

PACIFIC GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 21, 2023 – District Office

I. OPENED BUSINESS

A. Called to Order 5:30 p.m.

B. Land Acknowledgement

Good evening. As we begin this meeting, it's important to pay respect to and acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Ohlone, Costanoan & Esselen people and additionally pay respect to elders both past and present.

C. Roll Call

Trustee(s) Present: President Carolyn Swanson (CS)

Arrived at 6:03pm

Clerk Jennifer McNary (JM)

Arrived at 6:03pm

Dr. Elliott Hazen (EH)

Trustee Laura Ottmar (LO)

Trustee Brian Swanson (BS)

Trustee(s) Virtual At Alternate Location: N/A

Trustee(s) Absent: N/A

Administration Present: Interim Superintendent Jorn

Board Recorder: Mandi Ackerman

Student Representative: Dario Dimaggio

D. Adopted Agenda

Changes to the agenda include:

- Consent Item B- Personnel Report
 - Correction to Mr. Nordstrom position- he has been appointed as the girls soccer coach for Pacific Grove High School
 - Revised Personnel Report has been provided to the Board, posted to the website, available to the public
- Consent Item F- Donations
 - Correction to donation which was made to Forest Grove, but reflected on the report under the Middle School.
 - Revised Donations report has been provided to the Board, posted to the website, available to the public

Public Comment:

None

MOTION EH/BS to adopt agenda as amended

Motion CARRIED by vote 3 – 0

II. CLOSED SESSION

A. Identified Closed Session Topics

1. Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation pursuant to Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(1) One Matter – OAH Case No. 2023080556
2. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Complaint (1 case) [Government Code § 54957]

B. Public comment on Closed Session Topics

None

C. Adjourned to Closed Session 5:33 p.m.

III. RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION 6:30 p.m.

A. Reported action taken in Closed Session:

1. Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation pursuant to Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(1) One Matter – OAH Case No. 2023080556

The Governing Board voted 3 – 0 in favor Trustees Hazen, Ottmar, B. Swanson to approve a written settlement agreement for resolution of OAH Case No. 2023080566. The resolution includes educational services, District assessments, and fees in exchange for a waiver and release of all educational claims to date and prospectively against the District, and dismissal of the case with prejudice.

2. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Complaint (1 case) [Government Code § 54957]

Information was received, no direction was given.

B. Pledge of Allegiance lead by Trustee Brian Swanson

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Written Communication

CS reported the following:

- Curriculum
- Pacific Grove Unified School District Narcan distribution
- Yale Educator Award
- Curriculum review committee
- Instructional materials
- Acknowledgement of the District Office staff

EH reported the following:

- Chronic absenteeism
- School lunches

LO reported the following:

- Cultural proficiency

B. Board Member Comments

CS responded to the press conference held by the NAACP, shared personal feelings as a parent and community member, statement does not reflect Board, noted racism is a public crisis, exists in the community and schools, said families should have a safe, confidential platform to report racist incidents, and the District should create a clear effective protocol for staff to address racist incidents, requested a reporting system in response to reports of racist incidents, and protocol for staff when addressing racist incidents.

JM agreed with CS, attended press conference, feels like a time where the District cannot be silent, noted the families that have suffered, noted racism is a systemic problem in the community, society, and schools, echoed need for establishing a reporting system for race-based incidents.

BS visited Community High School, thanked the staff and students, noted the amazing experience, social emotional learning.

C. Interim Superintendent Report

None

V. **INDIVIDUALS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

A. PGUSD Staff Comments (Non Agenda Items)

Pacific Grove High School Teacher Sally Richmond shared the Breaker Bots and the Mock Trial teams will be hosting a yard sale on Saturday, the money raised will help support competition season.

Pacific Grove Middle School Principal Sean Roach shared about the recent Pacific Grove Middle School Wellness Fair, said he has received wonderful feedback; shared upcoming 7th grade event Authors and Ideas festival, inspire students in learning.

Robert Down Elementary School Teacher Christina Renteria expressed frustration regarding fingerprint policy, limiting community learning opportunities.

Director of Curriculum and Special Projects Buck Roggeman acknowledged Sandra and Heather who have helped build the robotics program, acknowledged the amount of work, which has been on a volunteer basis, said it has been a great start for the robotics program at elementary and middle school.

B. Community Members (Non-Agenda Items)

Community Member Mike Gibbs spoke of chronic absenteeism, noted the District is in a current search for a superintendent, which is the most important hiring in the last 25-30 years, parents are looking for a new direction, a new way for the students to learn, project based learning.

Parent Lucie Hazen expressed frustration regarding the fingerprinting procedures, noted the struggle to get enough people to help the PTA's, asked the District to lower the barrier.

Parent Chris Swires asked if there is a process to have more transparency, noted 70 curse words and 11 f-words in a textbook, asked if there is a way for a parent to be informed in advance of the materials, said he is not looking for book bans, he is looking for mandated curriculum, versus what he approves of as his parent.

VI. RECOGNITION

The Board recognized Teacher Sally Richmond for receiving the 2023 Yale Educator Award.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of September 7, 2023 Board Meeting
- B. Personnel Report
- C. Cash Receipts #4
- D. Revolving Cash Report #2
- E. Out of County or Overnight Activities
- F. Acceptance of Donations
- G. Warrant Schedule 659
- H. Board Policy Updates
- I. Surplus of Facilities Trailer
- J. Contract with Positive Behavior Supports Corp. for 2023-24

Public Comment:

None

MOTION JM/CS to approve the consent agenda as presented
Motion CARRIED by vote 5 – 0

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING I/ ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEM A

- I. Public Hearing of Pacific Grove Teachers Association Sunshine List for 2023-24

Open Public Hearing 7:05 p.m. Close Public Hearing 7:05 p.m.

