



Meeting Minutes

Regular Board Meeting Agenda
10/26/2021 06:00 PM
Newhall School District
25375 Orchard Village Rd
Valencia, CA 91355

A. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Walters called the Regular meeting of the Governing Board to order at 6:03 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

1. **Donna Rose, Ernesto Smith, Suzan Solomon, Isaiah Talley, Brian Walters**

All Board Members were present.

All Cabinet Members were present.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

There were no public comments.

D. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Adjourned to Closed Session at 6:04 PM.

1. **Conference with legal counsel: Anticipated litigation : Government Code sections 54954.5 (c) & 54956.9 (d)(2) & (e)(1): one possible case #19/20-02**

2. **Conference with legal counsel: existing litigation Government Code sections 54954.5 (c) and 54956.9 (d)(1): Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 21CHCV00803.**

3. **Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: Public Employee- Possible Employment/Discipline/Dismissal/Release of an Employee**

E. RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

Board members returned to Public Session at 7:17 PM.

F. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

President Walters reported that in closed session, on motion of Board Member Talley, second by Board Member Solomon, the Board voted unanimously to deny the application to file a late government claim by Patrick Joseph Neville.

G. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Old Orchard Elementary student Brant Pecel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

H. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Item N.3.iii was removed from the agenda and item N.3.i was moved up on the agenda to the first item on Staff Reports.

Agenda approved as amended.

M/S/C – (Rose/Solomon)

Vote: 5-0

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Consideration of Approving the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 12, 2021**

Minutes approved.

M/S/C – (Solomon/Rose)

Vote: 5-0

J. GOVERNING BOARD AND EXECUTIVE CABINET ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Board members Rose and Solomon visited Wiley Canyon and Valencia Valley Elementary schools, and enjoyed seeing students and staff engaged on campuses;
- The next SCV Trustees Association meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2021 via Zoom teleconference.

K. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Old Orchard students and parents Berlynn Boyd, Bryce Pecel, Brant Pecel, Breanne Demack and Ivan Pecel addressed the Governing Board on concerns related to wearing masks in schools and the possible mandate of a COVID-19 vaccine for children.

District staff members Melanie Musella, Hillary Hall, Katie Harman, Karen Finley, Cynthia Monjoy and Beth Judge addressed the board on concerns with staff morale and equitable compensation.

L. CORRESPONDENCE

1. **Letter from LACOE Regarding the District's 2020-2021 Unaudited Actuals**
Letter from LACOE confirming completion of the District's Unaudited Actuals for fiscal year 2020-21. The financial information has been forwarded to the California Department of Education.

M. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **Removal of Items From the Consent Calendar**
No items removed.
2. **Consideration of Approving Items on the Consent Calendar**
Consent Calendar approved.
M/S/C- (Solomon/Talley)
Vote: 5 - 0
Roll call vote:
Rose – Aye
Smith – Aye
Solomon- Aye
Talley – Aye
Walters – Aye
3. **Consent Calendar - Business Services**
 - i. **Consideration of Approving Purchase Orders, B Warrants and Payroll Warrants**
 - ii. **Consideration of Approving Gift Report #21/22-6**
 - iii. **Consideration of Approving Notice of Completion NSD 2021-5 for IVS Computer Technology**
4. **Consent Calendar - Human Resources**
 - i. **Consideration of Approving Personnel Report #21/22-07**

N. STAFF REPORTS

- i. **Consideration of Accepting Newhall Teachers' Association (NTA) Proposal for 2021/2022 Negotiations**
Item approved.
M/S/C – (Solomon/Talley)
Vote: 5-0

1. Staff Reports - Administrative Services

i. Consideration of Approving Contract with School Innovations and Achievement for A2A Services

Erik Elorriaga of A2A presented the services School Innovations and Achievements provides schools and how they support reducing the number of absences for students by offering incentives to attend school. Many of the built-in features of A2A will reduce the workload on office staff in terms of producing and mailing attendance letters to staff and help with scheduling attendance meetings at the site level.

Wiley Canyon Principal Dr. Stacy Williamson shared her positive experience with use of the software at her previous school district and shared A2A's services helped increase school attendance numbers by 3% in just six months.

Board members shared concerns with services not rendered in previous contract. Discussions were also held regarding terms of the proposed contract and requested amendments to the termination clause.

Item approved with amendments to the termination clause of the contract to reflect a revised term of 1 year initially, terminable within 60 days of the end of the first year.

M/S/C – (Smith/Solomon)

Vote: 5-0

ii. Consideration of Approving Board Policy 2121: Superintendent's Contract - First Reading

Policy approved and waived additional readings.

