

**MONTECITO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

Board Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, special procedures were followed for the board meeting and the meeting was conducted via Zoom

Board present via Zoom from their respective locations: Board President, Mrs. Kate Murphy, Mrs. Susannah Osley, Clerk, Mrs. Marilyn Bachman, Member, Mr. Chad Chase, Member and Mr. Peter van Duinwyk.

Staff present via Zoom from their respective locations: Mr. Anthony Ranii, Superintendent, Ms. Virginia Alvarez, Chief Business Official, Dr. Nick Bruski, Mr. Rusty Ito, Assistant Principal, and Mrs. Autumn Noe, Executive Assistant.

Call to Order

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

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

There was no public comment.

Closed Session

Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Superintendent's Goals 2019-2020 (Government Code Section 54957), Title: Superintendent

Conference with Labor Negotiator (Government Code §54957.6) Agency Designated Representative: Kate Murphy, Board President Unrepresented Employee: Superintendent

Report Out of Closed Session

Mrs. Kate Murphy reported that there was no reportable action taken in Closed Session.

Opening Business

Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Susannah Osley made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Chad Chase seconded. Motion made 5-0, members, Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

Correspondence and Board President's Letter

There was no correspondence reported.

Montecito Union School Foundation Presidential Report

There was no report given.

COVID-19 Operations Written Report

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported that the Governor of California issued Executive Order N-56-20 which requires that all school districts complete a written report to explain changes to program offerings that schools have made in response to school closures to address the COVID-19 emergency, the impacts of such closures on students and

families, and a description of how the school is meeting the needs of its unduplicated students. Mr. Anthony Ranii presented the document that utilized the recommended template. He explained that once approved, it is delivered to the Santa Barbara County Office of Education and posted on the school website.

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk made the motion to approve the COVID-19 Operations Written Report. Mrs. Marilyn Bachman seconded. Motion made 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.)

Approval of Plan for Adjacent Property

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave the Board a summary of the process that was implemented in order to present a comprehensive plan for the adjacent property. The plan is the result of a collaborative effort of teachers, staff members, students, parents, Board Members, and Montecito Union School Foundation Members. Mrs. Mary Cantwell and Ms. Shelley Paul of Second Circle, LLC consultants that were hired from the Montecito Union School Foundation helped develop the vision of the property (Nature Lab). The vision is that the “Nature Lab invites learners to imagine, build, get messy in nature as they care for the planet and one another”. The results of the plan include: Biodynamic/Regenerative Agriculture - a working organic farm with both plants and animals, providing a complete 4-season learning experience, and authentic opportunities for social entrepreneurship through a farm stand and service learning. Nature-Inspired Making & Arts Collaboratory - an open-air STEAM Studio, workshop and gathering space, with flexible furniture, and tools to support a variety of arts, making and tinkering; Host to visiting artists, makers, farmers, experts of all kinds. Environment as Agent of Challenge & Wonder - a combination of natural and planned features that inspire and allow for endless discovery, learning, and a unique synergy that encourages curiosity, care, interconnection, and wonder; Endless opportunities to support, inspire and extend learning across the curriculum.

The Board continued to discuss the excitement associated with the plan. Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that approval of the plan does not formally approve any funds to the project.

Mr. Chad Chase made the motion to approve the Plan for the Adjacent Property. Mrs. Susannah Osley seconded. Motion made 5-0, members, Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

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 Project Approval

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave the Board a recap to the solar project and the work that has been done with Ameresco to provide the Board a plan that meets the needs of the District. He presented four versions of the plans,

which all would generate 100% of the school's electricity needs and three of the four plans would result in power purchase agreements of 25 years with modest projected cost savings. Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that

the two shade structure options were preferred as they allow for multiple use of the space and fit into the vision for the adjacent property. Mr. Alex Podolsky, Mr. Mat Brausch, Mr. John Hostetter, and Mr. Ty Scott associates from Ameresco were all present on the Zoom video to answer questions and discuss the plans in further detail. Mr. Alex Podolsky spoke to the Board about rate analysis and offsets. Mr. Anthony Ranii also explained that after research of batteries it proved to be cost prohibitive and generators are comparable to the current plan. He discussed generator possible locations, types of fuel, sizes and mounts for the generators. He also reported that batteries could be added contractually at a later date.

