

SACRAMENTO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 14, 2020

The Oath of Office was administered to Trustee Harold Fong by Dr. Richard Pan, Senator.

The Oath of Office was administered to Trustees Ahola, Brown, and Davis by Superintendent David W. Gordon

Superintendent Gordon congratulated Trustees Ahola, Brown, Davis, and Fong and invited the Trustees to offer remarks.

Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Organization of the Board of Education for 2020-2021
 - A. Election of President
 - B. Election of Vice President
- IV. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 23, 2020
- V. Adoption of Agenda
- VI. Official Correspondence
- VII. Visitor Presentations
 - A. General Public
 - B. Employee Organizations
- VIII. Superintendent's Report
- IX. New Business
 - A. Adoption of Consent Agenda
 1. Accept Report on Personnel Transactions
 2. Award Diplomas to Community School Students
 - B. Approval of Contracts
 - C. Authorization to Submit Grant Applications/Service Contracts and Accept Funding if Awarded; and Approval of Contracts, Positions, and Other Expenditures Associated with the Grants as outlined in the Proposed Budgets
 1. \$100,000 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Aware grant from Aurrera Health Group, LLC, on behalf of the California Department of Health Care Services for the 2020-2021 fiscal year
 2. \$134,493 Summer Learning Initiative (SLI) grant from the City of Sacramento Federal CARES Act Funding for the 2020-2021 fiscal year
 - D. First Reading of Revisions to Board Policy 2400 – Charter School Petitions
 - E. First Reading of Revisions to Board Policy 5141.52 – Suicide Prevention
 - F. Informational Item: Professional Learning Report
- X. Board Reports, Comments, and Ideas
 - A. Board Members
 - B. Board President
 - C. Committees
- XI. Items for Distribution

- A. July/August Events
 - B. July/August Visits
 - XII. Schedule for Future Board Meetings
 - A. August 4, 2020 Board/Superintendent Study Session
 - B. August 11, 2020
 - C. August 22, 2020 Board Retreat
 - XIII. Adjournment
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I. President Lefkovitz called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. via teleconference call in Sacramento, California. Board members present were Joanne Ahola, Alfred Brown, Heather Davis, Harold Fong, Paul Keefer, Bina Lefkovitz, and Karina Talamantes. Also present were David W. Gordon, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Nancy Herota, Deputy Superintendent; Teresa Stinson, General Counsel; Matt Perry and Brent Malicote, Assistant Superintendents; Jerry Jones, Executive Director of Technology; other staff; and Wende Watson, Executive Assistant.

Also, other staff via teleconference were Tammy Sanchez, Associate Superintendent; Coleen Johnson, Chief Administrator of Human Resources; Michael Kast, Executive Director; Kristin Wright, Executive Director; Channa Cook-Harvey, Executive Director; and Tim Herrera, Director of Communications.

II. Ms. Ahola led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III.A. Election of President

President Lefkovitz announced that nominations are now in order for the office of Board President for the 2020-2021 term.

Ms. Davis nominated Joanne Ahola to serve as Board President for the 2020-2021 term. Mr. Brown seconded the nomination.

Ms. Ahola expressed appreciation for being nominated and the support from Dr. Brown. It was nice to work alongside you as Vice President. She had to step away from nominations last year for health issues. She is ready to serve in this capacity and leadership role and would follow Bina's lead who has been a tremendous example of Board leadership.

Mr. Fong nominated Paul Keefer to serve as Board President. President Lefkovitz called for a second. There was no second.

Mr. Keefer said he is not pursuing the presidency this year and Joanne has done incredible work this year. She shows a lot of leadership that he can learn from.

President Lefkovitz called for a roll call vote on the nomination of Joanne Ahola to serve as Board President for the 2020-2021 term.

Vote carried 6 ayes, 1 no (Fong), 0 absent, 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

Ms. Talamantes – yes
Ms. Lefkovitz – yes
Mr. Keefer – yes
Mr. Fong – no
Ms. Davis – yes
Mr. Brown – yes
Ms. Ahola – yes

New President Ahola thanked her fellow Board members for electing her to serve in this capacity.

III.B. Election of Vice President

New President Ahola announced that nominations are now in order for the office of Board Vice President for the 2020-2021 term.

Ms. Lefkovitz nominated Karina Talamantes to serve as Board Vice President for the 2020-2021 term. Mr. Keefer seconded the nomination.

Ms. Lefkovitz felt that Ms. Talamantes has shown a lot of leadership and will be a great balance. She also loves having two women in leadership roles.

Mr. Keefer thinks Ms. Talamantes shows so much grace in so many different topics and is looking forward to her being Vice President.

