

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

February 15, 2022
MINUTES

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

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order and Welcome

President Levens-Craig called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present:

Elana Levens-Craig, President
Dianne El-Hajj, Vice President
Ken Fox, Clerk
Dustin Burns, Member
Barbara Ryan, 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

2. District Mission

President Levens-Craig welcomed those present and invited the audience to recite the District Mission.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Lisa Arreola, Executive Assistant, led members, staff, and audience, in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

President Levens-Craig presented the agenda for approval. Member Fox moved approval.

Motion:	<u>Fox</u>	Levens-Craig	<u>Aye</u>	Burns	<u>Aye</u>
Second:	<u>Burns</u>	El-Hajj	<u>Aye</u>	Ryan	<u>Aye</u>
Vote:	<u>5-0</u>	Fox	<u>Aye</u>		

President Levens-Craig announced today's meeting would be adjourned in memory of Mr. Gene Chubb and Pastor Harold Brown, who recently passed. She read the following in their honor:

Mr. Gene Chubb, who passed away on February 3rd, was cofounder of RCP Block & Brick, a family owned and operated business since 1947.

Mr. Chubb was a beloved member of our community and lent his support to many community projects over the years, including Santee School District and Foundation events. Gene was a loyal member of the Rotary Club of Santee-Lakeside for almost twenty years.

Gene will be missed and leaves a void that likely can never be filled. Knowing Gene was an honor. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Susie, their family, and the entire RCP Block & Brick family.

Pastor Brown became a community leader dedicated to helping others. As founder and CEO of the East County Transitional Living Center (ECTLC) in El Cajon, he championed programs that have helped thousands of people escape homelessness and find hope instead of despair. Pastor Brown was loved by many and will be deeply missed. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

B. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. SSD Proud Moments

President Levens-Craig shared the following message from Ted Hooks, Principal at Chet F. Harritt STEAM School, while a slideshow played for the audience.

Chet F. Harritt STEAM School is proud to be returning to assemblies and events on campus that reinforcing learning, teamwork, and interpersonal social skills.

Last month, we had our first school assemblies on campus since March of 2020. Our children in EAK through grade 5 came out to see the California Dairy Council Mobile Classroom to learn about dairy cows, how dairies work, and healthy choices. Meeting a live cow named Winter allowed them to connect learning to the real world. Since these was our first schoolwide assemblies, there were many new memories made. Children even wrote letters to Mr. Miller, the host, and Winter, herself.

Our Middle Schoolers in grades 6-8 have been engaged in outdoor spirit events this year. Each homeroom has a team color and team name. When they gather, they engage in friendly competitions between homerooms. We are happy to see their sportsmanship and determination during these events. These are the skills that directly translate to the classroom and help build stronger bonds.

We are so proud that we can safely come together in these ways. It reminds us of the importance of fun and friends in the learning process.

2. Superintendent's Report

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

3. Supplemental Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Update

Dr. Stephanie Pierce, Assistant Superintendents of Educational Services, and Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, presented the one-time supplement to the 2021-22 LCAP Annual update. The presentation included updates on the Supplement to the Annual Update to the 2021-22 Local Control and Accountability Plan; 2021-22 Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Budget Overview for Parents Data Input Sheet; and the 2022 LCAP Executive Summary.

Dr. Pierce shared the supplemental LCAP is a one-time mid-year report as part of the California Budget Act. This plan provides a description for how and when the District has engaged with educational partners on the use of the funds. The three funds described are the Expanded Learning Opportunity Plan (ELOP), Educator Effectiveness Funds and the Transitional Kindergarten (TK) planning grant. She explained these funds came after the District's LCAP was written.

Dr. Pierce noted the other sections were how the District engaged educational partners for the use of Federal funds. She explained the District was aware of these funds when developing the LCAP and were integrated based on what was known at the time. The other requirement includes presentation of local achievement measures, which occurred at our January 18th Board meeting.

Dr. Pierce noted other requirements would be presented at the LCAP Annual Review, virtual community forum, on February 22 at 6:00 pm, for educational partner input. She explained the Executive Summary includes the recent metrics and analysis and a section devoted to implementation of the District's LCAP action steps.

Mr. Christensen provided an overview of the actions and services implementation from the Executive Summary and reviewed the last State requirement is to update the parent friendly budget.

President Levens-Craig expressed her gratitude towards Dr. Pierce and Mr. Christensen for the preparation of the documents and their presentation.

