



Regular Meeting
02/08/2024 - 06:00 PM
District Office - Board Room
500 N. Walnut Street
La Habra, CA 90631

MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA

4:00 p.m. - Work Study

5:00 p.m. - Closed Session

6:00 p.m. - Call to Order/Regular Meeting

(Meetings are recorded for use in official minutes)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Members of the audience may address the Board of Education on agenda items during consideration of that item and items not on the agenda that are within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. Speaking time is limited to three (3) minutes per speaker with a maximum of twenty (20) minutes per topic. Persons wishing to address the Board should complete and submit a Presentation Card, available on the table near the hallway door. The Presentation Card must be completed and given to the Secretary prior to the meeting. Matters not on the agenda may neither be acted upon nor discussed by the Board, but will be researched and responded to in any one of the following ways: 1) by telephone after research; 2) by mail after research; or 3) at a subsequent Board meeting as an agenda item.

MEETING CONDUCT:

Board Policy 1313: Civility

The Governing Board recognizes the impact that civility has on the effective operation of the district, including its role in creating a safe and positive school climate and enabling a focus on student well-being, learning, and achievement. The Board believes that each person should be treated with dignity and respect in their interactions within the school community.

The Board understands that the First Amendment provides strong protection for speech. However, the Board expects that all speech and expression will comport with norms of civil behavior on district grounds, in district facilities, during district activities or events, and in the use of district electronic/digital systems and platforms.

Civil behavior is polite, courteous, and reasonable behavior which is respectful to others and includes integrity, honesty, acceptance, timeliness, dependability, observance of laws and rules, and effective communication.

The Board and district staff shall model civil behavior as an example of behavior that is expected throughout the district. Practices that promote civil behavior include actively listening, giving full attention to the speaker, and refraining from interruptions; welcoming and encouraging participation, input, and feedback through stakeholder engagement; promptly responding to concerns; and embracing varying and diverse viewpoints. Such practices may be incorporated into governance standards adopted by the Board or Superintendent and/or professional standards or codes of conduct for employees as specified in district policies and regulations.

Students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members should be educated in the recognition, development, and demonstration of civil behavior. The Superintendent or designee may incorporate related concepts in the curriculum, provide staff development activities, and/or communicate this policy to the school community.

Students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members shall not communicate or behave in a manner that causes disruption; hinders the orderly conduct of district operations, the educational

program, or any other district program or activity; or creates an unsafe learning or working environment. The Superintendent or designee may respond to disruptive, violent, or threatening behavior in accordance with law and as specified in BP/AR 3515.2 - Disruptions.

Behavior by students or staff that is discriminatory, harassing, or intimidating, including sexual harassment, bullying, and/or hate violence, or behavior that is in any other way unlawful, is prohibited and is subject to discipline in accordance with law and as specified in district policy and regulations.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a Board meeting may request assistance by contacting the Superintendent's Office at 562-690-2300 or accommodations@lahabraschools.org at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

TOBACCO-FREE:

The La Habra City School District is a tobacco-free district. Tobacco use is prohibited on district property at all times.

Attendees

Voting Members

Emily Pruitt, Board President

Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard, Board Vice President

Adam Rogers, Board Member

Justin Rodgers, Board Member

Non-Voting Members

Dr. Mario Carlos, Superintendent

Dr. Sheryl Tecker, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources

Emily Flesher, Director of Special Programs and Assessment

Christeen Betz, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

Dr. Patricia Sandoval, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

1. Work/Study Session

Meeting was called to order by President Pruitt at 4:00 p.m.

a. School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA)

Emily Flesher, Director of Special Programs and Assessment, along with the principals, presented the School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA). The SPSA presentation addressed several key points. First, they recognized the need to address inequities between specific student subgroups. The presentation covered data analysis and five primary goals: English Language Arts, Math, English Language Development, Parent Engagement, and School Climate.

Regarding funding, the main sources highlighted were Title I funds, aimed at assisting students from low-income families, and Supplemental Concentration (S&C) funds for unduplicated pupils. The funding is specifically targeted to support the five identified goals.

The presentation also emphasized the importance of the California School Dashboard indicators. These indicators include academic performance in Math and English Language Arts, academic engagement through chronic absenteeism, English learner progress, and school conditions and climate represented by suspension rates. Each of these areas was allotted a specific focus and time for discussion, including a planned structure for questions and answers.

In Math, the presentation covered a review of CAASPP data and new initiatives for the year, like adopting new curricula and integrating direct math vocabulary instruction. For English Language Arts,

the focus was on effective research-based practices and professional development tailored to each site's needs.

Additionally, the presentation covered leadership roles of counselors in various site leadership teams and initiatives, and their involvement in community engagement and fostering relationships between school and home. Finally, it has been suggested that relationships are the basis of their work, with every district goal tracing back to them.

In summary, the presentation was a comprehensive overview of the school's strategies and goals in key areas, aligning with district objectives and highlighting the multifaceted role of educators and counselors in student development and achievement.

