



**ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2025**

1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA 94706

Closed Session: 6:00pm; Open Session: 7:00pm

<https://ausdk12-org.zoom.us/j/92912804708>

**CLOSED SESSION - 6:00PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm

**Present:**

Trustee Dayna Inkeles

Trustee Sadia Khan

Vice President Josh Mahoney

President Becky Hopwood

Superintendent Sara Stone

Trustee - Veronica Davidson - join remotely via zoom for just cause

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

**2-A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation**

**Gov. Code section 54956.9 subd. (d)(1)**

A minor, through his Guardian Ad Litem Ana Talos v. Albany USD, Anna Mansker  
Alameda County Superior Court Case No. 22CV010199

**2-B. Potential Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9)**

**2-C. Personnel Matters (Govt. Code §54957)**

Having no public comment, the Board adjourned to Closed Session.

**3. ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION at 6:58pm**

**OPEN SESSION - 7:00 PM**

*Before calling the meeting to order, President Hopwood requested a moment of silence for late  
Superintendent Dr. Frank Wells. Today is the anniversary of his passing.*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm

### **Trustees Present:**

Student Trustee MacKenzie Shepherd

Student Trustee Ayush Deodhar

Trustee Dayna Inkeles

Trustee Sadia Khan

Trustee Veronica Davidson - via Zoom for just cause

Vice President Josh Mahoney

President Becky Hopwood

Superintendent Sara Stone

**District Staff present:** Marina Gonzalez, Chief Human Resources Officer; Chris Thomas, Interim Chief Business Official; Kim Trutane, Ph.D., Communications Specialist; Julie Sen, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

## **2. READING OF AUSD MISSION VISION STATEMENT & MEETING NORMS**

Student Board Members Shepherd and Deodhar read out loud as printed on the agenda.

## **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice President Josh Mahoney led in the Pledge of Allegiance for those who wished to participate.

## **4. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION**

No action taken in Closed Session

## **5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

### **Changes to Agenda:**

### **11-G. 2023-24 Albany Unified School District Annual Financial Audit Report And Bond Measures B And E Financial And Performance Audit Reports**

Becky Hopwood tabled the second part of this: Bond Measures B and E Financial and Performance Audit Reports as they were not ready for this meeting. They will be presented to the Board at a later date.

**MOTION: to approve the agenda of the March 11, 2025 Regular Board Meeting with tabling the second part of 11-G as requested.**

Motion by: Josh Mahoney; Second by: Sadia Khan

Roll call vote:

- SBM MacKenzie Shepherd: yes (advisory)
- SBM Ayush Deodhar: yes (advisory)
- Dayna Inkeles: yes
- Sadia Khan: yes
- Vonnice Davidson: yes

- Josh Mahoney: yes
- Becky Hopwood: yes

**Result: Motion passed 5-0 with 2 advisory yes votes**

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

**Public Comments:** (2 minutes each)

- 1) Mira; regarding antisemitism, policies and rules
- 2) Nery Castillo-McIntyre; parent: requested future agenda item to educate people about potential budget impacts on the Dept. of Education being greatly reduced and what would happen if it is fully dissolved, and in particular how that would impact AUSD

## **7. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

**7-A. Approve Minutes: January 14, 2025 Board Of Education Regular Meeting**

**7-B. Approve Minutes: January 28, 2025 Board Of Education Regular Meeting**

**7-C. Approve Adoption Of Albany Unified School District Board Policy Updates**

**Correction: Regulation 0460: LCAP**

Unduplicated Student Section: bullet 3: "410 percent" change to "40 percent"

**Correction: Regulation 3553: Free and Reduced Lunch**

**Chief Academic Officer** - change to Chief Business Official

**7-D. Approve Resolution No. 2024-25-15: Adopting Conflict Of Interest Code (Board Bylaw 9270E(1) Conflict Of Interest)**

**7-E. Approve Amendment To 202425 Master Contract Between Albany Unified School District And The Phillips Academy**

**7-F. Approve Amendment #2 To 202425 Independent Contractor Services Agreement Between Albany Unified School District And SPG Therapy & Education**

