

ADOPTED MINUTES
El Dorado Union High School District
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Board Meeting
FEBRUARY 8, 2011

A. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Call to Order

This meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Board President Tim Cary in the El Dorado Union High School District Boardroom.

After letting those in attendance know the specific items to be discussed during Closed Session and asking if anyone in attendance had any comments or questions regarding the Closed Session agenda, the Board entered Closed Session for discussion of the following items:

- a. Consider approval of one stipulation and order in the manner of expulsion.
- b. Consider one student petition for readmission into El Dorado Union High School District.

The remaining closed session items were not discussed due to lack of time:

- c. Discuss and take action about certificated and classified personnel listed in the consent agenda related to personnel action. (*GC 54954.5, 54957*)
- d. Conference with labor negotiators (agency negotiators for the Board are Asst. Superintendent Stevie Clark and Assoc. Superintendent Steve Luhrs) to discuss with the Board represented employees: Proposals from the **Faculty Association** regarding compensation package and other contract issues. (*GC 54957.6*)
- e. Conference with labor negotiators (agency negotiators for the Board are Asst. Superintendent Stevie Clark and Assoc. Superintendent Steve Luhrs) to discuss with the Board represented employees: Proposals from the **CSEA** regarding compensation package and other contract issues. (*GC 54957.6*)
- f. Conference with labor negotiators (agency negotiators for the Board are Asst. Superintendent Stevie Clark and Assoc. Superintendent Steve Luhrs) to discuss proposals from the El Dorado Managers Association (**EDMA**) regarding compensation package and working conditions.
- g. Discuss Superintendent's evaluation, goals, and objectives.

The Board reconvened Open Session at 6:07 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Tony DeVille.

3. Attendance

Board Members Present

Timothy M. Cary
Lori M. Veerkamp
Kevin W. Brown

D.O. Staff Present

Chris Hoffman, Executive Secretary
Steve Luhrs, Associate Superintendent
Stevie Clark, Assistant Superintendent

Mary T. Muse*
Todd R. White

Steve Volmer, Assistant Superintendent
Patty McClellan, Director
Lisa Garrett, Director
Sylvia Torres, Asst. to Superintendent

*Absent

Student Board Member
Allison Wallace

Association Representatives
Jason King, Classified Association President
Marc Moehlman, Faculty Association President

Others
Staff: 10
Community Members: 4

4. Requests to change the agenda and approval of agenda.
Mrs. Veerkamp moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. White seconded. (Allison Wallace, aye.) Motion unanimously carried (4-0).
5. Consent Agenda
Mrs. Veerkamp moved to table item *a. Approval of Minutes of January 25, 2011, Board Meeting* to the next meeting and approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. White seconded. (Allison Wallace, aye.) Motion unanimously carried (4-0).

Mr. Cary called for a revote on the Consent Agenda to allow Mrs. Veerkamp to abstain from item *n. Approval of Resolution 2010/11-20 to Provide Remuneration for Nonattendance of Board Member at Board Meeting.* Mr. Brown moved to approve the Consent Agenda with item *a.* tabled and item *n.* pulled for separate action. Mr. White seconded. (Allison Wallace, aye.) The motion carried (4-0). Mrs. Veerkamp abstained.

Mr. Brown moved to approve item *n. Approval of Resolution 2010/11-20 to Provide Remuneration for Nonattendance of Board Member at Board Meeting.* Mr. White seconded. (Allison Wallace, aye.) The motion carried (3-0-1). Mrs. Veerkamp abstained.

