

**PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
January 31, 2001**

**MINUTES**

**1.0 Opening Ceremony in Open Session – 6:00 pm**

- 1.1 Call to Order
- 1.2 Public Comments on Closed Session Items

**2.0 Closed Session - 6:05pm in the Personnel Conference Room at 294 Green Valley Rd.**

**2.1 A. Public Employee Appointment: Certificated, Classified Promotions**

- 1 Network Technician III

**New Hires**

- 3 Elementary Teacher
- 4 Secondary Teacher
- 14 Substitutes

**Rehires**

- 1 Academic Vocational Institute Teacher
- 1 Special Education Specialist

**B. Leave of Absences**

- 1 Administrative Secretary I
- 1 Administrator
- 1 Elementary Teacher
- 1 Secondary Teacher
- 2 Special Education Specialists
- 1 Bus Driver
- 1 Instructional Support Clerk
- 2 Instructional Support Specialist I

**C. Resignations/Retirements**

- 1 Elementary Teacher
- 2 Secondary Teacher

**D. Supplemental Service Agreements**

- 30 Teachers

**E. Miscellaneous Action**

- 1 Instructional Support Specialist III
- 1 Executive Assistant - Confidential

**F. Limited Term – Project**

- 3 Instructional Support Aide

3 Office Assistant II

**G. Limited Term-Substitute**  
1 Cafeteria Assistant

**H. Provisional**  
1 Instructional Support Aide  
1 Library Media Technician  
1 Office Assistant II

**I. Exempt**  
2 Yard Duty Supervisor

**J. Students**  
3 Migrant OWE Students  
2 Workability Student

**K. Separations from Service**  
1 Groundkeeper II

**2.2 Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release**  
None

**2.3 Claims for Damages**  
None

**2.4 Expulsions**  
6 Students

**3.0 Opening Ceremony – Meeting of the Board in Public – 7:00pm**

**3.1 Pledge of Allegiance**  
President Hankemeier led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3.2 Welcome by Board President**  
Present: Trustees Sharon Gray, Sandra Nichols, Carol Roberts, Evelyn Volpa, Willie Yahiro, and President Dan Hankemeier; Trustee Roberto Garcia was absent.

**4.0 Approval of the Agenda**  
Trustee Evelyn Volva made a motion to approve the agenda but asked to move item 11.1 after item 12.4; her motion was seconded by Trustee Gray. The motion passed 6-0-1 (trustee Garcia was absent).

**5.0 Approval of Minutes**  
Minutes for December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board were reviewed. Dr. Casey informed the Board of a change of wording on Pg. 10. Trustee Nichols also wanted to ensure that her views on the installation of dental chairs at Alianza be noted in the minutes. Her comment was added to item 11.4 of the minutes, on page 9. With those amendments to the minutes, a motion to approve the Minutes of December 13, 2000 was made by Trustee Yahiro. Trustee Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0-1 (Trustee Garcia was absent).

### **Students of the Week**

Student of the Week – Presentation of Certificates. Recipients were introduced by principals of the students' respective school: Rolling Hills: Melissa Leon; Calabasas: E.A.Hall: Valerie Chamberlain; Mayra Cortez.

## **6.0 SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND CONCERNS**

### **6.1 Employee Organizations**

- **PVFT** – None
- **CSEA** – None
- **PVAM** – None

### **6.2 Student(s) Trustee Report**

J'nell Pittinger-Thomas – Student Trustee of Aptos High School; J'nell updated the board on World Week taking place during the week of February 20- 23. This event will be hosted by various school clubs representing various cultures with food, music, dancing, educational booths. Other events Student Trustee mentioned are: February 8 – Social Studies Curriculum forum @ 6pm with parents linking to the teacher; February 8 – Student Senate meeting; February 16 – Valentine Dance fundraiser; Trip to Catalina Island during same week of World Week.

### **6.3 Governing Board Comments**

Trustee Gray commented on two (2) items: (1) On Purchase Orders, reminded board CSBA has advised us to change auditor every 3 years, and since our audit firm does other projects for the District, such a move would avoid a conflict of interest. Item (2) was on evaluation of the Effectiveness of the English Learner –1999-2000. She is less than thrilled with those results; encourages people to read and note problems; address some possible solutions to be able to say that we are meeting the educational standards.

Trustee Yahiro noted that South Zone has been working with all the teachers regarding Effectiveness of the English Learner. The focus has been on academic achievement and facilities. Commented he went to ALC graduation with 86 8<sup>th</sup> graders who graduated only because of the ALC; students were proud that they had earned this graduation. These would be kids that would be dropping out if they did not have this program. Also commented on Hall School concert last Thursday and how great it was. Trustee Yahiro informed the board that in April all bands will be at the Fair.