**7-G. Approve Overnight Out Of State Field Trip: Albany High School Young Men And Women Of Color Mentoring And Advisory Program College/University Tour In Baltimore, MD And Washington, D.C.**

**7-H. Approve Overnight ~~Out Of State~~ Field Trip: Albany High School Environmental Design Science Engineering And Technology Program (EDSET) To Pinnacles National Park Group Campsite In Pacines, California**

**7-I. Approve Overnight Out Of State Field Trip: Albany High School To Attend The Spring National High School Journalism Convention In Seattle, Washington**

**7-J. Approve Personnel Report, 3.11.2025**

**7-K. Approve Salary Amendment For Mental Health Interns**

**7-L. Approve Donation Report: February 2025**

**7-M. Approve Warrant Report: February 2025**

**7-N. Approve Annual Updated Home To School Transportation Plan**

**7-O. Approve Independent Contractor Services Agreement Between Albany Unified School District And Calco Fence, Inc.**

**MOTION: to approve Consent Calendar**

Motion by: Dayna Inkeles; Second by: Sadia Khan

Roll call vote:

- SBM MacKenzie Shepherd: yes (advisory)
- SBM Deodhar: yes (advisory)
- Sadia Khan: yes
- Vonnice Davidson: yes
- Josh Mahoney: yes
- President Becky Hopwood: yes
- Trustee Inkeles: yes

**Result: Motion passed 5-0 with 2 advisory yes votes**

## **8. REVIEW AND ACTION**

### **8-A. Employment Contract For The Chief Business Official Of Albany Unified School District**

Superintendent Sara Stone introduced Linda Wu to be the next Chief Business Official for AUSD and provided some of her background and experience.

**Public Comments:** none

**MOTION:** Approve the employment contract for the new Chief Business Official, Linda Wu

Motion by Sadia Khan; Second by Dayna Inkeles

Roll call vote:

- SBM MacKenzie Shepherd: yes (advisory)
- SBM Ayush Deodhar: yes (advisory)
- Vonnice Davidson: yes

- Josh Mahoney: yes
- Becky Hopwood: yes
- Dayna Inkeles: yes
- Sadia Khan: yes

**Result: Motion passed 5-0 with 2 advisory yes votes**

## **9. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT**

### **9-A. Active Shooter Safety Presentation**

Student Trustee Ayush Deodhar presented a report on Active Shooter Safety at AUSD school sites. Presentation will be uploaded after the meeting.

No public comments. The Board received the staff report.

## **10. STAFF REPORT:**

### **10-A. Fostering A Safe And Inclusive School Environment**

Superintendent Stone presented an update on some of the District's facilities audit aligns with safety priorities will also outline current initiatives and next steps to improve physical, emotional, and emergency safety across all school sites.

No Board discussion; no public comments. The Board received the staff report.

## **11. REVIEW AND ACTION**

### **11-A. Independent Contractor Services Agreement Between Albany Unified School District And Guidepost Solutions, LLC For Security Camera Systems Upgrade Consultation And Design Services At Secondary Schools**

Presented by Scot Jaffe, Director of Maintenance and Operations, with the recommendation to approve the contract.

**MOTION:** Approve Independent Contractor Services Agreement Between Albany Unified School District And Guidepost Solutions, LLC For Security Camera Systems Upgrade Consultation And Design Services At Secondary Schools

Motion by Trustee Vonnice Davidson; Second by Trustee Dayna Inkeles

#### **Roll call vote:**

- SBM MacKenzie Shepherd: yes (advisory)
- SBM Ayush Deodhar: yes (advisory)
- Josh Mahoney: yes
- Becky Hopwood: yes

- Dayna Inkeles: yes
- Sadia Khan: yes
- Vonnice Davidson: yes

**Result: Motion passed 5-0 with 2 advisory yes votes**

#### **11-B. Cornell Elementary Restroom Renovations**

Scot Jaffe, Director of Maintenance and Operations and Cat Floresca, Principal of Cornell Elementary School, presented this item. The recommendation is for the Board to review, discuss, and provide direction to Staff for the Cornell Elementary restroom renovation projects.

