

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

May 28, 2024

2060 Challenger Drive
Marina Conference Room
Alameda, California 94501

UNADOPTED MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING: The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at the date and location mentioned above.

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Public Comment on Closed Session Topics:

The Board did not receive any public comments related to this agenda.

2. Adjourn to Closed Session - 5:30 PM

Board of Education Members present: Board President Jennifer Williams, Board Vice President Gary K. Lym, Board Clerk Ryan LaLonde, Board Trustee Heather Little, and Board Trustee Margie Sherratt.

Staff present for Closed Session: Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, Timothy Erwin; Assistant Superintendent, Business Services Shariq Khan

Items discussed in Closed Session:

Conference with Legal Counsel Regarding Anticipated Litigation - (Govt. Code § 54956.9, subdivision (b)) (1 case):

1) One case Alameda Unified School District as potential defendant

Public Employee Performance Evaluation - (Govt. Code, §54957, subd. (b)(1)):

1) Superintendent

3. Reconvene to Public Session - 6:30PM

Board President Williams reconvened the meeting at 6:32PM.

4. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

Board of Education President Jennifer Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Introduction of Board Members and Staff:

Board of Education Members present: Board President Jennifer Williams, Board Vice President Gary K. Lym, Board Clerk Ryan LaLonde, Board Trustee Heather Little, and Board Trustee Margie Sherratt.

Student Board members present: Lianna Lau (AST), Talia Kotovsky (AHS), and Mirabelle Kruger (EJSHS).

AUSD staff members present: Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, Timothy Erwin; Assistant Superintendent, Business Services Shariq Khan; Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, Kirsten Zazo; Senior Manager of Community Affairs, Susan Davis and Senior Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Kerri Lonergan.

6. Closed Session Action Report:
There was no action taken during Closed Session.

B. MODIFICATION(S) OF THE AGENDA:

There were no modifications to the agenda.

C. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Proclamation: LGBTQ Pride Month – June 2024

Students Niers deCardenas and Emilia Anderson read the LGBTQ Pride Month Proclamation out loud for the Board and audience.

The Board of Education for the Alameda Unified School District believes that the rich variety and diversity of families and communities is one of AUSD's strengths, and furthermore believes that a family is a supportive unit composed of various genders, orientations, cultures, races, and ethnicities. The Board of Education also values and welcomes diversity of our student body, our teachers, our staff, and our administrators, including the diversity of sexual orientation and identity in our community.

The Alameda Unified School District has made a commitment to achieving and fostering diversity and tolerance in our staff, our school population, and in our curriculum, and adopted curriculum materials that comply with the FAIR Act ensuring all groups, including LGBTQ+ community are represented fairly and accurately.

As such, the Board of Education and AUSD proclaim June 2024 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Pride Month. To recognize this, rainbow flags will fly at each of AUSD's schools throughout the month of June to signify support for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer community.

Public Comments:

Megan Murphy, parent of AUSD student: Ms. Murphy expressed gratitude for the increase in hours of the LGBTQ Liaison position. Ms. Murphy also asked staff to focus on tangible efforts to help keep students and staff safe.

Amanda Gehrke, parent of AUSD student: Ms. Gehrke also thanked Superintendent Scuderi for the increase in staffing for the LGTBQ Liaison, and she thanked staff for going above and beyond to help support students and families.

2. Recognition of Outgoing Student Board Members

Tonight, Board of Education members recognized the following Student Board Members for their service and dedication over the last year:

- Mirabelle Kruger, Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School
- Talia Kotovsky, Alameda High School*

A third Student Board Member, Lianna Lau from ASTI, was elected to a second term by her peers and will return to the Board for the 2024-2025 school year.

Board Members praised the two students for their perspectives, contributions, inquisitiveness, commitment, eloquence, and generosity of time, and the students thanked the Board for the opportunity.

3. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:

Kelly Scott, teacher at Wood Middle School: Ms. Scott expressed her displeasure with the principal hiring process at Wood Middle School. She stated some families feel disenfranchised. Ms. Scott stated the hiring committee would like to know what happened to the process.

Laura Nielsen, teacher at Wood Middle School: Ms. Nielsen expressed her displeasure with the principal hiring process at Wood. She stated she is fighting for teacher voice on hiring decisions.

4. Written Correspondence:

The Board did not receive any written correspondence related to this agenda.

5. Report from Employee Organizations:

Nancy Read, co-president, Alameda Education Association (AEA): AEA Co-President Nancy Read thanked Assistant Superintendent Timothy Erwin, and she stated it has been really nice to get to know and work with him and Superintendent Scuderi this year. Ms. Read stated there is more work to do on working conditions and class size.