- b. Approval of Commercial Warrants Report (copy available at District Office).
- c. Approval of Routine Certificated Personnel Action.
- d. Approval of Routine Classified Personnel Action.
- e. Approval/Acceptance of Updated Board Policies and Administrative Regulations:
AR 1312.4, BP 6011, BP & AR 6161.1.
- f. Approval of El Dorado, Oak Ridge, Ponderosa, and Union Mine High Schools Spring Sports 2010–11 (Baseball, Boys' Golf, Girls' Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Boys' Tennis, Co-Ed Tennis, Track & Field, and Boys' Volleyball, Men's Lacrosse, and Women's Lacrosse) Sports Trips Which are Overnight, Out-of-State, and/or Over 300 Miles.
- g. Approval for Oak Ridge High School Dance Team to Participate in an Instructional Trip: JAMZ School Dance National Championship, Orleans Hotel Convention Center, Las Vegas, February 17–19, 2011.
- h. Approval for Oak Ridge High School Cheer Team to Participate in an Instructional Trip: USA Spirit Nationals, Anaheim, March 25–27, 2011.

- i. Approval for Union Mine High School Drama Students to Participate in an Instructional Trip: Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, March 26–28, 2011.
- j. Permission to Dispose of Obsolete/Unusable Furniture, Equipment, and Textbooks.
- k. Approval of Ponderosa High School Pool Modernization Phase II, Pool Deck Replacement.
- l. Authorize the Purchase of Two Portables for the Oak Ridge High School 2012 Portable Modernization.
- m. Approval to Change Dates for May and June, 2011, Board Meetings.
- o. Approval for CSROP Staff and Students to Attend the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) State Leadership Conference, April 7–11, 2011.
- p. Request to Approve the Continuation of Services by Patricia McClellan.

B. RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Reports from Student Representatives:
 - a. Scooter Muse-Fisher reported on student activities at Oak Ridge High School.
 - b. Aubree Thayer reported on student activities at Ponderosa High School.
 - c. Chamara Bass reported on student activities at El Dorado High School.
 - d. Allison Wallace reported on student activities at Union Mine High School.

C. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to be acknowledged.

D. INVITATION TO BARGAINING UNIT PRESIDENTS/DESIGNEES AND/OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

1. Marc Moehlman, Faculty Association President, reported on his attendance at the State Council for CTA. He commented that teachers are in for the fight of their lives and encouraged support for Governor Brown's budget if it gets on the ballot.
2. Jason King, Classified Association President, had nothing to report.
3. Nancy Stone and Kitty Murray addressed the Board about their concerns with Shenandoah High School and the upcoming Charter renewal.

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

With the tragedy at Schnell School heavy on our minds, EDUHSD has put forth great efforts in support of the Placerville Union School District (PUSD) and, specifically, Schnell School. Dan Augino, Director of Maintenance and Operations, and Dave Pacheco, HVAC technician, spent Thursday and Friday at Schnell School redoing Mr. LaCara's office and readying it for the first day back to school. Mr. Moore, Ponderosa High School Principal, has allowed one of his Lead Custodians, Sue Kimmel, to serve at Schnell for the immediate future. Sue is reportedly doing a great job, even creating a manual that will provide a new person coming into the position clear ideas on what needs to be done. Our psychologists worked with PUSD staff on Thursday, then paired with teachers on Friday to provide support for the students' first day back in the classrooms. Superintendent Hoffman shared that he has been in contact with PUSD Superintendent Nancy Lynch who expressed her gratitude for the services EDUHSD has been able to provide. Karen Parker, Board President of Placerville Union School District, is also a counselor at Ponderosa High School, and served dual roles during this tragedy. Principal

Moore has allowed Ms. Parker to spend the necessary time at PUSD. Through all of this tragedy, our district staff continued to meet the needs of our own students.

Superintendent Hoffman spent an entire day at Oak Ridge High School conducting staff interviews. He had great conversations with staff that were very complimentary about the direction of the Board and services provided by the District Office. A final report will be prepared for the Board upon completion of all site interviews.

Superintendent Hoffman acknowledged the upcoming retirement of Patty McClellan, Director of Facilities, which the Board approved earlier this evening, as well as her continuation of services. This change is good for all—Patty will have the desired time with her family, and the District will retain her expertise over the next several years. Mr. Hoffman commended and thanked Patty for the great job she has done thus far and which is yet to come.

F. FACILITIES SERVICES – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no action/discussion items under this section.

G. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discussion on Algebra Grading Policy.

