



**ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

MEETING - MINUTES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA 94706

Closed Session: 6:15PM | Open Session: 7:00PM

CLOSED SESSION:

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:15pm.

Present: Trustee Sadia Khan, Trustee Becky Hopwood, President Veronica Davidson, Superintendent Frank Wells, Ed.D.; Vice President Melissa Boyd, Esq.

Staff: Marina Gonzalez, Chief Human Resources Officer

Absent: Trustee Ron Rosenbaum

2. DISCLOSURE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION / ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

There were no public comments. The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

2-A. Student Matters

2-B. Negotiations Update

3. ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION at 6:55pm

OPEN SESSION:

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm

ROLL CALL:

Present: Student Trustee Ayush Deodhar, Student Trustee Yunelly Garcia-Bustamante, Trustee Sadia Khan, Trustee Becky Hopwood, Vice President Melissa Boyd, Esq., President Veronica Davidson, Superintendent Frank Wells, Ed.D.

Absent: Trustee Ron Rosenbaum

District Staff: Jackie Kim, Chief Business Official; Anne Shin, Ed.D; Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Deb Brill, Executive Director of Student Services; Brian Biggs, Ed.D., Senior

Director of Special Education; Marina Gonzalez, Chief Human Resources Officer; Michelle Sinclair, Senior Director Professional Development; Julie Sen, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

2. READING OF AUSD MISSION VISION STATEMENT & MEETING NORMS

Student Trustee Ayush Deodhar and Student Trustee Yunelly Garcia-Bustamante read these out loud.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Davidson led the Pledge of Allegiance for those who wished to participate.

4. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

President Davidson reported that no action was taken in closed session.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No discussion on the agenda.

Motion: to approve the Agenda of September 26, 2023 by Trustee Becky Hopwood; Second by Vice President Melissa Boyd. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously with 1 absent (Rosenbaum)

6. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

The Board heard public comments on matters not on the agenda (2 minutes each):

- 1) Chris Knight, Albany Teachers Association (ATA) representative, recognized and stated appreciation for the many teachers present in support of the labor union's bargain, which is about three things: our youngest learners, our highest needs learners, and keeping, retaining and recruiting teachers to the district. She cannot afford
- 2) Mary Conlan, English teacher at Albany High; topic: ATA negotiations and the need for increases in salary and access to housing for teachers
- 3) Monica Haywood, Marin teacher; topic: ATA negotiations and the negative impact of over-packed classrooms; supports request for smaller classrooms
- 4) Jerod Law, AMS, requested greater transparency at the District office level, such as a flow chart of who does what at the DO, spotlight on DO staff.

7. SPOTLIGHT

7-A. Albany Children's Center

Joshua Reed, Director Albany Children's Center, presented a spotlight to share what a typical day at the Albany Children's Center looks like for the preschool program and the School-Age program.

8. RECOGNITION AND ACTION

8-A. Resolution No. 2023-20243: Recognizing October as Special Education Awareness Month

Senior Director of Special Education, Dr. Brian Biggs, introduced and began reading the resolution, and then passed the microphone to the following people to read the resolution to the Board and community: Students Leo, Ulee, India & Zayn; family/caregivers: June McIntyre, Kathleen Marte & Anna Azimi; and AUSD Special Education staff: Sara Haller, Marin Resource Teacher, Maya Patkar, Speech Therapist at Albany Children’s Center and District-wide AAC Specialist, and Lee Sonko, Occupational Therapist at AAC, OV and AMS.

MOTION: Motion to approve and adopt **Resolution No. 2023-24-03 Recognizing October as Special Education Awareness Month** by Vice President Melissa Boyd. Second: Trustee Sadia Khan
Result: All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously with 1 absent (Rosenbaum)

Members of the Board thanked those who were at the meeting to present this resolution, and thanked students, families, caregivers, and teachers for everything they do to support students with disabilities and special needs.

