



**ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING - MINUTES  
Tuesday, May 28, 2024  
1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA 94706  
Open Session: 6:15pm**

**OPEN SESSION**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:17pm

**PRESENT:** Student Trustee Ayush Deodhar; Student Trustee Yunelly Garcia, Trustee Ron Rosenbaum, Trustee Sadia Khan, Trustee Melissa Boyd, Esq., Vice President Becky Hopwood, President Veronica Davidson, Interim Superintendent Dr. Donald Evans, Chief Business Official Jackie Kim

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE CABINET:** Marina Gonzalez, Chief Human Resources Officer; 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; Michelle Sinclair, Senior Director Professional Development; Julie Sen, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; and Kim Trutane, Ph.D., Communications Specialist

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

Student Trustees Ayush Deodhar and Yunelly Garcia read these out loud as listed on the agenda.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**4. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION - No Closed Session on this date.**

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

President Davidson made a motion to move item **14: Superintendents and Board Members Report** to go after item **8: Student Board Members Report**. The motion was seconded by Trustee Khan. The Board approved unanimously.

**6. SPOTLIGHT:**

**6-A. Student Board Members Year In Review: 2023-2024**

Student Trustee Yunelly Garcia and Student Trustee Ayush Deodhar presented their year in review as student board members.

### **Student Advocacy Committee (SAC)/Junior Student Advocacy Committee (JSAC)**

- The Student Advocacy Committee (SAC) implemented the Junior Student Advocacy Committee (JSAC) at the middle school; their first meeting drew about 20 participants!
- JSAC meeting discussions focused on main concerns about the school site; SAC members helped them narrow down and focus on a few, then draft ideas on how to create effective and meaningful solutions.
- Eventually JSAC began planning meetings on their own time
- They helped create a boys volleyball team
- They surveyed the entire 6th grade student population
- In upcoming years we hope to see this committee grow in membership but also in the projects they take on and really become a way for younger students to become involved in matters with the Board.

### **Experiences on the Board. How it was this year, first year for Ayush, last year for Yunelly**

***Yunelly read a statement:*** I'm so glad I took the opportunity my sophomore year to become a Student Board Member. I remember being intimidated by the idea of sitting on a dais and having the responsibility of representing over 3500 students. But as I became more comfortable in this setting, I realized that it is much more of a privilege to be able to do this job. I've been able to meet so many new people that I wouldn't otherwise have, my confidence in speaking out has solidified for the better, but most importantly I've been able to work with so many students in order to make AUSD a better place to learn and grow.

***Ayush read a statement:*** As you all know, this was my first year being a Student Board member and I am so happy that my sophomore self decided to take up this position because of how much it's taught me. Like Yunelly, I too was intimidated by the idea of representing a whole district. But I realized as the year continued it got easier and easier and I got more and more confident and involved. I'm so grateful for this opportunity because of all the new experiences. I enjoyed meeting with Mr. McNally, going to the CSBA conference in December, and most of all, giving my opinion on matters here on the board.

### **Favorite thing about being a student on the Board**

***Yunelly:*** Being able to understand the inner workings of the district and bringing that information to students who come up to me and ask questions.

***Ayush:*** My favorite part of being a student on the board is all the great people I get to meet. I've made so many connections with administrators and students that I didn't have before. And I just love the community here.

### **Most memorable thing we worked on/ discussed this year**

***Yunelly:*** Talking about racial discrimination with JSAC members at one of our earliest meetings. They were so passionate and engaged in this discussion, it was incredible to see such young students speak so eloquently and meaningfully about a topic that is complex and difficult to deconstruct/combat.

*Ayush*: The most memorable thing I worked on this year was JSAC as well. I enjoyed meeting with the middle schoolers and seeing what ideas they had to bring to their school. It was exciting to see the middle schoolers formulate their own ideas based on the guidance we provided them. And I think we can definitely see improvement amongst them since the beginning of the year

### **What we would do differently**

*Yunelly*: Be more persistent: it was difficult at times to get a hold of people and make sure plans went the way they should have.

*Ayush*: I have one more year here next year. And something I would do differently is making sure to speak out more and be confident with what I'm saying. Sometimes I don't voice my opinion just because I think it might be "wrong" but I've learned that this is a supportive community and it doesn't matter if people don't agree as long as I'm voicing my opinion and sharing my perspective.

