



**ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 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
Trustee Veronica Davidson
Vice President Josh Mahoney
President Becky Hopwood
Superintendent Sara Stone

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

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

2-A. Potential Litigation (Govt. Code § 54956.9)

2-B. Personnel Matters (Govt. Code 54957)

2-C. Negotiations: Albany Teachers Association (ATA) (Govt. Code §54957.6)

**2-D. Discussion of Appointment of a Public Employee
Position: Chief Business Official (Govt. Code §54957)**

3. ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION at 7:10pm

OPEN SESSION - 7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:19pm

Present:

Student Trustee MacKenzie Shepherd

Trustee Dayna Inkeles

Trustee Sadia Khan

Trustee Veronica Davidson

Vice President Josh Mahoney

President Becky Hopwood

Superintendent Sara Stone

Absent: Student Trustee Ayush Deodhar (excused out of town)

District Staff present: Marina Gonzalez, Chief Human Resources Officer; Chris Thomas, Interim Chief Business Official; Brian Biggs, Senior Director of Special Education; Deb Brill, Executive Director of Student Services; Michelle Sinclair, Senior Director of Professional Development; Kim Trutane, Ph.D., Communications Specialist; Julie Sen, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

2. READING OF AUSD MISSION VISION STATEMENT & MEETING NORMS

Student Board Member Shepherd 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

Board took no action in closed session

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No changes to agenda

MOTION: to approve the agenda of the February 11, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Motion by: Dayna Inkeles

Second by: Sadia Khan

Vote: all voted in favor; motion passed.

6. RECOGNITION

6-A. Proclamation No. 2024-25-05: Recognizing March 2025 As Women's Herstory Month

Vice President Josh Mahoney read the proclamation recognizing March as Women's Herstory Month.

6-B. Recognition of Vonnie Davidson, Former Board President

Board President Becky Hopwood recognized Vonnie Davidson for her service to the Board. Ms Davidson joined the Board in 2020 for a term of 4 years. She served as President of the Board 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. She was re-elected in November 2024 to serve another 4 years, from 2024-2028; however, she was unable to attend the December 13, 2024 Board meeting when newly elected members were sworn in and the Board held its annual reorganization meeting. Vonnie took her oath of office with the City of Albany Clerk at City Hall. The Board and Staff recognized Vonnie and a plaque will be presented to her at a later date.

7. STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Student Board Member MacKenzie Shepherd reported to the Board.

Albany High School

- On Thursday, February 13th from 6-8 PM in the AHS Little Theater is this year's Black History Month Celebration. Students from all grade levels will be performing.
- Spring sports - Baseball, Boy's Golf, Softball, Swimming, Boy's Tennis, Track and Field, and Boy's Volleyball have just started, tryouts are being held throughout this week
- This week leadership is hosting February Frenzy with dress up spirit days like Monochrome Day and Ski Week vs. Spring Break Day. Also, there is a staff vs. students table tennis competition during lunch throughout the week.
- On Friday, Valentine's Day, the Albany Vocal Soul is coming to classrooms to perform and hand out Valentine Grams. Students and staff were able to purchase grams for the past couple of weeks where they picked out a song that vocal soul would perform for their person as well as getting them candy and a card.
- Today, Albany High students organized a walk out in protest of the new immigration reforms. We walked to the top of Solano, back down Solano to San Pablo, to the El Cerrito Plaza, up to Harding Elementary, then down Key Route back to the front of the school. The student turnout and community support was amazing. San Francisco Chronicles came and took pictures as well as Albany High's Journalism.

Albany Middle School

- The middle school has Unity Week starting Monday, March 3rd through Friday, March 8th.
- Thursday, March 6th, the 7th graders have an author's assembly
- There will be a Taiko Assembly on Friday, March 7th

Marin Elementary School

- Thursday, February 13th, 2025, at AUSD's Black History Month Celebration, the Marin 4th and 5th grade choir will be performing

All schools and offices will be closed from February 17th through February 21st, 2025 for Mid-Winter Break. Albany Children's Center's Preschool will only be closed on Monday, February 17th, 2025 but will be open for the rest of the week.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Public Comments: (2 minutes each)

- 1) Chris Knight, AHS teacher; topic: expectations of student technology use

9. REVIEW AND ACTION

9-A. Resolution No. 2024-25-13: Naming The Albany High School Library "The Dr. Frank Wells Library"

Deb Brill, Executive Director of Student Services, introduced this resolution and members of the committee read it for the public record. Committee Members: Melissa Boyd, Esq., Sara Hinkley, Jacob Clark, Sadia Khan, Deb Brill, Darren McNally, Eric Mapes, John Paulding

Public Comments: (2 minutes each)

- 1) Wil Cason

MOTION: to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2024-25-13: Naming The Albany High School Library "The Dr. Frank Wells Library"

Motion by Vonnice Davidson

Second by Sadia Khan

Roll call vote was taken and all voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

10. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Request to Pull items for Discussion: 10-F., 10-J., 10-K., 10-L., and 10-M.

