

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item 9.1h

Meeting Date: February 4, 2016

Subject : Approve

Sacramento City Unified School District BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AND WORKSHOP

Board of Education Members

Christina Pritchett, (Trustee Area 5)

1.0 OPEN SESSION / CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 4:34p.m. by President Pritchett, and roll was taken.

Members Present:

President Christina Pritchett

Vice President Jay Hansen

Second Vice President Jessie Ryan

Ellen Cochrane

Members Absent:

Gustavo Arroyo

Diana Rodriguez (arrived at 5:18 p.m.)

Darrel Woo (arrived at 4:35 p.m.)

A quorum was reached.

2.0 ANNOUNCEMENT AND PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

No Public Comment was requested on Closed Session items, and the Board retired to Closed Session.

3.0 CLOSED SESSION

- 3.1 *Government Code 54956.9 - Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation:*
- a) *Existing litigation pursuant to subdivision (a) of Government Code section 54956.9 (Workers’ Compensation Settlement Authority Case No. ADJ3443631 and OAH Case No. 2015030166)*
 - b) *Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (d)(2) of Government Code section 54956.9*
 - c) *Initiation of litigation pursuant to subdivision (d)(4) of Government Code section 54956.9*
- 3.2 *Government Code 54957.6 (a) and (b) Negotiations/Collective Bargaining CSA, SCTA, SEIU, Teamsters, UPE, Unrepresented Management*
- 3.3 *Government Code 54957 – Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Reassignment*

4.0 CALL BACK TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called back to order at 6:41 p.m. by President Pritchett.

Members Present:

*President Christina Pritchett
Vice President Jay Hansen
Second Vice President Jessie Ryan
Ellen Cochran
Diana Rodriguez
Darrel Woo
Student Member Elizabeth Barry*

Members Absent: Gustavo Arroyo

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by ShelbyAnn Reed, an Eighth Grade student from Albert Einstein Middle School. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented by Board President Christina Pritchett.

Public Comment:

Andrew Maalout said that he is part of the Rosemont Community Association. Another community member named Anthony was with him, and he said that they organized the toy drive. They learned that Ms. Reed was also organizing a toy drive and that she needed a way to deliver the toys. They picked up the toys from the school to make the deliveries. He thanked Ms. Reed on behalf of the Rosemont Community Association.

5.0 ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Counsel Tom Gauthier announced one item regarding 3.1 on the agenda. The Board resolved Office of Administrative hearings case No. 2015030166. This is a case with a minor student regarding Special Education services. By a unanimous vote of 5-0 with Members Arroyo and Rodriguez absent, the matter was concluded in return for educational expenses and a settlement of all claims.

6.0 AGENDA ADOPTION

President Pritchett asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. A motion was made to approve by Member Woo and seconded by Vice President Hansen. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the agenda.

7.0 SPECIAL PRESENTATION

7.1 Recognition of John Still K-8 School Meadowview Collaborative

to participate. Mr. Suen said that he spoke to Communications Manager Janet Weeks who will send information to the principals. Submissions to the contest should be sent to the e-mail address on the form, admin@floodplainmanagement.org.

Lindsay Filby, Rod Kunisaki, and Dennis Ishisaka, members of Restore the Roar athletic booster club for C. K. McClatchy High School, spoke on continuing concerns they have with the poor state of the athletic fields.

Christy Correa, also with Restore the Roar, brought photos of the athletic fields which she showed via the overhead projector.

f SEIU – No report given.

f Teamsters – No report given.

f UPE – No report given.

10.2 District Parent Advisory Committees:

f Community Advisory Committee – No report given.

f District Advisory Council – No report given.

f District English Learner Advisory Committee – No report given.

f Gifted and Talented Education Advisory Committee – No report

for Vida en el Valle newspaper. There were several Latino officials and leaders that were noted for their work in our area, and Member Rodriguez was one of those recognized for her work. There is a long article about all of the remarkable accomplishments that she has made during her time on our Board. President Pritchett feels that talking about each of Board members' work is something that should be done and that the Board should strive for greatness.

10.5 Student Member Report (Elizabeth Barry)

Information

Student Member Barry wished all a Happy New Year.

