

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 9, 2024
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
2263 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, California 94501

ADOPTED 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. Swearing in of Newly Appointed Board Member by Board President Jennfer Williams:
Board President Jennifer Williams performed the swearing in of newly appointed Board Member Margie Sherratt.

2. Public Comment on Closed Session Topics:
The Board did not receive any public comments related to this agenda.

3. Adjourn to Closed Session - 6:00 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:

Student Discipline, Student Suspension, Student Expulsion, or Student Expulsion Readmittance (Govt. Code § 35146, 48918) (one case):

- 1) Student ID #96757

4. Reconvene to Public Session - 6:30PM
Board President Williams reconvened the meeting at 6:30PM.
5. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance
Board of Education President Jennifer Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance
6. Introduction of Board Members and Staff:
B. 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: Talia Kotovsky (Alameda High), and Lianna Lau (ASTI).

Student Board Member Mirabelle Kruger (Encinal High) was absent.

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.

1. Closed Session Action Report:

In Closed Session the Board voted 5-0 to approve staff's recommendation that student #96757 be expelled from the Alameda Unified School District through June 6, 2024, with conditions outlined in the rehabilitation plan. Student may apply for readmission after June 7, 2024.

C. MODIFICATION(S) OF THE AGENDA:

There were no modifications of the agenda.

D. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Swearing in of Newly Appointed Board Member by Board President Jennifer Williams:

Board President Williams performed the swearing in of newly appointed Board Member Margie Sherratt.

2. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:

Leland Tramain, parent of AUSD student: Mr. Tramain asked voters to vote no on the District's parcel tax renewal, which is on the ballot for the March 5th.

3. Written Correspondence:

The Board did not receive any email related to this agenda.

4. Report from Employee Organizations:

Martha Zenk, President Alameda Education Association (AEA): AEA Co-President Martha Zenk announced AEA is in negotiations with the District. Ms. Zenk also stated AEA is in support of Measure E, the parcel tax renewal that is on the ballot for the March 5th election.

5. Report from PTA Council:

The PTA Council did not make a report.

6. Board Members' Report:

Board President Jennifer Williams: Board President Williams welcomed newly appointed Board member Margie Sherratt, and she stated she was very excited to work with Board Member Sherratt. Board President Williams also stated there were people in the audience, including former Student Board Member Henry Mills, to welcome Board Member Sherratt back to the Board.

Board Vice President Gary K. Lym: Board Clerk Lym wished everyone a happy new year, and he welcomed newly appointed Board member Margie Sherratt.

Board Member Heather Little: Board Member Little welcomed Margie Sherratt and announced the Encinal vs. Alameda Soccer Game this Friday. Board Member Little wished the Encinal team, including her son, good luck.

Board Clerk Ryan LaLonde: Board Member LaLonde wished everyone a happy new year and he welcomed Board Member Sherratt back to the Board.

7. Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi: Superintendent Scuderi wished everyone a happy new year, and he welcomed newly appointed Board member, Margie Sherratt.

8. Student Board Members' Report:

Lianna Lau (ASTI): Student Board Member Lau announced applications for ASTI are still available for incoming 9th grade students for the 2024-2025 school year. The application period ends on January 19th. Student Board Member Lau welcomed the Adult Transition students to the ASTI/COA campus. Student Board Member Lau also welcomed Board Member Sherratt back to the Board.

Talia Kotovsky (Alameda High School): Student Board Member Kotovsky announced there is a Diversity Club event on Friday, and she welcomed Board Member Sherratt.

E. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval and Acceptance of Donations
2. Approval of Bill Warrants and Payroll Registers
3. Approval of CSBA Recommended Updates to Board Policies
4. Approval of Facilities Bond Measure I and Measure B Contracts (Standing Item)
5. Approval of Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints
6. Approval of Special Education Local Plan Area Master Contracts
7. Ratification of Contracts Executed Pursuant to Board Policy 3300
8. Resolution No. 2023-2024.34 Approval of Budget Transfers, Increases, Decreases
9. Resolution No. 2023-2024.35 Delegation of Authority to Purchase and Contract
10. Resolution No. 2023-2024.36 Approval of Notice of Completion: Wood Middle School HVAC Modernization Project
11. Resolution No. 2023-2024.37 Approval of Notice of Completion: District-Wide Safe School Locks Project

12. Resolution No. 2023-2024.38 Approval of Notice of Completion: Bay Farm School New Classrooms

Motion to adopt the Consent Calendar.