10-A. Approve Adoption of Albany Unified School District Board Policy Updates

10-B. Approve 2024-25 Independent Contractor Services Agreement between Albany Unified School District and Discovery Education Specialists

10-C. Approve Amendment to 2024-25 Independent Contractor Services Agreement between Albany Unified School District and Maya D. Greenberg, Orientation & Mobility Specialist

10-D. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE) for Access Plus Connection Service to the K12 High Speed Network, July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2028

10-E. Approve Release of Surplus Material: Storage Container at Albany Middle School

10-F. Approve Purchase Of Chromebooks For One-To-One Student Device Refresh For 2025-26 School Year

Board requested to pull this for discussion.

10-G. Approve Donation Report: January 2025

10-H. Approve Donation Report: January 2025

10-I. Ratify Personnel Report

10-J. Approve Job Description: Executive Director of Teaching and Learning

10-K. Approve Job Description: Administrator on Special Assignment - State, Federal, and Special Programs

10- L. Approve Job Description: Teacher on Special Assignment - Assessment and Data Analyst

10-M. Approve Job Description: Substitute Administrator (Principal)

MOTION ON APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:

Motion to approve Consent Calendar items *with exception of items pulled for discussion:*

10-F, 10-J, 10-K, 10-L, and 10-M

Motion by Dayna Inkeles

Second by Vonnice Davidson

Vote: all voted in favor; motion passed.

ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION:

10-F. Approve Purchase Of Chromebooks For One-To-One Student Device Refresh For 2025-26 School Year

Board requested to pull this for discussion. Chris Thomas, Interim CBO stated that money was budgeted for this; does not impact the General Fund. This is for the approval of the purchase of 900 chromebooks, but the purchases will be in phases, not all at once. These are for student assessments testing that begins

in May; to support a class of approximately 300 incoming 9th graders and give them to them for all 4 years; incoming 6th graders; and also to replace many that are old need to be replaced.

Public Comments:

- 1) Kim Gray, Co-President ATA: students utilize the chromebook cart to check in/out when necessary
- 2) John Paulding, Campus Supervisor at AHS; camera situation is very poor and outdated

Motion on 10-F: Approve Purchase Of Chromebooks For One-To-One Student Device Refresh For 2025-26 School Year

Vonnie Davidson made a motion to approve the purchase as written with the caveat that the District follow up on monitoring usage on devices and have board discussions about a technology plan moving forward. Second by Sadia Khan. All approved; motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ON CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS PULLED:

10-J. Approve Job Description: Executive Director of Teaching and Learning

10-K. Approve Job Description: Administrator on Special Assignment - State, Federal, and Special Programs

10- L. Approve Job Description: Teacher on Special Assignment - Assessment and Data Analyst

The Board discussed the job descriptions together. Superintendent Stone explained that she is asking to reorganize the Executive Team, to reduce the number of people, and restructure the position(s) around curriculum and instruction. These positions need to be approved in order to present the plan for the reorganization.

Chief Human Resources Officer Marina Gonzalez reviewed the specific job descriptions. The salary schedules for these job descriptions were provided to the Board and public at the meeting; these will be posted on the agenda packet after the meeting.

The administrator on Special Assignment means this position would be an administrator who focuses on state and federal programs and other special programs.

Public Comment: (2 minutes)

- 1) Emily Surowitz, AHS teacher; asked about the salary range, and the need for the position administrator on special assignment.

Superintendent Stone stated that this position is not an executive team position but more commiserate with an elementary school principal.

10-M. Approve Job Description: Substitute Administrator (Principal)

Superintendent Stone explained that since there are no assistant principals at elementary schools, there is a need for a substitute administrator to fill in when a principal may need to be out for any given time.

