each made public comments about the site-level approval process and various complications that could present in some of the bell schedule options.

Board members asked for further education and stakeholder engagement with students and families at OPHS to take place before this returns to them in February.

UPDATE ON MATH PLACEMENT DISCUSSION FROM NOV. 2021 BOARD MEETING

At the November 2021 Board meeting, the Board requested further discussions about proposed recommendations to OPUSD's math program with the math departments at MCMS and OPHS and share the progress of those meetings in January 2022.

Accordingly, Principal Jenny De Costa shared that since November, her math department has met to discuss potential changes to placement criteria and communications for math courses. Specifically, Ms. De Costa reviewed possible changes the school is considering and increased communications with families surrounding math placement so that they are as transparent as possible for all stakeholders. MCMS plans to hold informational sessions to gather feedback surrounding best practices for communicating about this subject to achieve a more interactive dialogue with students, families, and the school. MCMS's goal is to better inform and engage students and families in understanding the entire 6-12 pathway in OPUSD. Ms. De Costa emphasized that some additional items would need deeper discussion, such as:

1. Algebra 1A prohibits access to science in Freshman year.
2. Text alignment between MCMS and OPHS/OPIS.
3. Refining off-ramps to specific pathways.

Mr. McClenahan shared that the OPHS math department has also met about possible changes to OPUSD's two-year Algebra program. His math department feels that OPHS must build student support into the structure of the math program and that changes to the two-year algebra program should be a phased-in approach such as utilizing a "pilot program" for those students changing from 2-year to 1-year algebra. The decision about which class to take would be made in collaboration with families where all potential impacts are discussed.

OPHS Math Department Chair Cathy Lory made a public comment concerning this discussion. She stressed that the administration should lessen drastic changes to best support teachers in these incredibly challenging times. This is particularly true given the impending changes required due to changes to the OPHS bell schedule, especially since there are a lot of "unknowns" about 7th-period support, zero-period math skills lab, and 8th period Math Honors Society. Math teachers are also still managing continuous adjustments because of learning loss attendant to the pandemic. For all these reasons, Ms. Lory feels that changes to the 2-year algebra program should be made carefully and slowly. She also mentioned certain challenges with co-teaching and that the admin should be sure to include OPIS and OVHS in any discussions about all the above.

Student Board Member, Nikita Manyak left the meeting at 8:51 pm.

UPDATE ON COVID-19 IMPACT ON OAK PARK USD SCHOOLS

Brad Benioff, Director of Student Support and School Safety, discussed, among other things:

- Attendance statistics
- The COVID dashboard to update everyone on the surge in cases due to the Omicron variant
- The testing at school sites the week before resuming school
- The take home rapid antigen test kit distribution that took place on January 7 and 10
- Updated CDPH/VCPH protocols regarding group contact tracing, notifications, and class closures
- Increased inventory of N95 and surgical masks for staff and students

Dr. Davis thanked all staff, but particularly OPUSD's COVID Response Team and Human Resources Department, for their tireless work to ensure everyone's safety and adequate substitute coverage.

Cathy Lory, OPHS Math Department Chair and representative of the OPTA, made a public comment about how she and other teachers are being vigilant to remind students to wash hands, take care of themselves, get adequate rest, wear masks, and otherwise help students ensure they aren't missing assignments when out sick. She also thanked OPUSD administrators for covering classes so that teachers were able to take care of what they need to do to ensure lessons and classes stay on track.

B.1. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- [Approve Minutes of Organizational Board Meeting December 14, 2021 and Special Closed Session Meeting held January 11, 2022](#)
- [Approve Public Employee/Employment Changes 01CL253823-01CL253843 & 01CE11389-01CE11458](#)
- [Ratify Purchase Orders - December 1 – December 31, 2021](#)
- [Approve Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints – January 2022](#)
- [Accept 2021-2022 First Period Attendance Report](#)
- [Approve Student Teaching Agreement with Grand Canyon University, Arizona – January 2022 – June 2024](#)

B.2. BUSINESS SERVICES

a. Approve Resolution #2022-01 Pupil Attendance Alternatives AB 99 – District of Choice (DOC) Space Availability for 2022-2023

On motion of Allen Rosen, seconded by Derek Ross, the Board of Education approved the Resolution #2022-01 Pupil Attendance Alternatives AB 99 – District of Choice (DOC) Space Availability for 2022-2023. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Rosen, Ross, Wang. No - 0. Absent – 0. The Board accepted all eligible student transfers under the District of Choice Program for the 2022-2023 school year.

b. Approve Renewal of Consultant Agreement for Legislative Advisory and Advocacy Services for 2021-2022

On motion of Denise Helfstein, seconded by Tina Wang, the Board of Education approved the Renewal of Consultant Agreement for Legislative Advisory and Advocacy Services for 2021-2022. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Rosen, Ross, Wang. No - 0. Absent – 0.

c. Approve Disposal of Obsolete or Surplus Technology Equipment

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Drew Hazelton, the Board of Education approved the Disposal of Obsolete or Surplus Technology Equipment. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Rosen, Ross, Wang. No - 0. Absent – 0.

IX. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER, ALLEN ROSEN

The Board of Education, Dr. Davis, and members of his cabinet thanked Mr. Allen Rosen for his 11 years of service to the District and for his leadership and dedication to our students, staff, and community. Mr. Allen Rosen is moving out of the area and his last day in office was January 19, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Allen Rosen, seconded by Tina Wang, there being no further business before this Board, the regular meeting is declared adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Date President of the Board

Date Clerk or Secretary of the Board