### **Things to bring into next year**

College/career fair

### **Introduction of New Student Board Member for 2024-25**

MacKenzie Shepherd, rising sophomore, will begin as the new Student Board Member in August 2024.

## **7. RECOGNITION AND ACTION**

### **7-A. Recognition of Student Board Members**

Dr. Donald Evans, Interim Superintendent, presented certificates of recognition to the Student Board members for their service on the Board during the 2023-24 school year:

- **Ayush Deodhar** (11th grade), joined the board this school year and will continue next year as the Senior Student Board Member.
- **Yunelly Garcia-Bustamante** (12th grade), is the Senior Student Board Member, joined the Board as a junior in 2022-23 and has now served 2 years. She will be graduating and moving on to college.

President Veronica Davidson presented a special award to Yunelly Garcia-Bustamante for her 2 years of service and as a token of congratulations for her graduation.

### **7-B. Resolution No. 2023-24-26 Proclaiming June As LGBTQIA+ Pride Month**

Trustee Melissa Boyd read part of the backup to introduce this, and the resolution. No public comment.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the Resolution No. 2023-24-26 Proclaiming June As LGBTQIA+ Pride Month by Vice President Becky Hopwood; second by Trustee Ron Rosenbaum.

The Board approved 5-0-0 with 2 advisory votes (student board members).

## 8. STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Student Trustee Yunelly Garcia and Student Trustee Ayush Deodhar reported on events in the district:

**Albany High School:** Finals start this Thursday and will continue into next week. The graduation ceremony begins at 5pm Wednesday June 5th. Albany High Summer School students: families will be notified by May 31st of their course placement. Remember to return all chromebooks and chargers (seniors), textbooks, library books, or anything checked out to you to not receive a fine!

**Albany Middle School:** students please return chromebooks by May 29th

**Cornell Elementary School:** Last day to return library books is May 31st. PTA Garden Party on June 1st from 1-3pm; 5th grade promotion ceremony is on June 4th at 12:30pm.

**Marin Elementary School:** May 31st - Marin Dance party from 6-8pm; 5th grade promotion ceremony is on June 4th at 9:40am.

**Ocean View Elementary School:** 5th grade promotion ceremony is at 1pm on June 4th (minimum day)

## 14. SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS

**Interim Superintendent Dr. Evans:**

- Reported on Proposition 28 Funding: Prop 28 is the Arts and Music in Schools (AMS) Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act, a measure that requires the State to establish a new, ongoing program supporting arts instruction in schools beginning in 2023-24. AUSD received roughly \$285,00 as of this date. AUSD current allocation from the State include: Preschool: \$4,776; AHS: \$153,727; AMS: \$102,460; Elementary: \$211,991; Total = \$472,954. The School Site Council at each site should decide how they want the money to be used for their site. Principals have not heard General Ed teachers asking for more music. Most prep requests from teachers included art and science. Music teachers met with Dr. Wells some time ago at their request; Dr. Wells stated support to increase music in the schools; however, this was not communicated to principals or district leaders.
- Stated that emails regarding personnel matters submitted to the Board and Superintendent have been received; but the Board and District Staff cannot discuss personnel matters with the public.
- Last day of school is Tuesday, June 4th. Please check your child's schedule for times.

**Vice President Becky Hopwood:**

- The last Student Achievement Committee meeting was on 5/16/24. Wil Cason talked about the Student Success Space at the high school, and the Young Men and Women of Color advisory and mentorship program.
- At the High School: the first Senior Walk took place on 5/22/24, where graduating seniors came in all their regalia to the elementary schools they attended. About 36 students went to each school site. Becky attended the walk at Marin, and it was a really fun and touching event, which will hopefully continue in the future.
- Attended the athletic and academic Senior Awards at the high school on 5/23/24; it was great to see students honored for their achievements.
- On 5/31/24 there is the Latine Graduation from 5:00-7:30 pm in the high school Little Theater, followed by the Black Student Graduation at 5:00pm on 6/3/24, also in the Little Theater. The main graduation will be on 6/5 from 5:00-7:30 pm on Cougar Field. The PTA Graduation committee is still looking for volunteers, particularly for clean up. If you can help, please email [ahs-ptsa@ausdk12.org](mailto:ahs-ptsa@ausdk12.org) for a link to the SignUpGenius form.
- Remember to vote daily for "Profe" Pam Lim-McAlister who is a finalist in the NBC Bay Area All-Star Teacher Award. Voting closes on 5/31 and the prize is \$30,000 for the school of the winning teacher.

