

**MONTECITO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
Board Meeting Minutes  
August 18, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, special procedures were followed for the board meeting. The meeting was held in the lower courtyard of Building A where the second and third grade classrooms are located.

Board Present: Mrs. Kate Murphy, President, Mrs. Susannah Osley, Clerk, Mrs. Marilyn Bachman, Member, and Mr. Chad Chase, Member.

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk, Member, participated through Zoom from 575 Live Oaks Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108.

Staff Present: Mr. Anthony Ranii, Superintendent, Ms. Virginia Alvarez, Chief Business Official, Dr. Nick Bruski, Principal, Mr. Rusty Ito, Assistant Principal, and Mrs. Autumn Noe, Executive Assistant.

**Call to Order**

Board President, Mrs. Kate Murphy called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

**Public Comment on Closed Session Items**

There was no public comment on Closed Session Items.

**Closed Session**

Board President, Mrs. Kate Murphy reported that the Board was going into Closed Session at 3:32 p.m.

Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Superintendent's Goals 2020-2021  
(Government Code Section 54957), Title: Superintendent

**Reconvene to Open Session**

**Report Out of Closed Session**

The Board reconvened to Open Session and Board President, Mrs. Kate Murphy reported that there was no action taken in Closed Session.

**Opening Business**

**Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda**

Mr. Matt Riley spoke to the Board regarding an email he sent to the Board. He expressed an interest in creating a hybrid approach for families who are not interested in having their children learn in person. Mrs. Kate Murphy spoke to the necessary communication that needs to occur as the possibility of students to learn in person could be in the near future. Mr. Chad Chase spoke to the difficulty of the decision process for families and staff to learn in person.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mrs. Susannah Osley made the motion to approve the Agenda. Mrs. Marilyn Bachman seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

**Correspondence**

There was no correspondence reported.

## **Montecito Union School Foundation Presidential Report**

Mrs. Tara Fergusson was unable to attend in person and Mr. Anthony Ranii read an email that she had sent. She explained that the foundation was focusing on making connections with families. They hosted a Zoom for new families and personally handed out custom bottles and pencils to all students and staff. He also gave an update to the work that Mrs. Ana Rudnicki has been undertaking over the summer, a low play structure is being built, trees have been created into climbing structures, a chicken coop is being built, and new fencing has been decided upon.

### **Waiver Process**

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that the information presented in the board packet did not have the most up to date numbers due to problems with the data collection and reporting through the state. He explained that in order for elementary schools to apply for a waiver for in person instruction that they would need to reach a 14-day case rate of below 200 cases per 100,000. In addition to the guidance there is other criteria such as consultation with labor, parent, and community organizations. Along with a comprehensive plan, evidence of contact tracing and testing would need to occur. He explained that the Board would need to determine if a waiver application should be made or if the superintendent should decide if a waiver should be made. Three options were presented to the Board: 1. If the Board is to make the decision, it would follow that the Board would want to directly engage with labor, parents, and community organizations. 2. If the superintendent is to make the decision, it would follow that the superintendent would directly engage with these groups. 3. If the superintendent is to make a formal recommendation to the Board, who will then make the final determination, it would follow that the superintendent would directly engage with these groups, and present a recommendation as well as supporting evidence from this engagement process.

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported receiving public comment from parents on this topic. Mr. Mark Roth had emailed that he was in support of option 2.

Mrs. Susannah Osley suggested a Superintendent Committee, as Option 2-A and offered to be on the committee. Mr. Chad Chase suggested that it be an all Board discussion. The Board continued to discuss the different options. Mr. Chad Chase and Mr. Peter van Duinwyk focused on the importance of transparency.

Mr. Jeff Linder spoke to the process.

The Board continued to discuss the waiver process.

Mr. Matt Riley spoke to the Board regarding these difficult conversations and the discussion of the unknown sentiments to how families feel and the necessity of transparency to families.

Each Board member spoke to the option that they were considering.

Mrs. Susannah Osley made the motion to approve option #2, If the superintendent is to make the decision, it would follow that the superintendent would directly engage with these groups. Mr. Peter van Duinwyk seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members Bachman, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk. Mr. Chad Chase abstained from voting.

Mr. Chad Chase expressed his interest in a hybrid model in order for him to make an affirmation to a vote.

