

**MONTECITO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Board Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2022**

Present: Ms. Susannah Osley, President, Mr. Peter van Duinwyk, Vice President, Ms. Kim Crail, Member, Mrs. Jacqueline Duran, Member and, Mrs. Jessica Smith, Member.

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, Ms. Susannah Osley called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Jaqueline Duran made the motion to approve the Agenda. Mrs. Jessica Smith seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk.

Recognition of Accomplishments: Mrs. Ellen Hunt, Mrs. Shelley Fitzpatrick, and Mrs. Laurie McMahon

The Board recognized Mrs. Ellen Hunt, Mrs. Shelley Fitzpatrick, and Mrs. Laurie McMahon for their dedication and years of service at Montecito Union School. The recognition was held in the courtyard with colleagues and family present.

Opening Business

Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence reported.

Montecito Union School Foundation Presidential Report

Mrs. Tara Fergusson was not present and emailed a report to be read. Mr. Anthony Ranii reported that the Montecito Union School Foundation raised approximately \$233,000 without expenses included from the Gala. He expressed his gratitude for their commitment and setting high goals to enrich the education experience at Montecito Union School.

COVID 19: Update

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported that since his last report, there have been six classroom exposures plus exposures to additional staff members and students. He reported that the number of positive cases are increasing. There has been one student that has been admitted to the hospital for COVID. More at-home kits have been received from the federal government. He also reminded the Board that testing is only scheduled for Monday morning and for any class that has been exposed. There continues to be changes with what is recommended versus required and different schools have chosen best practices for their school.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items scheduled at 7:50 p.m.

Mr. Jeff Linder spoke to the Board about the negotiation process and explained that there was a lot of compromise from both sides in order to come to an agreement. He expressed his gratitude for the agreement of the contract. He also celebrated the ability to work with the administration even when there is not agreement.

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.)

MTSS: End of Year Report

Dr. Nick Bruski gave a presentation to the Board that was created at the Staff PLC in May. He explained that Dibels Assessments were given to all students in order to provide intervention, enrichment, and differentiation for all students. He gave examples of Kindergarten and 1st Grade data showing the changes that students had made since the beginning of the school year. The teaching staff celebrated 5 themes; making a real, measurable difference, communication, before and after school offerings, use of data, and meaningful differentiation. He also presented staff opportunities for continued growth, which included expanding MTSS offerings into writing and social/emotional learning, spending time with classroom teachers to build stringer connections with levels, and to continue to analyze assessments and MTSS structures.

Mrs. Susannah Osley spoke to the evolution of the program. Mrs. Jacqueline Duran inquired as to consistencies between grade levels. Mr. Anthony Ranii commended the specialists and teachers on this work with students.

Transitional Kindergarten Plan

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that even though there are too few numbers of students for a stand alone transitional kindergarten class, the state of California requires a formalized plan for transitional kindergarten. The Santa Barbara County Education Office has produced a plan for the county to comply with these regulations and each district must then "self-certify" the program by answering questions.

Ms. Virginia Alvarez made the recommendation to change Number 1b on page 6 of the plan to "yes" as the County Office of Education applies on behalf of Montecito Union School District for the California Classified School Employee Teacher Credentialing Program Grant.

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk made the motion to approve the Universal Prekindergarten Planning and Implementation Plan and Self-Certification with the additional edit. Mrs. Jessica Smith seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, Smith, 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.)

Student Advocacy for Nature Lab

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave the Board a report on the work that has been done by the 5th and 6th grade students with persuasive letters, research, and presentation skills on a range of topics regarding the Nature Lab. The topics have included composting, advocacy for additional animals to be added to Nature Lab, plans for water features, donating and selling surplus produce, summer camps, and Gala Auction items. Staff members have responded with team meetings, letters, and question and answer sessions with students.

Strategic Initiative #1C: Academic Excellence and Whole-Child Success (Collaborate with and contribute to local and global communities to promote learning, leadership, and activism through service. Help students develop and display empathy and an understanding of various generations, schools, languages, and cultures.)

