

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

May 3, 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 6:02 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

Kailani Gonzaga, 8th grade student at Pepper Drive, 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>El-Hajj</u>	El-Hajj	<u>Aye</u>	Ryan	<u>Aye</u>
Vote:	<u>5-0</u>	Fox	<u>Aye</u>		

B. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

President Levens-Craig took a point of privilege and acknowledged Principal Debra Simpson on her upcoming retirement and years of dedication to Santee School District.

1. SSD Proud Moments

President Levens-Craig shared the following slide for those in attendance and read the following highlights from PRIDE Academy, provided by Principal Kristen Bonser.

Our PRIDE community has been celebrating! Just in the past month, we proudly honored two District Teachers of the Year from PRIDE, Bonnie Jackson (2019) and Tara O'Connell (2022). We also celebrated the hard work of our talented English Learner students that achieved Reclassification, and danced the night away at our first junior high dance. Families also joined us on campus for our first large events of the year, a PTA Movie Night and PRIDE Science

Fair. We're ecstatic to celebrate our 2021-2022 accomplishments with our PRIDE family and look forward to many more events in the upcoming month.



President Levens-Craig expressed her gratitude to Principal Bonser and staff for sharing the great things happening at PRIDE Academy.

2. Superintendent's Report

- 2.1. Developer Fees and Collection Report
- 2.2. Use of Facilities Report
- 2.3. Enrollment Report
- 2.4. Claim Against the District

3. Spotlight on Education: Special Student Recognition

Ms. McGinty introduced students from the special education program honored for overcoming obstacles, and challenges, to make outstanding strides in learning:

Cajon Park: Carly Cox

Carlton Hills: Danica Caballero

Carlton Oaks: Rafael Martinez

Chet F. Harritt: Benjamin De Koning

Hill Creek: Nicholas Guedea

Pepper Drive: Kailani Gonzaga

PRIDE Academy: Devin Finch

Rio Seco: Israel Barrientos

Sycamore Canyon: Makenzie Henderson

President Levens-Craig, and Vice President El-Hajj, presented the students with a certificate and a medal. The Board commended the students for their hard work. The Board took a short recess for cookies in honor of the students.

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

President Levens-Craig invited members of the audience to address the Board about any item not on the agenda. There was one request to speak on Discussion and Action Item 1.1. Parents/Visitors on School Campuses.

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 Transactions Charged to District Issued Purchasing Cards (P-Cards)

2.3. Adoption of Resolution No. 2122-16 Requesting Temporary Transfer of Funds

2.4. Approval of Interdistrict Attendance Agreements

- 2.5. Adoption of Resolutions Authorizing Specific Designated Agents
- 2.6. Approval/Ratification of General Services Agreements
- 2.7. Approval of Agreement with Ninyo & Moore for Testing and Inspection Services for Carlton Oaks Asphalt Replacement Project
- 2.8. Approval of Agreement with Azuma Tech Systems to Conduct Annual Fire Alarm System Testing and Inspection
- 3.1. Personnel, Regular
- 3.2. Approval of Recommendation of Classified Non-Management Reclassification
- 3.3. Approval of Santee Collaborative Reinvestment Plan for the Use of LEA Medi-Cal Funds
- 3.4. Approval of Short-Term Positions

Member Burns moved approval of consent items as presented.

<i>Motion:</i>	<u>Burns</u>	<i>Levens-Craig</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Burns</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Second:</i>	<u>El-Hajj</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>		

E. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent

1.1. Parents/Visitors on School Campuses

Superintendent Baranski shared the importance of parent and community member engagement in a child’s education and noted that during the last two years, parents and community members have experienced limited, in-person access to our school campuses; and it was time to once again open our campuses to parents and the community for in-person, community engagement opportunities. Superintendent Baranski explained that according to State guidance, large, outdoor events are once again allowed on school campuses with no restrictions; and noted this year’s eighth grade promotion ceremonies will be open for all who would like to attend and each school has planned a spring event where all families are invited to join their child on campus (e.g. lunch on the lawn, spring festival). She encouraged parents and visitors to continue supporting the schools through outdoor learning opportunities and field trips, etc.

