

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
Pomona Unified School District  
Mendoza Center - Multi-Purpose Room  
851 S. Hamilton Blvd., Pomona, CA 91766  
Via teleconference at Dechert LLP  
1095 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036-6797**

Wednesday, August 16, 2017

5:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Roberta A. Perlman, Vice President called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Roberta A. Perlman, Vice President; Frank Guzman, Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, and Andrew S. Wong joined the meeting via teleconference.

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT**

Richard Martinez, Superintendent  
Leslie Barnes, Assistant Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer, Business Services  
Lilia Fuentes, Director, Elementary Curriculum and Instruction, Educational Services  
Darren Knowles, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
Fernando Meza, Assistant Superintendent, Pupil & Community Services  
Oliver Unaka, Public Information Officer

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jim C. Moore, Attorney, Mundell, Odlum & Haws, LLP  
Steve Harber, McCune & Harber, LLC  
Daniel Harbottle, Harbottle Law Group

**CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

1. Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release  
Case Number: 17-018-001; 17-018-002; 17-018-003
2. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation pursuant to California Government Code Section: 54956(a)  
Case Number: BC581936; ADJ8668097
3. Conference with Real Property Negotiator pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.8 APN 8333-022-012 (Caswell): Agency Negotiator(s): Superintendent; Assistant Superintendent/Chief Financial Officer - Negotiations
4. Conference with Legal Counsel pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9, subdivision (d)(4) regarding Potential/Pending Litigation:  
1) Case No. BC644620; 2) Case No. 2:15-cv-007895

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS: None**

**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION: 5:43 p.m.**

**1 OPENING BUSINESS**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Information: 1.01 Reconvene to Regular Session: 7:00 p.m.**

**Information: 1.02 Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Miss Hutchinson.

**Information: 1.03 Action Taken in Closed Session**

Mr. Moore said there were two action items to announce. By a vote of 4-0 the Board made a decision to initiate a one day suspension for certificated employee # 17-018-003.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Frank Guzman, Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Roberta Perlman, Andrew Wong

Absent: Jason Rothman

The Board also reached a decision by a vote of 4-0 to initiate a three day suspension for certificated employee # 17-018-002.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Frank Guzman, Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Roberta Perlman, Andrew Wong

Absent: Jason Rothman

**Information: 1.04 Superintendent's Comments - Corrections or Additions to the Agenda**

The following item was pulled from the Agenda:

Agenda Item 9.03, Adoption of Resolution No. 07 (2017-18 Reaffirming Prior Limitations on Student Transfer Under the District of Choice Program, pulled.

**Information: 1.05 Associated Pomona Teachers' Representative Comments:**

APT Vice President Erin Jackson, representative for Dorothy Kim, said her story tonight is about a plant. Ten years ago she taught upper grade elementary and was newly elected to the APT board. She took her position very seriously and one day things got a bit rough with the principal because they did not always see eye-to-eye. After reflecting on what had happened she realized she may have gone overboard by looking too blindly through her union lens. So the next day she brought him a plant and it helped. They still had their differences but they learned to work together and collaborate. Collaboration, transformation and listening have inspired labor and management to do great things over the past several years. We have worked together to write goals that bring school sites closer to shared leadership. We have completely changed the way we negotiation from positional to interest-based. This year they will put into action their professional learning and growth, placing PUSD at the forefront of transforming our profession. Collaboration, transformation and listening are three words that can also be forgotten by both sides. Ms. Jackson said she had a terrible day yesterday but she pushed on. While walking a wonderful new induction teacher to her classroom at the same school she worked at ten years ago, she received a text message from her former principal. There were no words, only a photo of the plant she had given to him ten years ago. She said she doesn't know how he knew that she needed it, but she got it. So collaboration, transformation and listening are three words that persevere.

**Information: 1.06 California School Employees' Association Representative**

**Comments:** Marian Orozco, President, California School Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter 14, said she was going to have one type of a speech but that is not her. She said she came from Pittsburgh several years ago, attended Fremont and Garey, and got a job helping to teach her fellow classmates. She said it was a very