President Ahola called for a roll call vote on the nomination of Karina Talamantes to serve as Board Vice President for the 2020-2021 term.

Vote carried 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent, 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

Ms. Talamantes – yes
Ms. Lefkovitz – yes
Mr. Keefer – yes
Mr. Fong – yes
Ms. Davis – yes
Mr. Brown – yes
Ms. Ahola – yes

Vice President Talamantes thanked her fellow Board members for electing her to serve in this capacity.

IV. On a motion by Mr. Keefer and seconded by Mr. Brown the minutes of the regular meeting of June 23, 2020 were approved. Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent, 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

Ms. Talamantes – yes
Ms. Lefkovitz – yes
Mr. Keefer – yes
Mr. Fong – yes
Ms. Davis – yes
Mr. Brown – yes
Ms. Ahola – yes

V. Mr. Fong moved to adopt the agenda. Ms. Talamantes seconded the motion, which carried 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent, 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

Ms. Talamantes – yes
Ms. Lefkovitz – yes
Mr. Keefer – yes
Mr. Fong – yes
Ms. Davis – yes
Mr. Brown – yes
Ms. Ahola – yes

VI. There was no official correspondence.

VII.A. There were no requests for visitor presentations from the general public.

VII.B. There were no requests for presentations from employee organizations.

VIII. Superintendent Gordon reported on the following:

- Congratulated Trustee Ahola for being selected to serve as our new Board President. Also congratulated Trustee Talamantes for being selected to serve as our Vice President for 2020-2021. Thank you to Trustee Bina Lefkovitz for serving as Board President and Trustee Paul Keefer as Vice President over the past year. It has been a difficult time as we have not been able to continue working together in person. Trustee Lefkovitz has handled everything with great grace and understanding and, on behalf of our staff, we thank her.
- Welcomed some new members to the SCOE executive team and announced new appointments. Kristin Wright is the new the Executive Director, Equity, Diversity, Early Intervention, and Support Services. She previously served as the California State Director of Special Education at the California Department of Education. Dr. Channa Cook-Harvey has been appointed as Executive Director of District and School Support. Channa comes to SCOE from the Folsom Cordova Unified School District, where she served as the Director of Social-Emotional Learning. Jacqueline White is our new Director of College and Career Readiness Initiatives. She comes to us from Twin Rivers Unified School District,

where she served as the Executive Director of Student Engagement. Debbie Morris is our new SELPA Administrator. She comes to us from the Nevada County Office of Education, where she served as the Principal of Special Education. And Dr. Chris Williams has been appointed SCOE's Director of School-Based Mental Health and Wellness. Chris previously served as a Coordinator in our Prevention and Early Intervention Department. Please join him in congratulating these new members of the SCOE family!

- On June 24, with the able assistance of then President Lefkowitz, we held a news conference to formally announce a groundbreaking partnership that over the next several years will place mental health clinicians in every school in the county and make schools “Centers of Wellness” in their communities. The initial cohort starting this fall will include 11 schools. Thanks to Dr. Peter Beilenson and Sacramento County Public Health for their leadership in helping forge this partnership. Also, a shout out to Brent Malicote and excellent staff who helped lay the groundwork for this effort.
- Reported that under SB 98, the State Board of Education has directed \$750,000 to SCOE to develop draft distance learning curriculum and instructional guidance for math, English language arts, and English language development. The bill requires the state board to adopt the distance learning curriculum and instructional guidance by May 31, 2021. The legislation requires us to look at the issue of learning loss, the delivery of distance learning to underserve populations, to accessing instructional assessments, formative assessments that the districts use, and also assess the quality and availability of social emotional support. This is a major charge that we have been given by the State Board of Education. We had an initial phone call with President Linda Darling-Hammond and Executive Director Karen Stapf Walters. We have another call this Friday to further frame the work and we are working with the State Department of Education staff who are monitoring the contract. It is a very short timeframe we have, and we will do our very best to make you proud by producing a high-quality product.
- Congratulated Chef Carissa Jones, a culinary arts instructor at the Sacramento County Youth Detention Facility, for being named SCOE Teacher of the Year for 2021. She is a former instructor at Le Cordon Bleu cooking institute. In her classroom, she combines real-life culinary experience with teaching. Chef Jones is now eligible to participate in the Sacramento County Teachers of the Year 2021 program for which we are interviewing later this week. Unfortunately, we will not be able to sponsor and stage the banquet, but we will be trying to compensate for that with a virtual event.

