

**MONTECITO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Board Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2022**

Present: Ms. Susannah Osley, 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.

Absent: Mr. Peter van Duinwyk, Vice President.

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Jessica Smith made the motion to approve the Agenda. Mrs. Jacqueline Duran seconded. Motion carried 3-0, members: Duran, Osley, and Smith. Absent: Member, van Duinwyk

Oath of Office

Ms. Cameron Crail and Ms. Quinn Crail, Montecito Union School students assisted Mr. Anthony Ranii in administering the Oath of Office to newly appointed Board of Trustee, Ms. Kim Crail.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

There was no public comment for Closed Session Items.

Closed Session

Board President, Ms. Susannah Osley reported that the Board would be going into Closed Session.

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

Conference with Legal Counsel—Anticipated Litigation (Government Code §54956.9) Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Gov. Code section 54956.9(d)(2). Number of Cases: 1

Reconvene to Open Session

Report Out of Closed Session

The Board reconvened to Open Session and Ms. Susannah Osley reported there was no reportable action taken in Closed Session.

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 her monthly report to Board President, Ms. Susannah Osley to read aloud. Ms. Osley reported that the Foundation raised \$115,000 which will be used to fund the Outdoor Learning Pavilion at the Nature Lab. She also reported that 6th Grade Families

are currently raising money for the 6th Grade legacy gift and the tower gardens project. The Foundation is actively applying for grants and have received \$80,000 in grant funding. Running Club, Art at Lunch, and Garden Club have returned with the assistance of parent volunteers. The Enchanted Evening Dance has been rescheduled for March 11th in the courtyard at MUS and the Gala is currently in the planning stages for May 14th.

COVID 19: Update

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported that Montecito Union School has seen a dramatic reduction in COVID cases and quarantines for classrooms. He presented the Board with data regarding exposure dates, email notification dates, test dates, and positive cases. He presented the Board with the MUS Dashboard and showed that numbers of testing are going down as students are not symptomatic and not in quarantine. Running Club, Garden Club, and Art at Lunch will be active again, sings will remain performed outdoors, and the 6th grade play is still undecided to its location. As a safety precaution and so that all families can enjoy the sing the District will cover the cost of the recordings and provide those to families. He reported that CAL-OSHA will announce on February 28th recommendations for masks and students. They recently added that when students are not present and adults are working, highly recommend wearing masks, however it is not a mandate. He reviewed the new protocols with administration and also discussed with MTA leadership; the guidance for parents will be that no masks on campus while outside, as long as they are vaccinated, however parents will still be required to wear masks if they are in the COVID line to get tested, or in any congregate setting.

Mrs. Jessica Smith inquired about board meetings. Ms. Kim Crail inquired as to the response from staff.

Ms. Susannah Osley spoke to the honor system with unvaccinated parents.

CSBA Delegate Assembly Election

Ms. Susannah Osley gave the Board the option to vote on the Delegate Assembly for the California School Boards Association for the Santa Barbara region. She explained that in past practice the Board abstained from voting unless the Board knew the person running. The Board chose to take no action and agreed that they would not vote for the Delegate Assembly.

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: Progress Report and Update

Dr. Nick Bruski presented a mid-year update to the Multi-Tiered System of Support System (MTSS). Staff was asked to designate what worked well this year and 74% of teachers responded with, identifying students' needs. He reported that data was different in math, however there were similar trends. He explained that the universal screener being utilized did not always match up to what was being taught. He also reported that the program is back on track due to COVID interruptions. The team continues to analyze what is working and evolving the program. He reported that teachers expressed that there was a cost to students leaving class and missing lessons, however it is a short-term sacrifice and is beneficial as seen by the numbers.

Ms. Susannah Osley expressed her gratitude for the MTSS program for the intervention, but also for the enrichment.

Universal Transitional Kindergarten

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that the presented draft proposal was not for formal vote, but for feedback and direction from the Board. He explained that the current transitional kindergarten (TK) model is to combine TK students with the kindergarten students as there has been a historically small number of TK students that have enrolled the last few years. With the expanded universal transitional kindergarten, it would ultimately allow all 4-year old's to enroll. For the 2022-2023 school year it would be dependent on how many students enroll and whether or not the TK class would have enough students to be a self-contained class. The current TK schedule is 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and the 2022-2023 schedule proposed would be 8:20 a.m. -12:20 p.m. He explained that the shift in time would allow for kindergarten and transitional kindergarten to have separate play and lunch times. He also recommended that TK students would have integrated instruction and not leave the classroom to attend individual specialists. He also presented the philosophy of the program being more towards play and exploration. He reviewed staffing and proposed a full-time teacher with an instructional assistant. The teacher would be given 75 minutes of prep time as their day would end at 12:20 p.m. and would include other assigned duties with MTSS, enrichment groups, supporting in class instruction, and student case management. He explained that the draft plan was shared with kindergarten teachers.