10.6 Information Sharing By Board Members

Information

Second Vice President Ryan concurs with President Pritchett's comments and noted that her father-in-law, John Mataka, was also part of the Vida en el Valle newspaper article as a top Latino for leading environmental justice work in the Central Valley. She went on to report that there was good work being done around our partnership with the Studios project at Fremont Adult School leading into the holidays. Part of our providing that space to the art groups is that they will in turn give education benefits to Sacramento City Unified School District low-income students. She is happy to say that they donated 160 tickets to the Nutcracker Ballet as part of those educational benefits. Over the break she was able to work with a non-profit that does urban arts education programs to develop a plan for what the mentorship and teaching component of those educational benefits could look like moving forward. She also shared that the Black Parallel School Board had open house at their new space at Fruitridge Collaboration. We were able to utilize that space with the help of the District providing more than 200 chairs for the Oak Park version of the Nutcracker, which was sold out for every performance. Second Vice President Ryan was happy to donate 50 seats for students in Area 7 schools to attend. Finally she shared how last year she brought before the Board an effort called No One Eats Alone as part of a state and national initiative to end bullying and social isolation. This is a prevalent problem in the middle schools which has unfortunately plagued many of our children. We will be doing No One Eats Alone again, not just in Area 7 schools, but hope to expand to other middle schools for

have input. Now they have clearly voiced that they do not want the change. They were shocked that there was not a sunshine on this process and that they were left out. It is a boundary that has been in place for 25 years, and bussing over railroad tracks is not an issue. For all these reasons, Member Cochrane asked the Board to reconsider the vote in consideration of the amendment as was put forth by Second Vice President Ryan, and listen to the will of the parents and community to keep the boundary intact for Theodore Judah Elementary School. She feels this needs to be done to really serve the people of this community. If we do not communicate when we have or need community meetings, where parents have a can have a chance to have their voices heard, then we are not doing our job.

Vice President Hansen thanked the presenters for the brief presentation and said that he hoped there would be some additional information that he had requested. He does not think the Board has enough information to make any changes at this time. He went over some facts that he wanted to make clear as follows: the number of families affected by the boundary change is a small number of 13 (which represent 20 students total) that are currently at Theodore Judah Elementary School. These twenty students are part of several hundred apartments and homes, and 35 percent of those families are choosing to send their students to schools other than Theodore Judah Elementary School. He also clarified that we are looking to balance the attendance areas; this is something that traditionally happens, and it is a small area bounded by railroad tracks. When he originally spoke to Member Cochrane, during a one hour meeting with staff, the railroad tracks was a key safety factor. Additionally, he was surprised to find that we are bussing students from the area in question over two miles to Theodore Judah Elementary School. He asked staff for a cost estimate of that. Mr. Dobson replied that the finance department did look at the total annual miles driven by the fleet of regular education busses. They found the cost attached to that is \$2.95 per mile per year. Ron Hill of Transportation Services said that when including other side costs to operate a bus the total expense is, on average, close to \$50,000 per year per bus. Vice President Hansen said that he thought the cost would be fairly significant, and he had asked staff why the original boundaries were drawn like this, but at this future time no one knows. Clearly there are three schools, Washington, William Land, and David Lubin Elementary Schools that are closer than Theodore Judah Elementary School. He said he is very respectful of tradition; our District is 160 years old, and tradition is important. However, it is also important for us to look at leveling out the attendance areas. The Board rightfully and respectfully decided that all students there, and their siblings, would be grandfathered in. This includes bus transportation. He feels that a fuller review was not necessitated due to the small size of the change. He noted the cost of bus transportation incurred when transporting students to a school that is farther away from an alternative one. He felt the Board was very thoughtful in its original decision. He is not asking to disrupt Theodore Judah Elementary School; they have a fantastic program, and the District is investing several million dollars in a stick-build, stand-alone facility that no other school is getting. Ground is being broken on the McKinley Village project, and he expects that there will be additional students attending Theodore Judah Elementary School from this project in the 2017-18 school year. The current attendance is 596, which is a very healthy attendance. He feels that there is some fear that if any small group of students is lost, the school will somehow be opened up to being closed sometime in the future. He feels the Board was thoughtful in its original decision, that it was the appropriate decision, and he asked the Board to respect the original decision. He noted that he wanted to attend the community meeting, but could not due to a prior commitment.