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

President Levens-Craig invited members of the audience to address the Board about any item not on the agenda. There were 16 requests to speak for item E.1.2. Return to Local Control Making Authority and Recommendation of Proposed Vaccination Mandate.

D. CONSENT ITEMS

President Levens-Craig 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 Expenditure Warrants
- 2.3. Approval/Ratification of Purchase Orders
- 2.4. Approval/Ratification of Revolving Cash Report
- 2.5. Acceptance of Donations, Grants, and Bequests
- 2.6. Approval of Agreements for Mileage Reimbursement In Lieu of District Transportation
- 2.7. Authorization to Purchase Truck for Maintenance and Operations Department – *pulled from agenda*
- 3.1. Approval of Nonpublic Agency Master Contract with New Haven Youth Services for Therapeutic Behavioral Services
- 4.1. Personnel, Regular
- 4.2. Approval of New Probationary Teachers – *pulled for separate consideration*

Member Burns asked that item D.4.2. Approval of Probationary Teachers be pulled for separate consideration. President Levens-Craig shared Consent Item D.2.7. Authorization to Purchase Truck for Maintenance and Operations Department was being pulled from the Agenda. Member Burns moved approval of the remaining consent items.

Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, explained item D.2.7. was being pulled from the agenda because the quoted vehicle was no longer available. He noted the item would be brought back at a future meeting for consideration.

Motion:	<u>Burns</u>	Levens-Craig	<u>Aye</u>	Burns	<u>Aye</u>
Second:	<u>Fox</u>	El-Hajj	<u>Aye</u>	Ryan	<u>Aye</u>
Vote:	<u>5-0</u>	Fox	<u>Aye</u>		

4.2. Approval of New Probationary Teachers – pulled for separate consideration

Member Burns shared this item was pulled for separate consideration to acknowledge and celebrate the 24 teachers being presented for probationary status. He moved approval.

Board members commended and congratulated the teachers and asked Melanie Hirahara, Santee Teachers Association President, to extend these teachers congratulations on their behalf.

Motion:	<u>Burns</u>	Levens-Craig	<u>Aye</u>	Burns	<u>Aye</u>
Second:	<u>El-Hajj</u>	El-Hajj	<u>Aye</u>	Ryan	<u>Aye</u>
Vote:	<u>5-0</u>	Fox	<u>Aye</u>		

E. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent

1.1. Appointment of Director, Child Nutrition

Superintendent Baranski noted that with the upcoming retirement of the current Director, Amanda Flamion was being recommended for this management position. She shared Ms. Flamion currently serves as Child Nutrition Services Coordinator in San Marcos Unified School District, since June 2021; and prior to this management position, she served as a Child Nutrition Services Area Supervisor at National School District for five years; and was highly recommended by her employers. Ms. Flamion holds a Bachelor's degree in Food Science and Nutrition, a Master's degree in Business Administration, and various other food service certifications. Member El-Hajj moved approval.

Ms. Flamion expressed her gratitude for the opportunity and shared looking forward to being part of Santee School District. The Board congratulated Ms. Flamion on her appointment.

Motion:	<u>El-Hajj</u>	Levens-Craig	<u>Aye</u>	Burns	<u>Aye</u>
Second:	<u>Ryan</u>	El-Hajj	<u>Aye</u>	Ryan	<u>Aye</u>
Vote:	<u>5-0</u>	Fox	<u>Aye</u>		

1.2. Return to Local Control Making Authority and Recommendation of Proposed Vaccination Mandate

Superintendent Baranski explained there were requests from community members for the Board to discuss and take action on a resolution regarding return to local decision-making authority and reconsideration of proposed vaccine mandate that was being circulated throughout the State and signed by some Board members from various local districts. President Levens-Craig noted there were 16 requests to speak on this item and read verbiage from Board Bylaw 9323 – Meeting Conduct, on the Board's discretion to allow each speaker three minutes to address the Board; and the Board's discretion to limit the total time for public input to 20 minutes. Upon discussion, it was consensus of the Board to allow each speaker their three (3) minutes to address the Board.

Susan Powell asked that the Board speak-up and put the students' best interest first.

Corina Bonnardel expressed her appreciation to the Board and staff for their work in keeping the schools open for the students; and her disagreement, concerns, and the mental health issues associated with the use of facemasks. She asked that Board to do the right thing for students and allow parent choice.

Robyn Forzano shared her disagreement with the mandatory use of face masks and the implications it causes students. She noted parents are tired, no longer afraid, and willing to fight for their students. She asked that the Board join them in the fight.

