

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

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

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

Mr. Jeff Linder spoke to the Board on behalf of the Montecito Teachers' Association regarding negotiations.

Closed Session

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

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

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 Discipline/Dismissal/Release. Number of Cases: 1 (Government Code Section 54957)

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 Ms. Susannah Osley reported there was no reportable action taken in Closed Session.

Opening Business

Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

5th Grade students, Mr. Max Bunnin, Mr. Cash Lee, Mr. Caden Litchfield, Mr. Ryland Murphy, Mr. Charlie Gray, and Mr. Miles Jacobs presented to the Board on the topics of healthy lunches and food waste.

Mrs. Katie Nimitarnun expressed gratitude for honoring the students voices during the board meeting process.

The Board thanked Mrs. Nimitarnun and the 5th grade students for speaking.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items scheduled at 8:00 p.m.

There was no public comment on Closed Session Items scheduled at 8:00 p.m.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence reported.

Montecito Union School Foundation Presidential Report

Mrs. Tara Fergusson reported that the Foundation will be contracting with a design firm for the proposed water feature in order to have images for families. She also reported that the living fence has been expanded with additional trees and shrubs. She reported that 200 tickets were sold for the Enchanted Evening Dance. She said that they just launched Gala corporate sponsors and signs will be posted on the terrace fencing as sponsorship begins. Mrs. Tara Fergusson also reported that there has been volunteer fatigue and the need to simplify events.

COVID 19: Update

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported that indoor mask usage has changed from “required” to “highly recommended.” He has seen a continued dramatic decrease in COVID rates and class quarantines. He reported that there was an exposure on February 24, 2022 and reported that there were no additional positive cases. The same protocols for isolation, quarantine, and modified quarantine are still in place. He reported that testing is still being done daily and will continue until the end of March, however they are seeing fewer people coming to get tested and they will propose testing only on Mondays going forward.

Mrs. Jessica Smith inquired as to the feedback from teachers regarding masks.

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.)

Update on Literacy Conversations

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that this agenda item gives the Board a glimpse into curriculum and pedagogy at MUS. Dr. Nick Bruski explained that the staff has been researching best practices for literacy and the newest research, student data, discussing materials, and teaching practices. He gave a historical timeline of literacy and discussed the research on literacy and for students with dyslexia and the importance of phonic awareness and phonics.

Ms. Susannah Osley appreciated the update. Mr. Peter van Duinwyk spoke to the importance of this instruction.

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.)

6th Grade W.O.L.F. Days

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained the importance of W.O.L.F. Camp for 6th graders due to these students unable to experience the D.C. Colonial Trip. He explained that with new health orders, overnight trips for students are allowable. He also explained that all participants will be asked to be tested for COVID before attending the trip. If a student or staff member develops COVID on the trip the camp is close enough for the student or staff member to be brought home.

Mrs. Jacqueline Duran made the motion to approve the 6th Grade W.O.L.F. Days planned for April 5-April 8th. Ms. Kim Crail seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk.

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.)

Discussion: Curricular Shifts to Support This Initiative

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that he wanted to give the Board an update to trainings and new actions taken to help students display empathy to various cultures, promote learning and activism through service, and ensure students understand different cultures and people across historical time periods. Dr. Nick Bruski gave some examples of some grade level curricular initiatives that have changed. He explained that the library has made some changes adding more culturally diverse literature and including a themed monthly focus within the library. He reported that the 3rd grade biography unit has changed to a book study project instead of a central focus on a biography project. And he reported that the craftsman project widened into other aspects of just researching people, and giving students more opportunities for critical thinking.

Mrs. Jacqueline Duran explained that these are celebratory shifts.

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.)

Character: Taking Responsible Risks/Responsible Decision Making and Digital Citizenship

Mr. Rusty Ito presented the month's character focus and spoke about the 5th Graders that presented to the Board in the beginning of the meeting as an example of taking a responsible risk. He also reported that a group of 5th Grade girls spoke at Friday Flag regarding Lost and Found and have created a plan to make name tags for clothing. He also presented the Digital Citizenship Newsletter sent to families with tips for parents, rules for during school, and suggestions for outside of school.

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.)

Evolution of Environmental Stewardship at MUS

Mr. Anthony Ranii provided the Board information on environmental stewardship at MUS and the evolution of the initiatives over time. He explained that due to the lack of volunteers for Walk N Roll and the decline in families that participate in this event might not be planned for next year. He also explained that MUS has been more mindful in purchases and making donations to public institutions, and it can be more time consuming.

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk asked about students being more responsible. Ms. Susannah Osley inquired to the support from the Foundation in omitting programs.

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 work for Building D and E and the site work for the temporary classrooms were combined into one project. He reported that the bid walk took 2 hours and included six companies that were in attendance. An additional bid walk was held on March 8th for potential subcontractors. Due to the extent of the project, the request for additional information, and questions there was an extension granted for bid packages. He explained that because an extension was granted a special board meeting to award the bid would need to be created on March 31st at 3:30 p.m. The Board agreed to the special board meeting.

Library HVAC Update

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported to the Board that Quincon was approved and awarded the bid for the library HVAC replacement and that they are in the process of signing the contract and setting a construction calendar. This project could take longer than anticipated due to materials delay.

Award of Contract to EJS, Inc. for the Montecito Union School District - Building D Window and Door Replacement Project, Phase II Bid No. 2122-2

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave the Board an explanation as to the bid process that occurred for Building D Window and Door Replacement Project. The lowest bidder was Tomar, Inc. however they did not provide the information about the subcontractors which was a requirement of the bid. Tomar, Inc. protested the bid as they felt it was not clear that there was hazardous waste mitigation. He explained that there was a disagreement as this information was disclosed. Mr. Anthony Ranii gave a notice of intent to award the bid to EJS, Inc. as they were the second lowest bid received. With the assistance of the attorney for MUS he responded to the protest explaining that they did not follow the requirements. Tomar, Inc. responded that they respected the decision.

Ms. Susannah Osley inquired to the request of list of subcontractors as being in compliance.

Ms. Kim Crail made the motion to award the bid for the Montecito Union School District - Building D Window and Door Replacement Project, Phase II Bid No. 2122-2 to EJS, Inc. Mr. Peter van Duinwyk seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk.

Notice of Completion-Electrical Panel Relocation

Ms. Virginia Alvarez reported that the relocation of the electrical panel has been completed. She explained that the relocation of the panel was part of the Building D renovation project and that moving it ahead of the full renovation allows for the continuation of the Nature Lab. The approved original budget was \$234,658.07 and the final cost was \$322,165.88. She explained that the \$87,508 in additional costs were partially due to the additional work and changes required by Southern California Edison, an additional panel installed at the Nature Lab, additional trenching, and patching and handicap

striping in the south parking lot. The project is completed and submitted to the Department of State Architects (DSA).

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk made the motion to accept the completion of the contract and for staff to file the Notice of Completion – Electrical Panel Relocation with the County Recorder's Office. Mrs. Jacqueline Duran seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk.

Nature Lab Updates

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave an update to the projects occurring at Nature Lab; DSA is currently reviewing the plans for the Outdoor Pavilion and there were minor issues that were questioned. He also presented pictures of the new Casa Del Sol Greenhouse that was recently installed. He also reported that the bathroom project at Nature Lab will be submitted to DSA in May, however this project is not yet funded.

URM Technologies, Inc. Management and Digitization

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported that MUS received four bids for management and digitization of confidential records in order to make better use of storage. The lowest bid was from URM Technologies, Inc.

Mrs. Susannah Osley spoke to her appreciation of this information.

Ms. Kim Crail made the motion to for URM Technologies, Inc. Management and Digitization. Mrs. Jessica Smith seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, Smith, 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.)

Approval of Budget for Staff Appreciation Event

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that according to Administrative Regulation 1150, Commendations and Awards, recognition events are allowable, and that the cost for the recognition event cannot exceed \$200, unless approved by the Board in advance. He explained that Staff Appreciation is recognized the week of May 2nd, 2022 and with about 100 employees (including Santa Barbara County Education Office employees), he requested the authority to spend \$2,500. He also explained that the expanded budget will allow each employee to be recognized with a small award and will allow the District to purchase food and beverages in order to make employees know that they are appreciated and recognized.

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk made the motion to approve a budget of \$2,500 for Staff Appreciation Week. Ms. Jacqueline Duran seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk.

Update: Classroom Configurations

Mr. Anthony Ranii continued to give the Board an update on classroom configurations and reported that 22 classrooms are unlikely and that 23 classes is possibility but with enrollment there is possibility of 24 classrooms will be needed. The additional class could be needed in second grade and there might need to be a third-grade kindergarten class and at this time a stand-alone transitional kindergarten will not be needed. He explained that this item is not for board approval, but to let the Board know of the ongoing collection of enrollment data and planning involved for the 2022-2023 school year. This agenda item will be back for the April board meeting.

Mrs. Jessica Smith inquired as to the family survey that went out and the responses received. Ms. Kim Crail inquired to the possible requirement of vaccines and whether families would disenroll.

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 Second Interim Report

Ms. Virginia Alvarez presented the Second Interim Report to the Board. The report reflected adjustments to the budget since the First Interim Report, which was presented at the December 2021 board meeting. Ms. Virginia Alvarez stated that based on the second interim report and multi-year projections, Montecito Union School's certification is positive and the District can meet its financial obligations for the current and subsequent two fiscal years. She provided highlights from the 2022-2023 Governor's Budget Proposal and whether or not the initiatives for additional funding apply to MUS. She then reviewed revenue changes from first interim to second interim, which included LCFF sources, federal revenues, ESSER III, Title I, Title II, and other state revenues. She went in further detail to explain district expenditures. Ms. Virginia Alvarez reviewed Building D and E pre-construction estimates, including the temporary campus budget estimates.

Mrs. Jacqueline Duran made the motion to approve the 2020-2021 Second Interim Report. Mr. Peter van Duinwyk seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk.

Local Control Accountability Plan: Draft Goals

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained the LCAP process; an annual review of our progress and opportunities to make changes to the goals and actions, if needed. He presented the three LCAP goals for the Board, staff members, and members of the public to ask questions and propose changes where warranted.

Update: Universal Transitional Kindergarten Funding for Community Funded Districts

Mr. Anthony Ranii updated the Board on his ongoing efforts and Schools for Sound Finance to persuade the state to fully fund all schools for Universal Transitional Kindergarten. He and Superintendent, Mrs. Anne Hubbard reached out to schools within Senator Laird's mapping to inform them of what they can do to reach out to their local legislators.

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

Community Events

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

Governance

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported that a great deal of work is done by teachers in order to prepare for conferences and he expressed his appreciativeness of staff.

Board Reports

Mrs. Jessica Smith gave a brief report on the Montecito Union School Foundation and spoke to how the Foundation will better utilize their volunteer resources and better organize their time.

Approval of Request for Proposals Process for School Lunch Program

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave the Board some historical information on school lunch at MUS. He also reported that the Free Lunch for All Initiative was started at MUS for the 2021-2022 school year and will be required for the 2022-2023 school year. He does not know whether there would be a better solution for MUS with the limiting factor of not having a kitchen, however he feels that the need to fully investigate all solutions is necessary in order to make sure that MUS is delivering the best free lunch program. He

made the recommendation to design a procurement process in order to allow to make a fair comparison of companies that could provide a lunch program.

Mrs. Kim Crail made the motion to approve the proposal for \$3,500 from Healthy School Food Collaborative to guide the District through a "request for proposals" and procurement process for a school lunch provider. Mrs. Jacqueline Duran seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk.

Regular Board Meeting Minutes - February 15, 2022
Special Board Meeting Minutes - February 23, 2022
Warrants (February 3, 2022 - February 23, 2022)
Personnel Action Items
2021-2022 Consolidated Application Reporting System

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

Suggested Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings and Board Business

The Board discussed and confirmed a Special Board Meeting for March 31st, 2022 from 3:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. for the Building D and E Project.

Public Hearing: LCAP
Draft Budget
Williams Uniform Complaint - Q1
Instructional Materials Adoption

Board Evaluation of the Meeting

The Board discussed the timeliness of the meeting.

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 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

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

Reconvene to Open Session

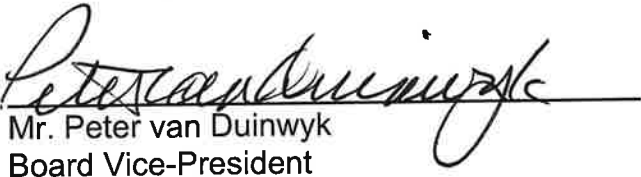
Report Out of Closed Session

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

Adjournment

Mrs. Jessica Smith made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Ms. Kim Crail seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members: Crail, Duran, Osley, Smith, and van Duinwyk.

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Peter van Duinwyk
Board Vice-President