

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

January 16, 2024  
**MINUTES**

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

**A. OPENING PROCEDURES**

**1. Call to Order and Welcome**

President Burns called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted Dr. Marcia Hamilton, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, was not in attendance due to unexpected ankle surgery. Member Burns welcomed Tory Long, Director of Fiscal Services, who was attending the meeting representing Business Services.

Members present:

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

Administration present:

Dr. Kristin Baranski, Superintendent  
Dr. Lisa Paisley, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services  
David MacLeod, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources/Pupil Services  
Tory Long, Director, Fiscal Services  
Lisa Arreola, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary

**2. District Mission**

President Burns invited everyone to recite the District Mission.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Lisa Arreola, Executive Assistant to the Board and Superintendent, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

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

|                |                |                     |            |                |            |
|----------------|----------------|---------------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| <i>Motion:</i> | <u>Ryan</u>    | <i>Burns</i>        | <u>Aye</u> | <i>El-Hajj</i> | <u>Aye</u> |
| <i>Second:</i> | <u>El-Hajj</u> | <i>Ryan</i>         | <u>Aye</u> | <i>Fox</i>     | <u>Aye</u> |
| <i>Vote:</i>   | <u>5-0</u>     | <i>Levens-Craig</i> | <u>Aye</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
- 1.4. Schedule of Upcoming Events

**2. Spotlight on Education: Rio Seco School**

Superintendent Baranski welcomed Stephanie Southcott, Principal; Lindsay Ogden, Vice Principal; and Joy Marsella, Administrative Intern, to share all the great things happening at Rio Seco School. Ms. Southcott introduced the staff and families that were in attendance at the meeting and expressed her appreciation for their support. Rio Seco is proud of the

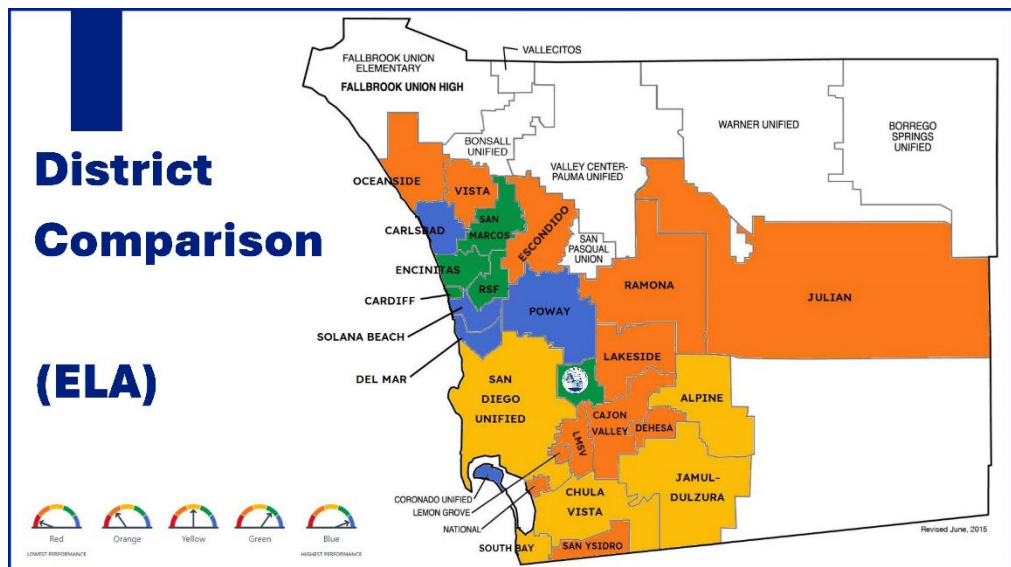
growth they had in 2023 CAASPP results. They increased 1% in ELA, 1.2% in math, and also had marked improvement in the measurements for students feeling safe on campus. Although the growth is small, a continuing trend can be seen over the last few years. Ms. Southcott and the staff set goals to increase 5% in both ELA and math this year. They are collecting data on three (3) questions during instructional observations to continue their work – What are we learning? (Learning Target), Why are we learning this? (Purpose), and How do we know we were successful? (Success Criteria). A short video was shared in which students identified what they love most about Rio Seco School and highlighted the electives offered in Junior High, including Broadcasting, Leadership, and Culinary Arts.