### **6.4 President's Report**

President Hankemeier reminded the board that when abbreviations are used to communicate to also please make sure the actual name is noted.

### **6.5 Zone Administrators' Reports**

Catherine Hatch, Assistant Superintendent for Central Zone reported that on January 24, a Facilities Master Plan meeting was held; in attendance were 25 community and school members. On Feb 27 (4:30 –6:00) the Central Zone will be looking for long-time planning for what the New High School will look like in the coming years. There is an upcoming Site Council meeting on Feb 5 which will be hosted by Freedom School from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. Central Zone's spelling bee will take place on March 1<sup>st</sup> at Lakeview School from 3:30 – 5:00pm. It was reported that Renaissance had staff training on unlearning racism and homophobia, which was quite successful.

Christine Amato-Quinn, Assistant Superintendent for North Zone, reported that Rio Del Mar was without water and bathrooms for seven days and commended staff and students for being so cooperative. On January 15 and 16, staff attended a "Beyond Diversity" workshop. It proved to be a good instructional strategy as kids provided solutions. North Zone council will take place on Monday, February 5 in the evening; its focus will be on Exit exam. It was reported that a 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to discuss facilities has been held. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of Feb they will hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to continue discussing facilities. The board was informed that the North Zone will have their Spelling bee on March 8 at 9 am. It will be held at Bradley.

Ylda Nogueta, Assistant Superintendent for South Zone, reported that in regards to the ELD (English Language Development), administrators will attend a workshop to promote Student Achievement. Ms. Nogueta commended all students on working on how students will become English proficient. Watsonville High School is having workshops on Sexual Harassment. South Zone will be holding their Spelling bee on February 26 at the Mello Center at 6:00pm.

#### **6.6 Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Casey updated the Board on the bus incident, which occurred early this morning; bus was at CHP-approved bus stop. Bus driver, Stacy Mendoza reported problems with her leg but has been medically assisted. Mary Husby, Principal at Bradley came out immediately to assist. A parent took one student to the hospital for observation. All parents were notified. Dr. Casey informed the board about California Statistics on School buses noting that they continue to be the safest way to transport a student to school. He invited the board to partake on the High School Exit Exam Dinner forum taking place on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at the Pasatiempo Inn.

#### **7.0 VISITOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Rodney Brooks – Addressed the importance of Visitor Non-Agenda items. Spoke on the building of the New High School. He spoke on behalf of the children stating that we are doing okay. He commented that the facts opponents to the new High School are using are not the same facts supporters of this project are using. He stated that opponents claim there is unsafe soil at that site. However, Mr. Brooks shared he had spoken to a Granite Construction engineer who stated that it was not inappropriate to build on that soil. He commented that people around here do not trust that area and concluded by suggesting the District puts out to the public that we are not building on the slough.

Diane Bury-Goena – Ms. Bury is a parent of 3 students at Bradley and a site council member, spoke on the bus accident. She commended Bradley's principal and staff for the care and concern to the students and parents involved. She advised the Board that many students did complain of neck pain. She concluded by saying that all minor injuries could have been avoided with the implementation of seatbelts.

#### **8.0 ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION**

##### **Action of Expulsions**

**00-01-30** A motion to approve the disciplinary action of suspended expulsion as recommended by the panel was made by Trustee Gray. Trustee Volpa seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0-1 (Garcia absent).

**00-01-31** A motion to approve the disciplinary action of full expulsion with conditions to be met for re-enrollment, including counseling in sexual harassment was made by Trustee Gray. Trustee Volpa seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0-1 (Garcia absent).

- 00-01-33** A motion to approve the disciplinary action of full expulsion with placement at an alternative site and under a strict contract was made by Trustee Gray. Trustee Volpa seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0-1 (Garcia absent).
- 00-01-34** A motion to approve the disciplinary action of full expulsion as recommended by the panel was made by Trustee Gray. Trustee Volpa seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0-1 (Garcia absent).
- 00-01-36** A motion to approve the disciplinary action of full expulsion as recommended by the panel was made by Trustee Gray. Trustee Volpa seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0-1 (Garcia absent).
- 00-01-37** A motion to approve the disciplinary action of full expulsion as recommended by the panel was made by Trustee Gray. Trustee Volpa seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0-1 (Garcia absent).

**9.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the following changes was made by Trustee Volpa: Item 9.6 as correcte on blue-sheet. The motion was seconded by Trustee Roberts. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0-1 (Garcia absent).

