

Central Unified School District
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
April 10, 2018 - 6:00 PM
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL-EAST CAMPUS
WAYNE "HONDO" HODGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
3535 NORTH CORNELIA AVENUE, FRESNO, CA 93722
6:00 P.M. CLOSED SESSION IN THE BOARD ROOM
7:00 P.M. OPEN SESSION IN THE PAC

Attendance Taken at 6:00 PM:

Present:

Mr. Richard Atkins
Mr. Phillip Cervantes
Mr. Ruben Coronado
Mrs. Terry Cox
Mr. Rama Dawar
Mr. Cesar Granda
Mr. Richard Solis

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Granda.

B. ATTENDANCE

Minutes:

All Board Members were in attendance.

C. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Mr. Phillip Cervantes and a second by Mr. Rama Dawar.

Yes Mr. Richard Atkins
Yes Mr. Phillip Cervantes
Yes Mr. Ruben Coronado
Yes Mrs. Terry Cox
Yes Mr. Rama Dawar
Yes Mr. Cesar Granda
Yes Mr. Richard Solis

D. CLOSED SESSION

Minutes:

Closed Session was called at 6:00 pm.

D.1. STUDENT DISCIPLINE - Education Code Section 48900 et. seq.

D.2. CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL REPORT - Government Code Section 54957

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Mr. Rama Dawar and a second by Mr. Phillip Cervantes.

Yes Mr. Richard Atkins
Yes Mr. Phillip Cervantes
Yes Mr. Ruben Coronado
Yes Mrs. Terry Cox
Yes Mr. Rama Dawar
Yes Mr. Cesar Granda
Yes Mr. Richard Solis

D.3. CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL REPORT - Government Code Section 54957

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Mr. Phillip Cervantes and a second by Mr. Rama Dawar.

Yes Mr. Richard Atkins
Yes Mr. Phillip Cervantes
Yes Mr. Ruben Coronado
Yes Mrs. Terry Cox
Yes Mr. Rama Dawar
Yes Mr. Cesar Granda
Yes Mr. Richard Solis

D.4. EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE / DISMISSAL / RELEASE / LITIGATION / COMPLAINTS - Government Code Section 54957

Minutes:
No action.

D.5. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS - Government Code Section 54957.6

Minutes:
No action.

D.6. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION - Government Code Section 54956.9

Motion Passed: Motion to deny Claims against the District - Case 1 and 2 - #RMA-001572 and #RMA-001592 Passed with a motion by Mr. Rama Dawar and a second by Mr. Ruben Coronado.

Yes Mr. Richard Atkins
Yes Mr. Phillip Cervantes
Yes Mr. Ruben Coronado
Yes Mrs. Terry Cox
Yes Mr. Rama Dawar
Yes Mr. Cesar Granda

Yes Mr. Richard Solis

Minutes:

No action on Case 3 - ED-2017/18-004

No action on Case 4 - BD-2017/18-005

E. 7:00 P.M. - RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND REPORT FINAL ACTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION, IF ANY

Minutes:

Open Session was reconvened at 7:00 pm, and President Granda reported that all Closed Session items would be continued to the second Closed Session at the end of the meeting tonight.

F. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Minutes:

The flag salute was led by Jack Kelejian.

G. NATIONAL ANTHEM

Minutes:

El Capitan Middle School Choir performed the Star Spangled Banner.

H. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

H.1. SCHOOL ACTIVITIES PRESENTATIONS

Minutes:

Sumeet Kaur from West campus shared that, on Kids Day March 6th, students raised over \$5000 for Valley Children's Hospital. Ag students have represented CHS very successfully as well. Fresno-Central FFA will have its 85th annual spring banquet. ASB leadership students planned Chicken Week before spring break and encouraged students to stay involved. It was a successful event and everyone had fun. In sports, our track team won many awards. Cheer & pep won Valley championships.

H.2. STUDENT RECOGNITION

Minutes:

CHS Athletic Director, Rayshawn Hightower, introduced the teams and shared that our winter sports continued some of the same success we enjoyed in the fall. Our CHS Competition Pep Team won the Division 3 CIF Valley championship; our CHS Competition Cheer Team won the Division 1 CIF Valley championship. Our CHS Boys Basketball team won Valley CIF Division 1 for a "3-peat", winning in 2016, 2017 and 2018. The teams shook hands and were congratulated by the Board and Cabinet for their success.