Collaboration with Montecito Library

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported to the Board that the Board Member, Ms. Kim Crail from the Montecito Library and Ms. Sammy Simon will host three story time/nature experiences for kids at the Nature Lab this summer.

Strategic Initiative #2. Student Character and Wellness (Promote high character and the consistent demonstration of kindness, respect, and integrity. Give students skills to communicate effectively and display appropriate social skills and manners. Nurture students socially and emotionally, and help them develop mindfulness, health, and advocacy skills. Instill a strong sense of empathy and a need to respect the views of others.)

Nurturing and Navigating Your Child's Friendships

Mr. Rusty Ito reported on school counselor, Mrs. Michelle Villegas' two parent events that offered parent support on the topic of children's social and friendship needs in different developmental stages. Twenty participants showed up to the K-3 event and eight participants showed up for the 4-6 event. Parents were able to connect with other parents and it was located at the Nature Lab.

Mrs. Susannah Osley reported on the event as she was in attendance for the 4-6 grade event. Mrs. Jacqueline Duran made the recommendation to offer other ways for parents to participate that are unable to present for these events.

Strategic Initiative #1D: Academic Excellence and Whole-Child Success (Create a cycle of continuous growth, support, and reflection for our specialist and enrichment programs.)

Visual Arts: Kiln Relocation Plan

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported that the kiln that was located in the backroom of the art room has been moved to the Nature Lab where it will be housed a new stand-alone shed. The new location will allow the kiln to be closer to the pottery wheels under the Collaboratory.

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.)

Solar Structure End of Year Report

Mr. Anthony Ranii displayed the Solar Dashboard for the Board and explained that a cost comparison will not be done until next year. He explained that every year will be a greater fiscal benefit.

The Board commended the location of the solar structure.

Composting End of Year Report

Mr. Anthony Ranii presented a food waste report. Hard metric to measure as the higher number of food waste could mean that students are wasting food. He explained that there are plans to partner with the new food provider for next year to monitor food waste more closely.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Update

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported that three to four electrical charging stations will be installed in the North Parking Lot as part of the Building D and E renovation project. The construction schedule has not been confirmed and this phase could be at the completion of Building E. The charging stations will be accessible by staff members with a code and will not be available to the general public.

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk spoke to the need for the charging stations to be accessible to staff.

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.)

Building D and E and Temporary Classroom Updates

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave the Board a summary of the important work that is planned for the Building D and E project; Montecito Union School District is under contract with Edwards Construction Group, DSA approval for temporary classroom, outdoor chair lift removed, tentative date for mobilization of Edwards Construction on June 6th, Building D to be cleared by August 1st, temporary classrooms delivered by July and occupancy by August 10th, electrical plans approved by Southern California Edison, moving company partners secured, and teachers and staff have been briefed regarding moving.

Building D Windows and Doors Phase 2

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that submittals have already begun and materials have been ordered. The work of the windows and doors will occur at the same time as Building D and this has been disclosed to both EJS and Edwards Construction. There is a possibility that the windows and doors are replaced in the evening as the completed first phase was done after students were completed with school.

Library HVAC Update

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported that the submittals have started and the materials are being ordered. This work is planned for the summer.

Nature Lab Updates

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave the Board an update to the work being completed at the Nature Lab; the pad for the tower gardens is almost completed, the shed for the pumps has been built, the Department of State Architects has approved Increment 1 of the Outdoor Learning Pavilion, and additional decomposed granite has been added around the water fountain.

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.)

Update: Classroom Configurations

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that the kindergarten numbers need to be monitored as another section might need to be created, which would create 23 classrooms. He reported that there are only 5 Transitional Kindergarten students enrolled.

Mrs. Susannah Osley inquired as to the Transitional Kindergarten age ranges and how parents are made aware of the changed birthdates for enrollment.

Recommend Ongoing Funding of Part-time MTSS/Science Instructional Assistant

Mr. Anthony Ranii spoke to the benefits of have the MTSS/Science Instructional Assistant this year. Mrs. Vanessa Scarlett created an overview that highlighted the enhanced science experiences that occurred because of this position.

