

**MONTECITO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Board Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2019**

Present: Mrs. Kate Murphy, President, Mr. Chad Chase, Clerk, Mrs. Susannah Osley, Member, and Mr. Peter van Duiwyk, 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: Mrs. Marilyn Bachman, Member.

Call to Order

Board President, Mrs. Kate Murphy 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

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

Reconvene to Open Session

Report Out of Closed Session

The Board reconvened to Open Session and the Board President, Mrs. Kate Murphy reported that there was no reportable action was taken.

Opening Business

Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Peter van Duiwyk made the motion to approve the Agenda. Mr. Chad Chase seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duiwyk. Absent: Bachman.

Correspondence and Board President's Letter

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported receiving correspondence to be read to the Board from Mr. Lee Rosenberg, in opposition to bill SB223. The bill, if passed would allow a parent or guardian of a pupil to possess and administer medicinal cannabis at a school site to the pupil who is a qualified patient entitled to the protections of the Compassionate Use Act of 1996, excluding cannabis in a smokable or vapeable form.

Recognition of Accomplishments

Mr. Anthony Ranii and the Board recognized the MUS Facilities Staff: Mr. Jesse Landeros, Mr. Agustin Meza, Ms. Linda Bueno, Mr. Victor Ramos, Mr. Bob Garcia, Mr. Vicente Belmonte, Mr. Juan Manzo, Mr. Luis Arias, and Mr. Javier Arias. Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that he had a great deal of pride in commending the facilities team for their amazing work over the summer. He explained that they worked tirelessly in order to have the school ready for the first day of school while work was being done on the front parking lot, the installation of the two new playgrounds, the upper terrace, energy efficiency projects, and new landscape areas. The Board individually thanked the facility team members who were present.

Montecito Union School Foundation Presidential Report

Mrs. Cate Stoll gave the Board an update to the Montecito Union School Foundation campaign's focus this year. They have dedicated supporting the iLab, STEAM/STEM programs, and the south property to increase excitement and interest from families.

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.)

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Testing Presentation

Dr. Nick Bruski presented the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) test scores for grades 3-6. He explained that test scores are broken down into four performance bands; above standard, at or near standard, below standard, and standard not met. He explained that this year, within these categories we continue to move more students into the top two performance bands. He noted that the difficulty with comparisons of a particular group from one year to the next and grade-to-grade due to the two tests being different with different standards and students being different each year. He also reported that the Special Day Students (SDC) were included in the numbers this year as in years past they were reported by Santa Barbara County Office of Education. Going forward, he explained that they will work to further identify and use multiple measures with in-house assessments/common benchmarks that will provide data, which allows for interventions.

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.)

Engineering Challenges

Mr. Anthony Ranii with Science Specialist, Mrs. Vanessa Scarlett presented to the Board examples of the current state of work in the areas of integration, problem-solving, research, design, testing, and exploration that occurs for students that relates directly to Strategic Initiative 1B. Mrs. Vanessa Scarlett presented a report with project descriptions for each grade level. Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that this list was not an exhaustive list, but informational in order to develop a baseline against which growth may be measured.

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.)

Possible STEAM Initiatives Funded by MUSF

Mr. Anthony Ranii reported that teachers, administrators, and leaders from the Montecito Union School Foundation met in order brainstorm ways that the Foundation could support STEAM initiatives. He presented a list of STEAM proposals, ideas, and initiatives not for action, but in order to give the Board the opportunity to ask questions, give direction, and provide feedback. The list included: a bridge to the adjacent property, an outdoor classroom, STEM materials and STEM night, professional development, experts and site visits, and classroom materials.

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 Website

Mr. Rusty Ito gave the Board a virtual tour of the redesigned Character Website. On the website teachers can access resources for Habits of Mind, mustang meeting topics, mindful practice exercises, character videos, books lists, and mustang appreciation templates. He also demonstrated a character

education theme by the month which included a weekly suggestions, meeting suggestions, weekly goals, guiding questions, activities, quotes, books, and videos.

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 Energy Presentation

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that at the May 21, 2019 board meeting that the Board requested more information about the Montecito Microgrid and to also research other solar opportunities. After research, he determined three pathways that the District could take for a large-scale solar project. There were three pathways presented by: Clean Coalition's Montecito Microgrid, a Power Purchase Agreement through Asteri Solar and the Community Environmental Council, and Environmental Service Company, Smartwatt.

Mr. Craig Lewis from Clean Coalition gave a presentation on the Montecito Microgrid, the overall goal, and initial facilities. He explained that there would be solar installed in three local locations and in the case of an event that prevents power from getting to Montecito, the microgrid would be able to continue to generate power. There would be no cost to the school, the school would pay the same amount of money for electrical now, but instead to the company that owns and services the equipment. The term of the agreement would be between 20-25 years at which time there would be several options.

Mr. Matt Riley from Asteri Solar and Ms. April Price from the Community Environmental Council (CEC) gave the Board a presentation as to a power purchase agreement that they are recommending. Mr. Matt Riley has created the ability for non-profits to utilize a financing tool to benefit from tax credits for solar installation. There would be no cost to the school, the school would pay a third party for the system's electrical output for a predetermined period, while allowing the school to take advantage of the tax credits. The term of the agreement would be between 5-6 years at which time the equipment would need to be purchased. The CEC and Asteri have partnered with other local non-profits and use local installers.