MOTION ON CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 10-J, 10-K, 10-L; 10-M:

Motion to approve items 10-J, 10-K, 10-L, and 10-M by Vonnice Davidson

Second by Sadia Khan

All voted in favor; motion passed.

11. STAFF REPORT:

11-A. 2024-2025 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Mid-Year Update

Superintendent Stone reviewed the update included in the agenda packet. The Board received the staff report.

Public Comments: (2 minutes each):

- 1) Melissa Boyd: commented about the various abbreviations; black/african american students are so low they are not noted, but it looks like they are not there at all.

12. REVIEW AND ACTION:

12-A. Resolution No. 2024-25-14: Reduction or Discontinuance of Certain Certificated Particular Kinds of Services for the 2025-26 School Year

Presented by: Chief Human Resources Officer Marina Gonzalez. This resolution is for the reduction or discontinuance of 2 positions for 2025-26 school year: Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services (1 FTE); and Senior Director of Professional Development and Assessment (1 FTE). Recommendation is for the Board to approve and adopt the resolution.

Public Comments: (2 mins each)

Public comments from John Paulding and Melissa Boyd commented

MOTION: to approve Resolution No. 2024-25-14: Reduction or Discontinuance of Certain Certificated Particular Kinds of Services for the 2025-26 School Year

Motion by: Dayna Inkeles; Second by Josh Mahoney

Roll call vote was taken. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

12-B. Appointments To AUSD Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee

Presented by Interim Chief Business Official Chris Thomas

Six (6) applications were received by the deadline and reviewed by District Staff. The following candidates are recommended to be appointed by the Board based on their qualifications:

- **Ruby Cymrot-Wu:** Parent/guardian of a child enrolled in the district

- **Margaret Allen:** Parent/guardian of a child enrolled in the district AND active in parent-teacher organization, such as Parent Teacher Association or School Site Council
- **Rhoda Rossman:** “Public at large” Community member

The District will repost the Notice of Vacancy to receive additional applications specifically for the remaining vacant seats:

- 1 - Active member of a business organization representing the business community located within the district
- 1 - Active member in a senior citizens’ organization
- 2 - “Public at Large” Community members

The next CBOC meeting is scheduled March 19, 2025.

MOTION: to appoint the three new members recommended to the Board:

- **Ruby Cymrot-Wu:** Parent/guardian of a child enrolled in the district
- **Margaret Allen:** Parent/guardian of a child enrolled in the district AND active in a parent-teacher organization
- **Rhoda Rossman:** “Public at large” Community member

Motion by Josh Mahoney: Second by Dayna Inkeles

Result: all voted in favor.

13. SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Superintendent Sara Stone: presented her 90-Day work plan check-in as posted in the agenda packet. Also, Black History Month Celebration March 13 at the Albany High Little Theater from 6-8pm

Dayna Inkeles:

- Board Policy Committee met on Feb. 4, 2025 and reviewed 29 policies; more to come
- Albany High School is looking for volunteers for PTSA, Teacher Appreciation, and Graduation Committee
- PTSA - National Art PTA contest - 31 high school students participated and 5 Albany High school students won awards at a local level; 3 are going to the state competition.

Sadia Khan:

- Lunar New Year Celebration February 8 with an estimated 216 people attended
- SWANA Ramadan potluck celebration at Ocean View on March 7th 6:00pm
- Ocean View PTA hosting elections soon

Vonnie Davidson: Need to have a discussion about traffic safety around schools

Josh Mahoney:

- Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) will meet on March 19, 2025; need more people to apply
- Marin Elementary: Marin Morning; the Kindness song; spring conferences; Principal's Coffee
- Shout out to Director Reed at Albany Children's Center

Becky Hopwood:

- Thanked Superintendent Stone for
- Attended Cornell PTA meeting; lots of events planned: Cornell's Got Talent, Math Night, etc.
- The Board Policy Committee's next meeting is March 4, 2025. Topics that need more discussion will come to the board for more discussion.
- Attended Board Retreat last night, February 10, 2025 with Executive Cabinet; one item of discussion was the agenda and making meetings more efficient

14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MATTERS INTRODUCED BY THE BOARD

- Report on Prop 28 spending in the past year, and plans for future
- Discussion on Technology vision and plan for district
- Board retreat/work session to revisit mission 7 vision of district, strategic plans, set priorities, review and edit Governance handbook, etc.

15. ADJOURN OPEN SESSION at 9:35pm