H.3. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS

H.3.a. CENTRAL UNIFIED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (CUTA)

Minutes:

CUTA President, Judee Martinez reported that there was a site rep meeting yesterday. The high school teachers reported that the "See Something, Say Something" rallies were hugely successful. Teague had an assembly and author, Karen Adler was the featured speaker. She gave each student two free books. Kevin Bracy visited Steinbeck and Tilley. One of our young students at Liddell is a winner of the Young Authors' Faire. Herndon-Barstow reported they were happy to have Dr. Boatright in attendance at their Open House.

H.3.b. CALIFORNIA SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (CSEA)

Minutes:

Nothing to report.

I. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Minutes:

David Gonzalez, a senior at Central High, called for a policy change re: recycling on campus and in buildings. CHS needs a recycling policy on campuses to be an example of what a school should be.

J. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Mr. Ruben Coronado and a second by Mr. Phillip Cervantes.

Yes Mr. Richard Atkins
Yes Mr. Phillip Cervantes
Yes Mr. Ruben Coronado
Yes Mrs. Terry Cox
Yes Mr. Rama Dawar
Yes Mr. Cesar Granda
Yes Mr. Richard Solis

J.1. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING

J.2. APPROVE OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIPS AND DAY TRIPS OVER 150 MILES (K. Davis)

K. ACTION ITEMS

K.1. STUDENT DISCIPLINE CASES

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Mr. Rama Dawar and a second by Mr. Phillip Cervantes.

Yes Mr. Richard Atkins
Yes Mr. Phillip Cervantes
Yes Mr. Ruben Coronado
Yes Mrs. Terry Cox

Yes Mr. Rama Dawar
Yes Mr. Cesar Granda
Yes Mr. Richard Solis

K.2. INFORMATION/ACTION REGARDING SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (R. Coronado)

Motion Passed: Mr. Coronado motioned that staff bring a job description for the Superintendent back to the April 24, 2018 Board Meeting and the Board take action on the Superintendent Search. Passed with a motion by Mr. Ruben Coronado and a second by Mr. Richard Solis.

No Mr. Richard Atkins
Yes Mr. Phillip Cervantes
Yes Mr. Ruben Coronado
No Mrs. Terry Cox
Yes Mr. Rama Dawar
Yes Mr. Cesar Granda
Yes Mr. Richard Solis

Minutes:

Mr. Kelejian discussed 2 major avenues for a superintendent search: One option is to hire an outside consulting firm to do the search. The other option is to use Human Resources and in-house services. To hire a firm involves getting the info to the public and identifying the right firm. There are costs associated with hiring a firm. Each firm has a style of hiring. There are usually multiple phases of hiring with a firm. That same process can be handled in-house to start identifying job announcements, accompanied with an updated job description. Identify a timeline when the position should be posted. We'd use the same platform which many districts use such as EdJoin, social media, CSBA, ACSA. In the meantime, hold stakeholder input meetings, poll focus groups, use existing advisory groups, conduct town hall meetings. There's a screening process, interview process, then if the Board chooses a candidate, then a decision on a timeline.

Mrs. Cox said there's another option that hasn't been discussed which is to do nothing. In years past, we've had interim superintendents for up to a year. The community has stated it doesn't have faith in the current board. It seems pointless to do a superintendent search as there's turmoil in the community. This community has clearly stated it has no faith in this board. This board needs to prove itself and make it through the recall and a November election. If board members find their way back to the board, then the board can go forward with a search. This board has no business making a long-term decision that can be turned over at the end of the summer or in November. There's a risk of cost to the district for the search, or a new superintendent who may leave a job to come here and may get terminated. It's a poor decision for the board to do that until we know if this is the board of the future.

Mr. Coronado said, "It's my opinion this board was elected by voters to perform the duties and is required to fill the position of the superintendent and we must do our job."

Mr. Granda agreed that since there's an open position, they are required to fill it due to a time crunch.

Bernice Bailey spoke and said she agreed with Mrs. Cox whole-heartedly. She said she was confused and asked why this item is listed as an action item when these items are first listed as information items before coming back two weeks later as action items. The public is supposed to be informed before something returns for action. She asked the board not to go forward until after the November election. The community has lost faith in 5 board members. We do not trust you to act in the best interest of the students. As Mr. Coronado stated, you were elected by the community, but you're not listening to the community. Filling this position now is not the will of this community. Those who elected you told you what they want--they want Mr. Sutton. Who would apply for this job knowing this board doesn't listen to its constituents and the community wants to bring back Mr. Sutton? Certainly not a qualified candidate. Anyone hired is short-term and all candidates know that up front. We have an interim superintendent, Mr. Porterfield, who is currently doing the job and he has two awesome assistant superintendents. If you really want to do what is right for Central Unified, you will listen to your constituents, change your attitudes, and bring back Mr. Sutton now. If you're not willing to do that, I ask that you please wait until the November elections. Please don't waste money on a search. In closing, we thank Terry Cox and Richard Atkins for keeping the education of our students a priority in Central Unified. Thank you.