6. Report from PTA Council:

Gabriela Badilla President, PTA Council: there was not a report from PTA Council.

7. Board Members' Report:

Board Vice President Gary K. Lym: Board Vice President Lym wished all student graduates congratulations on their success.

Board Clerk Ryan LaLonde: Board Clerk LaLonde stated he loves to see students celebrating and he also enjoys seeing the next phase of students' educational journeys as they face life after graduation. Board Clerk LaLonde stated there are so many times throughout his time on the Board where there is

a context the community is putting on something in that is not completely factual. The Board cannot say anything on hiring practices. Board Clerk LaLonde continued by saying the Board does have opinions, but they can't speak about these things.

Board Member Heather Little: Board Member Little thanked the students, families, teachers, staff, administrators, and the Superintendent for a very successful school year and she is really excited to attend every graduation and promotion ceremony for grades 8-12. Board Member Little also echoed what Board Clerk LaLonde shared regarding the District's hiring practices.

Board Member Margie Sherratt: Board Member Sherratt stated she still feels relatively new in her time back on the Board. Board Member Sherratt stated she is so impressed by the questions and answers the Board hears. Board Member Sherratt stated it is always very important for the Board to listen to members of the public. Board Member Sherratt stated she loved seeing and hearing from the Student Board Members and their views.

Board President Jennifer Williams: Board President Williams stated the District has not terminated or non-re-elected staff from Wood Middle School and any statements otherwise are categorically false. Board President Williams continued by saying the state has laws to protect privacy in personnel matters and that exists in this District, as well. Board President Williams stated she takes these privacy laws very seriously, and when she receives emails that contain false information put into the public domain, she feels the need to speak out to correct this false narrative. Board President Williams stated it is a policy in AUSD that the hiring of principals considers the voices of stakeholders, but there are times when an appointment makes the most sense. Board President Williams closed her remarks by saying, when the Board gets emails that have false statements, she feels the need to protect the rights of all public employees.

8. Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi: Superintendent Scuderi recognized the Alameda Adult School for its support of English Learners and others who are courageously going back to school. He also thanks the two senior student Board members, Talia Kotovsky and Mirabelle Kruger, for their service and leadership.

D. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Certificated Personnel Actions
2. Classified Personnel Actions
3. Approval and Acceptance of Donations
4. Approval of Bill Warrants and Payroll Registers
5. Approval to Transfer Funds from Curriculum and Instruction Account to Encinal High School for Student Incentive
6. Approval of Facilities Bond Measure I and Measure B Contracts (Standing Item)

7. Approval of High School Math Curriculum Adoption: CPM Integrated Math
8. Approval of Individual Service Agreements (ISAs) with Non-Public Schools and Non-Public Agencies
9. Approval of New Course Descriptions for Alternate Pathway Diploma
10. Approval of New High School Math Course Descriptions
11. Ratification of Contracts Executed Pursuant to Board Policy 3300
12. Resolution No. 2023-2024.65 Annual Declaration of Certain Textbooks Unusable or Obsolete
13. Resolution No. 2023-2024.66 Approval of Budget Transfers, Increases, Decreases
14. Resolution No. 2023-2024.67 Authorization to Dispose of Surplus Property
15. Resolution No. 2023-2024.68 Specifications of the November 2024 Board Election Order
16. Resolution No. 2023-2024.69 Candidate's Statement of Qualifications for November 2024 Board Election
17. Resolution No. 2023-2024.70 Regarding Breaking of Tie Vote in Governing School Board Member Elections

Motion to adopt the Consent Calendar.

MOTION: Member LaLonde

SECONDED: Member Lym

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Student Board Members Kotovsky, Lau, and Kruger

NOES:

ABSTAIN

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Williams, Lym, LaLonde, Little, and Sherratt

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION APPROVED

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms Program: A Teacher's Story
Ms. Erin Cogan shared her experience as a participant of the Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms Program, which included a two-week field experience in Morocco. She discussed ways she has incorporated her learning into her own classroom, as well as how she is sharing these practices with colleagues at Otis. Erin hopes to continue to connect and collaborate with other teachers and community members across AUSD.

Public Comments:

Brian Dodson, principal of Otis Elementary School: Mr. Dodson thanked the Board for giving Ms. Cogan space to present what she learned. Mr. Dodson

shared that Ms. Cogan makes other teachers want to be better, as she is the true embodiment of being a teacher leader.