The Board continued to discuss the proposed plan.

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.)

Integrated Learning Vignettes

Mr. Anthony Ranii presented a vignette that was written by Science Specialist, Mrs. Vanessa Scarlett and that the vignette provides the Board with knowledge of the work being done in the classroom. He highlighted how the integration of science is in all subjects taught. Mrs. Vanessa Scarlett gave examples of a 3rd grade weather unit, 4th grade information processing unit, and a 6th grade climate change unit. Mrs. Vanessa Scarlett expressed gratitude for the integrated instruction being done due to a math specialist, technology specialist, and a nature specialist that all collaborate together. She also expressed gratitude for the facilities team, administration, and the classroom teachers who design the curriculum that meaningfully integrates all of these subjects.

The Board made a recommendation to share the presentation with parents so that parents are aware of the integration of subjects into lessons and what that can look like.

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 Dashboard

Mr. Anthony Ranii presented the solar dashboard to the Board and how to navigate the pages. On the dashboard, Summary B shows the solar generation and effectiveness from the solar panels. He also reported that a recent article in the Montecito Journal misreported that the solar panels are part of a microgrid system, however the system is not set up with battery storage and is not part of a microgrid.

Composting Update

Mr. Anthony gave a presentation on composting that was prepared by, Ms. Sammy Simon. In her presentation, Mr. Anthony Ranii reported that the school has been collecting food scraps since September 2021. The scraps are taken to the chickens and to the worm bin and if there is overflow it

is taken to the three-bin compost system. Compost tea is also made and is utilized to compost around the fruit trees and vegetable gardens.

The Board had a discussion as to the work being done with the compost.

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 explained that the bid walk for Building D and E is planned for February 23rd and bids are due on March 15th. He explained that a special board meeting may need to be scheduled to approve a company if the proposals can be vetted in time. He reported that if the bids come in too high the District will plan on rebidding the projects as smaller projects.

Ms. Kim Crail made the motion to approve the proposal from TMP Services, Inc. for landings and ramps to the temporary classrooms in the amount of \$112,742.90. Mrs. Jacqueline Duran seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, and Smith. Absent: Member, van Duinwyk

HVAC, Windows Phase II Updates

Mr. Anthony Ranii informed the Board that bid walks were held for both the Library/Media Center HVAC Upgrade and the Building D /Window and Door Replacement Phase II on January 27th and six companies were present for each job walk. He explained that the bid packages were due on February 15th and that bids were received; however, he was not making any recommendations as there has not been vetting done on the companies. He proposed adding this agenda item to the special board meeting planned for February 23rd at 1:00 p.m.

The Board agreed to adding the agenda item.

Nature Lab Updates

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave the Board an update to the work being done at the Nature Lab. The facilities team has been preparing the sites of the new greenhouse location and the vertical gardens so that when an electrician is hired all of the site prep work is completed. He also reported that the cost of the Proposed Nature Lab bathroom is estimated at \$184,040 and this cost does not include the foundation, utilities work, or the accessible path of travel. This project has not been submitted to the Department of State Architect and there has not been an identified funding source for the project.

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.)

2022-2023 Classroom Configuration and Staffing Discussion

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that if the District moves forward with a twenty-two classroom configuration as he is recommending for the 2022-2023 school year, no certificated staff members would receive a March 15th layoff notice. He also explained that it is possible, that a twenty-third class would be required and that this could occur in 2nd grade, where classes are already at nineteen and twenty students, in Kindergarten, where the numbers are only estimates, in 1st grade, where classes have grown in recent years, and in another grade if significant growth is seen. He suggested that in order to maintain the ability to hire quickly he recommending that the twenty-second classroom configuration be approved

and that he be given authorization to open a twenty-third classroom if conditions warrant this action. He also explained that if approved, he would not have the authority to increase the number of classes beyond twenty-three without further approval from the Board. Ms. Virginia Alvarez asked for clarification and suggested that based on the possibility of 23 classrooms she will prepare a 2022-2023 budget reflecting 23 classrooms.

Mr. Jeff Linder spoke to the Board about the possible hiring of a 23rd classroom teacher and the potential of layoffs in future years.

The Board continued to ask about historical enrollment data.

Mr. Anthony Ranii spoke to the importance of not making decisions based on needing to lay employees off.