**Face Coverings**

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) had published guidance regarding face coverings in schools. Children 2 years old – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade were strongly encouraged to wear face coverings. He presented the Board with research regarding the effectiveness of face coverings. He also reported that the Montecito Teachers' Association were in support of requiring all students K-6 to wear facemasks at MUS.

Mr. Jeff Linder spoke on behalf of the Montecito Teachers' Association explaining that 91% of teachers supported the requirement for all students.

Mr. Matt Riley spoke to the Board in support of all ages being required to wear face coverings.

Mrs. Susannah Osley made the motion to approve the all students in grades Kindergarten through 2nd grade be required to wear face coverings unless exempt, matching the current requirement for grades 3rd-6th grade at Montecito Union School District. Mrs. Marilyn Bachman seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

***Strategic Initiative #1A: Academic Excellence and Whole-Child Success (Design and implement a Multi-Tiered System of Support that provides intervention, enrichment, and differentiation to meet the diverse needs of ALL students.)***

**Public Hearing: Sufficiency of Instructional Materials**

Mrs. Kate Murphy opened the Public Hearing: Sufficiency of Instructional Materials at 5:21 p.m. There was no public comment reported. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

**Resolution #20/21-01 Sufficiency of Instructional Materials**

Mr. Chad Chase made the motion to approve Resolution #20/21-01 Sufficiency of Instructional Materials. Mr. Peter van Duinwyk seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

**Resolution #20/21-02 Textbook and Instructional Materials Compliance**

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk made the motion to approve Resolution #20/21-02 Textbook and Instructional Materials Compliance. Mr. Chad Chase seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

***Strategic Initiative #1B: Academic Excellence and Whole-Child Success (Integrate a variety of learning experiences across all curricular areas for each student. Provide problem-solving opportunities to research, design, create, test, reflect upon, and explore concepts.)***

**MUSatHome Master Schedule**

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained the MUSatHome Master Schedule as it is different than the schedule presented from last school year. He highlighted the different sections throughout the day including a flexible block, which includes: Specialist classes, family check in's, differentiated instruction for students, special services, and independent work time. Each classroom's specific schedule is organized on an internal website which includes all links for external learning sites and links for all scheduled Zoom times. One request of families this year was to utilize the given school device in order to streamline technology for families.

### **MUSatHome Learning Expectations**

Mr. Anthony Ranii presented the document, MUSathome Learning Expectations, which was given to families in order for students to be prepared for the day. Some examples were: Be School Ready, Show Kindness, Respect, and Integrity, and ways to be safe. Mr. Rusty Ito gave a brief overview of the social and emotional aspect of the master schedule. Mr. Anthony Ranii also explained that attendance is mandatory and how that is reported.

***Strategic Initiative #3. Environmental Stewardship (Expand community-wide environmental literacy, advocacy, and leadership opportunities. Make decisions through a sustainability lens. Initiate programs to be carbon free and to minimize our resource consumption. Consistently reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost, striving for zero waste.)***

### **Nature Lab Update**

Mr. Anthony Ranii and Ms. Virginia Alvarez gave the Board an update to the process of demolishing the house at Nature Lab. In total, the process will take about four weeks. Mr. Anthony Ranii also reported that working in conjunction with the Montecito Union School Foundation, a chicken coop has been ordered, an open style fort has been designed and is planned on being constructed, a path of travel is to be designed with landscape architects, and split rail fencing to be installed to the perimeter. Also, the Eucalyptus trees that need to be removed will be repurposed into a natural climbing structure.

***Strategic Initiative #4. Safe, Efficient Facilities (Improve the safety, efficiency, accessibility, and utility of our physical structures and grounds to support student learning. Ensure all structures are properly maintained. Develop and implement a vision for our adjacent property in keeping with our Strategic Plan.)***

### **Facility Update**

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave the Board an update to the extensive work that has been performed by the facilities team. This summer the work has included COVID-19 related projects; new specialized cleaning equipment, signage, storage of furniture, installation of plexiglass partitions, hand washing stations, and the creation of additional outdoor learning spaces. In addition, the team had work to do at the Nature Lab, demolition of the house, grounds work, the outdoor classroom, the Science Lab and the addition of a kindergarten classroom conversion, as well as many other projects. The Board expressed their gratitude towards the facilities team.