Student Member Barry asked why we are not having the same discussion about the change to the William Land Elementary School boundary. She also said that she thinks the parents and all stakeholders should have been engaged originally. She feels everything the Board makes a decision about should engage the parents and stakeholders because that is who the Board is supposed to represent. Every decision the Board makes affects them in some way, even if it is just 13 families. However, it is a small piece of land, and since we do have Open Enrollment, it is not that big of a decision. To answer Student Member Barry's question, Ms. Moua said that the approved attendance area encompasses both areas; therefore both areas are part of the discussion and presentation.

Vice President Hansen said that, for reference, there are two students affected by the change living in the William Land Elementary School area.

Member Cochrane said she appreciates Student Member Barry's comments. She agrees that if we are to have a fair and thoughtful process it has to include input from the parents. She also again made clear that she did not immediately realize that parents and the community were not fully engaged. She asked staff if they remember, during the meeting with herself, staff, and Vice President Hansen, who put the change forward. Vice President Hansen responded that he did. Member Cochrane asked if Member Hansen discussed engaging the community.

Superintendent Banda said that he thinks this was put forward by Vice President Hansen, but his recollection is that Vice President Hansen also had held some community meetings prior. He does not know that he specifically engaged the Theodore Judah Elementary School community, but there were other community meetings held prior to making this recommendation and prior to having staff take a look at this as a possible change in boundaries. This is because we were looking at opening the boundaries for Washington Elementary School once again. It came along with reconsidering Washington Elementary School and its opening in the Fall of 2016.

Member Cochrane said she appreciates the input, but is asking a very specific question about the meeting held on the boundaries. Addressing the community meetings held, Member Cochrane stated that the Theodore Judah Elementary School community was never contacted about the change. She did the outreach after realizing that in a fully engaged process every citizen and member of the District has a right to look at big changes such as this. She stated this needs to be done if we want to have a fair, open, and thoughtful process. It is her recollection that the boundary change was quickly put forward during the meeting and in retrospect feels that the change was decided on with too much ease and much too quickly. She noted that she was never approached or spoken to about this change prior to the meeting. The matter concerns her greatly, and she urged the Board to consider that each member has areas and boundaries. If a change is arbitrarily pushed through by the will of one Board member, the same can happen again to any Board member.

Second Vice President Ryan said that the process of approving attendance areas, understanding the role of the Board and the role of the community to provide input is new to her. She asked staff if the \$50,000 cost of a bus per year is not just for the bus that would bus the 13 families. Mr. Hill said that we use a two tier system, so if the bus is only servicing one school, the cost is approximately \$25,000. If the bus is servicing two schools, which the Theodore Judah Elementary buses do, then the cost is about \$50,000. Second Vice President Ryan said there were very good notes provided from the community meeting which articulated the concerns expressed by various persons in attendance. However, the listing of statements did not identify if the person giving the statement was a parent affected. She asked Ms. Hardin Young if she was able to gather further information that provides clarity to this. Ms. Hardin Young said that, in reviewing the sign-in sheet, not everyone signed in. But when she looked at the listing of the parents from the impacted area and checked it against the list, we had three parents with a total of five students represented. There was also one parent with an upcoming Kindergartener. Second Vice President Ryan said another concern regards identifying service areas of those that sent e-mails. She asked if there were any voices in support of the change. Ms. Hardin Young said that she does not recall any. Second Vice President Ryan said that she appreciates Vice President Hansen's laser focus on fiduciary responsibility for the District and recognizes that there are a myriad of factors and apparently a small number of families affected. In holding herself accountable to the words she delivered at the Board meeting of November 19th in putting forth the motion, however, she finds the process was not what she hoped it would be. The motion stated that if we were to recognize that the process had not been followed in a way the Board felt was community driven, and found that there was a groundswell of support in the other direction, then the matter would merit conversation or reconsideration. Absent

information around who the families were and their attendance areas, it is very difficult for her to sit comfortably with moving forward with the boundaries as they have been redrawn.