exciting thing for her and she is proud to be a product of PUSD. There are many good things in this district that people just do not understand. Many of you know and have reaped the benefits. One example is childcare. Where do we leave our children when we need to work? We have a children's center, child development. We have some way we can put our children in a place where we know they are safe and receive an education at the same time. The after school TLC program is a positive thing. Try to get that at another district and you will find it is not there. Ms. Orozco said this district and employees here dedicates their livelihood to the community, to the children and to the parents here. We are not 100 percent perfect. She said she is going to ask the board tonight to give guidance. She said she knows negotiations did not go all that well and they hoped to come here with a good thing, but she said she believes it will be positive because she knows how this district operates. She said you hear all the negativity and she does not believe that. She believes we have good leadership. We have people that we have elected and we wanted them because they care about us. We have a good superintendent. She said she is not just saying this but she is talking from her heart. Ms. Orozco said she is 60 years old, with almost 43 years in this district. If you think it is because of the money, guess what. It is because of what is in her heart. She wanted to give back to what so many of her teachers who assisted her to be where she is today. She said she is truly blessed to be here, be able to work here, and be a product of this district. She asked that we look at things. She said she knows cabinet has the right to speak to the board in closed session about what is happening in negotiations. She said we could do the same thing by coming to them and sharing their side of the story but that is not collaboration. That is not unity. You want to really be able to work with everybody and have an understanding. Everybody wants a raise. Everybody wants, wants, wants; but what is the need? She thanked the Board for what they are doing and said she knows under their leadership this will come out positive.

#### **Information: 1.07 Audience Comments**

Vejar Elementary School parent Ms. Martha Ruiz expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to speak to the board about the things going on at Vejar. She expressed her desire to have Mr. Noll returned to teach at Vejar and requested the board to take into consideration her request to return him to Vejar.

Vejar Elementary School parent Mr. Adrian Aguilar said he is here to ask the board a question about the school and the way it is being managed. He requested monthly meetings to be scheduled with teachers, parents and the principal. He expressed his opinion about a number of issues at the school and asked the board to respond to them.

Ms. Lilia Oñate, representing the partnerships of prevention programs in Pomona including Partnership for a Positive Pomona or P<sup>3</sup>, Day One and Prototypes said they want to thank PUSD for the opportunity to work with the students this summer. *Skillz* was a summer learning program for students to receive five units of credit. They graduated 25 students from the program who earned credits they can use for middle and or high school. Students who were from all areas of the city were taught about college readiness, coping skills, their legal rights, healthy relationships, drug and alcohol prevention and other important health related topics. They toured two college campuses and learned what it is like to be a college student. Ms. Oñate thanked Fernando Meza, Paul Knopf, Garey High School staff for use of their facilities and especially the summer principal Dr. Stoops. She said they would love to grow the program and continue next

summer.

Parent Ms. Gabriela Cortez said she is representing Padres de Unidos of Pomona and is new to PUSD this year. She said she moved her children from Claremont to our district this year and thinks PUSD is great. She will continue to work with Padres de Unidos to better the nutrition and the LCAP.

Mr. Jesus Sanchez from Gente Organizada said he wanted to reaffirm a couple of comments, one regarding multiple grade levels being taught in one classroom under one teacher, and the other was to thank those involved in the *Skillz* program. He expressed his opinion about how he feels the district could be doing more to get resources to the children. He gave background information about the LCAP and said they would like to help the district to become a state model for budget transparency and genuine stakeholder engagement.

Harrison Elementary School Teacher Ms. Rosaura Jimenéz-Mireles expressed her opinion and posed questions about warrants and what teachers had been told and when they were paid. She also read a letter she had received from a teacher about her pay and difficulty she had parking at the Education Center due to construction. Ms. Jimenéz-Mireles also expressed her concerns about finding the Board meeting that had been moved to Mendoza Center; the change in name from Hamilton Elementary School to Mendoza and the Education Center being under construction.

## **2 INFORMATION ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS**

### **Information: 2.01 Superintendent Oral Communications on Agenda Items**

Mr. Martinez said two items related to one another are agenda item 7.40, an agreement between Rachel's Challenge and PUSD and agenda item 8.04, a new policy we are recommending as a first read Board Policy 5141.52 about suicide prevention. The policy will align the district with new legislation that requires districts to develop measures and strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. The approval of the Rachel's Challenge agreement will bring assemblies at secondary schools to train 100 students in October. That is the month considered National Bullying Prevention Awareness month. Mr. Martinez said 160,000 students skip school every day for fear of being bullied. Rachel's Challenge is a program to target bullying. It is also one of the strategies of California Learning Communities for School Success program grant. Rachel Joy Scott was the first person killed in the Columbine High School shooting on April 20, 1999. This program is designed to help our students make our schools a place where bullying is replaced by kindness and respect. He said he connected 7.40 with 8.04 because we have heard across America that students in many cases, end their life because they are dealing with bullying or are victims of bullying, so tonight he is recommending to the board to pass item 7.40 and as a first read Board Policy 5141.52.

