

**SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

October 5, 2021  
**MINUTES**

Douglas E. Giles  
Educational Resource Center  
9619 Cuyamaca Street  
Santee, California

**A. OPENING PROCEDURES**

**1. Call to Order and Welcome**

President Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present:

Barbara Ryan, President  
Elana Levens-Craig, Vice President  
Ken Fox, Member  
Dustin Burns, Member

Administration present:

Dr. Kristin Baranski, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board  
Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services  
Tim Larson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources/Pupil Services  
Dr. Stephanie Pierce, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services  
Lisa Arreola, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary

President Ryan noted Member El-Hajj was unable to attend the meeting.

**2. District Mission**

President Ryan welcomed those present and recited the District Mission.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Tim Larson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources/Pupil Services, led members, staff, and audience, in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

President Ryan presented the agenda for approval. Member Burns moved approval.

<i>Motion:</i>	<u>Burns</u>	<i>Ryan</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Fox</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Second:</i>	<u>Fox</u>	<i>Levens-Craig</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Burns</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Vote:</i>	<u>4-0</u>	<i>El-Hajj</i>	<u>Not Present</u>		

**B. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Superintendent's Report**

- 1.1. Developer Fees and Collection Report
- 1.2. Use of Facilities Report
- 1.3. Enrollment Report

**C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

President Ryan invited members of the audience to address the Board about any item not on the agenda. There were no public comments.

**D. CONSENT ITEMS**

President Ryan invited comments from the public on any item listed under Consent. There were no public comments.

- 1.1. Approval of Minutes
- 2.1. Approval/Ratification of Travel Requests
- 2.2. Approval/Ratification of Agreements for Mileage Reimbursement in Lieu of District Transportation
- 2.3. Approval/Ratification of Expenditure Transactions Charged to District Issued Purchasing Cards (P-Cards)
- 2.4. Approval/Ratification of General Services Agreements
- 2.5. Adoption of Proclamation for National School Lunch Week
- 2.6. Approval of Uniform Complaint Quarterly Report Required by the Williams Settlement
- 2.7. Authorization to Contract with Public Surplus
- 2.8. Authorization to Sell/Dispose of Surplus Items
- 2.9. Authorization to Contract with Foley To Provide an On-Line Platform for Streamlining the Administration of Medical Examinations, Licensing Requirements, DMV Record Searches, and Responses to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Inquiries for Individuals Driving District Vehicles
- 3.1. Personnel, Regular
- 3.2. Approval of Short-Term Positions
- 3.3. Adoption of Proclamation Endorsing Drug Awareness Week October 23 – 31, 2021

Member Burns moved approval.

<i>Motion:</i>	<u>Burns</u>	<i>Ryan</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Fox</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Second:</i>	<u>Fox</u>	<i>Levens-Craig</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Burns</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Vote:</i>	<u>4-0</u>	<i>El-Hajj</i>	<u>Not Present</u>		

**E. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS**

**Superintendent**

- 1.1. Appointment of Payroll Specialist  
Superintendent Baranski explained that with the upcoming retirement of Karen Lippert, the current Payroll Specialist, Administration conducted a thorough application and interview process to find a replacement; and recommended the appointment of Sheila White, as Payroll Specialist, effective October 25, 2021.

Superintendent Baranski explained Ms. White is currently the Senior Payroll and Benefits Technician in Lemon Grove School District, and prior to that was a Business Services Specialist at Dehesa School District.

Member Burns moved approval. Ms. White expressed her gratitude and the Board welcomed Ms. White to the District.

<i>Motion:</i>	<u>Burns</u>	<i>Ryan</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Fox</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Second:</i>	<u>Fox</u>	<i>Levens-Craig</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Burns</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Vote:</i>	<u>4-0</u>	<i>El-Hajj</i>	<u>Not Present</u>		

- 1.2. Approval to Create Director of Communications and Community Engagement Job Description  
Superintendent Baranski noted that in her past five years as Superintendent, school districts have experienced a flood of crises that have required active communication with families and staff; in addition to the increase in the number of communication apps available and frequency of social media communications.