**Public Comments:** (2 minutes each):

- 1) Name unknown; no gender neutral bathroom

**Directions from Board to Staff:**

**MOTION:** to approve the Cornell elementary restroom renovations

Motion by: Josh Mahoney; Second by: Sadia Khan

Roll call vote:

- SBM MacKenzie Shepherd: yes (advisory)
- SBM Ayush Deodhar: yes (advisory)
- Becky Hopwood: yes
- Dayna Inkeles: yes
- Sadia Khan: yes
- Vonnice Davidson: yes
- Josh Mahoney: yes

**Result: Motion passed 5-0 with 2 advisory yes votes**

#### **11-C. Certificated Management Salary Schedule For 2024-2025 And 2025-2026**

Marina Gonzalez, Chief Human Resources Officer, presented this item to the Board. This is a correction of what was presented and approved on January 28, 2025, as explained in the agenda packet.

**Board Discussion/Questions:** none

**Public Comments:** none

**MOTION:** approve Certificated Management Salary Schedule For 2024-2025 And 2025-2026

Motion by: Sadia Khan; Second by: Dayna Inkeles

Roll call vote:

- SBM MacKenzie Shepherd: (advisory) yes
- SBM Ayush Deodhar: yes (advisory)
- Dayna Inkeles: yes

- Sadia Khan: yes
- Vonnie Davidson: yes
- Josh Mahoney:
- Becky Hopwood:

**Result: Motion passed 5-0 with 2 advisory yes votes**

**11-D. Resolution No. 2024-25-16: Reduction Or Discontinuance Of Certain Certificated Particular Kinds Of Services For The 2025-26 School Year**

Marina Gonzalez, Chief Human Resources Officer, presented this item to the Board.

Those whose positions are funded by SchoolCARE are permanent employees of AUSD so the District will find positions for them if SchoolCARE cannot fund these specifically one.

**Board Discussion:** none

**Public Comments:** none

**MOTION:** Approve and Adopt Resolution No. 2024-25-16:Reduction Or Discontinuance Of Certain Certificated Particular Kinds Of Services For The 2025-26 School Year

Motion by: Sadia Khan; Second by: Vonnie Davidson

Roll call vote:

- SBM MacKenzie Shepherd: yes (advisory)
- SBM Ayush Deodhar: yes (advisory)
- Sadia Khan: yes
- Vonnie Davidson: yes
- Josh Mahoney: yes
- Becky Hopwood: yes
- Dayna Inkeles: yes

**Result: Motion passed 5-0 with 2 advisory yes votes**

**11-E. Resolution No. 2024-25-17: Reduction Of Classified Services**

Marina Gonzalez, Chief Human Resources Officer, presented this item to the Board. This is a position funded by SchoolCARE.

**Board Discussion:** none

**Public Comments:** none

**MOTION:** Approve and Adopt Resolution No. 2024-25-17 Reduction Of Classified Services

Motion by: Josh Mahoney; Second by: Dayna Inkeles

Roll call vote:

- SBM MacKenzie Shepherd: yes (advisory)
- SBM Ayush Deodhar: yes (advisory)

- Vonnie Davidson: yes
- Josh Mahoney: yes
- Becky Hopwood: yes
- Dayna Inkeles: yes
- Sadia Khan: yes

**Result: Motion passed 5-0 with 2 advisory yes votes**

**11-F. Approval Of The Second Interim Report And Budget Revision #2 For The 2024-2025 Fiscal Year With A Positive Certification**

Chris Thomas, Interim Chief Business Official, presented the Second Interim Report and a presentation explaining the changes since First Interim.

CBO Thomas suggested the Board set aside an additional 3% for economic uncertainties in addition to the 3% reserve. She also recommended redesigning the spreadsheets for the adopted budget so starting next fiscal year it will provide more details.