M/S/C – (Smith/Rose)

Vote: 5-0

2. Staff Reports - Business Services

i. Santa Clarita Valley Schools Food Services Agency Presentation

Dr. Robert Lewis, Director of the SCV School Food Services Agency ("Agency") shared the District's annual report and updates over the past 19 months:

- Utilizing a number of USDA waivers, the Agency is able to feed all students at no cost through the end of this school year and into the summer break;
- Waivers have already been submitted to continue free services for the following school year;
- The Agency is making an effort into providing different foods, including vegan options and is attempting to cook more meals in site kitchens rather than provide pre-cooked options;
- Thanks to reimbursement of meals served at the local level, claimed on a monthly basis, and reimbursed on a per meal basis from federal and state funds, the Agency:
 - Replaced school kitchen equipment
 - Purchased 2 new delivery trucks
 - Provided raises to all employees
- The Agency has expanded its marketing program
- The Agency was the recipient of the "No Kid Hungry" state award.

Board members commended Dr. Lewis and his team for going above and beyond to provide meals to all students throughout the pandemic.

In response to Board member questions, Dr. Lewis shared that the Agency

is seeing an increase in meal participation throughout the 10 schools in the District. While the supply chain has been affected, the Agency is working with several vendors to ensure it keeps up with its supply needs. Weekend meals are not available this year due to a different program this year.

ii. Review of Redistricting Assessment Results

Justin Rich, Executive Director of Cooperative Strategies reviewed the results of Phase 1 of the population assessments after 2020 census. Balanced representation requires that trustee areas be roughly equal in terms of total population (the difference between the smallest and largest areas must be less than 10%). Results show that NSD's population variance is currently at 9.2%.

Board members unanimously agreed they are comfortable with not moving forward with Phase 2 or making changes at this time.

iii. HVAC Upgrade Presentation and Discussion

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Sheri Staszewski and Director of Facilities Fred Palmer provided an update the current HVAC replacement project, including estimated budgets. After sharing pros and cons on uniform equipment and EMS districtwide, staff requested feedback on whether to go with a formal bid option or piggyback-able option as a next step.

After much discussion, Board members directed staff to investigate other manufacturers with piggyback options and bring back the information to review for input at a future meeting. Secondly, staff asked to investigate which of the 109 newer units could be upgraded and come back with feedback to help identify the pros and cons. Finally, staff asked to look into the option of reselling the 109 units that are in good, working condition.

iv. Consideration of Approving the GASB 75 Actuarial Valuation Report as of June 30, 2021

Item approved.
M/S/C – (Rose/Talley)
Vote: 5-0

v. Consideration of Approving a Request for Allowance of Attendance Due to Emergency Conditions, Form J-13A for McGrath Elementary Due to Fire Closure

Item approved.
M/S/C – (Solomon/Talley)
Vote: 5-0

3. Staff Reports - Human Resources

i. Consideration of Accepting Newhall Teachers' Association (NTA) Proposal for 2021/2022 Negotiations

Item moved to top of Staff Reports.

ii. Consideration of Approving California State University Northridge Clinical Practicum Agreement with the Newhall School District

Item approved.
M/S/C – (Talley/Smith)
Vote: 5-0

iii. Consideration of Approving AALRR Coaching Contract for Gina Ramalo, Executive Director of Student Support Services

Item pulled from the agenda.

iv. Consideration of Approving Amendment for Employment Agreement of Superintendent

Board President Walters acknowledged staff concerns over the salary increase included in the Superintendent's employment agreement and shared the Governing Board agreed the timing to grant the increase was right given Mr. Pelzel's exceptional rating during unprecedented times.

Item approved.
M/S/C – (Solomon/Smith)
Vote: 5-0

v. Consideration of Declaring Regulation 4117.6: Decision Not to Rehire Obsolete

Item approved.
M/S/C – (rose/Solomon)
Vote: 5-0

4. Staff Reports - Curriculum/Instructional Services

i. Consideration of Approving Professional Development Webinar Services Agreement with Dreambox Learning

Through feedback and suggestions, parents have indicated that they would like to know more about math and how they might help their children at home. The program has family resources, which allow parents or guardians to monitor and support student learning in the program.

Item approved.
M/S/C – (Solomon/Smith)
Vote: 5-0

O. AGENDA ITEMS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

- Discussion on public comments at future Board meetings

Board President Walters thanked I.T. Manager Ken McGaffee and Executive Assistant Rosana Valadez for facilitating the Governing Board's first Zoom webinar during a live Board meeting.

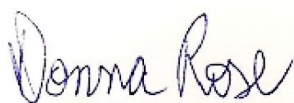
P. ADJOURN TO CONTINUATION OF CLOSED SESSION

There was no continuation of Closes Session.

Q. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Walters adjourned the meeting at 9:32 PM.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2021. Closed Session begins at 6:00 PM. Open Session begins at 7:00 PM.



Board Clerk



Secretary