

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING 4-21-2020 #990
BOARD OF EDUCATION

CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE

The Board of Education President, Ms. Barbara Laifman, called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 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 advanced 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.

Based on these guidelines, the OPUSD Board of Education held a video conference/teleconference regular meeting on April 21st. Members of the public were able to observe the meeting auditorily 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

Ms. 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)) Employee Appeal, per Administrative Regulation 4030
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION:** Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: One case
- C. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EMPLOYMENT:** Instructional Assistant III Behavior, Instructional Assistant II Special Ed, Student Worker - Technology
- D. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT:** Pursuant to Government Code 54957
Title: Director of Student Support and School Safety

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:02 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE

The Board of Education President, Ms. Barbara Laifman, called the regular meeting to order at 7:54 p.m.

BOARD PRESENT

Ms. Barbara Laifman, President, Mr. Allen Rosen, Vice President, Mr. Drew Hazelton, Clerk, Mr. Derek

Ross, Member, and Mrs. Denise Helfstein, Member

BOARD ABSENT

Anna Stephens, Student Board Member

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Tony Knight, Superintendent, Mr. Adam Rauch, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, Dr. Leslie Heilbron, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, Dr. Jay Greenlinger, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Stew McGugan, Director of Student Support and School Safety, Mr. Kevin Buchanan, Principal Oak Park High School, and Mrs. Ragini Aggarwal, Executive Assistant.

FLAG SALUTE

Barbara Laifman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

Board President, Barbara Laifman, reported that in closed session for Item III A, the Board conducted a public hearing pursuant to Administrative Regulation 4030 and will render a decision within ten business days. The Board took no other action in closed session.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On motion of Denise Helfstein, seconded by Drew Hazelton, 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 4 public speakers on items on the agenda and due to the electronic nature of this meeting and to maintain the integrity of providing an opportunity for public comment, the Board President read the four public comments at the time the agenda items were called.

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Allen Rosen hoped that Oak Park MAC meetings have been canceled until further notice. Allen expressed his hope that students, staff and parents were staying safe and practicing social distancing.

Board Member Drew Hazelton thanked the District, teachers, staff and students who quickly moved to distance learning during these unprecedented times of school closures.

Board Member Derek Ross reported that the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District meetings have been put on hold due to COVID-19 and he hopes that they will resume within the next 30 to 45 days. Derek thanked all the teachers and staff for an outstanding job with the Distance Learning.

Board Member Denise Helfstein reported that she attended a virtual LCAP stake holder meeting. Denise expressed her gratitude to the staff, students and families for a wonderful job of adapting to Distance Learning especially when so many families are dealing with hardships during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board Member Barbara Laifman stated that she would like to discuss staff appreciation so that the board could plan something to show the board appreciation to the staff.

Anna Stephens student Board member sent in the following report which was read aloud by Board President Barbara Laifman.

The student body is still adjusting to school closures, and I've heard different opinions about distance learning after talking with many of my peers and classmates. For some, online classes are a nice change from the usual stressors of school. But I've noticed that for most, distance learning is a lot harder than regular school. The impact that the spread of COVID-19 is having on students' mental health is severely underestimated. I hope this factor is taken into further consideration as teachers plan out the rest of the school year.

The senior class in particular is still processing how the rest of the school year will look, but they've worked with resilience and ingenuity to make the most of the circumstances that they're in. Members of the senior class particularly like the idea of having a virtual graduation accompanied by a drive through processional and are also in support of switching to some sort of a pass-fail grading system.

I hope you and your loved ones all remain safe and healthy!

Superintendent Tony Knight thanked his administrative team, teacher leaders, teachers and support staff for working so hard to continue the education through distance learning. Dr. Knight also said that he has been meeting with the leadership every week during this crisis in order to make sure that we continue to support our students and families are supported and hope that we can get through this tough time sooner rather than later. Dr. Knight also shared that he recorded a video of himself reading the book Not for me, please! I choose to act green which will be shared this week in elementary classes for Earth Week.