### **Action: 2.02 Approval of Minutes for the Regular Board Meetings of June 28, 2017 and Special Board Meeting of August 2, 2017**

Motion made by: Frank Guzman

Seconded by: Adrienne Konigar-Macklin

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Frank Guzman, Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Roberta Perlman, Andrew Wong

Absent: Jason Rothman

**Information: 2.03 Staff Reports**

**Attendance Awareness Campaign:** Mr. Meza thanked the board for allowing us to have the resources to have a smooth opening. We are focusing on our enrollment this month to make sure all of our classes are full. Next month is Attendance Awareness month. He said thanks to the Board last year and through the LCAP process they approved the creation of a coordinator for Child Welfare and Attendance (CWA); a position that we have not had in ten years. This position is very important to help facilitate and assist the CWA's to conduct home visits to ensure our students are receiving the necessary services they need to make sure they are in school every day. He asked the Director of Pupil Resources Mr. Cesar Casarrubias and our new Coordinator of CWA Ms. Tatiana Gomez to be here and talk about the September attendance awareness campaign and the efforts we will be doing.

Mr. Casarrubias welcomed everyone to the Mendoza Center and said our office is here and thanked all for coming. Research shows absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half of the students who miss two to four days in September go on to miss nearly one month of school in that same school year. In addition missing 10% of school negatively affects students' academic performance and connectivity to schools that affect the culture and climate of our sites. Chronic absenteeism is a leading indicator that a student will drop out of school. When a student improves their attendance rate they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating. Nationally there is an estimated five million students that are at risk academically each year because they are chronically absent. In PUSD we have approximately 12% of our population that was chronically absent last year, who remain active in our system, with a large percentage in Kindergarten who now will be first graders and eleventh graders who will now be seniors. Chronic absenteeism is one of the indicators in the California School Dashboard. We believe that by working together to improve our chronic absences in our division with collaborative efforts of our CWA's, led by our CWA Coordinator Tatiana Gomez, central attendance, school counselors, school mental health and health services it will help to close the achievement gap. To support this movement schools, families and members of the community can work together to identify and overcome barriers to attendance while building a positive culture of attendance and engaging students to motivate daily attendance. September is Attendance Awareness month and it will be our kick-off messaging the importance of attendance to our families and community. We are preparing for our attendance recovery day on September 8, 2017. Mr. Casarrubias said the goal that day is to have a team comprised of staff, parents and community members to knock on doors, reach out and encourage our students who fell short of accomplishing their goal towards graduation and invite them to back to PUSD in an effort of giving our students a second chance to a strong finish. In addition we have our PTA committee doing what we call "High Five Fridays" in support of our attendance campaign throughout September. We will be giving students high five's for being on time, on target. Mr. Casarrubias thanked Ms. Acevedo and her team who have begun to connect with students identified as homeless who have dropped out of school with the purpose of bringing them back into our system. In collaboration we are aggressively connecting with our local businesses to spread our message and tonight he said we request your support to continue our school year on time, on target.

### **3 CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Information: 3.01 Oral Communications on Consent Calendar Items Only: None**

**Action: (Consent): 3.02 Consent Calendar**

Consent Calendar (Agenda Items 3-8)

Motion made by: Adrienne Konigar-Macklin

Seconded by: Frank Guzman

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Frank Guzman, Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Roberta Perlman, Andrew Wong

Absent: Jason Rothman

### **9 SPECIAL ACTION ITEMS**

**Information: 9.01 Oral Communications on Special Action Items Only: None**

**Action: 9.02 Public Hearing and Adoption of Resolution No. 06 (2017-18) for Approval of Amendment to the Conflict of Interest Code**

Mr. Moore gave a report on this item.

Dr. Perlman announced that this was the time and place for a Public Hearing. Hearing no response from the public, Dr. Perlman declared the hearing closed.

Motion made by: Adrienne Konigar-Macklin

Seconded by: Frank Guzman

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Frank Guzman, Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Roberta Perlman, Andrew Wong

Absent: Jason Rothman

~~**Action: 9.03 Adoption of Resolution No. 07 (2017-2018) Reaffirming Prior Limitations on Student Transfer Under the District of Choice Program, pulled.**~~

**Action: 9.04 Resolution No. 08 (2017-18) – Clear Administrative Services Credential Induction Program**

Mr. Knowles gave a report on this item.