The Board continued to ask questions regarding generators, service, and cleaning to the solar equipment.

Mr. Chad Chase made the motion to approve the Solar Project to include a Shade Structure Without Generators. Mrs. Susannah Osley seconded. Motion made 5-0, members, Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

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.)

Facilities Update

Mr. Anthony Ranii presented a list of the work that is in process while students are at home; the ball wall, deep classroom cleaning, Room 35 transformation into Science Lab, laser cutters installed, fire alarm installation, window repair, and ongoing campus maintenance. Mr. Rusty Ito recognized the facilities team for all of their hard work.

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.)

Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators (CL-500) for 2020-2021

Ms. Virginia Alvarez reported to the Board that the Declaration of Need is a document that must be submitted annually to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing by school districts who anticipate employing teachers who are not fully credentialed in the area assigned. She reported that the declaration is to fill on call substitutes and to continue assigning the Teacher Librarian under the permit provision.

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk made the motion to approve the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators (CL-500) for 2020-2021. Mrs. Marilyn Bachman seconded. Motion made 5-0, members, Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

Authorization to Teach Outside Credential Resolution #19/20-10

Ms. Virginia Alvarez explained that teachers may teach outside his or credential area, providing that they possess expertise in the subject and completed at least 12 units in the subject area. She reported that Mrs.

Vanessa Scarlett, Science Teacher, Mr. Jeff Linder, Math Teacher, and Mrs. Alyssa Gonzalez, Art Teacher fall into this criterion. She also explained that Mrs. Gonzalez has completed the requirements to obtain an Art teaching credential and submitted the required applications and documentation to the California Commission

on Teaching Credentialing but due to the COVID-19 shelter in place Governor's order, the Commission is behind in processing applications.

Mrs. Susannah Osley made the motion to approve Resolution #19/20-10 Authorization to Teach Outside Credential. Mr. Peter van Duinwyk seconded. Motion made 5-0, members, Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, 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.)

2020-2021 Proposed Budget - Draft #2

Ms. Virginia Alvarez reported that due to the State Budget economic crisis due to the impacts of COVID-19 shut down, the growing unemployment rates and continuous revenue losses resulted in the Governor's proposed State budget to include possible cuts to schools. She explained that the actual reductions may not be known until the Fall when the State can report on personal income tax revenues. In addition, due to the possible decline in property tax revenue, she has been in contact with the tax assessor's office, they have projected that there will be effects on property taxes, but it is all still unknown as to what level. She also presented the Governor's May revision highlighting: funding for K-12 decline of \$19 billion, new initiatives proposed in January have been eliminated, and use of reserves, funding deferrals, and CARES act funds to mitigate cuts. She also explained Santa Barbara County is a teeter plan county which means that even if property owners do not pay their property taxes on time, the county distributes the property tax revenue to school districts and other county governments are entitled to receive.

The Board continued to ask questions regarding enrollment.

Mrs. Virginia Alvarez presented the projections which included projected increases in Special Education costs, step and column movement on the salary schedules, increases in health benefits and CalSTRS and CalPERS. She spoke to the expenditure projections with 21 or 22 classrooms for the 2020-2021 school year. She also included a \$70,000 budget line for COVID-19 related expenses.

The Board gave their approval of the presented 2020-2021 Proposed Budget - Draft #2 without making a formal vote and directed Ms. Alvarez to prepare the budget for adoption at the June 9, 2020 meeting.

Approval of Reimbursement for Expenses Incurred Due to Work at Home Order

Ms. Virginia Alvarez explained that with employees approved to perform- work related tasks and use their own personal property and/or when an employee incurs an expense in the performance of such duties that the employee is entitled to a reimbursement. Mr. Anthony Ranii and Ms. Virginia made comparisons to other California Districts and local employers and concluded that for the period of the closure from March 16, 2020-June 4, 2020 that a reimbursement in the amount of \$150.00 for full time employees and \$75.00 for part-time employees was comparable.