El Dorado Union High School District continues to develop programs and practices to support student success in meeting the 30-credit graduation requirement for mathematics, including Algebra I, in preparation for postsecondary options and career opportunities. Over the past several years, many steps have been taken to support this effort, including development of common courses of study and assessments, adoption of standards-based textbooks, professional development through implementation of a teacher/coach for mathematics, and open lines of communication between district office and sites through department chairs and site principals.

In addition to the work done in clarifying expectations in mathematics, EDUHSD implemented Academic Recovery and Credit Recovery models designed to support student success both while students are actually enrolled in the course (Academic Recovery) as well as immediately following the grading period (Intersession). These efforts have resulted in significant numbers of students demonstrating the learning necessary to pass courses rather than being required to retake entire courses, either by enrolling in the course the following year or by engaging in a Credit Recovery opportunity, such as Cyber High—both of which are more expensive solutions to Credit Recovery.

Concerns were raised by some Ponderosa High School (PHS) teachers regarding the changes made in the mathematics program. Site and district administrators heard their concerns and disagree with their position. At the request of Mike Loken, PHS Math Chair, this item was brought forth to the Board of Trustees for direction. Mr. Loken, supported by four math teachers, recapped their concerns, expressed in his letter to the Board, and requested reinstatement of the sliding grade scale used prior to 2009 which gave students pre-algebra credit if they earned a ‘D’ grade or a failing grade of 40% or higher. Math teachers argue that the current Foundations course created for students with *below-basic* skills does not prepare students for Algebra 1 and punishes the lower achieving students by awarding them no credit if they fail the course.

Site Principals Chris Moore (PHS), Steve Wehr (ORHS), Matt Barnes (EDHS), Tony DeVille (UMHS), and Don Buchheit (Director of Alternative Programs) were present to share information regarding the strategies that sites employ to support student learning of algebra. Principal Moore presented the administration's belief that it is our responsibility to provide all students with the support necessary for them to demonstrate the learning of algebra. This is a social justice issue. The Foundations course allows for differential instruction. Critical to success is the proper placement of students based on CST scores, prior grades, and teacher recommendation. Superintendent Hoffman added that the district already has a process in place to support the lowest achieving students, of which Mr. Loken spoke, including the special education assessment processes.

In response to Mr. Loken's request for direction, the Board upheld the Foundations curriculum and dismissed the request to reinstate a sliding grade scale in Algebra 1. The Foundations course was Board approved, after going through the appropriate curriculum review process and the SILT committee review and recommendation process. The Board is adamantly opposed to lowering or diluting district standards. They support rigor and increased opportunities for a greater number of students to advance to geometry and higher math. The Board is not interested in how we can't do this, but rather what we can do to make it happen. They are willing to help get the job done and will do what is needed to provide necessary resources.

The Board acknowledged the passion and dedication of these conversations.

At 7:20 p.m., Mr. Cary yielded the chair to Mrs. Veerkamp and excused himself.

H. BUSINESS SERVICES – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no action/discussion items under this section.

I. STUDENT SERVICES – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Consideration of Student Disciplinary Matters Relating to Expulsions and/or Readmissions.
(GC 54954.5[h]; EC 35146, 48918[c])

- a. Mr. Brown moved to adopt the Stipulation to Expulsion and Settlement Agreement, the Findings of Fact, Conclusion, and Order of the Board of Trustees regarding the expulsion of Student #10-30. Mr. White seconded. Motion carried (3-0).
- b. The matter of one student petition for readmission into the District was tabled so additional information could be brought back to the Board at their next meeting.

J. HUMAN RESOURCES – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no action/discussion items under this section.

K. OTHER – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Consideration of Nominations for the El Dorado County Boards Association Annual Dinner Awards Program.

This item was tabled to the February 22 Board meeting to receive input from all Board members.

L. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY BOARD AND CABINET, IF NEEDED.

Assoc. Superintendent for Business Services Luhrs commented on the shock of losing Sam LaCara, whom he knew very well through the ACSA Leadership. His thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

Asst. Superintendent for Student Services Volmer reflected on the LaCara family, the trauma in their lives, and the support they will receive through their school community. He recognized our own schools and the principals who care deeply about students. He appreciates most about our district the fact that we do a good job supporting human needs and individualizing issues.