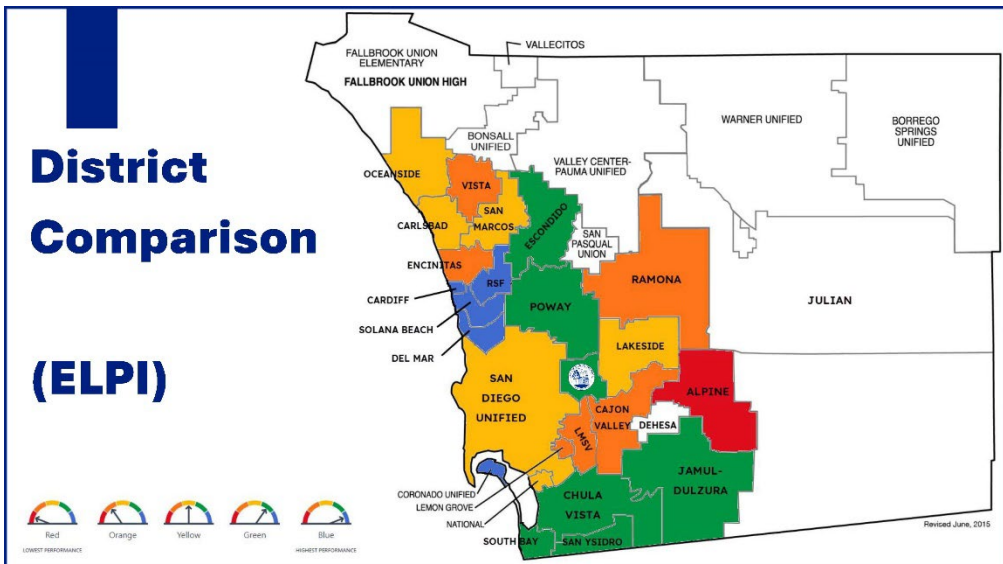
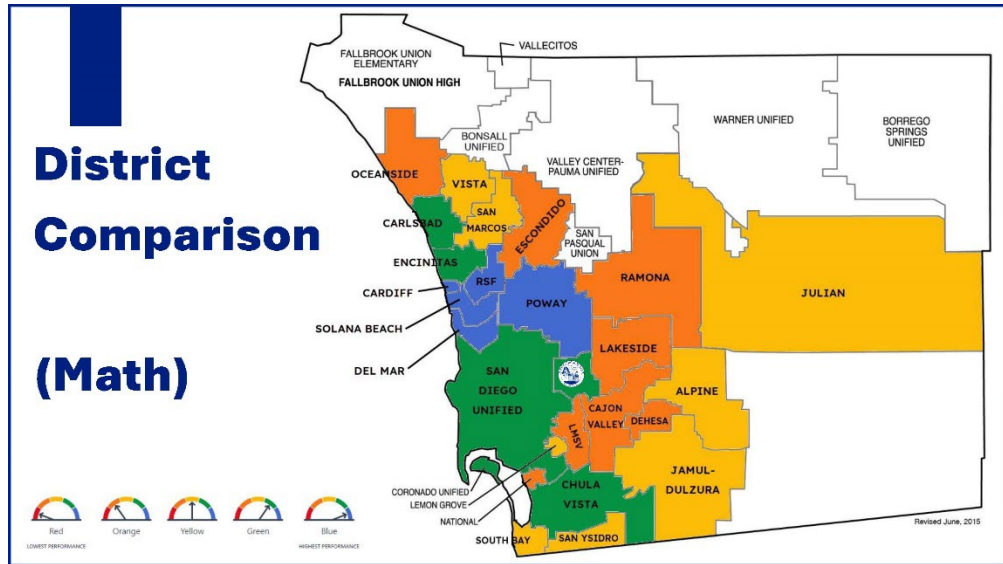
The Board commended Rio Seco staff for all the increase in test scores and all the great things happening at the school.