Superintendent Baranski noted that based on the timing of the school year and a potential for increased case rates over this next month, Administration recommended waiting to include volunteer work inside the classrooms until the fall. She explained current California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance indicates that volunteers in the classroom follow “school worker” guidance, which includes the vaccination of volunteers or the volunteer’s adherence to weekly testing. Superintendent Baranski noted this guidance may change during the summer months and Administration will continue to provide updates to the Board prior to including volunteers in the classrooms for the 2022-23 school year.

President Levens-Craig noted there was one request to speak on this item and invited Traci Thill to the podium. Ms. Thill noted that on April 19, non-vaccinated District employees received an email notification that due to lack of funding, weekly testing would be suspended; and employees would no longer be “harassed” to test weekly. She shared being terminated that same day for not willing to participate in “discriminatory” weekly testing. Ms. Thill noted unvaccinated staff setting a precedence these last two weeks, as they were on campus around students and there was only one active case shown on the COVID dashboard. She asked that that based on the evidence, parents/community members be allowed in the

classrooms, as soon as possible. Ms. Thill asked that the minutes reflect she believed being discriminated against regarding her vaccination status.

Member Burns noted supporting the Superintendent's recommendation but noted concerns with the number of days left in the school year and disruption in the classrooms during testing. He noted the need to communicate to parents back on campus (i.e., to walk their children to their classroom, etc.); and shared his excitement to participate in lunch-on-the-lawn and seeing other parents on campus. Member Burns noted the importance of the partnership between the District and parents in success of a students' education.

Member Ryan moved approval, with Member Burns seconding the motion. Member El-Hajj shared she would not be voting in favor of the Superintendent's recommendation. She noted understanding the disruption during testing; and suggested bringing the parents back into the classroom after testing. Member El-Hajj shared being on several neighboring school campuses where parents/volunteers were already allowed in the classrooms. President Levens-Craig supported Member El-Hajj's idea and allowing parents/volunteers in the classrooms after testing. Member Fox inquired on the number of volunteers that would be allowed at a time in the classrooms. Superintendent Baranski noted it would be no more than two at a time, depending on teacher need. Member Ryan noted it would be best to start at the beginning of the year. Member Burns reiterated his decision was not related to COVID concerns, but the timing of the school year, disruption during testing, discussions with school administration, and the Superintendent's recommendation.

President Levens-Craig noted the motion failed and asked that parents be allowed into the classroom as volunteers after testing. Member El-Hajj asked that we inquire on guidelines from neighboring districts and consider allowing parents/volunteers back in the classroom two weeks prior to the end of school.

Motion:	<u>Ryan</u>	Levens-Craig	<u>Nay</u>	Burns	<u>Aye</u>
Second:	<u>Burns</u>	El-Hajj	<u>Nay</u>	Ryan	<u>Aye</u>
Vote:	<u>2-3</u>	Fox	<u>Nay</u>		

Superintendent Baranski explained based on research on other districts, volunteers in the classroom must be vaccinated, and unvaccinated volunteers can volunteer outside the classroom. She noted the challenge of monitoring unvaccinated volunteers in the classroom, given the current time period. Member Burns noted not supporting having different criteria for parents than employees.

Superintendent Baranski shared the online volunteer form was ready but noted challenges that would be imposed on staff if volunteers follow the same conditions as employees; and asked that their vaccination status and/or testing be on the "honor" system. Upon discussion, it was the Boards consensus that volunteers be welcomed back on campus, as soon as possible; volunteers in the classroom be held to the same conditions as employees; begin to allow volunteers in the classroom after testing; and volunteers in the classroom attest to being vaccinated and/or agree to test weekly.

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 March 31, 2022; and shared the District ended the month with a cash balance in the General Fund of approximately \$24,680,337 sufficient to pay the District's financial obligations for the fiscal year. Member Ryan moved approval. President Levens-Craig shared her gratitude towards Mr. Christensen for the District's solvency, after reading about other district's lack of solvency.

<i>Motion:</i>	<u>Ryan</u>	<i>Levens-Craig</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Burns</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Second:</i>	<u>Burns</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>		

Educational Services

4.1. Adoption of OpenSciEd Instructional Materials for Students in Grades 6-8

Dr. Stephanie Pierce, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services and welcomed Dan Prouty, Director of Instructional Technology; Jennifer Rolf, Curriculum Resource Teacher; and math/science teachers Charlene Stanley – grade 8; Yadira Uribe – grade 7; and Martha Cordova – grade 6, members of the science pilot team to provide an overview of the pilot committee process and the recommendation to adopt *OpenSciEd* instructional materials for grade 6 through grade 8 students.