- On June 27, our Leadership Institute held a virtual celebration to honor its 2020 graduating class. During the ceremony, 63 participants received a Preliminary Administrative Services Credential, qualifying them to serve as administrators, vice-principals, principals, and other positions. Thanks to Dr. Steve Winlock, School of Education Executive Director, and his team for the wonderful virtual ceremony.
- Announced that over 1,800 students countywide earned the State Seal of Biliteracy for the 2019–2020 school year. The seal is awarded to seniors who have demonstrated English competency, plus competency in another language by meeting very specific and demanding criteria. We collaborated with 14 school districts and independent charter schools in this year’s Seal of Biliteracy program.
- In response to the pandemic, many art organizations have restructured their art offerings online. Our School of Education and many Sacramento art organizations collaborated to create a "catalog" to publicize information about virtual art experiences and education provided by local organizations. Programs are available at low or no cost to families and include opportunities in the areas of dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts. You can find the catalog on the SCOE website.
- Special shout out to our kitchen staff team from Sly Park. Special thanks to Trustee Davis who joined him in traveling up to Sly Park to say thank you and recognize our kitchen team. We watched the distribution of meals at one of the elementary schools, Pinewood Elementary School, which several years ago had principal Brent Malicote. It was an older school that had been maintained and refurbished. We watched the parents take their grab-and-go meals which were handed out by volunteers from the Boys & Girls Club in Pollock Pines. And because of the dedication of our staff, up to 140 students and families will have access to meals through early August. The collaborative effort is supported by the federal Child Nutrition Program. We are extremely proud of our Sly Park kitchen staff for stepping in to serve the El Dorado County community. They did it with great vigor and enthusiasm.
- SCOE is developing Restart Plans for all programs and working with our union leaders (SCOETA & CSEA) on these. The health and safety of our students, staff, and families are imperative as we develop these plans to reopen. He summarized current plans and noted that all will need to be modified as conditions and circumstances change based on public health orders or guidelines.

IX.A. Mr. Brown moved and Mr. Keefer seconded adoption of the consent agenda. By such action, the Board:

1. Accepted report on Personnel Transactions

2. Awarded diplomas to Community School Students

Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent, 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

Ms. Talamantes – yes
Ms. Lefkovitz – yes
Dr. Keefer – yes
Mr. Fong – yes
Ms. Davis – yes
Dr. Brown – yes
Ms. Ahola – yes

Dr. Matt Perry, Assistant Superintendent, announced that the following students will be awarded a diploma: Jerome Butler and Eric Ortiz from Cordova Lane Senior Extension; Celestia Yazmin Hernandez, John Michael McDaniel, and Donelle Lynn Pearson from Elinor Lincoln Hickey Senior Extension; and Jessica Annette Brooks, Daniel Cristian Castro, and Jamario Quincy McElmore from North Area Senior Extension.

IX.B. Ms. Davis moved and Ms. Lefkovitz seconded approval of the contracts as listed. Motion to approve the contracts carried 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent, 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

Ms. Talamantes – yes
Ms. Lefkovitz – yes
Mr. Keefer – yes
Mr. Fong – yes
Ms. Davis – yes
Mr. Brown – yes
Ms. Ahola – yes

IX.C. On a motion by Ms. Lefkovitz, seconded by Ms. Davis, the Board authorized staff to submit grant applications/service contracts and accept funding if awarded; and approved contracts, positions, and other expenditures associated with the grants as outlined in the proposed budgets as follows:

1. \$100,000 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Aware grant from Aurrera Health Group, LLC, on behalf of the California Department of Health Care Services for the 2020-2021 fiscal year

Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent, 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

Ms. Talamantes – yes
Ms. Lefkovitz – yes
Mr. Keefer – yes
Mr. Fong – yes
Ms. Davis – yes

Mr. Brown – yes
Ms. Ahola – yes

On a motion by Mr. Fong, seconded by Ms. Lefkovitz, the Board authorized staff to submit grant applications/service contracts and accept funding if awarded; and approved contracts, positions, and other expenditures associated with the grants as outlined in the proposed budgets as follows:

2. \$134,493 Summer Learning Initiative (SLI) grant from the City of Sacramento Federal CARES Act Funding for the 2020-2021 fiscal year

Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent, 1 abstention (Talamantes) based on the following Roll Call vote:

Ms. Talamantes – abstain
Ms. Lefkovitz – yes
Mr. Keefer – yes
Mr. Fong – yes
Ms. Davis – yes
Mr. Brown – yes
Ms. Ahola – yes

IX.D. President Ahola announced this was the First Reading of Revisions to Board Policy 2400 – Charter School Petitions and no action is required.