**Melissa Boyd:** Black and Latinx Student Celebration at Albany Middle School is on May 31st from 3:30-4:30pm.

**Sadia Khan:** reported on Ocean View:

- yearbook orders due in advance by May 31st;
- picnic on June 3;
- Please pick up all items in lost and found by June 3; anything left will be donated on June 4, last day of school

**Trustee Ron Rosenbaum:** no report. "Please vote for "Profe" Pam Lim-McAlister to win - she can bring \$30K to the high school!"

**President Veronica Davidson:** Reported on Cornell:

- Special garden party day on June 1st from 1-3pm; installing a sensory garden in the main part of the yard
- 5th grade promotion ceremony on June 4th at 12:30pm
- Lost and Found is overflowing; please gather belongings
- Camp Campbell school buses arrived safely this morning at camp and students are off to a good start

President Davidson also stated that the Board and Superintendent cannot discuss personnel matters at the Board meetings. Trustee Ron Rosenbaum clarified that they cannot discuss these matters anywhere (or in emails); it is against the law and not in the Board's purview.

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

The Board heard public comment (2 minutes each):

- 1) Michelle R. topic: Prop 28 funding; Albany Music Fund; stated that she received a verbal promise that the District would cover the cost to increase the minutes for K-3 music when they receive more funding
- 2) Amber, AMS parent; topics: need to be teaching about Palestine in our schools; closing of S3 space at Albany Middle School - encouraged parents, students, staff to speak up.
- 3) Jeffrey Luna-Sparks; topics: communication and transparency in the District; the Music program at Elementary; Proposition 28 funding for music
- 4) Shannon Huffaker, topic: Proposition 28 funding decisions; requested funds to be shared by multiple art modalities
- 5) Catherine ; topic: in support of Jeffrey Luna-Sparks and Shannon Huffaker requested Prop 28 funds be allocated to music funds
- 6) Tami (on zoom); topic: speaking out about injustices
- 7) Farida; former wellness coordinator at AMS; topic: mental well-being of students at Albany Middle School; requested the Board to reconsider the services at middle school for mental health and more comprehensive teaching on issues in Palestine. Stated that teachers are losing jobs for speaking out about this.
- 8) Parent; topic regarding recent events and people speaking about Palestine; requested the District provide teachers cultural competency training.

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

Vice President Hopwood requested to pull to discuss item 10-J. Approve Board of Education 2024-2025 Schedule of Regular Meetings

### **MOTION ON CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar **without 10-J** by President Davidson. Second by Ron Rosenbaum. All approved, motion passed unanimously.

### **10-A. Approve Personnel Report: May 28, 2024**

### **10-B. Approve Amendment To The Independent Contractor Services Agreement Between Albany Unified School District And Nicola Rain Tague, Occupational Therapist**

**10-C. Approve Amendment To The 2023-24 Master Contract Between Albany Unified School District And The Speech Pathology Group**

**10-D. Approve Amendment #2 To The 2023-24 Independent Contractor Services Agreement Between Albany Unified School District And Martha Youman, Ph.D., Licensed Educational Psychologist**

**10-E. Approve Amendment To The 2023-24 Independent Contractor Services Agreement Between Albany Unified School District And Lauren Oshiro, SpeechLanguage Pathologist**

**10-F. Approve Contract Agreement Between Albany Unified School District And Unitek Learning Education Group Corp. For Nursing Interns**

**10-G. Approve Independent Contractor Services Agreement between Albany Unified School District And Southern Energy Services, Inc.**

**10-H. Approve Disposal Of Surplus E-Waste**

**10-I. Approve Independent Services Agreement With Adaptive Networks For Installation Of Classroom Displays At Albany Middle And Albany High School**

**10-J. Approve Board of Education 2024-2025 Schedule of Regular Meetings**

**Changes/Requests for Consent Calendar:**

**10-J. Approve Board of Education 2024-2025 Schedule of Regular Meetings**

Some of the Board members have conflicts with some of the dates proposed on the Calendar of Regular Meetings and requested to examine the dates and resubmit a revised calendar

- Becky Hopwood: not available on August 6 and October 22, 2024
- Ron Rosenbaum: not available on August 6, 2024
- Melissa Boyd: not available on October 15, 2024

**MOTION:** President Davidson moved to Table **10-J. Approve Board of Education 2024-2025 Schedule of Regular Meetings**. Second by Becky Hopwood. The Board voted unanimously to table item 10-J. It will be brought back with revised dates to review and approve.