Student Member Barry brought up how the notes from the community meeting do not show that the people are showing support and said that they also show, in her opinion, that the concern most people had with the change was that they were not notified ahead of time and that they were not taken into consideration. Much of the notes contain questions about where this came from, data questions, etc. There were not many people that had a problem with the actual redrawing of the boundaries; they just had a problem with the fact that they were not included in the decision earlier.

Vice President Hansen said that a community meeting that is sponsored by folks who are in opposition is not a fair reflection of what the community's position might be. For this reason he was hoping he could be there, and he could have asked people to attend that he thinks would be supportive of something like this. Therefore, he does not think we have enough information to make a change. He is certainly open to doing a more full examination of the boundaries surrounding Washington Elementary School; he thinks people would have a lot of questions about why we are spending tens of thousands of dollars to bus students to a school that is some distance away.

Student Member Barry asked, since there are so few families that are actually in these areas, could we contact those families directly to ask them their opinions on the matter? Ms. Hardin Young said that would be a possibility. They were all contacted by phone and invited to the meeting, so they could be contacted again.

Member Woo asked if the students who are living in the disputed area and attending Theodore Judah Elementary School, and their siblings who have yet to start, will be allowed to continue to attend the school. Ms. Hardin Young answered yes; it had been decided that any students who are currently attending Theodore Judah or William Land Elementary Schools from the impacted areas would be able to continue along with their siblings. Member Woo noted that the affected families really are those who are yet to have children in any of the schools. Ms. Hardin Young said that is true.

Member Cochrane said there was a young woman at the meeting that had her very young child with her who had not yet enrolled in school. She was very upset that she would not be able to enroll her child at Theodore Judah Elementary School. She also noted that there were members in the audience, including the PTA president and some others, that can give specific information about who was at the meeting. She cannot wait to hear from them, and she again urged all fellow Board members to consider boundaries, their areas, and arbitrary changes. She thanked Student Member Barry for her input and thoughts. She feels that if the families were contacted each one of them would say that they would like to keep the boundary the same.

President Pritchett thanked all for their comments. She said she made a request prior to the Board meeting that the 13 families be called individually and asked where they stood on the issue of the boundaries. She asked Superintendent Banda if that happened. Superintendent Banda replied that he asked if we had contacted the families, and the response was that yes, we had. He does not know if we actually asked them if they were okay with making the change; they were contacted and invited to come to the meeting. He asked Ms. Hardin Young if there was any conversation with them prior to this. Ms. Hardin Young answered that she knows Principal Buckmaster Celeste individually called the 13 families so that she would be answer questions and be as factual as possible. Some parents with young children were not able to attend because it was a December evening that required travel. Many asked specifically what it was about, and she gave them factual information. She does not, however, know their response and if they voiced dismay, surprise, agreement, or disagreement; we could find that out. President Pritchett said that she thinks that information is very important to know moving forward in making a decision. She asked if the affected families would not

be bussed anymore if they decided to stay at Theodore Judah Elementary School. Ms. Hardin Young answered no, we have agreed that we would continue to provide bussing for the length of the time the family has students in school currently. President Pritchett said she feels a more comprehensive review needs to be

Second Vice President Ryan asked how this addresses the question of Open Enrollment now. She thinks what we need to do at this point is go back to the attendance area that we previously had for that grouping of families going to Theodore Judah Elementary School, and recognizing that in the longer term we will re-evaluate the attendance boundary. Ms. Hardin Young said she was unclear if that was part of the motion. President Pritchett said yes, that was her intention. Ms. Hardin Young clarified that it is back to the original boundary for Washington Elementary School for Kindergarten registration and Open Enrollment for this year; there is a longer view of more engagement next year for Open Enrollment. President Pritchett verified that yes, that was her intention.

11.2 Independent Audit Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015, Submitted by Crowe Horwath LLP (Gerardo Castillo, CPA)

Chief Business Officer Gerardo Castillo began the presentation by introducing the Crowe Horwath representative who presented the audit report. He had discussed the audit report with the Board Budget Committee several weeks ago. They discussed the audit as well as the processes and procedures gone through to be able to issue their audit opinion in great detail at that time. The District has received an unmodified opinion on the financial