### **Acceptance of Completed Contract for North Parking Lot and Play Area Project, Ball Wall**

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave the Board a recap of the North Parking Lot and Play Area Project, which was completed on July 15, 2020. The Department of State Architects (DSA) issued an acceptance of completion on August 6, 2020. He explained that according to Civil Code Section 9204, a Notice of Completion must be filed within 15 days after the completion of the work.

Mrs. Marilyn Bachman made the motion to accept completion of the contract for the North Parking Lot, Play Area Project, and Ball Wall and to file the Notice of Completion with the County Records' Office. Mrs. Susannah Osley seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

### **Acceptance of Completed Contract for Campus Wide Fire Alarm Replacement Project**

Ms. Virginia Alvarez reported that all fire alarms have been replaced and the new system has been installed. The project has been submitted to the Department of State Architects (DSA) for acceptance of completion.

Mr. Chad Chase made the motion to approve Acceptance of Completed Contract for Campus Wide Fire Alarm Replacement Project and to file the Notice of Completion with the County Records' Office. Mrs. Marilyn Bachman seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

***Strategic Initiative #5. Staff Support (Attract, retain, and support high-quality staff as an integral part of our success. Promote staff growth in all job categories through varied and differentiated professional development consistent with high standards of excellence. Nurture a culture of inclusiveness, wellness, and balance.)***

### **Superintendent's Contract**

Mrs. Kate Murphy presented the amendment to the contract with Superintendent, Mr. Anthony Ranii and the Montecito Union School District. She explained that the amendment extends the term of the contract by four years and includes the routine of increasing the annual salary by 3% every July of the contract's duration.

Mrs. Susannah Osley made the motion to approve the contract between Mr. Anthony Ranii and the Montecito Union School District with a four-year term and continues the existing practice of increasing the annual salary by 3% every July 1 of the contract's duration. Mr. Chad Chase seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

### **Governance**

#### **Approval of New, Amended, and Eliminated Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, and Board Bylaws**

Mr. Anthony Ranii briefly reviewed the board policies presented, which included the new policy regarding working remotely.

Mrs. Marilyn Bachman made the motion to approve the policies as presented. Mr. Peter van Duinwyk seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave the Board an update to that Back to School night will be planned on Zoom with Specialists the following week. He also explained that teachers have planned social distanced visits with families in order for students to meet teachers. Staff was given the option to plan the meetings in person or through Zoom. He also reported that SPED preparations are being planned. English Learners are still being served by the certificated specialists.

### **Board Reports**

There were no board reports given.

### **Consent Agenda**

- Board Meeting Minutes - June 9, 2020
- Special Board Meeting Minutes - July 22, 2020
- Personnel Action Items
- Warrants (June 5, 2020- August 10, 2020)
- Interdistrict Transfers 2020-2021
- Consolidated Application and Report System (CARS)
- Resolution #20/21-3 Authorizing the Disposal of Surplus Property

Approval to Utilize Piggyback Bid Contracts, California Multiple Award Schedule (CMAS), CAL-Save, U.S. Communities, The National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO), and other Cooperative Purchasing Contracts during the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year

Mrs. Susannah Osley requested to pull Item P-3, Personnel Action Items in order to inquire as to a resignation and re-hire. Mr. Anthony Ranii confirmed the resignation.

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda without Item P-3, Personal Action Items. Mrs. Susannah Osley seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

Mrs. Susannah Osley made the motion to approve the Item, P-3 Personnel Action Items. Mrs. Marilyn Bachman seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

### **Closing Business**

#### **Suggested Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings and Board Business**

Unaudited Actuals

Resolution to Adopt the Gann Limit

Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that an additional item will be included as to the change of the date for the Staff In-Service.

The Board discussed the scheduling of Board Office Hours. Mr. Anthony Ranii reminded the Board about the upcoming digital CSBA Board Member Conference.

### **Board Evaluation of the Meeting**

The Board discussed the difficulties of voting on items that are hard decisions.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Chad Chase adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m. Mrs. Marilyn Bachman seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

Respectfully submitted,



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Mrs. Susannah Osley  
Board of Trustees Clerk