Mrs. Jacqueline Duran made the motion to approve the part-time Science/MTSS Instructional Assistant position and to be made permanent and be included in the 2022-2023 budget. Ms. Kim Crail seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk.

Strategic Initiative #6. Financial Sustainability (Ensure financial sustainability now and into the future through intentional spending and the building of reserves over time.)

Mrs. Susannah Osley made the recommendation to move Item L-2, Resolution #21/22-07 of the Board of Trustees of the Montecito Union School District Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Documents Relating to the Sale and Delivery of a Lease/Purchase Agreement, and Authorizing and Directing Certain Actions in Connection Therewith and Item L-3, Authorization to Open Fund 22 Building Project Fund as Mrs. Jacqueline Duran would be leaving early.

Resolution #21/22-07 of the Board of Trustees of the Montecito Union School District Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Documents Relating to the Sale and Delivery of a Lease/Purchase Agreement, and Authorizing and Directing Certain Actions in Connection Therewith

Mr. Anthony Ranii reminded the Board that the Building D and E renovation project will be financed through the preparation, sale, and delivery of a Lease/Purchase Agreement between the District and the Public Property Financing Corporation of California. The resolution permits the sale of the lease and the authorizing forms of the legal documents. Ms. Virginia Alvarez reported that through special counsel, Mr. David Casnocha of Stradling law guided her through the documents and processes. The Lease/Purchase Agreement, in the amount not to exceed \$7,500,000 and the District total payment amount, calculated to the final maturity of the Lease/Purchase Agreement will be \$9,097,000.

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk made the motion to approve Resolution #21/22-07 of the Board of Trustees of the Montecito Union School District Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Documents Relating to the Sale and Delivery of a Lease/Purchase Agreement, and Authorizing and Directing Certain Actions in Connection Therewith. Mrs. Jacqueline Duran seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk.

Authorization to Open Fund 22 Building Project Fund

Ms. Virginia Alvarez explained that as the District is entering into a lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$7,500,000 loan in order to finance the renovation costs of Building D and E and that a separate fund to track expenditures specific to the renovation project needs to be created.

Ms. Kim Crail made the motion to approve Resolution #21/22-08 to authorize establishment of Fund 22 to deposit funds received from debt financing and to track expenditures of the renovation of Building D and E. Mrs. Jessica Smith seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk.

Update on Building D and E Financing to Date

Ms. Virginia Alvarez presented the Board with a timeline as to the debt service financing for the Building D and E Renovation Project. She explained the steps involved and the progress to date. She also gave the Board an update to the funding expected from OPSC and explained that the actual amount to be received is still unknown. She reported that June 7th will be closing of the loan transaction with the funds being deposited at the Santa Barbara County Treasury with access to the District via the existing process and through Santa Barbara County Education Office.

2022-2023 Proposed Budget - Draft #2

Ms. Virginia Alvarez gave the Board an update from the last draft presented at the April 17, 2022 board meeting. She reported that there have not been updates from the local tax assessor's office or the State. The Governor's May revision has not been released. The budget reflects 23 classrooms, however with enrollment there are currently 22 classrooms planned.

Local Control Accountability Plan: Current Draft

Mr. Anthony presented the Local Control Accountability Plan incomplete draft and also explained why it is incomplete; 1) not all expenditures for the year have been made, 2) not all assessments have been given, and 3) because of the first two points, we can't do a full analysis of the effectiveness of the plan. He explained that the plan is still being presented allow all stakeholders to give feedback.

Update: Universal Transitional Kindergarten Funding for Community Funded Districts

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported to the Board that he continues to work towards procuring funding for Transitional Kindergarten. He presented a recent article from the Los Angeles Times in support of community funding schools and the lack of funding for Transitional Kindergarten. He reported that there still has not been a response, however SF2 advocates met with members of Governor Newsom's administration.

Completion of Solar Project

Ms. Virginia Alvarez explained that with the completion of the Solar Project the contract needs to be filed with the County Recorder's Office.

