

Saratoga Union School District Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
April 04, 2019 6:30 PM

District Office Conference Room
20460 Forrest Hills Drive
Saratoga, CA 95070

Closed Session - 6:30 p.m. Large Conference Room
Open Session - 7:00 p.m. Large Conference Room

Attendance Taken at 6:30 PM:

Present:

Mr. Eric Cao
Ms. Sophia Kao
Mrs. Cynthia Miller
Mrs. Arati Nagaraj
Mrs. Phyllis Tung

1. Call to Order/Public Comment

TimeCertain:
6:30 PM

2. Closed Session

TimeCertain:
6:35 PM

2.1. Personnel Report

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Mrs. Arati Nagaraj and a second by Ms. Sophia Kao.

Yes Mr. Eric Cao
Yes Ms. Sophia Kao
Yes Mrs. Cynthia Miller
Yes Mrs. Arati Nagaraj
Yes Mrs. Phyllis Tung

2.2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION

Kline, et al. v. Saratoga Union School District, et al., Santa Clara County Superior Court Case No. 19CV340517

2.3. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Gov. Code, 54956.8)

Properties: (1) Clubhouse at Argonaut Elementary School, 13200 Shadow Mountain Drive, Saratoga, CA. 95070; (2) Clubhouse at Foothill Elementary School, 13919 Lynde Avenue, Saratoga, CA. 95070; and (3) Clubhouse at Saratoga Elementary School 14592 Oak Street, Saratoga, CA. 95070

Agency Negotiators: Nancy Johnson, Superintendent, and Jean Aldrete, Chief Business Officer

Negotiating Parties: Saratoga Union School District and Los Gatos Saratoga Recreation Department

Under Negotiation - [] Price [] Terms of Payment [x] Both

3. Open Session/Report Out From Closed Session

TimeCertain:

7:00 PM

Minutes:

Board President Cynthia Miller reported out action taken during Closed Session. The Personnel Report was approved as presented as follows:

Retirement:

- Judy Wolthausen, Teacher at Saratoga Elementary School, is retiring effective June 8, 2019.

Resignation:

- Jose Rodriguez, Gardener 1, is resigning effective April 5, 2019.

4. (Estimated Time: 7:02 PM) Action/Consent Items

4.1. Approval of Agenda for April 4, 2019

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Ms. Sophia Kao and a second by Mrs. Arati Nagaraj.

Yes Mr. Eric Cao

Yes Ms. Sophia Kao

Yes Mrs. Cynthia Miller

Yes Mrs. Arati Nagaraj

Yes Mrs. Phyllis Tung

Minutes:

Board President Cynthia Miller stated that the board will return to Closed Session at the finish of Open Session this evening. The agenda was so amended and approved.

4.2. Approval of Minutes for March 21, 2019

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Ms. Sophia Kao and a second by Mrs. Arati Nagaraj.

- Yes Mr. Eric Cao
- Yes Ms. Sophia Kao
- Yes Mrs. Cynthia Miller
- Yes Mrs. Arati Nagaraj
- Yes Mrs. Phyllis Tung

4.3. Job Description for the Middle School Vice Principal

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Ms. Sophia Kao and a second by Mrs. Arati Nagaraj.

- Yes Mr. Eric Cao
- Yes Ms. Sophia Kao
- Yes Mrs. Cynthia Miller
- Yes Mrs. Arati Nagaraj
- Yes Mrs. Phyllis Tung

4.4. Job Description for the Elementary School Counselor

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Ms. Sophia Kao and a second by Mrs. Arati Nagaraj.

- Yes Mr. Eric Cao
- Yes Ms. Sophia Kao
- Yes Mrs. Cynthia Miller
- Yes Mrs. Arati Nagaraj
- Yes Mrs. Phyllis Tung

4.5. Professional Services agreement with Michele Syth (Interim Director of Special Education)

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Ms. Sophia Kao and a second by Mrs. Arati Nagaraj.

- Yes Mr. Eric Cao
- Yes Ms. Sophia Kao
- Yes Mrs. Cynthia Miller
- Yes Mrs. Arati Nagaraj
- Yes Mrs. Phyllis Tung

4.6. Professional Services Agreement for Documentary Film Screening "Angst" Panel Members

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Ms. Sophia Kao and a second by Mrs. Arati Nagaraj.

- Yes Mr. Eric Cao
- Yes Ms. Sophia Kao
- Yes Mrs. Cynthia Miller
- Yes Mrs. Arati Nagaraj

Yes Mrs. Phyllis Tung

**4.7. Memorandum of Understanding with the Technology and Data Service
Division of the Santa Clara County Office of Education for E-rate Services**

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Ms. Sophia Kao and a second by Mrs. Arati Nagaraj.