**9.1 Purchase Orders**

**9.2 Warrants**

**9.3 Approve Cash donation from S.H. Cowell Foundation to Calabasas, Starlight, and Freedom.**

**9.4 Approve educational technology grant program (AB282) award**

**9.6 Certificated/Classified Approval (See Closed Session agenda.)**

**10.0 Deferred Consent Items**

Board members had no deferred consent items to review.

**11.0 ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION**

**11.1 Report and Discussion on Expulsion.**

Dr. Casey remarked the Agenda Committee had met and discussed the issue of expulsion. What is the process for expulsion? What happens after the expulsion?

Ron Kinninger, Director of Child Welfare and Attendance welcomed the opportunity to put forward the expulsion process, noting that it is a legal process. He noted that there is a lot of support from schools on how to report incidents leading to expulsion. He informed the Board that there were 104 expulsions last year. The process is working well and families realize they are being treated fairly. Expulsion notification letters go out to parents via registered mail to ensure receipt. This, he noted, is a great way of keeping clear and legal records.

Also present for this report and discussion item were the following school administrators: Jerry McGowan, Coordinator of Academic Vocational Charter Institute (AVCI); Richard Puente, Assistant Principal at

Watsonville High School; Roberto Moreno, Assistant Principal at Pajaro Middle School; Jose Banda, Principal at Watsonville High School; Elizabeth Modena, Aptos High School Principal; Noni Reis, Starlight Principal; Ian McGregor, E.A, Hall Principal.

Dan Hernandez, visitor, spoke to this subject asking if documents explaining the process for expulsion are also in Spanish. He further commented that it is important to inform parents, in their own language, of the process, including the various alternatives that are available.

Ron Kinninger assured Mr. Hernandez and the Board that all materials related to this matter are in fact translated. He was proud to report that the District makes a great effort to inform the parents well of the process. His department meets with the Parents and Administrators to fully explain the situation.

President Hankemeier remarked that administrators spend 5% of their time with students at risk of being expelled. He also said it would be nice if administrators could spend the same amount of time with students who are not at risk.

Trustee Gray asked about the conditions for students to return. To this, Ron Kinninger answered that when the students are eligible to return, they go through an intake process.

Dr. Bilicich informed the Board that all principals get formal letter explaining the programs available to students who are suspended or expelled. They hold meetings with students, parents and teachers to inform them of these programs, such as Rising Star, with goals to get students back to school. She concluded by saying that much goes through process before student is actually expelled.

Trustee Volpa followed up on Dr. Bilicich asking if students at Rising Star have been tracked. Does data on how students are doing exist? It may be beneficial to know how this school is doing so its services can be promoted.

Ms. Modena said that at a High School level, programs that some students can take advantage of are full. Further, she noted that a continuation school limits students' success; students need more attention. She added that when a student reaches High School, it becomes more difficult to resolve a risk situation.

Mr. Puente stated that the ALC program is very successful. There is, however, a need to increase the number of teachers and classrooms so more students can be services. We are usually at capacity. In terms of intervention, Mr. Puente noted that Watsonville High School has several programs to support students. If students at risk do not find programs to assist them, they drop out.

Mr. Banda added that another problem is repeated offenders. This process is seeing many of the same kids again and again. They don't realize they are running out of opportunities. Kids dropping out or expelled are out on the streets and they need other options.

Trustee Roberts noted that parents need to be trained on disciplines that their kids are doing.

Ms. Noni Reis cautioned the Board into looking at shipping kids out of schools. She said that we need to increase our efforts at school site.

Trustee Roberts inquired about academic intervention. When do we intervene? Basing her statement on some writing samples, she said that students are not improving their writing skills.

Trustee Yahiro asked how the board could support school site efforts to intervene.

Ms. Modena commented on the various programs kids at Aptos High School can get involved in, such as athletics and art. However, it is important to focus more intervention efforts prior to High School.

Mr. MacGregor added that Middle Schools have a lot of intervention programs. In discipline, there is much intervention with counselors. We also have Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance's (PVPSA) "Opportunity After School" with optional classes after school. However, he added, there are still 30-50 referrals seen at Middle School level. Some kids don't fully understand the problems they are facing, even after various meetings with parents and students.

President Henkemeier inquired if students going through expulsion could take advantage of Independent Studies.

Mr. Kinninger explained that although Independent Studies is a great program, the program does not allow expelled students to be placed there. Middle School age group needs an alternative program, such as New School. Community schools funded by COE (County Office of Education) includes grades 6 - 12 and they are all in the same environment. A young student may not be comfortable with older students. This would limit their success. A community day school should be provided for Middle School students.