Kevin Prescott expressed his frustration of his wife's dismissal for refusing to test weekly because of her unvaccinated status. He asked that the Board listen and stand-up against the mandates.

Jeff Etzler shared his disagreement of the mandatory vaccine mandate.

Kera Ledgler expressed her frustration with the current mandates.

Steffani Curtsinger shared disagreement with the face masks and vaccine mandate; asked that the Board allow students to return to some normalcy; and to stand with parents and give them choice on the matter.

Jackie G shared her disagreement with the mask mandate and asked that the Board allow students to return to some normalcy; and stand with parents and give them choice on the matter.

Wendi Bender shared her disagreement with the mask and vaccine mandates, weekly testing, effects of the mandates on students and staff, and asked the Board to advocate for the students.

Molly Tavernese expressed sharing the same sentiments as the previous speakers and noted the mental health issues being caused by the mandates.

Max Montgomery shared the detriments masks cause some of his classmates and asked the Board to advocate for the students.

Erin Flores shared her disagreement with the students' use of facemasks and vaccine mandates; and asked that the community and parents voice their concerns and opinions to the Board without the use of threats. She read a threatening letter mailed to the Board members' homes.

Brie Medina shared her disagreement with the mask and vaccine mandate.

Jennifer Brelet noted the effects the current mask mandate caused her daughter and son. She asked that the Board fight for the students.

Bodie Brelet noted being excluded from class and other activities because he refuses to wear his mask. He asked that the Board advocate for students.

Britney Shell expressed her disagreement with the mask and vaccine mandates and implications it has caused her children. She asked that the Board fight for the students.

Devon Santana expressed his appreciation to the Board for allowing everyone to share their opinions; and asked that the Board join parents and take a stance for the students.

President Levens-Craig expressed her appreciation to the speakers; and opened the item for Board discussion.

Member El-Hajj noted everyone's passion for children and shared being away numerous hours from her family to serve her duties as Board member; and shared a story on how COVID impacted her personally. She shared listening to everyone's point of view and ask that they understand that whatever direction the Board decides to pursue, they are being as efficient and effective as possible, given the current circumstances. Member El-Hajj recognized a need for some change but explained it did not mean ignoring what they have been sworn to do. She shared reading many letters and resolutions with valid points and explained the Board has always been independent and that the District should take its own stance; but it did not mean that they ignore mandates.

Member Ryan shared having conversations about progression and how the mandates put in place in August no longer apply at this time. She shared that during Board Communication the Board would be discussing a letter sent to the Governor. Member Ryan shared the Board is advocating for students in ways they feel are more effective. She shared a story on how COVID impacted her personally. Member Ryan noted the Board is very willing to look at things as they change and make the best decisions for the District and the students. She thanked those in attendance for sharing their feelings.

Member Burns shared going through the same struggles as a parent of an eight-year-old at Cajon Park. He noted not supporting the vaccine mandate but believing in the vaccine. He shared not supporting signing the document that was presented because it did not represent Santee but would support the District write a letter independently. He noted he was advocating for the students and staff and shared contacting the State Senator and Assembly Member voicing his opinion on the mandates; and alluded to the letter the District sent to the Governor asking that the mandate for weekly staff testing for unvaccinated be discontinued. Member Burns supported putting a plan in place to help the District move forward with removing some of the mandates; and his support in communicating that. He noted some of the comments referenced "money" and explained expenses of keeping the District running (i.e., salaries, utilities, maintenance, etc.). Member Burns shared strongly believing and supporting local control. He explained understanding mandates are not laws but noted legal counsel and insurance companies being clear on the dire consequences if the District did not follow the mandates. Member Burns noted sharing similar sentiments as everyone and the need to work together on advocating for students and staff.

Member Fox noted not agreeing with the mask mandates; and shared believing in vaccinations and supporting everyone's right to choose. He shared agreeing and supporting Member Burns' suggestion of writing a letter on behalf of the District.

President Levens-Craig shared believing in a parent's right to decide what is best for their children. She noted not supporting the mask or vaccine mandates. But noted concerns that if they chose not to follow a law/mandate, that there would be an expectation that the Board could select which laws/mandates they should follow. She shared finding the continuance of masks in the schools hypocritical and supported the District write a letter to the Governor.

Member Burns shared it was unfortunate that these issues were politicized and that school districts were placed in the middle. He noted his priority is to keep the schools open and shared the challenges his son faced learning through a monitor. He accepted the use of masks a little bit more because his son was at school and explained that if we were at the peak, he may have a different feeling. Member Burns noted his disappointment in the Department of Public Health for not leading the charge on these issues.