Yes Mr. Eric Cao

Yes Ms. Sophia Kao

Yes Mrs. Cynthia Miller

Yes Mrs. Arati Nagaraj

Yes Mrs. Phyllis Tung

5. (Estimated Time: 7:05 PM) Spotlight - Student-2-Student Conference

6. (Estimated Time: 7:25 PM) Communications

6.1. Introduction of Visitors and Guests

Minutes:

Board President Cynthia Miller invited members of the audience to introduce themselves.

6.2. Comments from the Community

Minutes:

There were no comments from the community.

6.3. Comments from Employee Groups

Minutes:

STA President Jen Vandenburg reminded board members about the STA Retirement Party, May 30, 2019 from 3:30-6 p.m. at the Foothill Club.

6.4. Comments from the Superintendent

Minutes:

Superintendent Nancy Johnson made the following comments:

- We have heard from the Santa Clara County Office of Education that two of our Classified employees of the year will be moving forward to the state level. Congratulations to Ramona Piva and Carlos Jiron.
- I attended the Special Olympics event at Saratoga Elementary School. Fifth graders did a fantastic job at organizing. It was a very happy occasion.
- Also at Saratoga Elementary recently, we were interviewed by 2nd graders about leadership. There were many community and school leaders that were interviewed by students.
- The students were dazzling in their performances at the Argonaut Variety Show.

- There was lots of pageantry, tables of delicious food and people interacting and learning from each other at Foothill's International Day event.

6.5. Comments from the Board Members

Minutes:

Clerk of the Board Arati Nagaraj made the following comments:

- I attended the "Angst" film viewing with the staff and panelists. There was discussion of taking it to the next level by hosting an evening for parents to view the film.

Board Member Sophia Kao made the following comments:

- I recently attended a Math club award ceremony. I was touched to see that some high school students are mentoring our middle school students.
- I enjoyed International Night at Foothill and am glad to learn that Saratoga Elementary will have one in May as well.
- At the recent Santa Clara County School Boards Association Meeting, we heard from a speaker from Children Now. Our new governor is an advocate for early childhood education.
- The County Board has new officers as well. Reminder that April 24 is the Hoffman Dinner. Our county superintendent also talked about the 2020 Census. This is one of the most difficult counties in the nation to be counted properly. There will be a campaign to promote participation.

Board member Phyllis Tung made the following comments:

- I went on Instructional Rounds with Nancy to Argonaut and Redwood. It is a pleasure to visit and watch students try so hard and teachers working to help students.
- I was thrilled to meet the ELD Team at a recent "Doughnuts with DELAC" meeting. The two Redwood students from Mrs. Avina's class were great to meet at this meeting.
- The highlight of my week was the Special Education event at Saratoga Elementary School. It was a very moving, powerful event.
- My son presented at the Student-2-Student conference. The Leadership students in particular calmed my son down and helped him get comfortable with presenting.

Board Member Eric Cao made the following comments:

- I attended Logan's presentation at the Student-2-Student conference, which was fun. The Foothill 4th grade presentation about Global Warming was amazing. It was well received from the audience and they were well prepared. We have a lot of talent in our district and this is a wonderful experience. Thank you for organizing this.

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7. Action/Discussion

7.1. (Estimated Time: 7:35 PM) Report from Educational Services

Minutes:

Teachers on Special Assignment Marion Dickel, Laurie Brandt, Laurie Marshall and Redwood Middle School teacher Shannon Avina presented information regarding the English Language Development program in SUSD.

Please see the attached report for specific information.

Board President Cynthia Miller thanked members of the ELD team for their presentation.

Innovative Learning Team members include Rebecca Poon, Doris Watson, Julie Orlando, Harry Dill, Laurie Marshall, Marion Dickel and Laurie Brandt. Thank you to Lisa Gilligan for her support of this team as well.

Please see the attached report for specific information.

Board President Cynthia Miller stated that three years ago we went through a wave of new curriculum. Where are we at with these materials? Lucy Calkins, for example - how much are you helping with this. Dickel stated that most teachers are comfortable with this now. They are able to incorporate it with project-based learning, different types of opinion writing, etc. They pull us in for brainstorming sessions, mostly.

Miller asked about Engaged New York. Poon stated that teachers seem comfortable. We are now looking at modifications to meet the needs of students; for example we modify assessments. We look for ways to go deeper, fill in things that are not explicit in the curriculum, etc.

Miller asked about NGSS and STEMscopes. Orlando stated that K-3 is still using the FOSS curriculum. We are looking at ways to pull in different programs to meet the new standards. With regards to STEMscopes, the curriculum was revamped this year and we are now looking ahead to see who will be teaching 5th grade and training that will be needed. Orlando stated that she meets with science aides regularly. They work together to pool resources and figure ways to support learning and hands-on science.

Board member Eric Cao asked about project-based learning. How does this get integrated into curriculum at different grade levels? Can the block schedule work for project-based learning? Dill stated that there has been a lot of infrastructure training with teachers, both elementary and middle school. The TOSA group also has had a lot of training with PBL and are available to coach, and it is catching on with teachers throughout the district.