**Public Comments:**

- 1) Shannon (parent); requested presentation be made available before the meeting for the public to view. Also not much about Prop 28 funding.
- 2) On zoom, name unknown. Presentation before meeting would be helpful

**MOTION:** Approve the Second Interim Report and Budget Revision #2 for FY 2024-25 with a Positive Certification

Motion by: Josh Mahoney; Second by: Sadia Khan

Roll call vote:

- SBM MacKenzie Shepherd: yes (advisory)
- SBM Ayush Deodhar: yes (advisory)
- Josh Mahoney: yes
- Becky Hopwood: yes
- Dayna Inkeles: yes
- Sadia Khan: yes
- Vonnie Davidson: yes

**Result: Motion passed 5-0 with 2 advisory yes votes**

**11-G. 2023-24 Albany Unified School District Annual Financial Audit Report And Bond Measures B And E Financial And Performance Audit Reports**

The second part of this item was tabled during Approval of Agenda; the item was not ready by the time of agenda posting. It will come to the Board at a later date: Bond Measures B and E Financial and Performance Audit Reports tabled: Bond Reports.

Chief Business Official Chris Thomas introduced this item and Valerie Shaw from Christy White and Associates to present the Financial Audit Report.



**Board Discussion:** none

**Public Comments:** none

**MOTION:** Accept the 2023-24 Albany Unified School District Annual Financial Audit Report

Motion by: Josh Mahoney; Second by: Sadia Khan

**Roll call vote:**

- SBM MacKenzie Shepherd: yes (advisory)
- SBM Ayush Deodhar: yes (advisory)
- Becky Hopwood: yes
- Dayna Inkeles: yes
- Sadia Khan: yes
- Vonnice Davidson: yes
- Josh Mahoney: yes

**Result: Motion passed 5-0 with 2 advisory yes votes**

**11-H. Appointments To The Albany Unified School District Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee**

Presented by Interim Chief Business Official Chris Thomas. Two (2) candidates are recommended to be appointed by the Board based on their qualifications: Ross Culverwell and Aaron Tiederman

The next CBOC meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2025. No Board discussion. No Public Comments.

**MOTION:** Appoint New Members Ross Culverwell and Aaron Tiedemann to the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee

Motion by: Sadia Khan; Second by: Dayna Inkeles

**Roll call vote:**

- SBM MacKenzie Shepherd: yes (advisory)
- SBM Ayush Deodhar: yes (advisory)
- Inkeles: yes
- Khan: yes
- Davidson: yes
- Mahoney: yes
- Hopwood: yes

**Result: Motion passed 5-0 with 2 advisory yes votes**

**11-I. Agreement With Orbach Huff & Henderson LLP For Legal Services**

**Chief Business Official Chris Thomas**

Presented by Interim Chief Business Official Chris Thomas. This law firm specializes in bond contract work; business and procurement and litigation. It was recommended to approve the agreement to

contract with this law firm.

Board Discussions: none; Public Comments: none

**MOTION: to approve the Agreement with Orbach Huff & Henderson LLP For Legal Services**

Motion by: Dayna Inkeles; Second by: Sadia Khan

Roll call vote:

- SBM Shepherd: yes (advisory)
- SBM Deodhar: yes (advisory)
- Sadia Khan: yes
- Vonnie Davidson: yes
- Josh Mahoney: yes
- Becky Hopwood: yes
- Dayan Inkeles: yes

**Result: Motion passed 5-0 with 2 advisory yes votes**

## **12. SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS**

**Superintendent Sara Stone:** read the following statement:

“I want to acknowledge the concerns raised regarding the **Know Your Rights** workshop. Thank you for reaching out and for your thoughtful letters outlining your concerns. I appreciate your advocacy and your commitment to working together as we navigate these complex and important issues. At the heart of our work is a common purpose: to combat hate in all forms and to ensure that every student feels safe, cared for, and has a true sense of belonging.

And, while the Know your Rights event was focused solely on immigrant rights, I do recognize the concerns brought to my attention about the event and the organization supporting that had caused harm, and I deeply regret any harm. Moving forward, we are implementing a clear vetting process for speakers and events to ensure consistency and alignment with district values. This process will be structured and transparent—no one individual, including myself, should bear the sole responsibility for reviewing and approving speakers and partners. This is about creating a shared and accountable system that upholds our commitment to inclusion and integrity. If we cannot come to an agreement on this vetting process, we will not be in a position to invite speakers and partners to work with us.