**3. Fall 2023 California Schools Dashboard Presentation**

Dr. Lisa Paisley, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, explained the California School Dashboard provides parents and educators with information on school and district progress on local indicators beyond test scores alone. The California School Dashboard provides a more complete picture of how schools and districts are meeting the needs of all students. The Dashboard measures progress in English Language Arts, Mathematics, English Language Learner progress, chronic absenteeism and suspension rate.

Kevin Fairchild, Director of Assessment and Learning Support, presented on Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) priorities; local and State indicators; explained the academic indicator calculation; and provided ELA and Mathematics, comparisons across the county, and sample test items. In comparison with other districts, Santee is the only district in east or south county scoring in the “green” in all three areas. Mr. Fairchild noted the dashboard results show areas of improvement, but also areas needing improvement. He provided an overview of the at the depth of knowledge expected of our students on statewide tests in 2024 and compared it to the types of questions students were asked 10 or 15 years ago. He noted that current assessments expect students to apply depth of knowledge levels 2, 3, and 4, including strategic and extended thinking; where the previous generation of assessments were very much based level 1, simple recall of facts or following a prescribed formula.





Dr. Paisley, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, explained the next testing season begins in two weeks, with the ELPAC and physical fitness testing windows opening on February 1st. The next round of CAASPP and CAST testing will be in April and May. Educational Services is already working on the next iteration of the LCAP, using the newly approved template from the state, and the five local indicators for 2024 will be addressed and approved with the LCAP in June.

The Board expressed their appreciation to Dr. Paisley and Mr. Fairchild for the presentation.

**C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

President Burns invited members of the audience to address the Board about any item not on the agenda and noted public comments were in-person only. There were four (4) requests to speak; two were for item F.1.1.

Robin Larson, teacher, shared her disappointment with the removal of the “safe space” posters/stickers from the classroom.

Michelle McNearney allocated her time to Robin Larson.

**D. CONSENT ITEMS**

President Burns 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/Ratification of General Services Agreements
- 2.7. Authorization to Sell/Dispose of Surplus Items
- 2.8. Approval/Ratification of Agreements for Mileage Reimbursement In Lieu of District Transportation
- 2.9. Approval/Ratification of Expenditure Transactions Charged to District Issued Purchasing Cards (P-Cards)
- 2.10. Approval of Uniform Complaint Quarterly Report Required by the Williams Settlement
- 2.11. Approval of Agreement with G. Wayne Oetken & Associates for Consulting Services Related to New Residential Developments
- 2.12. Adoption of Resolution No. 2324-09 to Apply for a Grant Funded by the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust
- 2.13. Approval of Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Infrastructure Project Design Plan and Authorization to Solicit Formal Bids
- 2.14. Authorization to Award E-Rate Competitive Bid to Cox California Telcom, LLC as the Vendor for the District's Wide Area Network Services
- 2.15. Acceptance of 2022-23 Audit Report
- 3.1. Approval of School Accountability Report Cards for the 2022-2023 School Year
- 3.2. Annual Approval of School Plans for Student Achievement
- 3.3. Ratification of Nonpublic Agency Master Contract with Apex Therapies, Inc. for Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy
- 3.4. Ratification of Nonpublic Agency Master Contract with Effective Communication Therapy Services for Speech Therapy
- 3.5. Ratification of Individual Service Agreement with New Haven Youth Services for Therapeutic Behavioral Services
- 3.6. Ratification of Nonpublic Agency Master Contract with Soliant Health for Psychological and Speech Services
- 3.7. Approval of Nonpublic Agency Master Contract with Ro Health for Nursing Services
- 3.8. Approval of Increase of Nonpublic Agency Master Contract with San Diego Center for Vision Care for Vision Therapy
- 3.9. Approval of Nonpublic Agency Master Contract with Pioneer Healthcare Services, LLC for Physical Therapy Services
- 3.10. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Central State University for Placement of Student Teachers
- 4.1. Personnel, Regular
- 4.2. Ratification of Short-Term Services Agreement
- 4.3. Acceptance of Corrected Report on Certificated Credentials and Assignments for the 2023-2024 School Year
- 4.4. Approval to Revise and Reclassify Three Classified Non-Management Job Descriptions: Bus Driver I, Bus Attendant, and Instructional Assistant-Visually Impaired
- 4.5. Ratification of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Santee School District and Classified School Employees Association and its Santee Chapter #557 for a Transportation Bus Driver I/Bus Delegate
- 4.6. Approval of Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement between Santee School District and the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), East County to Provide Transportation Services to Students in Foster Care

Member Burns moved approval of Consent Items.

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

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

**Superintendent**

**1.1. Review/Adoption of Santee School District Governance Standards**

Superintendent Baranski presented the Governance Standards for review and adoption. She explained the Board of Education adopts the Santee School District Governance Standards as a guideline to help increase effectiveness and improve the quality of governance and leadership for the District. Member Ryan moved approval.

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

**Business Services**

**2.1. Approval of Monthly Financial Report**

Tory Long, Director of Fiscal Services, presented the monthly financial report for cash and budget revision transactions posted through November 30, 2023. The District ended the month with a cash balance in the General Fund of approximately \$30,699,259; sufficient funds to pay all of the District's financial obligations with internal cash. Mrs. Long noted a \$1.8 operating deficit in the budget revision section and the declining budget reserve percentage that was presented during the First Interim report. She explained the assumptions used to generate this report were now out of date since the release of the Governor's budget and noted the March 5<sup>th</sup> budget workshop would include updated assumptions and budget revisions in the Second Interim report. Member Ryan moved approval.

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

**2.2. Governor's Budget Proposal for 2024-25**

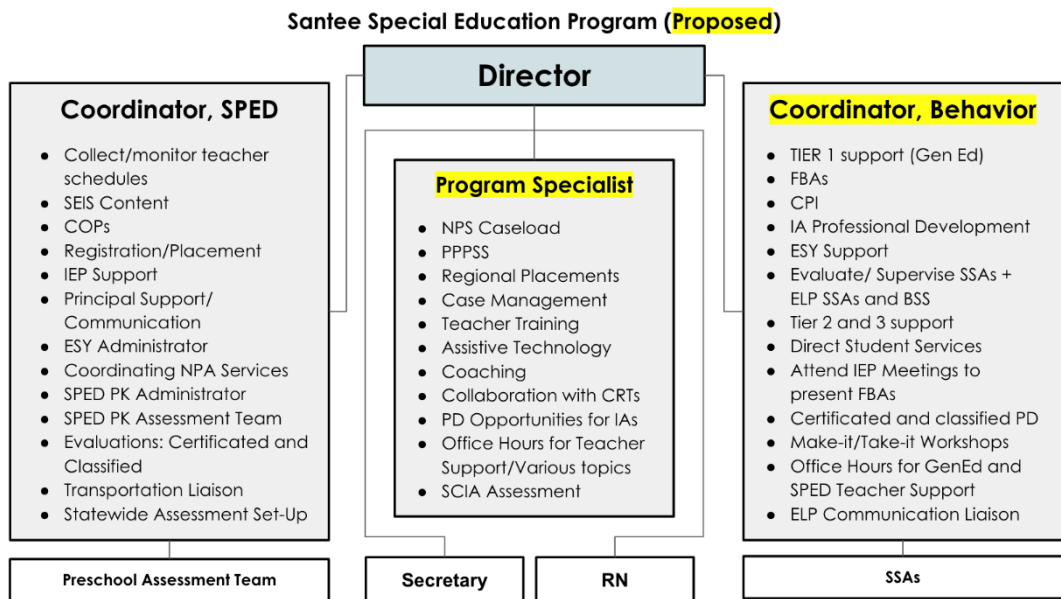
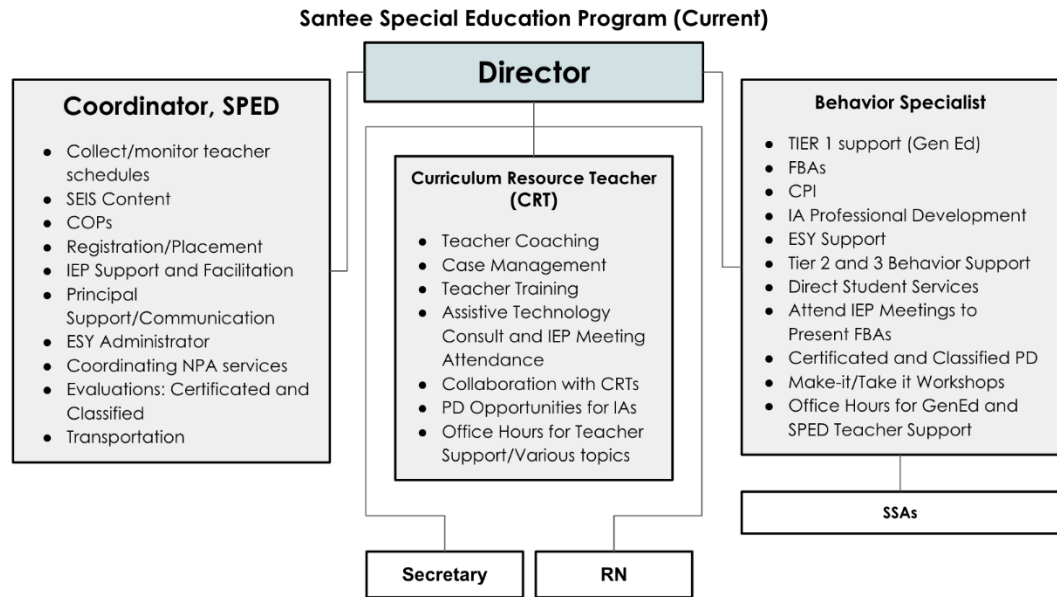
Tory Long, Director of Fiscal Services, provided an overview of key components of the Governor 2024-25 State Budget, unveiled on January 10, 2024. Mrs. Long reported the proposal continued to identify revenue shortfalls, but the shortfalls were less than projected in the Fall. She noted the revised Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2024-25 is projected at 0.76%; revised from the original estimate of 3.64%. Mrs. Long explained this change will reduce the District's projected Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) revenues for 2024-25, which would be discussed in more detail at the March 5 budget workshop. She noted the District would develop the 2024-25 budget using the 0.76% COLA assumption.

Mrs. Long shared the positive takeaway from the Governor's budget proposal is that K-12 education is not expected to see overall funding reductions. She explained Prop 98 funding, what funds K-12 education, is not anticipated to receive mid-year cuts, deferrals, or program rollbacks. K-12 and Higher Education were the only agencies in the budget proposal that weren't affected by funding cuts. Mrs. Long noted more details would be provided at the Budget Workshop on March 5.

**Educational Services**

**3.1. Approval of Special Education Department Reorganization**

Dr. Lisa Paisley, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, noted the increase in need for student specialized services in the last 10 years. She explained that the District had increased the number of students with IEPs (individualized education plan) by 40 percent, while centralized support for these school-based programs has remained mostly unchanged. Dr. Paisley noted a department re-organization allows for District leadership to plan ahead for best practices related to Least Restrictive Environments for students, provide timely response to site personnel on technical questions, provide just-in-time supports for new staff, and most importantly, provide necessary communications to the families. If approved, the reorganization would be effective July 1, 2024. Member El-Hajj moved approval.



Updated November 2023

**Motion:** El-Hajj  
**Second:** Fox  
**Vote:** 5-0

**Burns** Aye  
**Ryan** Aye  
**Levens-Craig** Aye

**El-Hajj** Aye  
**Fox** Aye

## Human Resource/Pupil Services

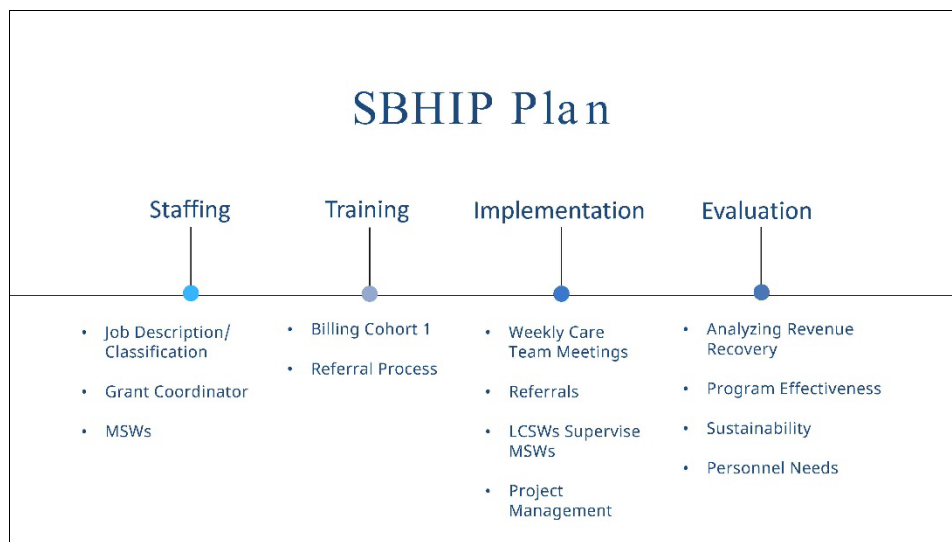
### 4.1. **Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program (SBHIP) Update**

Mike Olander, Director of Pupil Services and Student Well-being, presented an update on the SBHIP project plans and next steps. Mr. Olander expressed his appreciation to Member Ryan for being instrumental in securing the funding for the District.

The Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program (SBHIP) grant will increase student access to mental health supports and bridge the gap between school districts and managed care plans. Santee School District received \$2.7 million in SBHIP grant funding to support ongoing staffing needs and an infrastructure for a sustainable mental health program. Mr. Olander shared the funding for mental health services is dramatically changing and noted billing is the future of sustainability. He explained SBHIP links schools with Managed Care Plans (MCPs) and expands access to mental health services for all students. He noted that under SBHIP, districts will directly bill MCPs for a variety of services, including therapy services, screening and assessment, and psychoeducational services. Mr. Olander noted some students in need of mental health services never receive the support they need; currently schools can only refer Medi-Cal students to community agencies; it is taking several months for a child to receive services once a referral is made; and parent struggles with following through with all the steps to enroll and maintain off-site services. He explained that under our new model all students will be able to receive timely services on-site with parent consent, regardless of insurance provider, and noted billing MCPs will fund the mental health services with the intent of not encroaching on the District's general fund.

Mr. Olander explained the project plans include billing capacity (expanded billing infrastructure, develop grant coordinator for billing, and maximize billing services); an expanded workforce (maintain one counselor per school site and hire MSWs for therapeutic services); care teams (therapeutic services, family support, community collaboration, and home visits).

He noted future additions include a grant coordinator and social workers (MSW). Mr. Olander noted one MSW would be funded, with plans for additional social workers as the service needs and staffing align to maintain sustainability.



Next steps include approval of job description and recruitment of Grant Coordinator in February; Recruitment of Social Worker for 2024-25 in March; and report progress to the Board in May.

The total grant revenue is \$2,702,225.06, and the current expenditures for the 2023-2024 school year budget are \$134,000, which funds a 1.0 FTE counselor, ensuring all schools have a full-time school counselor, and 0.2 FTE Licensed District Clinical Social Worker. Member Ryan moved approval.

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

**F. BOARD POLICIES AND BYLAWS**

President Burns shared BP/AR 5132 – Dress and Grooming and BP 3311.1 – Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Procedures were being presented for a first reading. He noted the requests to speak would be addressed after the Superintendent reported on the item.

Superintendent Baranski addressed BP/AR 5132 – Dress and Grooming. She provided an overview of the suggested changes and explained the recommended changes were based on a staff survey and student forum input, along with the recommended changes from the California School Boards Association (CSBA).

Jennifer LaCross, teacher and parent, shared her students’ perspective on the policy/regulation changes. She noted using their interest in the topic to practice researching and writing evidence sentences.

Richard Nyles, parent, expressed his gratitude for taking the time to revise the policy/regulation and shared concerns with not permitting students to wear hats indoors and the use of midriff clothing.

Member Levens-Craig noted concerns with students wearing earbuds when they wear hoodies/hats as stated at the student forum. She shared taking into consideration teacher perspectives that would impact learning.

Member El-Hajj shared the policy and administrative regulation made a great stride and compromise of staff and students’ perspectives. Member El-Hajj shared appreciating hats not being worn in a classroom setting and supported the policy and administrative regulation as presented. She thanked everyone for their input.

Member Fox noted the importance of having consistency throughout the District once the policy is adopted.

President Burns noted the importance of enforcing the policy consistently District-wide. He shared it was great hearing the student’s perspective on the topic and learning a lot from the students’ input. He expressed his appreciation for everyone’s feedback and work put into updating the language. He expressed his appreciation and commended Mr. Nyles, parent speaker, and daughter Liberty, for her letter to the Board on the dress code and for their advocacy. Member Burns shared he supported the updated policy but was unsure if he supported the hats.

**1.1. First Reading: Revised Board Policies (BP)/Administrative Regulation (AR):**

- BP/AR 5132 – Dress and Grooming
- BP 3311.1 – Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Procedures

Revised Board Policies/Administrative Regulations are being presented for a First Reading. Action, if any, is at the discretion of the Board of Education.

**G. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATION**

Melanie Hirahara, Santee Teachers Association (STA) President, was present but had no communication.

CSEA representatives were not present.



President Burns wished Mrs. Hirahara a happy belated birthday.

**H. BOARD COMMUNICATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS**

Superintendent Baranski noted being excited about presenting her State of the District Address at the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting; the first since 2019. She noted this year's LCAP Annual Review was being held at Rio Seco School on Tuesday, February 27, at 6:00 pm, and not virtually as previously noted. Superintendent Baranski explained that based on the parent input and data points (over 600 surveys received) it was best to discuss priorities for the development of the LCAP in person.

Member Levens-Craig shared attending winter shows before winter break and visiting Cajon Park earlier in the day. She noted it was great hearing from students discuss their learning. Member Levens-Craig shared she would be attending a Capital Advisors budget workshop and looking forward to kindness week.

Member El-Hajj welcomed everyone back and wished everyone a happy new year.

President Burns expressed his appreciation to Les Peabody, Transportation Director, for the opportunity to ride on the electric bus, along with Superintendent Baranski and Dr. Hamilton. He noted the bus ride was great and very quiet. President Burns commended Chet F. Harritt and Rio Seco students for being great ambassadors at 6<sup>th</sup> grade camp. He noted Sycamore Canyon was currently at camp.

**I. CLOSED SESSION**

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

1. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation** (Gov't. Code § 54956.9)  
- OAH#s: 2023070967
  
2. **Conference with Labor Negotiator** (Gov't. Code § 54957.6)  
*Purpose:* Negotiations  
*Agency Negotiators:* David MacLeod, Assistant Superintendent  
*Employee Organizations:* Santee Teachers Association (STA); and  
Classified School Employees Association (CSEA)
  
3. **Public Employee Performance Evaluation** (Gov't. Code § 54957)  
*Superintendent*

The Board entered closed session at 7:23 p.m.

**J. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

The Board reconvened to public session at 8:50 p.m. and reported a dispute arose regarding a student's special education program. It was moved by Member Levens-Craig, seconded by Member Ryan, to reach a settlement in an existing litigation (OAH#s: 2023070967) regarding a student's special education program. The agreement involved a release of potential District liability.

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

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

  
Elana Levens-Craig, Clerk

  
Dr. Kristin Baranski, Secretary