Interim Superintendent Jorn noted the Sunshine List.

Public Comment:

None

A. Approval of the Pacific Grove Teachers Association Sunshine List for 2023-24

Public Comment:

None

MOTION EH/CS to approve the Pacific Grove Teachers Association Sunshine List for 2023-24

Motion CARRIED by vote 5 – 0

IX. PUBLIC HEARING II/ ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEM B

II. Public Hearing of Pacific Grove Unified School District/Pacific Grove Teachers Association Negotiations Sunshine Topics – 2023-2024

Open Public Hearing 7:08 p.m. Close Public Hearing 7:10 p.m.

Director of Curriculum and Special Projects Buck Roggeman noted the Sunshine List, provided a brief explanation of what Sunshine topics means.

Public Comment:

None

B. Approval of Pacific Grove Unified School District/Pacific Grove Teachers Association Negotiations Sunshine Topics – 2023-2024

Public Comment:

None

MOTION EH/CS to approve the Pacific Grove Unified School District/Pacific Grove Teachers Association Negotiations Sunshine Topics 2023-2024

Motion CARRIED by vote 5 – 0

X. ACTION/DISCUSSION continued

C. Resolution #1114 for the Gann Limit for 2023-2024

Interim Superintendent Joshua Jorn introduced this item.

Public Comment:

None

MOTION JM/LO to adopt Resolution #1114 for the Gann Limit for 2023-2024

Motion CARRIED by roll call vote 5 – 0

D. Resolution #1115 Recognizing National Hispanic Heritage Month

Public Comment:

None

MOTION JM/EH to adopt Resolution #1115 recognizing National Hispanic Heritage Month

Motion CARRIED by roll call vote 5 – 0

E. Board Calendar/Future Meetings

Public Comment:

None

No action taken

XI. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION continued

A. Elementary Campus Shade Structures

Director of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation Jon Anderson presented options for shade structures at Robert Down Elementary School and Forest Grove Elementary School.

The Board encouraged site council feedback and site staff feedback, asked about structural strength, location possibilities, could they serve as an outdoor classroom, lifespan, fabric options for waterproofing, warranty, why, percentage of seating covered, quote for fully weatherproof.

Interim Superintendent Joshua Jorn noted the intention of shade structure was to provide coverage from sea gulls during lunch, and shade on sunny days.

Public Comment:

Robert Down Elementary School Principal Sean Keller noted the shade structures were discussed initially due to sea gulls, would love them to be weatherproof, when the weather is warm the students need shade.

Forest Grove Elementary School Teacher Rene Woods asked if Forest Grove Elementary School students would be permitted to eat outdoors again, asked if their current eating location dependent upon this purchase.

Forest Grove Elementary School Principal Abbie Arbrun noted the new tables purchased and moved inside, the students are sitting down and eating their lunches, said if the location becomes a concern the site can revisit the issue.

Robert Down Elementary School Teacher Jaqueline Perkins noted sea gulls used to be a big issue, that they would take food from students during lunch, and that some sort of structure was needed to protect the students while eating, said there are a lot of bright cloudy days, said the lunch area at Robert Down includes aluminum tables and white concrete, which is blinding.

Robin Pelc asked if outdoor lunch be brought back to Forest Grove Elementary School, noted as a parent and scientist, in order to minimize Covid and flu, she was in favor of outdoor lunch and provide a choice available to families.

B. Summer School Review 2023

Director of Curriculum and Special Projects Buck Roggeman presented an overview of the Summer School program, along with former principal Linda Williams who reviewed data.

The Board asked questions, appreciated the timeline, greater capacity to expand the program and how to expand, loved the idea to include students who have C and D grades, noted impressive results, directed Administration to note how students qualify to receive summer school to be placed on the District website.

Public Comment:

Robert Down Elementary School Teacher Christina Renteria noted some parents did not make decisions until the last minute, noted Linda Williams and the team accepted them at the last minute, asked that the District make sure the program is always open to families.

Robert Down Elementary School Teacher Erica Chavez said it is nice to be able to sit down in Spring conferences and invite students to summer school, noted some wait until the last minute, but some parents qualify, and the earlier the better.

C. Future Agenda Items

- Added April 26, 2023: Sub Committee with the City of Pacific Grove (December 14, 2023)
- Added April 26, 2023: Board Site Visits/Measure D Walk Abouts (Fall 2023)
- Added May 4, 2023: Equine Healing Collaborative (October 2023)
- Added June 1, 2023: Review of the business contracts fingerprinting section (January 2024)
- Added August 3, 2023: Human Resources Organizational Review Plan (December 2023)
- Added September 7, 2023: Board Cultural Proficiency Training

Trustee Hazen requested Board self-evaluation; business contract fingerprinting streamline process; common calendaring with other surrounding districts.

Trustee McNary requested a Comprehensive School Safety Plan LGBTQ+ Student Safety

Trustee Swanson requested recording system for racist or biased incidents on campus.
Trustee Ottmar expanded the recording system to include bullying, Trustee Swanson agreed.

Public Comment:

None

XII. ADJOURNED

8:24 p.m.

Approved and submitted:

Interim Superintendent Joshua Jorn
Secretary to the Board