

**MONTECITO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
Board Meeting Minutes  
January 18, 2022**

Present: Mrs. Susannah Osley, President, Mr. Peter van Duinwyk, Vice President, 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: Board Member, Mr. Chad Chase.

**Call to Order**

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

**Public Comment on Closed Session Items**

There was no public comment for Closed Session Items.

**Closed Session**

Board President, Mrs. 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

**Reconvene to Open Session**

**Report Out of Closed Session**

The Board reconvened to Open Session and Mrs. 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.

**Public Comment on Closed Session Items scheduled at 7:15 p.m.**

On behalf of the Montecito Teachers Association (MTA) Mrs. Danielle Weill, Mrs. Holly Noble, Mrs. Barbara Gonzales, Mr. Jeff Linder, and Mrs. Shannon Gallup spoke regarding items that they would like the Board to consider as they begin negotiations.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Correspondence**

Mrs. Susannah Osley read an email she received from Mrs. Cathy Bunnin regarding the protocol for COVID testing and siblings.

**Montecito Union School Foundation Presidential Report**

Mrs. Tara Fergusson was not present and there was no report given.

**Recognition of Accomplishments: Mr. Chad Chase**

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported that the December meeting was Mr. Chad Chase's last board meeting, with his resignation effective January 19<sup>th</sup> 2022. In order to recognize Mr. Chad Chase for his years of service, it was planned for the January meeting, however Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that Mr. Chad

Chase was unable to be present. Mr. Anthony Ranii expressed his appreciation for his work on the board for the last seven years. Mrs. Susannah Osley expressed her gratitude for Chad's background in construction and design and his support in suggesting cost effective ways to move forward with projects.

### **COVID 19: Update**

Mr. Anthony Ranii presented the Board the vaccination rates for the county. He also reported that the Public Health Department is reporting that this will be the worst week with the surge of positive COVID cases and that the next few weeks will gradually get better. They also reported that most children who get COVID are asymptomatic and that they are seeing a mix of the Delta and Omicron variant. He also discussed the importance of mask wearing indoors as well as outdoors. He reported that Dr. Nick Bruski signed up staff and students for the Aptitude free testing at Earl Warren, which allows people another site to be tested. He explained that the current testing is unsustainable as it stands with about 20 employees and 15 students before class begins and then testing up to four classes that have been exposed every morning. He explained that they could continue like this for a few more weeks, but this could impact the school moving forward. He explained that Aptitude could potentially be another option for parents, students, and staff to be tested before school.

Mrs. Susannah Osley inquired as to whether volunteers could be utilized to reduce the amount of time the testing requires. He explained that due to confidentiality and training it has to be staff members only.

He also gave the Board an update to the Independent Study Agreement that is allowed for students to be absent for up to 15 days and that if families would like to participate in distance learning they could contact him for more information.

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk expressed his support for continuing the use of masks outdoors.

Mrs. Susannah Osley spoke to the difficulty of requiring schools to manage and report testing.

***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.)***

### **2021-2022 School Accountability Report Card (SARC)**

Dr. Nick Bruski presented the 2021-2022 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) and the Education Code requirement that all elementary schools report on historical test data, enrollment, curriculum, and facilities. He explained that there are some areas of the document left intentionally blank as the state did not require some of the information as it was not mandatory this year due to COVID. He also explained that the state has been backlogged and some of the items are completed by the state.

Mrs. Jacqueline Duran made the motion to approve the 2021-2022 School Accountability Report Card (SARC). Mrs. Jessica Smith seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members: Duran, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk. Absent: Member, Chase.

### **2021-2022 Single Plan for Student Achievement**

Dr. Nick Bruski explained that the School Site Council develops the Single Plan for Student Achievement each year, which is to ensure that all students succeed in reaching state academic standards. He explained that there were very minor edits to the document.

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk made the motion to approve the 2021-2022 Single Plan for Student Achievement. Mrs. Jacqueline Duran seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members: Duran, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk. Absent: Member, Chase.

***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: Outdoor Learning Pavilion, Bathrooms, Casa del Sol Greenhouse, and Fencing**

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave the Board an update on the Nature Lab, he explained that the design of the Outdoor Learning Pavilion was paid for by the Foundation and the plans have been submitted to the Department of State Architect (DSA). The Foundation has also approved the additional cost for the design of the bathrooms at the Nature Lab and those plans will also be submitted to DSA. He reminded the Board that these two sets of plans are just for design and not for any costs related to construction. He also updated the Board on the Casa del Sol Greenhouse as the facilities team have prepared the foundation and are awaiting the delivery. He explained that with the work utilizing decomposed granite at the Nature Lab a compactor was purchased as the facility team had been renting one and the cost of one outweighs the price of a few rentals. He also reported that the old fencing was removed between the two bridges to the Nature Lab with fencing that matches the mustang corral.

***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 Updates**

Mr. Anthony Ranii updated the Board that the Building D and E plans are being submitted to the Department of State Architect on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. He also reminded the Board that the eight temporary classrooms are being procured through Modular Leasing. He also spoke to the cost of the entire project and that there is a possibility the project could be separated into the two building projects however this would be dependent on the bids received.

#### **HVAC, Windows Phase II Updates**

Mr. Anthony Ranii updated the Board with the details for the two planned job walks for the Windows and Door Project and the Media Center HVAC system on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Bids must be submitted by February 15<sup>th</sup> for both projects.

#### **Montecito Union School District Sunshine Initial Proposal to Negotiate with the Montecito Teachers Association (MTA)**

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained the Montecito Teachers Association (MTA) had submitted a proposal at the December board meeting and in response the Montecito Union School District and the Montecito Union Board of Trustees were including the items for negotiations: term, salary, working conditions, and benefits.