Trustee Yahiro wondered about space availability for special programs. We need to explore some ideas for alternative programs, identifying cost, possible sites so that Middle Schools can offer such programs. He continued to state that every child should somehow be active. It is important to look at expanding required activities.

Trustee Nichols inquired on counselor availability and whether or not students had to wait for an appointment.

Ms. Modena remarked that Aptos High School has two types of counselors; one deals with academic issues, such as class placement, and the other focus on personal counseling. They also rely on counselors from PVPSA.

To this subject, Mr. Banda commented that at Watsonville High School, student requests are what trigger the presence of counselors. Counselors are available before, during and after school. The bulk of their time is spent in academics.

Trustee Volpa remarked that we need to provide more funding through grants to ensure every student needing help is able to receive it. ACL should not be full when a student needs to be placed there.

President Henkemeier noted that the reason ALC is successful because of its size.

Trustee Volpa stated that we cannot not, as a school district, allow for special programs for students at risk not to be not available. She asked: How can a Junior and/or Senior be getting D's and F's? We need to find a way to help those students. As a school district, it may not be our responsibility to train the parents. That should be the responsibility of a community. What is happening with students who are showing risk factors but are not caught by the system? We need to come up with creative solutions to resolve this problem. Mentor-Teachers should be created this way the child can feel accountable for their actions.

Trustee Yahiro said that we need to be careful at separating behavior from academics. Some students are expelled for having a gun but have good grades.

Mr. Kenninger stated that two weeks ago at WHS, Mr Banda engineered an after school conference. The motivation to attend was that a positive note that would minimize the number of negative occurrences if they attended this conference. Attendance to this conference with their parents was of 300 people.

President Hankemeier asked about programs that are in place for students with discipline problems

Ms. Modena answered that some after school programs include community based programs, such as custodial work (i.e. cleaning windows).

Mr. MacGregor commented that there is a good discipline policy in the district. The clear message is good behavior. Clear policy – well spelled out.

President Henkemeier thanked all participants for their input and added that we want to make sure that those kids at risk of being expelled are given an opportunity.

Dr. Bilicich commented that a good step has been taken by the approval of the Charter School. We are instructing students from various High Schools who have failed everything and are getting academic focus. Last year we had 10 students through the program who would have otherwise dropped out. They were provided with an opportunity.

Mr. MacGowan noted that occupational training is a good motivator. With this vocational program available, some students have better their grades.

Trustee Yahiro thanked everyone for doing such a good job.

President Hanekmeier thanked all participants.

## **12.0 ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

### **12.1 Report, discussion, and possible action to approve second reading of the Charter Petition for the Watsonville Charter School of the Arts.**

Dr. Bilicich updated the Board stating petition had been revised to include Trustees' input. She added that the Charter school cannot have discriminatory admission. Parameters set in this petition are goals that this school will try to meet; these goals are identified as percentages of enrollment based on ethnicity. Nancy noted that various methods for recruiting are being sought. They are reaching out to the various students by any possible means. She concluded by asking the board to approve this petition.

Trustee Yahiro brought up the concern of presenting percentages as goals to be reached by the end of the year.

Trustee Volpa motioned to approve the petition provided the percentages are dropped and the wording is modified to state that the school's diversity will be a reflection of the community. Trustee Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0-1 (Garcia absent).

### **12.2 Report, discussion, and possible action to approve Health Coordinator Job Description, Second Reading.**

A motion to approve Health Coordinator Job description was made by Trustee Gray. Trustee Volva seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0-1 (Garcia absent).

### **12.3 Report, discussion, and possible action to approve job description for Migrant Head Start Director, First Reading.**

Clem Donaldson, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel, informed the board this position has increased complexities. Trustee Gray inquired if the job requirements had changed. Ylda Noguera answered stating that the scope of the job had increased. Trustee Gray motioned to approve this item; Trustee Yahiro seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0-1 (Garcia absent)

### **12.4 Report, discussion, and possible action to approve the appointment of teacher waivers.**

Trustee Volva motioned to approve the appointment of teacher waivers. Trustee Yahiro seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0-1 (Garcia absent).



**13.0 UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

**13.1 February 14, 2001, Regular Board Meeting, 6:00pm Closed Session, 7:00pm Open Session, District Board Room, 294 Green Valley Road, Watsonville.**

**13.2 Board Retreat, February 3, 2001, 9:00am – 3:00pm, Conference Room C, 294 Green Valley Rd., Watsonville**

**13.3 Study Session on Curriculum and Instruction: Date: February 20, 2001  
Location: District Office Conference Room C, Adult Ed; Times: 12 – 1:30 and 5 – 6:30**

**13.4 Items for Subsequent Board Meeting Agendas**

**14.0 Adjournment**

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm.

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Secretary