Jeff Yribarren thanked Mrs. Cox for her words as they echo what he was about to say. He said the Board made a decision a couple months ago without warning and reason. The board fired Mr. Sutton despite overwhelming support and feedback. You sit up here and continue to go forward. There's a miscarriage of our voters' trust. Mr. Coronado, you say you're voted to work in our best interest, but you can't use that as a shield. No one has listened and I have been to several meetings. There have been many meetings and the Board isn't listening. We are a united community and we're going to act. It's obvious you won't bring back Mr. Sutton. So let's talk about where we are now. We have Mr. Porterfield, who is someone you all have trust in who knows the district intimately and doing a wonderful job and can get us past this referendum that you force the community to have based on your decision. There's a Referendum for a recall election which will recall one of the Board members who voted to fire Sutton, and the November election with 3 Board members who voted to fire Sutton. Give the community a chance to weigh in this issue with our votes. Let's not bring someone else now and take them from their jobs and ruin their lives. This community is set on fixing the wrong that you all committed. Maybe there's something we don't know, so please, give us a vision. But you're not.

Cesar Granda: He said the board appreciates the comments from the public; however, we need to proceed with the search. He asked Mr. Kelejian what is needed from the board for the District to do the search on its own. Mr. Kelejian said direction is needed from the board about whether to go outside or do it internally. For this position, there's

commonly a posting window which is 3-4 weeks, open until filled. Typically a certificated or classified management position is posted for 2 weeks. There are also posting deadlines. Mrs. Cox asked if it's possible to have someone filled by June 30? Mr. Kelejian said "possible" is a relative term based on what can be done, like a 2-3 week posting which would close in early May. Then there's a candidate screening. It would be an aggressive timeline. Mrs. Cox wondered what the board's intention is: to get the best candidate or to just get it done? She said it should be the best candidate. Mr. Granda said a typical management position typically takes 2-3 weeks. A position like this needs longer and to embed a town hall meeting. Mr. Kelejian said community input should be considered. Mr. Granda said we would do that in two weeks by our next meeting, May 8. If we have candidates, we can look at May 8 as a possible target. Mr. Kelejian said a closing date is dependent on the initial open date. If we post the position next week, we would take 14 days after before closing. Mr. Kelejian said we'd need parameters beyond the timelines on what the announcement would look like. Mrs. Cox said we don't have a current job description, so we can't post it tomorrow. It would take another board meeting. Mr. Kelejian said we do need to update the job description. Mr. Granda said we don't have to wait for another meeting and can provide direction. Mrs. Cox said we need to know who we're hiring, so a job description has always been approved by the Board. If you look at the Board Policy, it's always approved by the Board. Mr. Kelejian said there's a Board meeting on April 24 which is when the job description can be brought back to the Board. The board should send comments or items to add to the job description. For instance, is administrative experience required? Is a masters or doctorate required? Generally the job description is broad and the stakeholder input that's more specific can be in the questions. Mrs. Cox asked what the recommendations are for Town Halls? Mr. Kelejian said focus groups include the community. Mr. Granda said 4/24 is when the job description can return and timeline for town halls. Motion and Second by Coronado/Solis 6-1 (Cox voted no) to direct staff to bring a Job Description by 4/24 as an action item.

Edit to original minutes: "After confirming with the audio of the April 10, 2018 meeting, I would like my vote to be reported out as a No Vote on Item K2. I did not make a verbal vote, anticipating a Roll Call Vote, on this item plus the final vote count was not reported out. Cesar you can confirm this if you listen to the 4-10-18b audio recording starting at time stamp 40:50. You stated "And just for processing we will take a Roll-Call Vote", never happened. Nor was the final vote count reported out. I request "for the record" that on the 4-10-18 minutes, my vote should be shown as a NO vote and at the April 24th meeting that this infraction be reported out.

Sincerely, Richard Atkins - Central Unified School Board Member, Area 4" The vote was changed to reflect this request.

K.3. APPROVE AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE PERMIT (K. Porterfield)

Motion Passed: Administration is recommending the Board approve the Authorized Signature Permit. Passed with a motion by Mr. Phillip Cervantes and a second by Mr. Rama Dawar.