Mrs. Jacqueline Duran made the motion to approve the 2022-2023 Classroom Configuration Plan and authorizing the Superintendent to prepare the budget with 23 classrooms and add a twenty-third classroom if conditions warrant. Ms. Kim Crail seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, and Smith. Absent: Member, 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.)

2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Budget Development Calendar

Ms. Virginia Alvarez presented to the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Budget Development Calendar. She explained that the development of the budget is a multi-month process with a public hearing in May and final adoption in June.

Local Control Accountability Plan: Draft Goals

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that the Local Control Accountability Plan is a three-year plan that is updated annually. The plan is intended to provide accountability for schools that receive monies from the state and even though Montecito Union School does not receive monies the plan is still completed. He went over the draft goals and actions and explained the opportunity for the Board and the public to make comment.

Approval of Supplement to the Annual Update to the 2021–22 Local Control and Accountability Plan

Dr. Nick Bruski presented the LCAP Metric Data which includes goals, metric, baseline data, mid-year data, and outcome. He explained that the data is showing that COVID has had impacts on students learning. He also explained that due to the increase in funding to support students, teachers, staff, and their communities in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and to address the impacts of distance learning on students the presented report is a one-time mid-year report on the implementation of the funds.

Mrs. Jacqueline Duran made the motion to approve the Supplement to the Annual Update to the 2021-2022 Local Control Accountability Plan. Mrs. Jessica Smith seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, and Smith. Absent: Member, van Duinwyk

Universal Transitional Kindergarten: Funding not Secured for Community Funded Districts

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that the Universal Transitional Kindergarten does not include state funding for community funded school districts. He updated the Board on his work to advocate for funding for

this new grade level that is being required as he has been reaching out to Assembly members, Senators, and other Superintendents.

Ms. Virginia Alvarez spoke to this item being a permanent increase in expenditures within the budget as there no additional funding for this mandate.

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

Community Events

Mr. Anthony Ranii spoke to the newest events that are sponsored at Montecito Union School.

Governance

Governance Team Handbook

Mr. Anthony Ranii spoke to Board about reviewing and giving feedback about the Governance Handbook. Ms. Susannah Osley and Mr. Anthony Ranii went through each section of the handbook and spoke to some sections that were of importance and requested feedback from the board as to any edits or changes.

Ms. Susannah Osley requested to bring back the Norms and Values on tent cards in front of each board member.

Mrs. Jessica Smith made the motion to approve the Governance Team Handbook. Ms. Kim Crail seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, and Smith. Absent: Member, van Duinwyk

Committee Assignments

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave the Board the opportunity to discuss committee assignments now that Ms. Kim Crail has been appointed the provisional seat. Ms. Susannah Osley made the recommendation that Ms. Kim Crail join the Board Policy Committee. Ms. Kim Crail also accepted the County Committee Representative position.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave the Board the option to attend the SF2 Spring Symposium in Sacramento if they were interested. He also reported that school testing for COVID is no longer required. He reported that they will continue for a few months or to the end of the year, but possibly not next year.

Ms. Susannah Osley inquired as to teachers and mask usage. He reported that more than half would like reduced restrictions on masking.

Board Reports

Mrs. Jessica Smith gave an update to the Montecito Education Foundation meeting as they are working on setting policies regarding term limits. She also reported that they will be hosting the Staff Appreciation luncheon this year.

2021-2022 Parent Program Evaluation Survey Questions

Mr. Anthony Ranii presented the 2021-2022 Parent Program Evaluation Survey Questions and explained that no changes were made to the questions except for the Montecito Education Foundation questions.

Date: _____

[illegible]

Ms. Kim Crail made the motion to approve the 2021-2022 Parent Program Evaluation Survey Questions. Mrs. Jacqueline Duran seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, and Smith. Absent: Member, van Duinwyk

Consent Agenda

Regular Board Meeting Minutes - January 18, 2022
Special Board Meeting Minutes - February 8, 2022
Warrants (January 8, 2022 – February 2, 2022)
Personnel Action Items
S.A.V.E. Employee Assistance Program

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

Suggested Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings and Board Business

Special Board meeting on February 23rd and March 18th

2020-2021 Second Interim Report
Consolidated Application and Reporting System
Board Policies

Board Evaluation of the Meeting

Ms. Susannah Osley reported that the Board was quiet for the meeting.

Adjournment

Mrs. Jessica Smith made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Mrs. Jacqueline Duran seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, and Smith. Absent: Member, van Duinwyk

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Peter van Duinwyk
Board Vice-President