On a personal note, as a Jewish woman, I am deeply sensitive to the realities of antisemitism, and my family has suffered for many generations because of antisemitism, and I have family members who died in the Holocaust. I recognize that this is an especially difficult time both nationally and internationally. Now, more than ever, it is essential that we find a constructive path forward—one that fosters understanding, accountability, and unity. I also ask that we give each other grace.

I want to provide clarity on recent discussions. The antisemitism training for parents falls under the authority of JPEG, and I fully respect their role in leading this effort. While I chose not to actively promote the event due to the political stance of the partnering organization, I have also expressed my commitment to supporting the development of a broader parent education experience on combating anti-semitism.

Similarly, after reviewing concerns about a proposed high school speaker, I decided not to move forward due to past inflammatory social media statements. As a district, we have a responsibility to ensure that all discussions with students—especially on complex and sensitive issues—foster a culture of learning, respect, and inclusivity. My goal remains to create spaces where all members of our community feel heard, valued, and supported. And again, moving forward we will have a collaborative vetting process.

These are difficult conversations, but they are necessary ones. I remain committed to working with all of you to uphold our shared values and create an environment where all students, families, and staff feel safe, seen, and supported. Thank you for your partnership in this work.”

**Dayna Inkeles:** reported on events at Albany High School: Instructional Improvement Council (ILC); PTSA; the Instructional Improvement Council (ILC) met last week and approved a new AP Class - AP African American Studies that will be available for students.

The Reflections Art Contest: 1 Albany High student received an award of Merit at the state level, and a student received an award of excellence in literature and will represent Albany High at the national level. Also, the PTSA still needs volunteers.

**Sadia Khan:**

Read the following report: Reported on events at Ocean View Elementary School; She was part of the planning of the Know Your Rights event and was not aware of the issues and apologized for any harm done

1. I would personally like to reaffirm my commitment to all students, particularly our Trans students given recent anti-trans statements made by the Governor. As part of the board and as an individual I take this responsibility to support all of our students very seriously, and support their ability to be active members within our school community.
2. Ramadan Mubarak, Happy lent and 'Ala celebrated by the Ba'hai community. During this time many of our community members are fasting for religious reasons. Recent CA law allows

students to request accommodations during PE, this request must be submitted in writing. If this is something you perceive needing, reach out to your teachers.

3. OV PTA Association meeting is this Thursday March 13th at 6:30 pm at the library, if you would like to be part of the executive board this is your chance to step in!

4. Calling all 5th graders at OV, the 5th grade tshirt contest is here, please submit your design for the class t shirt by March 28th either to the front office or to the PTA President at

[president@oceanview-pta.org](mailto:president@oceanview-pta.org)

5. SWANA is hosting an Eid and Holi Celebration on April 5th from 1:30-3:30pm at OV, this event is open to all and will include a Holi Run on the blacktop!

6. Immigration Know Your Rights 'train the trainer' training to protect the rights of our TGI immigrants held by Gender Justice LA on Thursday March 13th from 6pm-8pm you can RSVP via this link: [BIT.LY/MarMMM2025](https://bit.ly/MarMMM2025)

7. For OV parents who would like to help support or volunteer with SchoolCAREs, please reach out to Sharon Pipkin on how you can support the efforts of SchoolCAREs.

8. DELAC Committee met

**Vonnie Davidson:** No report; thanked the Board and appreciated all the work done in AUSD

**Josh Mahoney:** The Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee will meet on March 18; all are welcome to attend.

Reported on events at Albany Children's Center; Marin Elementary School: spring conferences; Family Math Night, Marin Talent Show, and Marin popsicle sale raised \$2,138.01 and student council is figuring out what charity to donate the money to.

He attended the California School Board Association (CSBA) Masters in Governance Course at the Alameda County Office of Education. He learned about state resources, student achievement policy, and judicial review and talked with board members across the county. An important lesson was about leading with our behavior and

**Becky Hopwood:** reported on events at Cornell Elementary, Talent Show; Staff Development Day on March 21st - no school that day. Board Policy Committee met last week, March 4, 2025: they approved 35 policies; next one is March 18.

### 13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MATTERS INTRODUCED BY THE BOARD

- 1) Prop 28 funding report
- 2) General report on Measure L

**14. ADJOURNED OPEN SESSION at 9:40pm**

Draft