**11. REVIEW AND ACTION**

**11-A. Ratification Of The Memorandum of Understanding Between Albany Unified School District And California School Employees Association**

Marina Gonzalez, Chief Human Resources Officer, presented this. There was no discussion; no public comments.

**MOTION:** to approve the Ratification Of The Memorandum of Understanding Between Albany Unified School District And California School Employees Association  
Motion by Sadia Khan; second by Ron Rosenbaum. All voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

**11-B. Ratification Of The Memorandum of Understanding Between Albany Unified School District And Service Employees International Union**

Presented by Marina Gonzalez, Chief Human Resources Officer. There was no discussion; no public comments.

**MOTION:** to approve the Ratification Of The Memorandum of Understanding Between Albany Unified School District And Service Employees International Union  
Motion by Sadia Khan; Second by Ron Rosenbaum second. All voted in favor to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

**11-C. Salary Amendment For Unrepresented, Confidential, And Management Employees For 2024-25**

Marina Gonzalez, Chief Human Resources Officer, presented this. There was no discussion; no public comments.

**MOTION:** to approve Salary Amendment For Unrepresented, Confidential, And Management Employees For 2024-25  
Motion by Sadia Khan; Second by Ron Rosenbaum. All voted in favor to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

**11-D. 2025-2026 School Calendar**

Marina Gonzalez, Chief Human Resources Officer, presented this and reviewed the differences in the calendar. The survey that went out to parents was overwhelmingly in support of this calendar. There was no discussion; no public comments.

**MOTION:** to approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar  
Motion by Vice President Becky Hopwood; second by Student Trustee Yunell Garcia. All voted in favor to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

**11-E. Contract Negotiations With Jua Capital LLC For A Solar Power Purchase Agreement**

This item was presented by Jackie Kim, Chief Business Official, Scot Jaffe, Director of Maintenance and Operations, and Michael Borger from Sage NV5 (joined via Zoom). Mr. Borger reviewed the presentation in the agenda packet.

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

- 1) Nicholas Maderas: stated that the attachments that were reviewed were not available; President Davidson gave instruction on how to see them online. He also commented on the design for review; open-ended contract with no design

**Board discussion:** Members of the Board asked questions about the contract and the financial benefits to the District. Mr. Jaffe explained the project goals, and stated that the first step is for the Board to approve and allow the District to enter into contract negotiations. Once negotiations begin, they can get more information and answers to questions. When the contract is negotiated, it will be brought to the Board for review and approval. President Davidson reiterated that no contract is finalized yet, this is just allowing Staff to negotiate the contract.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve to allow Chief Business Official Jackie Kim to negotiate the contract by President Davidson; Second by Ron Rosenbaum; All voted in favor. Motion approved.

## **12. STAFF REPORTS**

### **12-A. Enrollment Projections for 2024-2025**

Jackie Kim, Chief Business Official, introduced Zach Worthen of PowerSchools. The presentation by Zach Worthen will be added to the board packet after the meeting.

Members of the Board expressed dissatisfaction with the presentation. The presentation should have been submitted to Staff to include in the agenda packet; it was very standard and not specific to Albany; the demographic data requested was not provided. President Davidson recommended canceling the contract with PowerSchools next year. Mr. Worthen offered to work with staff to pull that data and answer questions more specifically. Dr. Evans stated that AUSD is in the middle of a three-year contract with PowerSchools; and next year Staff will work with them to provide more accurate data in terms of enrollment projections. No public comments.

### **12-B. Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Annual Reports: FY 2021-2022 and 2022-2023**

Jackie Kim, Chief Business Official introduced Chris Moore, Citizens Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) member, who reviewed the annual reports from 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 for Measures B and E. Members of the Board thanked Chris Moore for his presentation and updates. No public comments.