Public Comments (2 minutes each):

- 1) Cheryl Theis, parent, Education Advocate at DREDF (Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund); thanked Dr. Wells and the Board for being willing to really listen, engage, and authentically try to do the work and making sure concerns are heard and addressed.
- 2) Nery Castillo-McIntyre, parent and DisAbility Squad: today is exactly 50 years of the passing of the Rehabilitation Act passed in 1954. He quoted Superintendent Wells: “People hear what you say, but they believe what you do,” and stated that he hopes that this resolution can be brought to life in Albany USD.
- 3) Kelly Callahan, representative of North Regional SELPA Community Advisory Committee; thanked the Board and Dr. Wells; CAC is asking Dr. Wells to collaborate with Dr. Biggs to identify the standards related to Special Education services for general education teachers, paraeducators, resource teachers, special day class teachers, specialists, principals, administrators, and the superintendent, and have them read into their performance evaluations to ensure some accountability in compliance and quality of deliverables for special education in general education across the spectrum
- 4) Sarah Haller, Resource Teacher, thanked those who created and presented the resolution, and addressed the issue of recruiting and retaining high quality teachers for special education and improving working conditions to do so.
- 5) Sweta Chawla, parent of a child with an IEP, thanked the Board for passing the resolution and expressed interest in bringing awareness about invisible disabilities to all the school campuses.

9. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR

9-A. Personnel Report

9-B. 2023-2024 School Plans for Student Achievement: Ocean View Elementary, Cornell Elementary, Marin Elementary Schools

9-C. 2023-2024 School Plans for Student Achievement: Albany Middle School, Albany High School, and MacGregor High School

9-D. Overnight Field Trip: Albany High School Vocal Music Chamber Singers to Annual Retreat in Montara, California

9-E. Overnight Field Trip: Albany High School Cross Country Team to ASICS Clovis Invitational in Fresno, California

9-F. Warrant Report: August 2023

9-G. Donation Report: August 2023

9-H. Independent Contractor Services Agreement Between Albany Unified School District and F&G Design/Drafting Services for Inspection Services for the 1216 Solano Avenue District Office Improvement Project

9-I. Independent Contractor Services Agreement Between Albany Unified School District and School Sport, Inc. for Equipment Repair

9-J. Independent Contractor Services Agreement Between Albany Unified School District and Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP

9-K. Independent Contractor Services Agreement Between Albany Unified School District and Gachina Landscape Management

9-L. Independent Contractor Services Agreement Between Albany Unified School District and Landscape Structures, Inc.

CHANGES TO CONSENT CALENDAR:

There were no comments or discussion on the consent calendar.

MOTION: Motion to approve the Consent Calendar by Vice President Melissa Boyd

Second: Trustee Becky Hopwood. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously with 1 absent (Rosenbaum).

10. STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS

The Student Board Members Ayush Deodhar and Yunelly Garcia-Bustamante reported on the following:

Student Advocacy Committee

We are continuing to plan out how to establish the Junior Student Advocacy Committee at the middle school with our members. We hope to get this done by the end of the school year and have it strong for

the 20224-25 school year. We are also finishing a form to be sent out to MacGregor High School; we hope to collect helpful insight from the students on their experiences: what they like/ don't like, and where they feel the most support is needed.

Albany High School (AHS)

- Early Decision/Early Action packet is due this Friday; remember to submit the form in order to get counselor recommendation letters
- Homecoming starts next week!

Albany Middle School (AMS)

- The AMS Library fundraiser ends this Friday, September 29! This is a joint fundraiser with Pegasus Books on Solano, so make sure if you purchase something please mention Albany Middle School

All Schools: October 9 is Staff Development Day. No School!

11. STAFF REPORTS

11-A. Albany Children's Center Budget Projections for 20232024 Preschool and School Age Programs

The staff report was presented by Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Anne Shin, and Joshua Reed, Director Albany Children's Center. The Albany Children's Center (ACC) is funded through state subsidies as well as fees paid directly by families. The state funding formula varies between the preschool (CSPP) program and the Before-and-After School Care program (CCTR). The funding from full-cost families depend on the number of students enrolled and the hours of service that they are provided each year. The presentation explained how the ACC program generates revenue, what the expenditures are, and the budgeting process to remain fiscally solvent. The Budget projections for 2023-2024 are as follows:

Preschool School Age Program: Total Revenue \$1,943,511; Total Expenditures: \$1,839,78; and Net Increase: \$113,433. School Age Program: Total Revenue \$2,133,202; Total Expenditures: \$2,063,129; and Net Increase: \$70,073. Click [Albany Children's Center Budget Projections 2023-24](#) to view the report.