2. Formal Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by President Pruitt at 5:20 p.m.

3. Adjourn to Closed Session

4. Closed Session

Closed Session was called to order by President Pruitt at 5:21 p.m.

a. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Personnel Matters [Government Code Sections 54954.5 (d), 54957]

b. Conference Labor Negotiators District Representatives: Dr. Mario Carlos, Superintendent, Employee Organization(s): California School Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter #135/La Habra Education Association (LHEA) [Government Code Sections 54954.5 (f), 54957.6]

5. Second Call to Order

President Pruitt called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

a. Welcome

b. Pledge of Allegiance

President Pruitt called William Neuhoff to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

6. Report from Closed Session

No report.

7. Action Item: Adoption of Agenda

Adopted the Agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of February 8, 2024.

Motion made by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Motion seconded by: Adam Rogers

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

8. Action Item: Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 11, 2024

Approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 11, 2024.

Motion made by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Motion seconded by: Justin Rodgers

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

9. Correspondence: Clerk of the Board

10. Public Interest

a. Sierra Vista Elementary School Student Presentation

Anna Rosales, Principal at Sierra Vista Elementary School, introduced her students, who presented their experience with drones, highlighting their involvement in the Drone Club. They discussed the DJI Mini 2 drone, noting its four wings and user-friendly controls, making it easy to learn and fun to fly.

The students detailed their initial training, which included attending a flight school to earn a trust certificate, a requirement for all drone pilots. They learned about drone flying limits and rules/regulations, emphasizing that drones are not toys, but useful tools used professionally in a variety of industries.

One student shared their learning process, starting with basic maneuvers like flying in straight lines and progressing to more complex movements. Landing the drone proved more challenging than flying. Another student explained the practical uses of drones, including photography, videography, and more.

During a demonstration at the Citrus Fair, the students showcased their skills. They navigated through hoops and practiced coordinated takeoffs and landings, carefully avoiding obstacles and walls. The presentation showcased the students' enthusiasm and proficiency in drone operations.

b. School Counselors Presentation

Dr. Cammie Nguyen recognized National School Counseling Week and celebrated the commitment of our school counselors to supporting students academically, socially, and behaviorally. This year, administrators highlighted the work of the counselors. Each counselor was acknowledged for their exceptional contributions and received a gift in recognition of their dedication and hard work.

- Emily Rolon from Walnut is always prepared, professional, and friendly. She's adaptable, quickly learning new skills to meet diverse student needs, and is effective in both classroom and one-on-one settings.
- Julie Cruz from Washington excels in guiding students through adolescence, contributing significantly to a positive and healthy campus atmosphere through her interventions and conflict resolution skills.
- Thien Do from Las Positas has been instrumental in supporting individual students, leading proactive and reactive solutions. His contributions to promoting good behavior, emotional health, and academics are highly valued.
- Andrea Ramirez from Sierra Vista is recognized for her kindness, compassion, and patience, making a positive daily impact on both students and staff.
- Alyssa Martinez from Las Lomas is an outstanding counselor, known for her compassionate and nurturing approach. Her ability to build relationships quickly makes her a valuable asset to the school.
- Elaine Young at El Cerrito has significantly improved student well-being, providing a caring and supportive space for those in need.
- Alyssa Campos at Arbolita goes above and beyond in supporting students and staff, finding

innovative ways to engage with the school community. She teaches engaging guidance lessons and has improved student relationships and friendships through her efforts.

- Heidi Quirk and her interns at Imperial Middle School lead the PBIS program and the new Check In and Check Out program. Her key role in creating the well space at the school has been invaluable.

Following the presentation to the counselors, the counselors then presented to the Board. They showcased their work, aligned with this year's theme: Standards-Based Student Focus. They emphasized their efforts in supporting district goals, including Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Relationships, Tier 1, and Leadership.

School Counselors play a key role in fostering an environment of acceptance and respect. Their initiatives include Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons focusing on friendship, kindness, conflict resolution, and school-wide messaging. Counselors offer a safe and comfortable space for all students.

The counselors emphasized building positive, respectful, and supportive relationships within the school community. Activities such as community building circles, restorative circles, and various school-wide initiatives like Hello Week and Bullying Prevention Month. They stressed the importance of bridging gaps between students, staff, and the community, advocating for all students, including those with disabilities, through various campaigns and events like Special Olympics.

In their leadership roles, the counselors participate in various site leadership teams and initiatives that bridge gaps between administration, teachers, families, and students. This year, they hosted the first Wellness Fair, provided suicide prevention training to teachers, and offered leadership opportunities for students.

In summary, the school counselors highlighted their multifaceted role in the school system, focusing on building relationships, supporting diverse student needs, and fostering a positive school environment through their various programs and initiatives.

11. Public Comment

Gizelle Vella (Spanish speaker, translator assisted) - Parent of two children in the district. One of her sons experienced bullying. Following assistance from two Board Members, she successfully transferred her son to a better school. She expressed frustration regarding the delay in receiving assistance for her situation. She suggests reallocating the funds designated for Assistant Superintendents to teacher salaries and other activities or resources for children. She questioned the reasoning behind spending money on staff who do not directly interact with her children. Additionally, she emphasized that as a small district, resources should be focused on the children rather than on high-paying salaries.