MOTION: Member Little

SECONDED: Member Sherratt

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Lau and Kotovsky

NOES:

ABSENT: Member Kruger

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

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

NOES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. District Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Each year, the law requires school districts to review the annual audit of the school district's financial records for the prior fiscal year at a public meeting.

The audit examines the District's compliance with state and federal standards and procedures for the District to implement sound fiscal management practices for the most effective and efficient use of public funds.

Aurthur Ngo from audit firm Moss Adams, LLP gave the Board the District Audit and Financial Statements for 2022-2023.

A Board member remarked on the excellent report received and he complimented Shariq Khan and his team on the tremendous amount of work this involved.

Motion to approve the District Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023.

MOTION: Member Lym

SECONDED: Member Little

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Lau and Kotovsky

NOES:

ABSENT: Member Kruger

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

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

NOES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

2. Measures I and B Bond Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Each year, the law requires school districts to review the annual audit of the school district's financial records for the prior fiscal year at a public meeting.

The Measure I and Measure B Bond audit examines the District's compliance with state and federal standards and procedures for the Measures, facilities bonds, which the citizens of Alameda approved in November 2014 and November 2022. Measure I authorized the District to issue General Obligation Bonds (GO Bonds) up to \$179.5 million, and Measure B authorized the District to issue GO Bonds up to \$298 million.

Aurthur Ngo from audit firm Moss Adams, LLP gave the Board the Measure I and B Bond Performance Audit and Financial Statements for 2022-2023..

Motion to approve Measures I and B Bond Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023.

MOTION: Member Little

SECONDED: Student Member Kotovsky

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Lau and Kotovsky

NOES:

ABSENT: Member Kruger

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

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

NOES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

3. Report on Budget Priorities, Challenges, and Constraints for 2024 and Beyond

Pasquale Scuderi, Superintendent, gave the Board information on AUSD's budget priorities. Back in September, AUSD published its first Budget Summary for community members. The summary provided basic information about the cycle and elements of a school district's budget, as well as specifics about the 2023-24 budget.

As we start the New Year, we want to provide an update to that budget, which we published just a few months after the Board adopted it. Our intention in providing this update is threefold:

- To raise community awareness of changing conditions in the budgetary landscape
- To be transparent about some of the decisions our staff, in partnership with school communities, may need to make over the coming months
- To help the community the process by which we will make those decisions

Changing Budget Conditions

When the Board of Education adopted the 2023-24 budget last June, the state was projecting fairly high revenues for last year (2022). Typically, a prior year's taxes don't affect the current year's budget very much. However, the extension of the deadline to submit 2022 taxes (from April 2023 to November 2023) created a unique challenge, and the complete revenue picture for 2022 is just now emerging.

To be specific, taxes collected for 2022 are significantly below the state's expectations and, per the Legislative Analyst's Report issued on December 7, 2023, the State of California is facing a \$68 billion deficit for next year starting on July 1, 2024. To put that in perspective, the state's entire budget is about \$300 billion.

Since K-12 education is approximately 40% of the state budget, this reduction means that school districts across the state will face a significant budget challenge in 2024-25.

Specifically, while the projected Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for this year remains at 8.22%, the COLA for next year has dropped from 3.94% to 1.00%. And while the state projected a 3.29% COLA for 2025-26, we now don't know what it will be.

How does that affect AUSD's bottom line? The reduction of COLA from 3.94% to 1% in 2024-25 wipes away approximately \$5 million from the school district's revenue over the next three years (2023-24 through 2025-26). That is significant.