There was a brief discussion about the one-time funds from the state that may impact the net increases. Also, Mr. Reed stated that there is potential to expand the after school program but there may not be enough space and staffing. Currently the ratio of staff: students is maxed out.

The Board received the staff report. No public comments. No action was taken.

11-B. 2022-23 Summer Programs: District Summer School and Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP)

Presented by Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Anne Shin, presented this report to the Board. She introduced Eric Mapes, Albany Middle School Principal and Summer School Principal, and Mr. Fran Galleti, the CEO of the YMCA for the ELOP.

Albany Unified School District hosted two summer programs at Ocean View Elementary School. The District Summer School programs served students in the Special Education Extended School Year, English-Language Development Summer Bridge Program, Summer Connections - Social Emotional Learning, and High School Credit Recovery Program. At the same time, the YMCA staff worked diligently to serve TK-6th grade students in the newly implemented Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP). The ELOP provided hands-on enrichment activities and opportunities for students to build community with their peers while engaged in fun learning. This presentation highlights the enrollment and programmatic information about the two summer programs that were offered during the months of June and July of 2023.

Principal Eric Mapes presented the report on the District summer school program, and noted that of the high school students in summer school, 54% of them were there for credit recovery, and 46% were there for credit elevation.

Mr. Fran Gallati, YMCA CEO, presented the report on the first summer ELOP in Albany. He provided some feedback and tips for next year: allow earlier registration and gather as much information about students as possible early on (i.e. students needing special education services); hold a parent orientation across the board to set expectations, etc.; use the same summer campus next year; focus on refining the curriculum based on needs of Albany students; and pick the right end-of-summer parent evaluation tool.

Board Discussion:

Board discussed briefly the two programs and how to improve next year's programs. Trustee Hopwood asked Principal Mapes if the number of hours during the same period of time could be increased for summer school, perhaps an afternoon session could be offered. Principal Mapes stated that this can be explored for space and interest.

For ELOP, Mr. Galleti stated that they would like to reexamine the middle school program to try to increase enrollment. The Board and Mr. Galleti briefly discussed the two separate programs: ELOP, to which enrollment is based on qualifying factors; and the before and after school program offered through ACC. These are separate and segregated and cannot be held in the same buildings. President Davidson asked about desegregating them. Mr. Galleti explained how they were required to ensure that any student who qualified for ELOP got in the ELO Program, which is funded based on teacher/student ratio. Dr. Wells stated that the District aspires to have a hybrid, blended program that is inclusive for all

next year, and that starting in the Spring the District will have marching orders that will be inclusive and collaborative. There was no public comment. The Board received the staff report. No action was taken.

12. REVIEW AND ACTION

12-A. Agreement with TeamCivX for Parcel Tax Consulting Services

CBO Jackie Kim introduced this to the Board. This was presented at the last Board meeting on September 12, 2023 as a Review and Discussion item. President Davidson clarified that this item is just for an agreement for their consulting services; the Board is not approving anything beyond that.

Jeremy Hauser, Partner at TeamCivX, was present and explained the services covered under this contract include to first determine the feasibility of a parcel tax and the ability to place a measure on the ballot; Recommended first step would be voter opinion research - conduct a poll to determine tax sensitivities in the community, what programs that might be supported, and what is or is not feasible. After that polling is done, they would return to the Board to present the results and their recommended next steps based on what is found in their research.

The Board and Mr. Hauser discussed the breakdown of the contract and costs. The contract includes the following breakdown of the *Not-To-Exceed Budget* that TeamCivX will provide:

- TeamCivX Fee: \$7,500 per month for 4 months — \$30,000 (bill days of service)
- Godbe Polling: High-end estimate — \$35,525
- Optional Mailer #1: Tear-off survey mailer — \$11,595
- Optional Mailer #2: Standard brochure mailer — \$9,275
- Optional Mailer #3: Standard brochure mailer — \$9,275
- Total: \$95,670

Mr. Hauser explained how the polling works, and stated that Bryan Godbe of Godbe Research would be working with them to design the survey. A brief discussion about the difference between having a community member (or City of Albany) add this to the Ballot, vs. the Board of Education putting it on the Ballot. The former requires only a 50% approval to pass; the latter requires two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) approval. Dr. Wells explained that the District's attorney, Harold Freiman, recommended the District go this route, and the urgency of doing it now is because of the revenue needed to retain employees and to continue and expand critical programs for our students.