Superintendent Baranski explained that in addition to recognizing these various crises and the need for increased communications, the District conducted a communication audit with our parents and staff in April 2021. She noted overall survey results were positive, but areas needing improvement included highlighting our District curriculum and achievements.

Superintendent Baranski recommended the addition of a classified manager to support communication outcomes and noted the tasks performed will be vast but the first task, aside from getting to know staff and the community, will be to create a plan that incorporates short-term and long-term communication goals for the District.

Superintendent Baranski noted Santee is an amazing District and expressed the need to better highlight and communicate our achievements. She presented the job description for a Director of Communication and Community Engagement for approval and explained the beginning salary was \$114,481, and that the published fiscal impact included salary and all benefits. Superintendent Baranski explained that if approved, the position will be posted in the typical locations, and the District would be asking other school district Public Information Officers to help with recruitment, including the County Office of Education.

Member Burns shared his support for the Director of Communication and Community Engagement and noted he expected this position to also work with the school sites on highlighting their achievements. Member Levens-Craig moved approval.

<b>Motion:</b>	<u>Levens-Craig</u>	<b>Ryan</b>	<u>Aye</u>	<b>Fox</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>Second:</b>	<u>Burns</u>	<b>Levens-Craig</b>	<u>Aye</u>	<b>Burns</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>Vote:</b>	<u>4-0</u>	<b>El-Hajj</b>	<u>Not Present</u>		

**1.3. Approval of Appointment of Members to Board Advisory Committees**

Superintendent Baranski presented a recommendation of applicants to the Board advisory committees for the Board's consideration. She explained the applications were reviewed and the applicants were assigned to their first and second choice. Member Burns moved approval.

<b>Motion:</b>	<u>Burns</u>	<b>Ryan</b>	<u>Aye</u>	<b>Fox</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>Second:</b>	<u>Fox</u>	<b>Levens-Craig</b>	<u>Aye</u>	<b>Burns</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>Vote:</b>	<u>4-0</u>	<b>El-Hajj</b>	<u>Not Present</u>		

**Business Services**

**2.1. Approval of Monthly Financial Report**

Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, reported the monthly financial report was for cash and budget revision transactions posted through August 31, 2021; and shared the District ended the month with a cash balance in the General Fund of approximately \$20.1 million sufficient to pay all of the District's financial obligations for the fiscal year. Member Burns moved approval.

<b>Motion:</b>	<u>Burns</u>	<b>Ryan</b>	<u>Aye</u>	<b>Fox</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>Second:</b>	<u>Fox</u>	<b>Levens-Craig</b>	<u>Aye</u>	<b>Burns</b>	<u>Aye</u>
<b>Vote:</b>	<u>4-0</u>	<b>El-Hajj</b>	<u>Not Present</u>		

**2.2. Current Facility Needs List**

Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, explained that at the April 20, 2021 meeting, the Board engaged in a discussion regarding remaining funds available for Capital Outlay projects after completion of the new building projects at Chet F Harritt, PRIDE Academy, and Sycamore Canyon. He noted these new building projects were the last ones included in the original Capital Improvement Program (CIP) launched in 2006. Mr. Christensen explained the April 20th discussion centered around the



Priority 1, the District completed the self-reflection tool for appropriately assigned teachers, standards aligned curriculum and a safe, clean and functional school facilities. The District met this standard.

Priority 2, implementation of State Academic Standards. The District completed the self-reflection tool and met the standard with the science adoption pilot process taking place; and will have implemented all core curricular areas and provided professional learning with a focus on standards and curriculum alignment. Dr. Pierce noted that for other academic areas, the District does not offer courses such as world languages but uses creative means to offer some of these courses through electives at schools given or TK-8 system.

Priority 3 is family engagement. The District completed the self-reflection tool and met the standard. Dr. Pierce explained that due to the pandemic our family engagement in schools and through the district has been through an online format. She noted there have been some terrific outcomes for our families having the opportunities to be a part of the decision-making process and increased participation even when not physically on the campus.