Motion made by: Frank Guzman

Seconded by: Adrienne Konigar-Macklin

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Frank Guzman, Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Roberta Perlman, Andrew Wong

Absent: Jason Rothman

### **10 OPEN ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**Information: 10.01 Audience Comments: None**

**Information: 10.02 Board and Superintendent Oral Communications and Concluding Comments**

Mr. Martinez welcomed everyone back and said he is happy we are back to a new school year. We are looking forward to numbers with regard to enrollment and we are hoping they are better and up from last year. A few months ago parents were asked if they had any questions regarding our LCAP. One question parents asked for is to have

meetings with the superintendent. In the past we have held conversations at school sites and will resume that with evening and morning meetings in each of the clusters. The meetings will be an open agenda for parents and will give them an opportunity to express their concerns; what is working really well for them and their students at their school, and how we may consider improving our systems. He said he plans to meet at least six times during the year with the first meeting in October. Mr. Martinez said he will also include our students, like we have in the past, with the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC), to get information to them in regards to how we are doing as a district; what we can do to improve; and then we will also do a task very specific to the year. The students identify what we can work on together as a team to improve as an organization. These are high school students; normally 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders recommended by principals. The students are required to complete an application and write a paper on why they want to participate and the changes they would like to see in the community. Board members also attend the meetings and are very engaged and involved in listening to our students. We use the students to get input with regards to LCAP as we look at how to improve the following year, and what we are doing well or not in the system this year. They provide us information and also seek information from their peers to share. Mr. Martinez said he is looking forward to the great new school year on our campuses. Together with the Board of Education, in the last five days, they have been to 25 sites since the first day of school. He thanked the board for supporting our kids and parents.

Mrs. Konigar-Macklin thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She said it is exciting to start a new school year and to see everyone eagerly anticipating all the children and ready to engage so that our children continue to shine. She welcomed back all of our children who were all smiles. Mrs. Konigar-Macklin said she had the pleasure to visit schools with Mr. Wong, and with him it is a marathon. They went to 12 schools in about 4 hours. She said it was also very important to see the different programs around the district and just how diverse the learning environments are. Teachers were already engaged in instruction by 8:35 a.m. She said she had the opportunity to speak to a number of parents about their experiences with Pomona and the fact that some of them have transitioned from other school districts back to us. It was very exciting to hear from the parent who spoke about bringing her children here and the wonderful education they are receiving. She said she looks forward to another good year.

Mr. Guzman said it has been a great opening. It was awesome to visit and see the different things going on at the schools. He thanked the representatives from Positive Pomona for coming today and sharing information about the programs that they do. He also added special thanks to Prototypes and Day One for their commitment to Pomona Unified and to the staff they mentioned who helped to ensure this program was successful. Mr. Guzman thanked Padres de Unidos for coming to the meeting, and said we look forward to working with you on the issues that you brought forth.

Mr. Wong thanked everyone who came to the meeting this evening and thanked the speakers. He welcomed everyone back and said he hoped they had a great summer. Mr. Wong said it was great to see the teachers, staff and parents, the community and students at all of our various school sites on the first day of school. He visited a number of schools with Board Member Konigar-Macklin and the superintendent. He said the

students were very excited and everyone looked ready for a new school year. Mr. Wong said he also enjoyed speaking with the new teachers at the new teacher orientation. He wished everyone the best for a great new school year.

Dr. Perlman welcomed everyone back to another school year. She thanked Mariana and Erin for their kind words that brought a tear to her eye. She thanked the Vejar families for coming out and said she already met with them, and there will be further meetings. Dr. Perlman said Mr. Guzman, Mrs. Fuentes and she visited a number of schools over the last few days and so far everything looks like it is going smoothly. She reported that over the summer, PUSD, the Pomona Public Library Foundation and the City of Pomona collaborated to run some field trips and cultural excursions for our families. She said they took eight trips and went to the Hollywood Bowl, Grand Park, the Walt Disney Concert Hall, Cal Poly, the Fairplex and some historical sites as well. Dr. Perlman said our families and children are polite and engaged and she could not be prouder of them. She said she hopes to expand the program next year. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of September PUSD, the Pomona Public Library Foundation and the dA Gallery will be having a librarian recognition reception beginning at 5:00 p.m. to support our school librarians and the Pomona Public Library librarians. There is an exhibition of children's illustrators at the dA Gallery. She encouraged everyone to attend and honor our wonderful librarians. Dr. Perlman asked everyone to be careful when viewing the solar eclipse. It is amazing how short a time it takes to cause damage to the retina. She said she has seen many solar burns in patients and the effect on vision can last a lifetime. Although we certainly should use the eclipse as the basis for science education and exploration, she wants our families and children to use appropriate safety measures when viewing this phenomenon.

Dr. Perlman said all of us in the Pomona Unified School District were deeply saddened by the death of former Diamond Bar City Councilmember Jack Tanaka who passed away on August 3, 2017. He was wonderful support to our school district and children and those of you who knew him, a very wonderful man. It is with a very heavy heart that we adjourn the meeting in memory of Jack Tanaka and we send our condolences to Wanda his wonderful wife, and his extended family.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING: Regular Board Meeting September 13, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.**

## **12 ADJOURNMENT**

**12.01 Adjournment: 8:00 p.m.**

  
Secretary, Board of Education

Attested and Approved:

  
Vice President, Board of Education