Mrs. Jessica Smith made the motion to approve the completed Solar Project contract and to direct staff to file the Notice of Completion with the County Recorder's Office. Mr. Peter van Duinwyk seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members: Crail, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk. Absent: Member, Duran.

Approval of SCI Consulting Group for Developer Fees Justification Study

Ms. Virginia Alvarez explained that the District currently shares Level 1, K-12 developer fees with the Santa Barbara Unified School District, she explained that this results in Montecito Union School District collecting 50 percent, or \$2.04 per square foot of residential area and \$0.33 per square foot of new commercial/industrial area. She reported that in February 2022, the State Allocation Board adjusted the statutory limit on Level 1, to \$4.79 per square foot of residential construction to \$0.78 per square foot of commercial/industrial construction. In order to increase the fees, the District must have a justification study performed, create a public hearing, as well as adopt a resolution.

Ms. Kim Crail made the motion to approve SCI Consulting Group for Developer Fees Justification Study. Mr. Peter van Duinwyk seconded.

Strategic Initiative #7. Community Focus (Strengthen connections and collaboration between Montecito Union School and the greater Montecito community.)

Community Events at MUS

Mr. Anthony Ranii updated the Board with the running list of community events hosted at MUS.

Governance

School Breakfast and Lunch Update

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave the Board an update to the School Breakfast and Lunch Committee which is comprised of employees, parents, and students. On May 23rd the committee will review applications who responded to the Request for Proposals (RFQ) and consider companies that meet the non-negotiable requirements for food service. It is planned that on May 31st, each company that clears the first round will be asked to answer a food survey created by students, give a presentation, and bring samples of food for a taste test. He explained that Santa Barbara Unified informed all partners that they serviced that they will no longer be delivering meals for the 2022-2023 school year. He said that the committee will make a selection and make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees at the June board meeting.

Board Reports

Mrs. Jessica Smith reported on the Montecito Union School Foundation meeting, they are currently planning a gratitude event for all volunteers.

Consent Agenda

Regular Board Meeting Minutes – April 19, 2022
Warrants (April 6, 2022 - May 10, 2022)
Personnel Action Items
Agreement for Legal Services, Fagen Friedman & Fulfroest LLP

Mrs. Jessica Smith made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Peter van Duinwyk seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members: Crail, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk. Absent: Member, Duran.

Closing Business

Suggested Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings and Board Business

Mrs. Susannah Osley suggested adding Closed Session to the Board Meeting on June 1st after the public hearing.

June 1st 3:30 p.m. Public Hearing: 2022-2023 Budget

June 7th 2022 Board Meeting:

- 2021-2022 LCAP, Local Control Accountability Plan Adoption
- 2022-2023 Budget Adoption
- Annual Report and Approval of the Education Protection Act Spending Plan 2021-2022
- Quarterly Report Williams/Valenzuela Uniform Complaints - Q2

Board Evaluation of the Meeting

The Board discussed the retirement recognitions.

Closed Session

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

There was no public comment. Mrs. Susannah Osley reported that the Board would be going into Closed Session at 7:33 p.m.

Conference with Labor Negotiator (Government Code §54957.6) Agency Designated Representative: Anthony Ranii, Superintendent Employee Organization: Montecito Teachers' Association

Conference with Labor Negotiator (Government Code §54957.6) Agency Designated Representative: Susannah Osley Board President Unrepresented Employee: Superintendent

Conference with Labor Negotiator (Government Code §54957.6) Agency Designated Representative: Anthony Ranii, Superintendent Unrepresented Employees: Chief Business Official, Principal, and Assistant Principal

Conference with Labor Negotiator (Government Code §54957.6) Agency Designated Representative: Anthony Ranii, Superintendent Unrepresented Employees: Classified Staff

Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Superintendent's Goals 2021-2022 (Government Code Section 54957), Title: Superintendent

Reconvene to Open Session
Report Out of Closed Session

Mrs. Susannah Osley reported that there was no action take in Closed Session.

Adjournment

Ms. Kim Crail made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Mrs. Jessica Smith seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members: Crail, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk. Absent: Member, Duran.

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Peter van Duinwyk
Board Vice-President