Tim Herrera read the following public comment:

From: Brett Barley, California Montessori Project
Margaret Fortune, Fortune School of Education
Jillayne Antoon, Rocklin Academy Family of Schools
Matt Taylor, River Charter Schools
Cristin Fiorelli, Capitol Collegiate Academy
David Richards, Growth Public Schools
Murdock Smith, Highlands Community Charter School
Joe Wood, Natomas Charter School
John Eick & Steve Korvink, Westlake Charter School
Anthony Solina, Aspire Public Schools
Lee Yang, Yav Pem Suab Academy
Eduardo de León, Language Academy of Sacramento
Jason Sample, Gateway Community Charters
Derek Newell, Options for Youth San Juan
Jody Graf, Visions in Education
Tom Rutten, Natomas Pacific Pathways Prep
Kari Wehrly, St. HOPE Public Schools
Norm Hernandez, Sol Aureus College Preparatory

“Dear SCOE Board Trustees,

The Sacramento County charter school community wants to thank you for your engagement with us on changes to the law under AB 1505. Much of the feedback we provided has been included in the updated policy including holding one meeting for the hearing and decision for charter school petitions. However, there is still one area of concern.

Section V C of the draft policy states, “Charter schools shall provide an annual report, and other reports as requested by the Board, Superintendent, or designee”. At the top of this section, it does state, “Through the MOU between the charter school, Board, and Superintendent,...”, however, it is unclear if any additional requests would be under the directive of the MOU. Our concern is this language leaves the door open for authorizer overreach. Any requests should be agreed to under an MOU negotiated between the charter school operator and the authorizer.

Thank you for engaging us and for your consideration in adjusting this section of the policy.”

The Board reviewed and discussed proposed revisions to the Board Policy.

Based upon the discussion, Ms. Stinson will make some adjustments to the Board Policy, and it will be brought back for approval at the next Board meeting. Proposed revisions to the Administrative Rules and Regulations will also be presented at the next Board meeting.

IX.E. President Ahola announced this was the First Reading of Revisions to Board Policy 5141.52 – Suicide Prevention.

Ms. Stinson noted this section is mostly technical adjustments to align with the law and to provide age appropriate information for elementary school students.

IX.F. An information item on the Professional Learning Report was provided in the Board packet.

Dr. Nancy Herota and Dr. Matt Perry provided an overview of the Professional Learning report.

Ms. Lefkowitz suggested adding data to demonstrate if we are increasing numbers of low-income students in computer science offerings and analysis of the impact of training at low income schools for next year.

Mr. Fong asked questions regarding bilingual education and made comments on the suspensions and expulsions, and the Youth Summit.

Dr. Herota responded that the intent and overall goal of BTPDP is to support existing bilingual and emerging programs.

X.A. Mr. Brown – no report.

Ms. Lefkovitz congratulated President Ahola. A big shout out for Superintendent and staff for the Mental Health initiative. It is a unique and huge project. We should thank him for this work.

Ms. Davis reported she attended the Personnel Commission Meeting prior to this meeting. Employee Recognition Day will be virtual this year and will look different. She used the online pickup system at the library and will be catching up on some reading over the remainder of her break. Thank you for working on the libraries to get books back in the hands of everyone.

Ms. Talamantes stated she wanted to coordinate an activity box with summer fun items, and information from the Board for some of our SCOE students. She inquired if the scholarship fund could be used for this and will follow up with Superintendent Gordon.

Mr. Fong congratulated President Ahola and Vice President Talamantes. He looks forward to working with them. Thank you to Ms. Lefkovitz and Mr. Keefer for their leadership this year. He thanked everyone for the birthday cookies delivered to his house.

Mr. Keefer thanked everyone and wished everyone a great rest of July.

X.B. President Ahola is honored to be leading the Board and collaborating with Vice President Talamantes in the upcoming year. Have a great week and thank you for your engagement tonight.

X.C. There were no committee reports.

XI.A. There was no distribution of the July/August Events item.

XI.B. There was no distribution of the July/August Site Visits item.

XII. Schedule for Future Board Meetings:

A. August 4, 2020 Board/Superintendent Study Session

B. August 11, 2020

C. August 22, 2020 Board Retreat

Superintendent Gordon reminded the Board that on Tuesday, August 4, there will be a Board study session on Equity.

XIII. Ms. Talamantes moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Keefer seconded the motion, which carried 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent, 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

Ms. Talamantes – yes

Ms. Lefkovitz – yes

Mr. Keefer – yes

Mr. Fong – yes

Ms. Davis – yes
Mr. Brown – yes
Ms. Ahola – yes

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Gordon
Secretary to the Board

Date approved: August 11, 2020