Sonia Kneip brought forth concerns regarding the district's financial situation in the near future. She acknowledged the likelihood of a bond being on the ballot in the upcoming elections but noted the absence of any projected plans for its utilization. The importance of proactive marketing and campaigning was stressed. As a taxpayer facing rising inflation and costs associated with home maintenance, she expressed hesitancy to support the bond, considering the financial implications post-retirement on a fixed income.

She emphasized the need for Washington to improve its curb appeal to attract and retain families.

She expressed curiosity about the percentage of elementary students leaving the district upon transitioning to middle school. With declining enrollment, a comprehensive plan for modernization, beautification, and branding was suggested as a way to encourage voter support for the bond.

Given the uncertainty of the bond measure's success, she added that the lack of a guaranteed bond measure might lead to postponing updates and enhancements to school facilities. Projected cuts in the near future were attributed to declining ADA, a forecasted COLA of less than 1%, among other financial challenges.

She recalled how budget cuts had historically affected classified staff and teachers through layoffs,

reduced days, and pay cuts. These staff members, including educators, counselors, cafeteria staff, aides, and nurses, were highlighted. She noted a significant number of management positions in the district's nine and a half schools, often quickly filled, while support staff positions were eliminated. The speaker urged future planning to include consideration of freezing management salaries, emphasizing that budget reductions should start at the higher levels.

12. Action Items: CONSENT CALENDAR

Approved the Consent Calendar.

Motion made by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Motion seconded by: Adam Rogers

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

a. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. Contract Reports - Education Services

2. Staff Development

3. University Agreements

b. BUSINESS SERVICES

1. Contract Reports - Business Services

2. Expenditures Report

3. Field Contracts

c. PERSONNEL SERVICES

1. Separations

2. New Hires

3. Change of Status

13. GENERAL MATTERS

a. Action Item: Recognition of National School Counseling Week

Approved to proclaim February 5-9, 2024 as National School Counseling Week.

Motion made by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Motion seconded by: Justin Rodgers

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

b. Information Item: First Reading of New/Revised Board Policies

Trustees will review a first reading of new/revised Board Policies per California School Board Association recommendation for:

Policy 5121 – Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement

Policy 5123 – Promotion/Acceleration/Retention

Policy 6164.5 – Student Success Teams

c. Action Item: Approval of Calendars for 2024-2025 School Year

Approved the 2024-2025 School Year Calendars.

Motion made by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Motion seconded by: Justin Rodgers

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

d. Action Item: Approval of Successor Agreement between the District and California School Employees Association (CSEA)

Adopted Successor Agreement between the District and California School Employees Association and its Chapter 135.

Motion made by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Motion seconded by: Justin Rodgers

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

14. INSTRUCTION AND PERSONNEL

a. Action Item: Certificated Early Retirement

Approved the request for Certificated Early Retirement.

Motion made by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Motion seconded by: Justin Rodgers

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

b. Action Item: Approval of School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA)

Approved the School Plan for Student Achievement for Arbolita, El Cerrito, Ladera Palma, Las Lomas, Las Positas, Sierra Vista, Walnut, Imperial, and Washington Schools.

Motion made by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Motion seconded by: Justin Rodgers

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

15. BUSINESS MATTERS

a. Action Item: Approve Compensation Study Salary Reallocations/Appeals

Approved the final Proposed Salary Reallocations based on EMS's external and internal salary equity review.

Motion made by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Motion seconded by: Justin Rodgers

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

16. Board/Superintendent Comments

Board Member comments:

- Thank you to the Maintenance and Operations team for their handwork, dedication, and proactive approach with keeping our campuses open and secure during the heavy rains.
- The Parent Workshops were a huge success! Great response from parents.
- Thank you to all the counselors and students from Sierra Vista for tonight's presentations.
- The Literacy Fair was well attended. It was amazing to see so many families, activities, and resources.
- Families should stay involved with the City of La Habra's business affairs. Particularly the sale of the property off of Imperial and how it relates to the La Habra City School District.
- Thank you to Malia for her assistance with the IEPs.
- Congratulations to all the Diamond Award recipients.
- It's great to hear that all the wiring has been completed at Las Positas and Washington.
- Congratulations to all the Attendance Award Champions.
- Excited to see all the basketball teams flourish.
- Grateful for all the extra security to keep cyberattacks away.
- The Spelling Bee was fantastic and impressive! Congratulations to the two winners, both from Washington, who will be moving on to the next level: Jacqueline Martinez and Ethan Navarro.
- Congratulations to Kathryn Mayfield for being named Teacher of the Year. She's a kindergarten teacher at Arbolita Elementary.
- Exciting to hear about Walnut Elementary offering dental care services to families.
- Beautiful Day in La Habra was delightful to read.
- Happy Black History Month. It should never be confined to a single month.
- Thanks to the principals and Mrs. Flesher for a productive Work Study.

Superintendent comments:

- In honor of Dr. Richard Herman, who served the LHCS D for over 50 years, a moment of silence was held.

17. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Motion made by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Motion seconded by: Adam Rogers

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

18. NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for March 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., at the District Education Board Room, 500 N. Walnut Street, La Habra, California.



Secretary