Yes Mr. Richard Atkins
Yes Mr. Phillip Cervantes
Yes Mr. Ruben Coronado
Yes Mrs. Terry Cox
Yes Mr. Rama Dawar
Yes Mr. Cesar Granda
Yes Mr. Richard Solis

K.4. ACCEPT GIFTS TO DISTRICT (K. Porterfield)

Motion Passed: Administration is recommending the Board accept Gifts to the District. Passed with a motion by Mr. Phillip Cervantes and a second by Mr. Cesar Granda.

Yes Mr. Richard Atkins
Yes Mr. Phillip Cervantes
Yes Mr. Ruben Coronado
Yes Mrs. Terry Cox
Yes Mr. Rama Dawar
Yes Mr. Cesar Granda
Yes Mr. Richard Solis

K.5. RATIFY FUND TRANSFERS FOR FEBRUARY 2018 (K. Porterfield)

Motion Passed: Administration is recommending the Board Ratify Fund Transfers for February 2018. Passed with a motion by Mr. Ruben Coronado and a second by Mr. Phillip Cervantes.

Yes Mr. Richard Atkins
Yes Mr. Phillip Cervantes
Yes Mr. Ruben Coronado
Yes Mrs. Terry Cox
Yes Mr. Rama Dawar
Yes Mr. Cesar Granda
Yes Mr. Richard Solis

K.6. RATIFY WARRANT LIST FOR MARCH 2018 (K. Porterfield)

Motion Passed: Administration is recommending the Board Ratify the Warrant List for March 2018. Passed with a motion by Mr. Rama Dawar and a second by Mr. Richard Solis.

Yes Mr. Richard Atkins
Yes Mr. Phillip Cervantes
Yes Mr. Ruben Coronado
Yes Mrs. Terry Cox
Yes Mr. Rama Dawar
Yes Mr. Cesar Granda
Yes Mr. Richard Solis

K.7. REVIEW/RATIFY CONTRACTS (K. Porterfield)

Motion Passed: Administration is requesting the Board ratify contracts for the school year. Passed with a motion by Mr. Richard Atkins and a second by Mr. Phillip Cervantes.

Yes Mr. Richard Atkins
Yes Mr. Phillip Cervantes
Yes Mr. Ruben Coronado
Yes Mrs. Terry Cox
Yes Mr. Rama Dawar
Yes Mr. Cesar Granda
Yes Mr. Richard Solis

K.8. APPROVE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES CONCERNING PUBLIC EDUCATION LAW (K. Porterfield)

Motion Passed: Administration is requesting the Board Approve Request for Proposal (RFP) for General Legal Services Concerning Public Education Law. Passed with a motion by Mr. Ruben Coronado and a second by Mr. Richard Solis.

Yes Mr. Richard Atkins
Yes Mr. Phillip Cervantes
Yes Mr. Ruben Coronado
Yes Mrs. Terry Cox
Yes Mr. Rama Dawar
Yes Mr. Cesar Granda
Yes Mr. Richard Solis

L. INFORMATION ITEMS

L.1. RECEIVE INFORMATION REGARDING MEASURE C OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION (K. Porterfield)

Minutes:

Moved to consent.

L.2. RECEIVE INFORMATION AND HOLD PUBLIC HEARING ON AUGUSTUS ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY CHARTER SCHOOL (K. Davis)

Motion Passed: Motion to open a Public Hearing Passed with a motion by Mr. Phillip Cervantes and a second by Mr. Rama Dawar.

Yes Mr. Richard Atkins
Yes Mr. Phillip Cervantes
Yes Mr. Ruben Coronado
Yes Mrs. Terry Cox
Yes Mr. Rama Dawar
Yes Mr. Cesar Granda
Yes Mr. Richard Solis

Motion Passed: Motion to close the Public Hearing Passed with a motion by Mr. Rama Dawar and a second by Mr. Richard Solis.

Yes Mr. Richard Atkins
Yes Mr. Phillip Cervantes
Yes Mr. Ruben Coronado
Yes Mrs. Terry Cox
Yes Mr. Rama Dawar
Yes Mr. Cesar Granda
Yes Mr. Richard Solis

Minutes:

Brian Ellsworth: I'm a 48% percent and when we adopted our daughter and had her tested, she was found to be severely dyslexic. An IEP and teachers were supportive. It's discouraging to hear a child with good accommodations and teachers who still says, "I'm not that intelligent." A child who feels that way has no self-esteem and is depressed. In this academy, my daughter has more confidence and never is down on herself.

Barbara Morales is a credentialed teacher with experience in general and SPED. She has decided to sign on as a teacher with Augustus Academy because of everything she sees. Her own daughter struggled and it turns out, she has dyslexia. She has been in the educational program with Ms. English and her daughter has changed.