The pilot team provided an overview of the District's science vision, pilot process background and timeline, committee's review, findings, teacher feedback, and proposed implementation timeline. Results of the district-wide vote include 84% of the eligible staff voting and 98.6% of those who voted approved *OpenSciEd* as the instructional materials for the district.

Member Burns moved approval. President Levens-Craig expressed her gratitude towards the committee and teachers for their work in piloting the materials.

<i>Motion:</i>	<u>Burns</u>	<i>Levens-Craig</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Burns</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Second:</i>	<u>El-Hajj</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>		

Human Resource/Pupil Services

4.1. Screening to Care Initiative

Mike Olander, Director of Pupil Services, shared that during the 2021-2022 school year, the District, along with 9 other districts, participated in the preliminary planning of the Screening to Care Initiative. He explained the Screening to Care Initiative aims to make available behavioral health interventions for all students in 7th and 8th grade through the use of a universal screening tool, called the Social, Academic, Emotional, Behavior Risk Screener (SAEBRS). Mr. Olander noted administration of the SAEBSRS takes between one and three minutes twice per year and is accessed on the students' iPads. The SAEBSRS consist of twenty questions in three areas: Social Behavior, Academic Behavior, and Emotional Behavior.

Mr. Olander explained that once the SAEBSRS is administered, Illuminate, a federally funded outside vendor identifies areas of need for all students at the school site level. It also identifies at-risk students who don't meet the threshold of needing a formal referral to County mental health services but require additional support. The outside vendor provides cost-free interventions and resources for these students, such as on-site group counseling. The cost of the Screening to Care initiative is \$3.00 per student for the administration of the SAEBSRS universal screening tool. The interventions and resources are at no cost.

Mr. Olander shared next steps included bringing forth a Memorandum of Understanding for Board approval, work school staff and administration on process and timeline, and determine parent communication prior to administration. He noted a Memorandum of Understanding will be brought forth at a future meeting for approval.

F. BOARD POLICIES AND BYLAWS

President Levens-Craig noted item F.1.1. was a second reading of revised Board Policy (BP) 3350 – Travel Expenses. Member Burns moved approval.

1.1. Second Reading: Revised Board Policy (BP):

- **BP 3350 – Travel Expenses**

<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>		

G. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATION

Melanie Hirahara, Santee Teachers Association President, noted sharing the same sentiments and support as the Principals regarding counselor needs and administrative interns.

H. ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

Superintendent Baranski shared the District was a recipient of a 2022 California Pivotal Practice Award. She shared the District submitted an application to the California Department of Education and was one of the 170 selected. Superintendent Baranski noted this distinction was in lieu of the California Distinguished School award and would receive a flag to fly at the District office. She noted this information would be communicated to parents and staff in the upcoming newsletter.

Superintendent Baranski shared the parent survey regarding virtual experiences had been sent and had over 900 responses. She noted the survey consisted of nine (9) questions regarding virtual experiences; and results would be shared at the next meeting.

I. BOARD COMMUNICATION

Member El-Hall shared visiting Pepper Drive and learning that newcomers to the Country have to take State tests in English and/or mathematics, even if they do not speak English. She noted the challenges the students encounter with the language barrier. Dr. Pierce explained that the students are required to test but their scores are not part of the overall scores. If the student has been in the Country over the year, their score is counted towards the overall scores. Parents have the option to opt the student from testing. Upon discussion, the Board agreed to advocate for the students and meet with local legislatures to propose a bill on this subject matter.

Member Burns noted their meeting with the Principals was very helpful in understanding their support of counseling services and administrative interns. President Levens-Craig added their conversation on parent-fatigue and the need for parenting classes, and the positive impact of student engagement outside of the school day.

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 7:33 p.m.

K. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened to public session at 9:27 p.m. and reported no action was taken.

L. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the regular meeting of May 3, 2022, was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.



Ken Fox, Clerk



Dr. Kristin Baranski, Secretary