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk made the motion to Approve Reimbursement for Expenses Incurred Due to Work at Home Order in the amount of \$150.00 for Montecito Teachers Association Members and Full-Time Employees and \$75.00 for Part-Time Employees. Mrs. Marilyn Bachman seconded. Motion made 5-0, members, Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

Governance

Parent Survey

Mr. Anthony Ranii reminded the Board that the annual parent survey is emailed to families every year right around this time. He recommended to the Board that the survey not be emailed to families at this time due to the questions not pertaining to distance learning. He explained the importance to gather information tailored to what is currently happening with students. Board members, Mr. Peter van Duinwyk and Mrs. Marilyn Bachman agreed that one relevant survey would be sufficient.

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk made the motion to approve one relevant parent survey be sent to families. Mr. Chad Chase seconded. Motion made 5-0, members, Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

Santa Barbara County SELPA Local Plan Approval

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that all SELPAs throughout California must submit a plan for approval. He said that the Santa Barbara County SELPA Local Plan is required to be updated on a periodic basis to reflect possible changes in legal references and compliance with the California Education Code. For approval of the developed, the SELPA must: Seek approval of the plan from the SBCSELPA JPA Board, obtain signatures from the Administrative Unit (Goleta Union School District) and County Office superintendents, obtain signature from the CAC chairperson, submit the plan to each participating LEA/or governing board approval, and submit the plan to CDE for final approval by June 30, 2020.

Mrs. Marilyn Bachman made the motion to approve the Santa Barbara County SELPA Local Plan. Mrs. Susannah Osley seconded. Motion made 5-0, members, Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

Mr. Chad Chase adjourned from the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported to the Board as to the different working groups he has been collaborating with to stay abreast on working on a re-entry/re-opening plan for Montecito Union School. He has also created a MUS Fall 2020 Task Force made up of teachers and administrators to develop a plan that includes the health and well-being of students, staff, and the community. The plan will include summer learning possibilities and the creation of several different plans for school in the fall. He also emphasized while the county Public Health Department will give the word as to when schools will be able to open and will give general parameters, it is the responsibility of every local school district to make plans for the safe re-entry of students and staff.

Mrs. Jillian Wittman wrote in the chat, please bring students back to MUS for learning, but of course in a safe manner.

The Board gave the directive to Mr. Anthony Ranii as to keeping the Board informed as to the plans.

Board Reports

Mrs. Marilyn Bachman reported on the Montecito Union School Foundation meeting and explained the annual Carnival will be moved to a much later date due to the COVID-19 restrictions for large gatherings.

Consent Agenda

Regular Board Meeting Minutes - April 21, 2020

Personnel Action Report

Warrants 4/11/2020-5/10/2020

Mr. Peter van Duiwyk made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Marilyn Bachman seconded. Motion made 4-0, members, Bachman, Murphy, Osley, and van Duiwyk. Absent: Board member Chase.

Closing Business

Suggested Board Agenda Items for Future Board Meeting and Board Business

Public Hearing: 2019-2020 Budget

2019-2020 Budget Adoption

Board Policy Review and Approval

Williams/Valenzuela Uniform Complaints

Mr. Anthony Ranii discussed with the Board the tentatively planned special board meeting and his recommendation to keep the meeting scheduled in order to discuss a potential summer school budget.

Board Evaluation of the Meeting

The Board discussed the meeting through Zoom.

Adjournment

Mrs. Susannah Osley made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Mrs. Marilyn Bachman seconded. Motion made 4-0, members, Bachman, Murphy, Osley, and van Duiwyk. Absent: Board member Chase.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susannah Osley

Mrs. Susannah Osley

Board of Trustees Clerk

Signature: 
Susannah Osley (Jun 9, 2020 19:18 PDT)

Email: sosley@montecitou.org