Parcel Tax Uncertainty

In addition, a measure to combine and renew our parcel taxes – Measure B1 and Measure A – is now on the March 2024 ballot. If that measure fails, we will have one more year of Measure B1 parcel tax revenue, but will need to identify \$12.5 million in budget reductions by June 2024 for the 2025-2026 school year. While those cuts have not yet been specified, we do know that they would likely include a combination of reduced programs and services, lay-offs, salary rollbacks or freezes, and school consolidations or closures.

Moving Forward

School districts need to submit a three-year budget to the county by June 30 of each year. Given the condensed timeline between the March 5 election and the budget deadline, we are planning on initiating public dialogues about educational and financial priorities after Winter Break in order to identify what cuts could or should be made in the event the parcel tax does not pass. We understand that talking about cuts can be painful. But we think the best approach is to be transparent and proactive about some of the challenges we are currently facing.

As a first step, we presented the Board with the First Interim Budget Report publicly at the December 12 Board of Education meeting. To see this presentation or the video of the agenda item, please click on the following link for the December 12 Board Meeting agenda.

We'll have further details when the governor releases his proposed budget on January 10. Over the next several months, however, we are committed to providing public updates on AUSD's budget situation and projections on a regular basis, as well as providing opportunities for public engagement.

Public Comments:

Ryan Brazil, AUSD teacher: Ms. Brazil stated it is her 7th year teaching and 5th year teaching in Alameda. Ms. Brazil listed all the ways she works to supplement her income due to the low salaries in Alameda. Ms. Brazil stated that she is living paycheck to paycheck. Ms. Brazil stated it is hard to serve her students when she cannot even serve her family.

4. The Approval of 2024 Board Committee Assignments and Appointment of Board Representatives to Non-AUSD Committees

Each year during the Board's annual organization meeting and in accordance with Board Bylaw 9130: Board Committees and Board Bylaw 9140: Board Representatives, the Board assigns members to its standing committees and assigns representatives to other public agencies or organizations.

At its organizational meeting on December 12, 2023, the Board appointed Margie Sherratt to fill a vacancy caused when former Board Vice President, Megan Sweet, resigned in October. Due to the timing of the appointment, the Board decided to select Subcommittee and Committee assignments at the first meeting where Margie Sherratt would be in attendance. This meeting occurs on January 9, 2024.

Board Committee	Purpose	Board Member for 2024
<i>City/School Joint Subcommittee</i>	Informational discussions facilitated by the Mayor/City Manager and Board President/Superintendent on areas of mutual interest	Heather Little Margie Sherratt Talia Kotovsky* Lianna Lau*
<i>Wellness Advisory Council</i>	Responsible for implementation of Wellness Policy through outreach to sites and eventual development of Wellness site councils	Ryan LaLonde Heather Little Lianna Lau*
<i>Board Policy Subcommittee</i>	Reviews recommended changes to Board Policies	Gary K. Lym Ryan LaLonde Talia Kotovsky*
<i>AUSD/Peralta Joint Subcommittee</i>	Informational discussions facilitated by AUSD Superintendent and Board and Peralta Community College Trustee(s) on areas of mutual interest	Jennifer Williams Gary K. Lym Lianna Lau*
<i>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workgroup</i>	Informal discussions on the topics of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.	Gary K. Lym Margie Sherratt

Non-AUSD Committee	Purpose	Board Member for 2024
<i>Alameda County School Boards Association</i>	Alameda County School Board members' networking and information sharing	Ryan LaLonde
<i>Alameda Collaborative for Children, Youth, and Families</i>	Joint committee of the City, County, and District focused on improving opportunities for Alameda youth	Jennifer Williams Talia Kotovsky* Mirabelle Kruger* Lianna Lau*
<i>Redevelopment Successor Agency Oversight Board</i>	The Redevelopment Oversight Board shall meet with the City of Alameda in its capacity as Successor Agency of the City.	Jennifer Williams

** Denotes Student Board Member*

Motion to Approve the Subcommittee and Committee Assignments as reflected on the chart shown above.

MOTION: Member Lym

SECONDED: Student Member Lau

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Lau and Kotovsky

NOES:

ABSENT: Member Kruger

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

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

NOES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

G. ADJOURNMENT – Board President Jennifer Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:46pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Kerri Lonergan
Senior Executive Assistant
Alameda Unified School District