Vice President Boyd asked if the polling can NOT include questions about people's receptivity to a flat tax vs. a graduated (square footage based) tax (so that it does not lean toward one or the other); can that be part of the polling to determine which is preferred/feasible? Mr. Hauser stated that they could employ a split sample where they randomly split the respondents and half receive a survey about a flat tax, and the other half receive one on a graduated tax, but he cautioned against that because the sample size (i.e. community size) is so small and the margin of error size could be much larger. He recommended that

they explore a square footage based tax because they do not have data on that, but they do have data on the flat tax since that is what we currently have. President Davidson requested that the contract be broken down and the Board approve part of it, but not all.

MOTION:

Trustee Hopwood moved to approve the Agreement with TeamCivX for Parcel Tax Consulting Services President Davidson requested an amendment to the motion “with clear stipulation that none of the 3 optional costs will be approved without approval by the Board.”

Dr. Wells asked to list the 3 optional costs for the record:

- Optional Mailer #1: Tear-off survey mailer — \$11,595
- Optional Mailer #2: Standard brochure mailer — \$9,275
- Optional Mailer #3: Standard brochure mailer — \$9,275

The motion was seconded by Vice President Boyd. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously with 1 absent (Rosenbaum).

13. SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Superintendent Frank Wells: No report

Vice President Melissa Boyd:

- Black Parent Advisory Group (BPAG) Annual Meet and Greet is this Saturday, September 30, at Memorial Park, 11:00am - 1:00pm. This is open to ALL Families in the district
- Albany Middle School 6th Grade Halloween Festival is looking for volunteers to work with Ms. Backowski for planning, etc.

Trustee Becky Hopwood:

- Albany High School Back to School Night on Sept. 13th and stated that it was extremely successful and, according to Principal McNally, the most attended Back to School Night yet.
- The PTSA held their first meeting at the high school (before the Back to School Night event); there were no candidates for President and Dorothe Piluso is still the president. If anyone is willing to take on that role please let them know. The membership of PTSA is currently at 157 and they are hoping to gain more members
- Teacher Appreciation function opportunities coming up at the high school October 10, November 3 and December 8
- Principal McNally would like more volunteers for the Instructional Improvement Council and School Site Council
- The Student Achievement Committee's first meeting is on October 19, 2023

Trustee Sadia Khan:

- API Engagement Group Fall Mixer is this Saturday, September 30 at Memorial Park
- Jewish Parent Engagement Group hosting a Fall Harvest Celebration from 11am - 2:00pm on the same day at Memorial Park
- Ocean View held a PTA meeting on September 19, 2023. Their fall festival will be on October 21st 11am - 3:00pm. It is one of the largest events/fundraisers at Ocean View. Come for the snow cones!
- She attended the LatinX Heritage Month celebration at Albany Middle School and stated it was a wonderful event with a great turnout
- Fifteenth Annual Community Craft Fair November 5 11am - 3pm at Albany Middle School

Trustee Ron Rosenbaum: Absent

President Vonnie Davidson:

- She attended the Environmental Action Plan Committee (EPAC) meeting on September 18th; this was the first for the 2023-24 school year so they heard a lot of updates on things that the Facilities department took care of over the summer. There is conversation around solar and suggested exploring grant opportunities for solar in our district. They discussed the reusable dishware and silverware to be used in the District, which also involves a new dishwasher, a new staff member, and a van to transport things from site to site. Also, the Cornell ballwalls have been installed and they are being used; kids and teachers are happy!
- Pumpkins have arrived at WestBrae Nursery so if you are looking for pumpkins, please go there because proceeds are donated to the Cornell Pumpkin Patch fundraiser
- Cornell Elementary is holding an Ice Cream Social on October 13th; teachers will be scooping ice cream for the kids

14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Board had no items to be agendized on future meetings.

15. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 9:12pm.

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS:

- Tuesday, October 10: 7:00 PM, City Hall Council Chambers
- Tuesday, October 24: 7:00 PM, City Hall Council Chambers