Board members commented on how effective and focused the Moroccan classrooms were despite lack of resources such as computers ("teachers and students just need each other," Ms. Cogan says) and they expressed their appreciation to Ms. Cogan for sharing this work.

2. Year-End Review: Celebrating Progress and Sustaining Focus on Challenges
This evening the Superintendent shared an update on the progress made on priority projects during the 2023-2024 school year.

There are reasons to celebrate and articulate areas of progress, but there are also challenges ahead. We need to be persistent so that we can replicate positive outcomes, while being mindful of fiscal realities.

3. 2024-2025 Budget Adoption Process: Presentation on Governor's May Revise Report & Recommendations on Budgeting by Site, by Program and Parcel Tax Funds.

Shariq Khan, Assistant Superintendent – Business Services, gave the Board information on the Governor's May Revise. The presentation included information on the current proposed state budget; potential increased costs due to new state legislation (none of which come with state funding to implement); and the proposed budgets for every site and program in AUD

Governor Newsom released his 2024-2025 Budget revisions on Friday, May 10, 2024. Tonight, staff will provide details on these revisions and the impact of the State budget on the district.

Additionally, staff presented the proposed comprehensive budget for 2024-2025 broken down by school site, district department, and district program and includes certificated and classified salaries, benefits, supplies, and services. The following budget categories are covered:

- Unrestricted General Fund
- LCFF Supplemental Grant
- Restricted General Fund
- COVID-19 Funds
- Parcel Tax

The presentation is in preparation for adopting the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget. A public hearing on the budget will take place at the June 11, 2024, Board of Education meeting, and the final budget will be presented for adoption at the June 25, 2024, meeting.

4. Strategic Plan Update: Collaboration Implementation 2023-24
Kirsten Zazo, Assistant Superintendent – Educational Services presented information on the District's Collaboration plans for the year.

In Fall of 2022, the District and the Alameda Education Association (AEA) came to a tentative agreement for the fiscal years 2022-2025 which included language on "Collaboration" under Article 8.

Collaboration is designed by the site leadership team to support the process of working together to achieve the goals and actions in the school site plan. The structure will provide time for teachers to plan, problem solve together and participate in inquiry together. Sites shall have four days per month for no less than 55 minutes and no more than 60 minutes of collaboration within the workday on Wednesdays. Site Leadership teams will create a schedule for collaboration.

- F. ADJOURNMENT** – Board President Jennifer Williams adjourned the meeting at 9:30pm and she asked Student Board Member Lianna Lau to say a few words in honor of ASTI student Sarah Gourdine, who passed away suddenly last month.

Sarah was a beautiful, brilliant, and compassionate young woman whose life was a testament to intellectual curiosity, empathy, social responsibility, and a genuine love for those around her.

Sarah was a motivated student who was actively working toward graduating high school with her AA degree in 2025. She aspired to attend Stanford, Harvard, Howard, USC, or Berkeley to pursue bioengineering and law. Sarah's inquisitive nature and intelligence were evidenced not only by her academic pursuits, but also in her deep awareness of world politics, history, and social justice movements. She was a natural leader, and she was actively involved in the Martin Luther King Freedom Center.

Sarah participated on her high school soccer and softball teams and she enjoyed many aspects of the performing arts, including dancing ballet and watching Broadway productions and plays. Her favorite musical was Hamilton, and her favorite books included Pride and Prejudice and the Harry Potter series.

Despite her heavy academic pursuits and the time she spent on social justice issues, Sarah still found time to be of service to her community. For the last two years she volunteered at Ruby Bridges Elementary School tutoring third grade students, and she worked for the City of Alameda as a summer camp counselor.

Sarah was a devoted friend, daughter, sister, student, and mentor to the young children she worked with. She leaves behind a legacy of intelligence, compassion, social activism, and an ardent commitment to making the world a better place. She is survived by her loving parents, Tracy Tucker and Ken Gourdine, her sister Corinne, and a large network of heartbroken friends and family.

Private services were held last month. Those wishing to contribute to the family's Go Fund Me can contact the AUSD District Office at 510-337-7187 for details.

We will close this adjournment with an excerpt from a poem her father, Ken Gourdine, wrote titled, "Unfinished Symphony":

Though the music stopped, the melody plays on,
A symphony of compassion, where her goodness shone.
We are the remix, the echoes of her light,
Carrying the torch, burning ever so bright.
In every act of giving, her memory takes flight,
An unfinished symphony, forever playing right

Respectively Submitted,

Kerri Lonergan
Senior Executive Assistant
Alameda Unified School District