Mrs. Jacqueline Duran made the motion to accept the sunshining notice to the Montecito Union Teachers' Association from the Montecito Union School District and the Montecito Union School Board of Trustees to open collective bargaining agreement negotiations. Mrs. Jessica Smith seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members: Duran, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk. Absent: Member, Chase.

### **Classroom Configurations**

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that the presented classroom configuration is a very preliminary projection and is only for information and discussion. These numbers are drafted as potential numbers and can fluctuate greatly from now until August. He explained that per statutory regulations employees who will be receiving a preliminary certificated layoff notice must be identified and notified no later than March 15<sup>th</sup> of the current year. He presented seven scenarios with different enrollment numbers, class totals, and his recommendation. He said that this first presentation is to gather feedback and re-work the classroom scenarios based on board member feedback and present those options at the February board meeting. He reminded the Board that the Transitional Kindergarten enrollment numbers are based on previous years data and are just predictions. The kindergarten numbers are also the same as students have not enrolled as of yet, and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade numbers are on the higher end as some students leave to attend middle school.

The configuration that he recommended was one with 22 classes and included three 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes.

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk asked whether or not there has been a consistent pattern of enrollment numbers. Mr. Anthony Ranii explained these numbers have never been predictable other than 6<sup>th</sup> graders going to middle school.

Mrs. Susannah Osley showed appreciation for the work that is involved in creating the different configurations. She explained her preference for the configuration with 23 classes (A) that includes four second grade classrooms. She also expressed not being comfortable with creating layoff notices for employees. Mrs. Jacqueline Duran also agreed with Mrs. Susannah Osley for the configuration of 23 classes (A). Mrs. Jessica Smith expressed the uneasiness that she has regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade enrollment numbers. Mr. Peter van Duinwyk also agreed that the configuration, 23 (A) eliminates layoff notices and is something to consider.

Mr. Jeff Linder spoke to the Board on behalf of MTA. He explained the preference with classroom numbers staying between 15-20. He also expressed his appreciation for the board taking into consideration employment security. He also made the suggestion of granting leaves of absence in order to retain employees.

### **2022 Certificated Staff Seniority List**

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that presenting the certificated staff seniority list annually is a matter of good practice. Ms. Virginia Alvarez presented the list and explained that the list was shared with the Montecito Teachers' Association members. She also explained that if there was a reduction in force due to a reduction of particular kinds of service that impacts the staff, the layoff order would be based on the number of staff reductions needed, the credentials held, and the individual's placement on the seniority list.

Mr. Jeff Linder inquired to a staff member not on the list. Ms. Virginia Alvarez explained that staff who submit retirement notices would not be on the list.

### **2021-2022 Audit Report, Moss, Levy & Hartzheim, LLP, CPA**

Ms. Virginia Alvarez explained the audit purpose and process, which is to oversee accountability for public educational funds. She explained that the audit is conducted in accordance with the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards. She discussed the findings on page 78 relating to credit card purchases needing appropriate documents and receipts on purchases. She explained the corrective action plan in order to remedy the finding. She reminded the Board that they have the option for the auditors to present the report in person.

Mrs. Jacqueline Duran made the motion to approve the 2021-2022 Audit Report, Moss, Levy, & Hartzheim. Mr. Peter van Duinwyk seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members: Duran, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk. Absent: Member, Chase.

### **Santa Barbara County Investment Report**

Ms. Virginia Alvarez presented the Santa Barbara County Investment Report from the Santa Barbara County Treasurer. She reminded the Board that the Montecito Union School District funds are invested in the Santa Barbara County Treasurer's Investment Pool, per the regulations of investments of public funds. The County Treasurer has numerous internal controls in place to ensure proper safeguarding of assets, while monitoring the financial markets of the investment holdings.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported to the Board that Governor Newsom has not made it clear regarding the funding for Transitional Kindergarten students. Mrs. Susannah Osley inquired as to conditional apportionment and Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that some school districts have argued that because they do not receive funding, they have chosen not to have transitional kindergarten. Ms. Virginia Alvarez also reported that the Governor has offered flexibility to assist with staffing shortages in allowing people with a bachelor's degree to substitute teach without needing the CBEST.

### **Board Reports**

Mrs. Jessica Smith reported on the Montecito Union School Foundation. She said that their current focus is on fundraising for next year. Mr. Anthony Ranii also reported on the Construction Subcommittee who met to discuss the telescoping seating in the auditorium. The cost of the seating has increased substantially and originally the cost was going to be donated on behalf of the Foundation. The committee came to the conclusion that the back of the auditorium walls and doors could be part of the plan in preparation for different seating in the future.

### **Consent Agenda**

- Regular Board Meeting Minutes - December 14, 2021
- Special Board Meeting Minutes - January 5, 2022
- Personnel Action Items
- Warrants (December 8, 2021 - January 5, 2022)
- Quarterly Williams Uniform Complaints - Q4

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

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

- California School Board Association Delegate Assembly Election
- LCAP, Local Control Accountability Plan
- 2022-2023 Budget Development Calendar
- Board Policy Review and Approval
- 2022-2023 Classroom Configuration and Staffing Discussion

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported that two applications were submitted for the Board provisional opening and confirmed the Special Board Meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. for candidate interviews. All Board members confirmed the date and time.

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

Mr. Jeff Linder complimented the administrative team for all the work involved with COVID testing and keeping students safe.

### **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 6:16 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

### **Reconvene to Open Session**

#### **Report Out of Closed Session**

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

### **Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Peter van Duinwyk  
Board Vice-President