President Levens-Craig noted the majority of the Board agreed not to sign on to the suggested resolution, but instead ask Administration and/or a committee of the Board to write a letter to the Governor on the District's behalf. Superintendent Baranski shared the letter had to be written quickly as it may help guide in the decision making; and noted her disappointment that the schools were not allowed to unmask but criteria for similar establishments were allowed.

Upon discussion, the Board agreed to have administration draft a letter to the Governor by Friday; the Board review over the weekend; and mail and post the letter on the website on Tuesday, because of the President's Day holiday. President Levens-Craig expressed her appreciation to those attendance.

1.3. California School Boards Association (CSBA) 2022 Delegate Assembly Election

Superintendent Baranski noted it was time to cast a unit vote to fill the vacancies in the CSBA Delegate Assembly and diverted to Board Member Ryan, the District's CSBA Delegate Assembly representative, for a recommendation. Member Ryan recommended voting for the current incumbents: Maria Bentancourt-Castaneda (National SD); Eleanor Evans (Oceanside USD); Humberto Gurmilan (San Ysidro SD); Claudine Jones (Carlsbad USD); Gee Wah Mok (Del Mark Union SD); Tamara Otero (Cajon Valley USD); Marla Strich (Encinitas Union ESD); Michelle Gates (National SD); and Julie Kelly (Vista USD).

Member Ryan moved to cast their unit vote, of the aforementioned, to fill the vacancies for the CSBA Delegate Assembly Region 17 representatives.

<i>Motion:</i>	<u>Ryan</u>	<i>Levens-Craig</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Burns</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Second:</i>	<u>Fox</u>	<i>El-Hajj</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Ryan</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Vote:</i>	<u>5-0</u>	<i>Fox</i>	<u>Aye</u>		

Business Services

2.1. Acceptance of 2020-21 Measure S Financial and Performance Audit

Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, presented the 2020-21 Measure S Financial and Performance Audit. He noted the District's auditor, Eide Bailly, conducted a financial and performance audit for the period from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 and noted there were no findings or recommendations. Mr. Christensen shared the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (ICOC) reviewed and accepted the Audit Report at its January 26, 2022 meeting. Member Burns moved for acceptance of the audit.

<i>Motion:</i>	<u>Burns</u>	<i>Levens-Craig</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Burns</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Second:</i>	<u>Ryan</u>	<i>El-Hajj</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Ryan</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Vote:</i>	<u>5-0</u>	<i>Fox</i>	<u>Aye</u>		

F. BOARD POLICIES AND BYLAWS

President Levens-Craig noted item F.1.1. was a second reading of revised Board Policy (BP) 6170.1 – Transitional Kindergarten; and Board Bylaw (BB) 9320 – Meeting and Notices. Member Burns moved approval.

1.1. Second Reading: Revised Board Policy (BP) and Board Bylaw (BB):

- BP 6170.1 – Transitional Kindergarten
- BB 9320 – Meeting and Notices

<i>Motion:</i>	<u>Burns</u>	<i>Levens-Craig</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Burns</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Second:</i>	<u>Fox</u>	<i>El-Hajj</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Ryan</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Vote:</i>	<u>5-0</u>	<i>Fox</i>	<u>Aye</u>		

G. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATION

Melanie Hirahara, Santee Teachers Association President, expressed her gratitude towards Rise City Church for the donation of gift cards for teachers who work directly with students.

H. ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

Superintendent Baranski provided a COVID-19 District update and shared cases continue in a downward trend and the rapid and PCR testing for staff and students continued.

Superintendent Baranski confirmed the District wrote a letter to the Governor and copied Dr. Mark Ghaly, of the California Health and Human Services, and Tomás J. Aragón, of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), to eliminate the weekly testing for unvaccinated staff. She shared the letter discussed the District was seeing both vaccinated and unvaccinated employees

testing positive and that the Executive Order created in August was obsolete. She noted the letter would be posted on the website.

Superintendent Baranski shared a final draft of the District's proposed concept for Santee Magazine.

I. BOARD COMMUNICATION

There was no Board communication.

J. CLOSED SESSION

President Levens-Craig 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 7:56 p.m.

K. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened to public session at 9:42 p.m. and reported no action was taken.

L. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the regular meeting of February 15, 2022, was adjourned at 9:42 p.m. The meeting was adjourned in memory of Mr. Gene Chubb and Pastor Harold Brown.



Ken Fox, Clerk



Dr. Kristin Baranski, Secretary