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, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0

- a. [Approve Minutes of Regular Board Meeting March 17, 2020](#)
- b. [Public Employee/Employment Changes 01CL24553-01CL24564 & 01CE10135-01CE10189](#)
- c. [Approve Purchase Orders – March 1 – March 31, 2020](#)
- d. [Approve Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaint – April 2020](#)
- e. [Accept 2019-2020 Second Period Attendance Report](#)

B2. BUSINESS SERVICES

- a. [Accept 2018-19 Annual Audit Reports for Bond Measures C6, R, and S](#)

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Drew Hazelton, the Board of Education accepted the 2018-19 Annual Audit Reports for Bond Measures C6, R, and S. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

- b. [Authorize Measure S Project 20-10S and Approve Contract of Services, Exterior Repairs to Portables at BES and MCMS](#)

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education authorized Measure S Project 20-10S and approve Contract of Services, Exterior Repairs to Portables at BES and MCMS. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

- c. [Approve a 1-year Renewal Agreement with Christy White Associates for Auditing Services for Fiscal year 2019-2020](#)

On motion of Drew Hazelton, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education approved a

1-year Renewal Agreement with Christy White Associates for Auditing Services for Fiscal year 2019-2020. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

d. Authorize Measure S Project 20-11S Restroom Upgrades at Red Oak Elementary School and Ratify Associated Contract

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Denise Helfstein, the Board of Education authorized Measure S Project 20-11S Restroom Upgrades at Red Oak Elementary School and ratified the associated contract. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

B3. CURRICULUM

a. Approve 2020-2021 School Handbooks/Discipline Plans

On motion of Denise Helfstein, seconded by Derek Ross, the Board of Education approved 2020-2021 School Handbooks/Discipline Plans subject to staff reviewing the language on page 31 of the OPHS handbook related to waiver requests for field trip fees. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

b. Approve 2019-20 Oak Park High School Plan for Student Achievement

On motion of Allen Rosen, seconded by Drew Hazelton, the Board of Education approved the 2019-20 Oak Park High School Plan for Student Achievement. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

c. Update on COVID-19, Distance Learning and School Closures

Staff provided an update on Distance Learning occurring at all of our schools. Teachers are using various platforms such as Google Classroom, Google Meets, and Zoom meetings to impart Distance Learning at all grade levels. District staff has been providing training and support to students, staff, and parents to enhance the Distance Learning during school closures. Counselors are also offering mental health support to students.

d. Review of LCAP Survey Data and Goals

Staff shared that the latest input received from the state regarding the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) indicates that LCAP adoption will be delayed. Local Education Agencies (LEA) are facing challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the state recognizes LEAs need for flexibility to continue focusing on the issues at hand while still providing transparency to their communities. The District's LCAP stakeholder group, consisting of parents, administrators, board members and staff, has been evaluating the survey data and will be meeting again to work on a written report to the community that explains the changes to program offerings that have been made in response to COVID-19 school closures. This report must be adopted at the June 16 meeting, at the same time the governing board adopts the annual budget.

e. Approve Agreement with IMS Technology for a Virtual Graduation Ceremony for Oak Park High School and Oak Park Independent School

There were three public speakers on this agenda item who submitted comments via an online form. All three speakers requested that the school consider in-person or at least a semi-tangible graduation rather than a virtual one. Board President, Barbara Laifman read their comments aloud and these comments have been included in the permanent paper records.

Dr. Knight, Board President, and Principal Buchanan addressed the public comments and assured the members of the public and public speakers that the school is working with ASB students in planning an in-person drive-by graduation procession in compliance with the Ventura County Department of Health distancing guidelines to be held the morning of June 4th and eventually an in-person celebration when large gatherings are permitted for all.

On motion of Barbara Laifman, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education approved the Agreement with IMS Technology for a Virtual Graduation Ceremony for Oak Park High School and Oak Park Independent School. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

f. [Approve Authorization for Superintendent to Award Service Contract for a Virtual Culmination Ceremony for Medea Creek Middle School](#)

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to award a Service Contract for a Virtual Culmination Ceremony for Medea Creek Middle School. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

B4. HUMAN RESOURCES

a. [Approve Resolution #2020-09 to Not Reemploy Certificated Employees Due to a Reduction or Elimination of Particular Kinds of Service](#)