Jacob Bailey: He said he's part of the 52% and so are most of his family members. Clarification questions: he was curious about where the two case studies come from and he wanted to know how the creative arts portion works.

Cassandra Valdivia: A parent of the program. Her son struggled in school from TK-5th grade. It was hard to see him read the same books over and over and still not be able to read. He was diagnosed with dyslexia and he started tutoring w/Barton. Her son has transformed from a frustrated student to putting together complex train sets.

Rebecca Duenes, a Nurse who has 3 school-aged children, two of which attend Herndon-Barstow. She knew her son was different as he was struggling and had difficulty learning. He needed one-on-one multi-sensory teaching.

Jerry English: Father of Kelly and is a career educator. He is a profound dyslexic and has never been a great speller. Reading is laborious. A free and public education in CA works for less than half the population. Augustus Academy is friendly to dyslexics.

Paige Barnhart: 14-year-old dyslexic student. Around 2nd grade, she realized that spelling, reading, & writing were very difficult. Her mother pulled her out to homeschool her and she believes the Augustus Academy is a great place for dyslexics--it's like a family.

This item will return to the May 8th meeting for the Board to consider next steps.

L.3. RECEIVE INFORMATION REGARDING OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIPS AND DAY TRIPS OVER 150 MILES (K. Davis)

Minutes:

Moved to consent.

L.4. RECEIVE INFORMATION REGARDING THE 2018-2019 PRELIMINARY DATES FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ATTENDING 6th GRADE SIERRA OUTDOOR SCHOOL (K. Davis)

Minutes:

Mrs. Cox asked why the cost varies at each school. Mrs. Davis said costs vary based on how many days students are at camp and the types of additional activities. Mrs. Cox asked how many of these are funded through parent paying or how much the district is providing. Mrs. Davis said for each of these trips, they are all through the student body. To open this up now, it gives schools to begin fundraising. These are typically paid for by fundraising. Mrs. Cox asked how many scholarships are available for students in need? Mrs. Davis said she doesn't know exactly but they check on why students aren't going. We try to make sure there is a private follow-up, but sometimes parents aren't comfortable with students going away overnight. Mrs. Davis said she can reach out and get more info. Mrs. Cox said all schools used to do this and now we're down to 6. Do the other schools that can't afford or fund raise, do they have alternate activities? Most sites are doing some type of trip. For many, the amount of chaperones required to go overnight outweighs the opportunity. Some schools say the parents don't want the kids to go on overnight camp trips. Mr. Coronado asked about the other 8 schools--do they get money from Title 1 or supplemental concentration grants? Which schools don't go because there's no money or if the fundraising is difficult? Could you bring back the info alongside with the info you're bringing for Mrs. Cox? Mrs. Davis will give the Board more info. Moved to action.

L.5. RECEIVE INFORMATION REGARDING EMPLOYEE OUT OF STATE TRAVEL (K. Davis)

Minutes:

Moved to consent.

L.6. RECEIVE INFORMATION REGARDING ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS (K. Davis)

Minutes:

Moved to action.

L.7. RECEIVE INFORMATION REGARDING A PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL OF APRIL'S QUARTERLY WILLIAMS' UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURE (K. Davis)

Minutes:

Moved to the April 24th meeting for a Public Hearing and action.

M. ADVANCE PLANNING

Minutes:

Mr. Porterfield recommended, due to schedule conflicts, switching the board meetings in July.

Make the 7/24/18 meeting a placeholder and hold a regular meeting on 7/10/18. The Board agreed.

N. SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Minutes:

Mr. Porterfield reported on the Janessa Ramirez Fundraiser on April 21st. April 17th is the spring reception dinner for the Fresno County Trustees. CHS Theatre arts presents Ordinary Days 4/12-14 in the PAC. Monday, April 16th is the Autism Awareness Support Night. Mr. Coronado asked why soccer is not at elementary schools. How much would it cost to get them back in elementary? Mrs. Cox said it's been many years since she asked that same question and was told it was because there was not enough interest in school-based soccer teams.

Mr. Atkins mentioned that on Friday, the 20th is the Wrestling fundraiser at the Dante Club.

O. ADDITIONAL CLOSED SESSION (as needed)

Minutes:

Closed session was called again at 8:44 pm.

P. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND REPORT FINAL ACTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION, IF ANY

Minutes:

Open Session was reconvened at 10:08 pm. Mrs. Davis reported on actions taken during Closed Session.

Q. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CLOSING COMMENTS

R. NEXT MEETING

S. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.

T. MISCELLANEOUS

T.1. THANK YOU LETTERS

President, Board of Trustees

Clerk, Board of Trustees