Cao asked about different curriculum teachers participating in PBL. Dill stated that this varies across the grade levels. Core teachers are using the MakerSpace to develop coursework. This is being supported by teachers stepping back and allowing students to take over and explore and grow. We have a lot of infrastructure support to help teachers pull together with PBL.

Board member Phyllis Tung asked if you have encountered teachers that don't like the curriculum content or wish to go deeper with a subject. Orlando stated that I have worked with teachers that want to go a particular direction. We help support the teacher, get them materials, etc. Tung asked how teachers are guided to PBL and make sure that they are still teaching to the standard. Orlando stated that we must constantly check to make sure teachers are moving in the direction of state standards.

7.2. (Estimated Time: 8:05 PM) Update on middle school math placement in the Saratoga Union School District

Minutes:

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services presented information regarding math placement in the Saratoga Union School District. Please see the attached report for specific information.

Zarea stated that our Community Math Study Group (CMSG) has met three times this year to look at the data reflecting choices made over the past many years.

Board President Cynthia Miller asked about students on the pathway to take Geometry. Thirty-nine percent of students are on the pathway to take Geometry by 8th grade. Miller stated that there are very few students in the fall who flexed that we are having to adjust. Poon stated that there were some adjustments, but in most case they were adjusted from flexing and counseled by teachers to adjust.

Zarea stated that students who earned their way into the course all were achieving higher than a C grade.

Miller stated that the data says that we are on a reasonable path here. Zarea stated that at our last CMSG, everyone agreed that we don't want to change anything at this point. Assessments aren't 100% predictive of how students will do, but there is a feeling in the group that we got it right. Teachers are still concerned about student stress, but we did see parents listening when teachers and counselors intervened.

Clerk of the Board Arati Nagaraj asked about the level of stress on incoming 6th grade parents. Zarea stated that it wasn't palpable. Parents have a better understanding of what is coming and what the expectations are.

7.3. (Estimated Time: 8:35 PM) Adjourn for Recess

7.4. (Estimated Time: 8:45 PM) Reconvene to Open Session

7.5. (Estimated Time: 8:50 PM) Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Summary of Survey Results

Minutes:

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Roberta Zarea presented

information regarding the recent Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) survey of parents, staff and students.

Please see the attached reports for specific information.

Board President Cynthia Miller stated that each year the bathrooms seem to be an issue. Is the problem the volume of students who use the bathroom and this is inevitable or do we need to consider remodeling or more frequent custodial services? Zarea stated that we purchased a steam cleaner last year and increased the frequency that bathrooms were attended to. But these comments vary by school site. It could be a variety of issues, some of which are outside of our control. Superintendent Nancy Johnson stated that bathrooms need to be remodeled as well. There is also a component of student education that we overlook as well.

Zarea stated that there was a stated appreciation of the water machines on campus this year.

Board member Eric Cao asked if we can a plan to address the bathroom issue. I agree that we can ask students for solutions to these issues and get teachers to help educate students about the rules.

Board member Phyllis Tung stated that I agree with this. This is their school and they should be expected to take care of it. This has to do with student education.

Cao stated that I recall that there are events on campus at Argonaut to help promote students caring for their campuses.

Zarea stated that we all take this data very seriously. We look at all comments and consider how we can adjust.

Zarea stated that we don't have a huge sampling of parents and staff who took the survey. We also have parents who are staff members, so sometimes the data might not add up. It was a small sampling but there were some good comments that we are taking to heart.

Board member Sophia Kao mentioned comments about executive functioning. Zarea stated that this is starting to come into professional development and staff training. This is important to establish early on.

Zarea stated that these two reports will be part of our actual LCAP. We will look at the annual update at our next meeting.

7.6. (Estimated Time: 9:10 PM) 2019 California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly Run-off Election

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Mr. Eric Cao and a second by Mrs. Arati Nagaraj.

Yes Mr. Eric Cao

Yes Ms. Sophia Kao
Yes Mrs. Cynthia Miller
Yes Mrs. Arati Nagaraj
Yes Mrs. Phyllis Tung

Minutes:

The board discussed their choice of candidates for the run-off election.

The board selected Melissa Baten Caswell.

7.7. (Estimated Time: 9:25 PM) Williams Quarterly Report

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Mrs. Arati Nagaraj and a second by Ms. Sophia Kao.

Yes Mr. Eric Cao
Yes Ms. Sophia Kao
Yes Mrs. Cynthia Miller
Yes Mrs. Arati Nagaraj
Yes Mrs. Phyllis Tung

Minutes:

Superintendent Nancy Johnson stated that there are no complaints to report.

8. (Estimated Time: 9:30 PM) Future Agenda Items

9. (Estimated Time: 9:35 PM) Board Activities

10. (Estimated Time: 9:45 PM) Adjournment

Minutes:

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 9:10 p.m.

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 9:43 p.m. Board President Cynthia Miller reported no action taken during Closed Session.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Clerk of the Board

Date