On motion of Denise Helfstein, seconded by Derek Ross, the Board of Education approved Resolution #2020-09 to Not Reemploy Certificated Employees Due to a Reduction or Elimination of Particular Kinds of Service. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

b. [Approve Resolution #2020-10 - Reducing or Discontinuing Particular Kinds of Service for Classified Employees](#)

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Denise Helfstein, the Board of Education approved Resolution #2020-10 - Reducing or Discontinuing Particular Kinds of Service for Classified Employees. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

B5. BOARD POLICIES

a. [Approve Amendment to Board Policy 2121– Superintendent’s Contract – First Reading](#)

On motion of Allen Rosen, seconded by Drew Hazelton, the Board of Education approved the amendment to Board Policy 2121– Superintendent’s Contract 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 3551 –Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund – First Reading](#)

On motion of Allen Rosen, seconded by Barbara Laifman, the Board of Education approved the amendment to Board Policy and Administration Regulation Policy 3551 –Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund as First and Final Reading. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

c. [Approve Amendment to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 4112.2 – Certification – First Reading](#)

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Denise Helfstein, the Board of Education approved the amendment to Board Policy and Administration Regulation Policy 4112.2 – Certification as First and Final Reading. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

d. [Approve Deletion of Administrative Regulation 5118 – Open Enrollment Act Transfers – First Reading](#)

On motion of Drew Hazelton, seconded by Denise Helfstein, the Board of Education approved the deletion of Administration Regulation Policy 5118 – Open Enrollment Act Transfers 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 5121 – Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement – First Reading](#)

There was one public speaker on this agenda item who submitted comments via an online form. Board President, Barbara Laifman read their comments aloud and these comments have been included in the permanent paper records. The Public speaker requested that OPHS not follow Medea Creek Middle School which has currently changed to a pass/no pass grading system in light of the COVID-19 circumstances.

Dr. Knight assured the Board and the public speaker that the proposed change in the policy allowed him the authorization to modify the grading policy during extraordinary circumstances but he was not in favor of implementing a pass/no pass grading system for OPHS and the school was not planning to do so.

On motion of Barbara Laifman, seconded by Allen Rosen, the Board of Education approved the amendment to Board Policy and Administration Regulation Policy 5121 – Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement as First and Final Reading with the following edit to the new language added to the last paragraph in the policy: Under extraordinary circumstances, including, but not limited to, an emergency or disaster, the Superintendent may alter the grading criteria specified in “Grades for Academic Performance” in the accompanying administrative regulation for the semester when the extraordinary circumstances exist. The Superintendent shall present the alterations to the grading criteria to the Board for information and discussion at the next feasible, regularly scheduled Board meeting. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

f. [Approve Amendment to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5141.52 – Suicide Prevention – First Reading](#)

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Drew Hazelton, the Board of Education approved the amendment to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5141.52 – Suicide Prevention as First and Final Reading. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

g. [Approve Adoption of New Board Policy 4113.5/4213.5/4313.5 – Working Remotely – First Reading](#)

On motion of Barbara Laifman, seconded by Denise Helfstein, the Board of Education approved the adoption of New Board Policy 4113.5/4213.5/4313.5 – Working Remotely as First and Final Reading. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

h. [Approve Adoption of New Board Policy 6157 Distance Learning – First Reading](#)

On motion of Denise Helfstein, seconded by Barbara Laifman, the Board of Education approved the adoption of New Board Policy 6157 Distance Learning as First and Final Reading. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Laifman, Rosen, Ross. No - 0. Absent – 0.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Barbara Laifman informed the Board that she was asked by deceased Board Member, Marie Panec’s husband if she would continue to serve on the scholarship committee. Barbara asked the Board if any other Board member would like to serve on this committee. The rest of the Board expressed their thanks to Barbara who has served on this committee for so many years and asked her if she would continue to serve on this committee. Barbara accepted.

The Board held a discussion on Staff Appreciation week. It was decided that in lieu of cookies and pastries which the board delivers to each site annually for staff appreciation that this year due to school closure and

COVID-19 social distancing guidelines they would each record a video to express their gratitude to the staff. This video will be shared with the staff the week of May 4th.

On motion of Allen Rosen, seconded by Derek Ross, there being no further business before this Board, the Regular meeting is declared adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Date _____ President of the Board

Date _____ Clerk or Secretary of the Board