## **13. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

### **13-A. School Facility Project (SFP) Grant Allocation - Part II**

Scot Jaffe, Director of Maintenance and Operations, reviewed the slides in the agenda and proposed a revised allocation proposal of the SFP grant based on recommendations of the Board at the May 14, 2024 meeting. Mr. Jaffe presented the priority needs: security, accessibility (ADA compliant); HVAC,

modernization, and technology by each site. The Board requested Staff to look for ways to reallocate some of the funds from larger projects. Look at larger pots of funds and try to get the best bang for the buck, and reallocate funds for other needs. Mr. Jaffee will look for possibilities for restroom improvements at Cornell outside of the ADA requirement. When this comes back to the Board, some items will need to be approved, and other items can wait for another time. It was requested to separate some of the items out, and for the modernization numbers to be broken out by type of modernization, as opposed to school-specific needs.

No public comments. This will come back to the Board in the near future for Review and action.

### **13-B. Bond Program Update And Possible Additional Funding Source**

Presented by Jackie Kim, Chief Business Official. Bond Measures B & E were passed in 2016 to fund needs identified in the AUSD Facilities Master Plan (done in 2013). Four major projects were prioritized as most urgent: Albany Middle School Annex, Albany High School Courtyard addition, Ocean View Elementary, and Marin Elementary. The new Facilities Assessment presented in May 2024 identified many major and minor facilities projects that need attention. Bond funds and State Facilities Grant funding are the only sources of funding for these projects. An option for funding is to place a general obligation bond measure on the November 2024 General Election ballot. Details of this option were discussed by the Board and Staff.

Juan Barroso, managing partner of DCA, reviewed the Bond Program Update presentation in the agenda packet to highlight the projects completed by the Bond Program. The 2024 Facility Needs Assessment identified high priorities including accessibility, security, HVAC replacement, technology, electrification, modernization, and some new construction.

Makiko Sato of Isom Advisors, reviewed the Bond Program Financial Update presentation in the agenda packet and explained the potential new bond measure. The deadline to pass a resolution to place a bond measure on the November 2024 ballot is in August. Since the Board does not meet in July, it was determined that the best course of action is to do this in June. Board approvals need to be voted on at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. The next election after November would be June 2026; the District would not receive any funding until early 2027.

President Davidson asked to see a plan for how this is going to be shared with the community before it comes back to the Board in June. Internal deadlines:

- May 29: send survey out to the community to help prioritize projects that were identified in the Facilities
- June 11: present results of the survey and board can discuss language
- June 18, 2024: present final resolution to Board for approval

Public Comments: None

### **13-C. Process For Approval And Global Adoption Of Albany Unified School District Board Policies, Guided By California School Boards Association**

Presented by Deb Brill, Executive Director of Student Services. As described in the agenda packet materials, the contract with CSBA for this policy workshop was approved by the Board in December 2023. District Staff could not schedule the workshop until October 2024 due to CSBA's demand for this in many districts.

The Board and Staff discussed the process as presented in the agenda materials. Ron Rosenbaum asked when and where the Board provided input and representation in these changes. He told Dr. Evans that he needs to see each one of the policies along with what is recommended, with track changes on so he may review them. He also requested that Dr. Evans send the Board a copy of current Board Bylaw 9310. Dr. Evans stated that he can send the BB 9310 to all board members. Dr. Evans asked for direction from the Board in terms of how Staff should move forward with this. President Davidson stated that the majority of the board is comfortable proceeding with this global adoption and pulling some policies that need attention and more discussion. This global adoption will bring the District into compliance; over 650 were updated to align with Ed Code. Dr. Evans stated that the workshop is just the beginning, and District Staff will be looking at policies and bringing items to the Board throughout the entire year.

#### **Public Comments:**

- 1) Shannon Huffaker; in support of District Staff professionals and CSBA professionals who worked on all of these and support of the board to accept these changes as a baseline. She commented that the District has gotten into trouble by School Board members who do not have an area of expertise trying to take over for those who do have the expertise.

### **15. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

President Davidson will bring the Issues Bin back

**16. ADJOURN MEETING** - The meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm.