

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

February 20, 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.

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. Marcia Hamilton, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services  
Dr. Lisa Paisley, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services  
David MacLeod, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources/Pupil Services  
Lisa Arreola, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary

**2. District Mission**

President Burns invited everyone to recite the District Mission.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Audrey Schmitthener, 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Carlton Hills School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

President Burns presented the agenda for approval. Member El-Hajj moved approval.

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

Superintendent Baranski welcomed Tim Dobbins, Principal, and Amanda Ramirez, Vice Principal, to share all the great things happening at Carlton Hills School. The presentation focused on the theme "believe". Mr. Dobbins and Mrs. Ramirez presented CAASPP and iReady testing results, Panorama survey results from Spring 2023; and discussed goals in raising scores in English-Language Arts and Mathematics and increasing safety and self-efficacy. Stand-out programs at Carlton Hills include Special Education Moderate/Severe, 3-D Printing/Engineering, Integrated Math, and Visual & Performing Arts (VAPA), and their great community connection with students, parents, and neighborhood.

At the end of the presentation, Mr. Dobbins and Mrs. Ramirez welcomed Mrs. Cress and the Carlton Hills choir to perform their school's theme song for the first time to a live audience. The Board commended Carlton Hill students and staff for all the great things happening at the school.

**3. Anti-Bullying Summit Update**

Superintendent Baranski welcomed Mike Olander, Director of Pupil Services, to provide an update on the anti-bullying summit and timeline of events. He shared school-based student empathy interviews and school-based student forums were held in Fall 2023. There were 85 students District-wide that participated in the empathy interviews and 104 students District-wide that participated in the student forums. Mr. Olander shared school administrators met the prior week to analyze the student data and noted identified themes included: The importance of positive adult-student relationships; Physical interaction; Supervision – visible adults; Racism; Spreading rumors; Social media; and Identity. He expressed appreciation to President Burns and Member Ryan for attending the data analysis meeting the prior week and went on to share some sample actions based on identified themes (i.e., because our students feel that community circles build good relationships, our school will consider a school-wide expectation of classroom circles; and because students appreciate caring adults that connect with them, our school will be more strategic about adult mentors and programs that connect students with staff). Next steps include adding necessary content to the District's Local Control Accountability Plan Goal 2; School sites use data for informing Single Plan for Student Achievement and Comprehensive School Safety Plans; and continuing to analyze Panorama data for improvements and corrective actions.

Superintendent Baranski shared Mr. Olander would return in April with an update that would include findings and actions steps from the sites, and how these would be moving forward into the next school year.

**4. Supplemental Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Update**

Dr. Lisa Paisley, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, and Dr. Marcia Hamilton, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, provided a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) mid-year report. Dr. Paisley discussed the three-year LCAP goals (academic growth, well-being, and parent engagement) and an overview of the actions and services, and metrics for measuring each goal. Dr. Hamilton discussed the 2023-24 budget, costs to date, and the percentage of implementation for each goal. Next steps include the LCAP annual review to gather data for the development of the LCAP's year 3, and goal/action plan development.

President Burns extended an invitation to the annual LCAP review on Tuesday, February 27, at 6:00 pm, at Rio Seco School.

**C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

President Burns invited members of the audience to address the Board about any item not on the agenda. There were 21 requests to speak.

Christopher Nowlin, taxpayer, noted his adult children attended Rio Seco from K-8 and expressed his appreciation to the Board for all the things they do for the community. He stressed the importance and need for the Board to secure a contract with the teachers before each academic year. Julia Venolia allocated her time to Christopher Nowlin.

Angela Panfili, teacher at Carlton Oaks, noted it was her 20<sup>th</sup> year in the District and being the 2008 Teacher of the Year. She noted excitement for the students' opportunity to experience theatre, art, and music through VAPA funds. Mrs. Panfili shared having additional tasks (i.e., teaching a social emotional curriculum, new science adoption, difficult behavior, etc.) and explained employing physical education instructors to allow for more skilled instruction and allow for a prep period to focus on other subject areas. She

expressed appreciation for the steps towards better employee healthcare but noted family coverage continued to be costly and asked that the employee contribution be decreased. She asked the Board to support their employees by helping them support their families. Marci Gross, Leslie Breidt, and Mary Gillispie allotted their time to Angela Panfili.

Josef Gulick, special education teacher, expressed the need for support towards special education teachers. He shared the need for mentors for new special education teachers; his appreciation for VAPA; and the need for support on appropriate classroom placement of special needs students. Jeanie Niemiec, Emily Sweetman, Briana Singer, Heather Bloomfield allotted their time to Joseph Gulick.

Jennifer LaCross, teacher and parent, shared teachers are struggling to meet the District's mission by feeling overwhelmed, under supported, and burned-out. She asked the District to support collective teacher efficacy to increase student achievement and use funds to support teacher collaboration and prep time. Angie Graff, Penny Hoogeveen, Naomi Kaimar, Shawna Strickland, Becki Thompson allotted their time to Jennifer LaCross.

Celina Register, teacher, expressed her appreciation for the smaller class sizes in junior high and VAPA opportunities. Ms. Register shared teachers are working extra hours without compensation (i.e., yearbook, ASB advisor, etc.) for the benefit of the students; and noted the important role instructional aides play in the classrooms. She noted being proud of teaching in Santee and hated when others left to other districts for better compensation. Keisre Rich and Alexandra Breidt allotted their time to Celina Register.

Carmen Wormington, parent and substitute teacher at Carlton Oaks School, shared being proud of Carlton Oaks School and its teachers for always going above and beyond for their students without compensation. Mrs. Wormington shared concerns with the school library not being used, not appreciated, and not providing students with opportunities to love reading and learning. She noted the current media technician was not as engaging with students as the current substitute holds story time and interacts with the students. Mrs. Wormington noted that prior to the substitute, students went in/out to check-out books only. President Burns encouraged Mrs. Wormington to contact Administration about her concerns.

#### **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 General Services Agreements**
- 2.4. **Approval/Ratification of Purchase Orders**
- 2.5. **Acceptance of Donations, Grants, and Bequests**
- 2.6. **Approval/Ratification of Agreements for Mileage Reimbursement In Lieu of District Transportation**
- 2.7. **Authorization to Sell/Dispose of Surplus Items**
- 2.8. **Approval/Ratification to Award Informal Bid for Plumbing Improvement Services Contract with Ability Plumbing**
- 2.9. **Acceptance of GASB 75 July 2022 Actuarial Valuation Update**
- 2.10. **Approval of Agreement with Eide Bailly for Audit Services**
- 2.11. **Authorization to Award Bid # 2024-075-001 Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Infrastructure**
- 3.1. **Approval of Increase of Nonpublic Agency Master Contract with San Diego Center for Vision Care for Vision Therapy**
- 3.2. **Ratification of Nonpublic Agency Master Contract with Verbal Behavior Associates (VBA) for Behavioral Intervention Services**
- 4.1. **Personnel, Regular**

- 4.2. **Approval of Comprehensive School Safety Plans**
- 4.3. **Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with California Schools Climate, Health, and Learning Surveys (CalSCHLS)**

Member El-Hajj moved approval.

<i>Motion:</i>	<u>El-Hajj</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>		

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

**Superintendent**

**1.1. Approval of Employee Agreement Amendments for Assistant Superintendents**

Superintendent Baranski explained Assistant Superintendent salaries and benefits are enumerated in contract agreements rather than delineated on the Certificated Management salary schedule. She shared that since the six-percent (6%) increase to certificated/classified staff in 2022-23, the current Certificated Management salary schedule does not reflect a five-percent (5%) differentiation between the highest compensation and current Assistant Superintendent compensation and noted that advancing the Assistant Superintendents to their next salary step, a four-percent (4%) increase will allow for the five-percent (5%) pay differential from the Certificated Management salary schedule. Superintendent Baranski noted that even with the proposed increase, their salaries are still below average in the County. Member Levens-Craig stressed the importance of retaining quality Executive Council members and moved approval.

<i>Motion:</i>	<u>Levens-Craig</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>		

**1.2. California School Boards Association (CSBA) 2024 Delegate Assembly**

Superintendent Baranski reported it was time to cast a unit vote to fill the vacancies in the CSBA Delegate Assembly and turned to Member Ryan for her recommendation. Member Ryan shared the slate of candidates and moved to vote for the following incumbents: Maria Betancourt-Castaneda (National SD); Eddie Jones (Fallbrook Union HSD); Julie Kelly (Vista USD); Rudy Lopez (San Ysidro SD); Gee Wah Mok (Del Mark Union SD); Dawn Perfect (Ramona USD); and Marla Strich (Encinitas Union ESD).

<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**

Dr. Marcia Hamilton, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, presented the monthly financial report for cash and budget revision transactions posted from December 1 through December 31, 2023. The District ended the month with a cash balance in the General Fund of approximately \$37,113,400, sufficient funds to pay all of the District's financial obligations with internal cash. She explained the difference between the projected and actuals was due to the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) state funding the District had recently received and noted reserve percentages had not changed since the First Interim report. Dr. Hamilton shared additional information would be presented at the budget workshop on March 5. 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**

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

- BP 5132 – Dress and Grooming

President Burns shared BP/AR 5132 – Dress and Grooming was being presented for a third reading and approval, after discussion at the prior meeting. Superintendent Baranski noted there were no changes to the Board Policy and shared the suggested language change on the Administrative Regulation (AR) based on the Board’s discussion at the prior meeting. The Board discussed the language on allowing hats indoors and agreed to modify the AR allowing hats indoors, unless it represents a health or safety hazard or causes a substantial distraction to the educational program. Superintendent Baranski noted the policy would not take effect until after the return from Spring Break, to allow for communication of the new policy to staff, parents, and students. President Burns moved approval of the BP and AR as presented. Member El-Hajj noted she supported the use of hats, but as a former teacher did not support wearing them indoors and shared a recent personal experience at a neighboring district.

<i>Motion:</i>	<u>Burns</u>	<i>Burns</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>El-Hajj</i>	<u>Nay</u>
<i>Second:</i>	<u>Fox</u>	<i>Ryan</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Fox</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Vote:</i>	<u>4-1</u>	<i>Levens-Craig</i>	<u>Aye</u>		

**1.2. Second Reading: Revised Board Policies (BP)/Administrative Regulation (AR):**

- BP 6011 – Academic Standards
- BP 6164.5 – Student Success Teams
- BP 6164.6 – Identification and Education Under Section 504

<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>		

Member El-Hajj moved approval.

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

- BP 6011 – Academic Standards
- BP 6164.5 – Student Success Teams
- BP 6164.6 – Identification and Education Under Section 504

President Burns noted BP 6011 – Academic Standards; BP 6164.5 – Student Success Teams; and BP 6164.6 – Identification and Education Under Section 504 were being presented as first readings and asked that the Board contact Administration if they had any questions.

**G. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATION**

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

CSEA representatives were not present.

**H. BOARD COMMUNICATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS**

Superintendent Baranski shared a finalized draft of the Legislative Goals. Member Ryan suggested scheduling meetings with the local Delegates and stressed the importance of developing

relationships with all the elected officials and visiting Washington, DC, possibly in early May. President Burns asked that the goals be available to share during the visits.

Superintendent Baranski noted the Santee Heroes Celebration was April 25 and this year's honoree was 2023 Teacher of the Year, Michelle Corderman from Rio Seco.

Superintendent Baranski presented the proposed LCAP questions for the upcoming Student Forum. She noted students would rotate in groups and will be able to answer all the questions. President Burns noted he would not be present at the Student Forum and Vice President Ryan would be facilitating the forum.

Member El-Hajj shared attending the Wellness Advisory Committee. She discussed an article "Supporting the Bunker Babies" featured in EdCal; a program implemented at La Mesa-Spring Valley Schools. The article attributed the current behavioral issues to the children ages 3-6 or little ones who were in key stages of development when the pandemic hit and were stuck at home or in a "bunker".

Member Levens-Craig expressed appreciation to the Maintenance and Operations staff for their work during the current rain and flooding; and noted seeing a great video on the community sing along at PRIDE Academy and commended Robyn Larson for the great performance. Member Levens-Craig shared attending the Special Education Advisory Committee and stressed the importance of adequate staffing for special education and it being a concern to special education teachers and staff.

Ryan inquired on attendance to the Business Service Awards.

President Burns noted attending the anti-bullying data meeting and observing Administration analyze the data; visiting schools; and shared PRIDE Academy was at 6<sup>th</sup> grade camp this week.

#### **I. CLOSED SESSION**

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

1. **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)*
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 9:00 p.m. and reported no action was taken in closed session.

#### **K. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

  
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Elana Levens-Craig, Clerk

  
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Dr. Kristin Baranski, Secretary