Priority 6 is school climate. Dr. Pierce explained the District has completed this self-reflection tool and met the standard; and noted the District already presented the panorama data to the Board.

Dr. Pierce noted Priority 7 is access to a board course of study, the last self-reflection tool, and the District met this standard. She explained Administration wrote a narrative about the structure of electives within the middle school and the creative means used to offer electives.

Dr. Pierce asked for approval of the dashboard's local data. Member Levens-Craig moved approval.

<i>Motion:</i>	<u>Levens-Craig</u>	<i>Ryan</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Fox</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Second:</i>	<u>Burns</u>	<i>Levens-Craig</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Burns</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Vote:</i>	<u>4-0</u>	<i>El-Hajj</i>	<u>Not Present</u>		

**F. BOARD POLICIES AND BYLAWS**

President Ryan noted item G.1.1. were second readings of School Plans/Site Councils (BP 0420); Charter School Authorization (BP 0420.4); and Comprehensive Local Plan for Special Education (BP 0430). Member Burns moved approval.

**1.1. Second Reading of Board Policies (BP):**

- **BP 0420 – School Plans/Site Councils**
- **BP 0420.4 – Charter School Authorization**
- **BP 0430 – Comprehensive Local Plan for Special Education**

<i>Motion:</i>	<u>Burns</u>	<i>Ryan</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Fox</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Second:</i>	<u>Fox</u>	<i>Levens-Craig</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Burns</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Vote:</i>	<u>4-0</u>	<i>El-Hajj</i>	<u>Not Present</u>		

**G. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATION**

Melanie Hirahara, Santee Teachers Association President, noted teachers had reached an agreement regarding stipend provisions for the increased needs of independent study contracts for students due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and shared the teachers continue to work together through the challenges.

**H. BOARD COMMUNICATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS**

Superintendent Baranski reported a slight increase in COVID cases and noted the District continues to make sure all the safety measures continue in place.

Superintendent Baranski noted the Governor Newsom's student vaccination mandate would require COVID-19 vaccinations for both public and private California students once the vaccine is fully authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for each respective age group. The mandate could be effective as early as January 1, or July 1, 2022 for children in grades 7-12. Governor Newsom's mandate also requires all staff to be vaccinated no later than the requirement takes effect for students. The current verify-or-test requirement for staff will be converted to a vaccine mandate.

Tim Larson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resource/Pupil Services, reported that the District was awarded \$500,000 through a DODEA grant. He noted the grant had been submitted by Meredith Riffel, the recently retired Community Collaborative Director. He noted Project Resilience supports military students as they prepare for careers in STEM/health science with a focus on the three areas of problem solving, social emotional needs and physical wellness, at Carlton Hills, Carlton Oaks, and Rio Seco schools. The focus areas are implemented as an interconnected approach to building young minds, healthy bodies, and positive spirits. The Board expressed their gratitude towards Mrs. Riffel and asked that a note of gratitude be sent on their behalf.

Superintendent Baranski noted Sarah Duran Lathers had been honored by the East County-San Diego Chamber of Commerce as the October 2021 Educator of the Month. The Board expressed their congratulations to Mrs. Durand Lathers.

**I. CLOSED SESSION**

President Ryan announced that the Board would meet in closed session for:

1. **Conference with Labor Negotiator** (Gov't. Code § 54957.6)  
*Purpose: Negotiations*  
*Agency Negotiators: Tim Larson, Assistant Superintendent*  
*Employee Organizations: Santee Teachers Association (STA); and*  
*Classified School Employees Association (CSEA)*
2. **Public Employee Performance Evaluation** (Gov't. Code § 54957)  
*Superintendent*

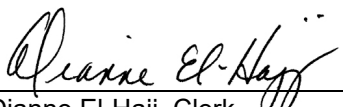
The Board entered closed session at 7:55 p.m.

**J. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

The Board reconvened to public session at 9:45 p.m. and reported no action was taken.

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the regular meeting of October 5, 2021, was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

  
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Dianne El-Hajj, Clerk

  
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Dr. Kristin Baranski, Secretary