Superintendent Hoffman thanked Principals Chris Moore, Steve Wehr, Matt Barnes, Tony DeVille and Don Buchheit, Director of Alternative Education, for being present tonight. Although they did not get the opportunity to speak due to the extended time given to the teachers concern, they were prepared, however, to discuss the successes at their sites. Their support through long days and nights and the hard work they undertake to get students to be successful is appreciated. Teaching algebra at the high school level to all students is one of the major challenges in our district. However, we are not just about getting kids over the bar. Although passing the CAHSEE is required, with 96% of students passing on the first attempt, one has to question how high the bar really is. Getting students to Geometry and Algebra II, getting kids ready to be successful (for a 4-year or 2-year school), or to step into the world of work, the more we challenge them and provide the support necessary to be successful, that's doing our job. Our Principals' efforts are appreciated in getting that done. Superintendent Hoffman added an acknowledgment and thank you to Dan Augino, here tonight, for representing the district and helping out at Schnell School.

CTE Director Garrett commented that she loves the passion that unfolded tonight and felt so fortunate for the opportunity to be on all our district sites, see and talk with teachers, administrators, and Board members, and realize what a great group of people we have in our district. The tragic events of the past week and seeing Sam LaCara's family tonight should remind us all to rekindle our relationships.

Principal Deville spoke on tonight's discussion of algebra and argued that although it is a struggle, we have to push for rigor. A look at the state of higher education, students with a capstone class of financial analysis or accounting have no chance—they are not prepared for college. The more students we can help through Geometry and Algebra II, the better. We must continue to look at ways to make kids successful. Pushing students forward and providing support and interventions up the chain is better than lowering the chain.

Principal Wehr stated it is all about skill development over time and how you help to support that process. Graduation is a great thing, but is not an end to all. How do we help our kids transition beyond our schools to take advantage of more options. Our choice when students walk through our doors is to provide them with resources and find ways to help them be successful. We need to have those conversations about how we get students to succeed.

Alternative Education Director Buchheit shared that as a result of the direction from the Board and support of the administration, students coming into Independence now arrive with the recognition that they can learn. Communicating a belief that they can do it makes a world of difference in their attitudes toward learning. Mike Mitchell, an amazing teacher at IHS, has 36 students in a Geometry class, most

of who will be going on to Algebra II. Motivating students to strive for rigor is a big social justice piece. Students are looking to their future and want to have options.

Principal Moore added that the fact we are talking about how to get more students through to a higher level is an important and noble conversation. This generation faces many social challenges and whatever we can do to increase their options is worthy of tough conversations and a lot of hard work.

Student Board Member Wallace commented on how the 4X4 schedule at Union Mine High School allowed her to stay on track with credits and course advancements.

Board Member Todd White stated he feels for the students struggling through math. He shared his experience getting through math at the community college, yet does not favor a sliding scale or lowering standards. He appreciated the conversations and everyone's points of view. Mr. White visited schools last week and attended the EDHS student orientation. He commented that all of our principals are doing a great job.

Board Member Kevin Brown appreciated the passion of tonight's discussion on algebra, noting we only differ on how to get it done, and he hopes we will come together at some time. With regard to Sam LaCara, this tragedy has hit the education community hard. He is grateful to have had his leadership and mentoring for his children as their principal. He and his wife were also building a friendship with Sam and his wife. Sam was a role model in elementary school principals and touched many lives. He reminded our educators just how much they, too, touch people's lives.

Board Member Lori Veerkamp expressed thanks, appreciation, and pride that our district was able to aid Placerville Union School District through this difficult time. Although she did not know Sam LaCara, she wished she had. It is obvious he touched a great many lives. She ascertained that employees of our district must know they, too, touch lives.

M. CLOSED SESSION

This session was not needed.

N. OPEN SESSION

This session was not needed.

O. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Veerkamp adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Christopher R. Hoffman
Executive Secretary
To the Board of Trustees