Ms. Kathleen Krasenics from Smartwatt explained that utilizing an environmental services company would help the school procure advanced funding and the goal would be to deliver the projects at zero cost and pay back any interest through the savings generated by the projects themselves. They function similar to how a power purchase agreement would work. Through Smartwatt she would work with the school to propose solutions to minimize the use of energy as well as generate energy.

Mr. Anthony Ranii proposed next steps to continue working with the partners that presented. The Board continued to discuss questions that emerged from the presentations and the goals that the Board has in relation to solar. It was suggested that the board create a special board meeting in order to have set goals defined before making any decisions.

Mr. Chad Chase requested that Tesla be researched as an option.

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.)

Facility Update

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave the Board an update to the projected deadline of September 30th for the North Parking Lot and Play Area Access Project to be completed. The sewer line repair will be started within

the next few days and will continue to be completed over the weekend. He reported that they are still waiting on DSA for final approval on the ball wall.

Adjacent Property: Three Areas...Three Dreams

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that the property next door could have many uses and before spending any resources on designs, he would like to discuss the possibilities. He divided the property into three sections, staff parking, the house, and the yard. He explained that the parking area may need to be improved with re-grading and asphalt. The house is currently being used for storage, but questioned that to be the best use. Currently, due to DSA regulations the house cannot have students or teachers inside. For the yard, suggested: a butterfly garden, composting, historic installations, native habitat restoration, physical challenges, engineering installations and student construction, living science experiment, pond and animal studies, bat and owl boxes and/or bird houses, sloped physics and engineering studies, student and staff wellness, and community engagement. The Board continued to offer suggestions and feedback.

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.)

Brief Report on Staff Yoga

Mr. Anthony Ranii informed the Board that the District contracted with Ms. Angela Del Deo to provide yoga classes in the morning before school starts for MUS staff.

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

2018-2019 Unaudited Actuals, All Funds

Ms. Virginia Alvarez explained the process and requirements for the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). She also reported on the expenditure categories and summary of all funds financial activities and ending balances. Montecito Union School ended the year in a stable financial position. The total General Fund revenue from all sources was \$14,645,684 and General Fund expenditures were \$12,457,570. Ms. Virginia Alvarez recommended that the uncommitted ending balance of \$593,653 be transferred to Fund 40 towards the costs of renovation of Buildings D and E. Ms. Alvarez explained in detail the financial activities and ending financial position as reflected in the executive summary below.

Unaudited Actuals Summary		
Revenue	\$14,645,684	Including \$951,108 on behalf STRS and PERS
Expenditures	\$12,457,569	Including \$951,108 on behalf STRS and PERS
	\$2,188,115	
	\$66,852	Transfer in, OPEB and Fund 17 MUSF
	\$1,072,259	Transfers out to Fund 40
Revenue over expenditures	\$1,182,709	
Projects in process to be completed after June 30, 2019		
Amounts below are to be budgeted in 2019-2020 from above ending balance		
Energy Efficiency Upgrade	\$128,800	Change order one, HVAC and heating units. Monies from SIPE (W.C.) refund
K Playground & Installation	\$177,905	District Funds
Terraces Playground	\$148,000	MUSF Donation \$118,000 + District funds

Slide	\$10,688	Hillside and installation
Roof Repair Balance	\$95,000	Partially completed to June 30
Total additional costs	\$560,393	
Balance from \$1,182,709	\$622,316	
Energy efficiency upgrade additional work approved July 18	\$28,663	WiFi thermostats & additional lighting upgrades. Change order #2
Balance from \$1,182,709 including change order #2 above	\$593,653	Committed to Fund 40 for Buildings D and E
Pending State Backfill	\$356,726	IOU from the State due to Thomas Fire/Debris flow revenue loss
Total with backfill	\$950,379	
2nd interim approved transfer	\$1,120,000	To Fund 40 for Buildings D and E
Total transfer to Fund 40	-\$169,621	Short of \$1,120,000 due to the above projects

Ms. Alvarez also explained the activities and ending fund balance of all the other District Funds, including additional expenditures for ongoing projects.

The required tests and inspections relating to the North Parking Lot and Play Area Access Project were presented as:

Kenco Construction Services, DSA Inspection/Management: \$39,600
 Fugro for DSA Geotechnical Observation and Testing: \$21,337
 NV5 Proposal for Materials Testing and Inspection Services: \$24,608

The costs associated with securing the perimeter of approximately \$90,000 which includes gates and the automated lock system.

Mr. Chad Chase made the motion to approve the 2018-2019 unaudited actuals as presented, included in the above summary and the transfer of \$593,653 to Fund 40, Mrs. Susannah Osley seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk. Absent: Bachman.

Resolution #19/20-04: To Adopt the "Gann Limit"

Ms. Virginia Alvarez explained the annual mandated requirements for the adoption of the Gann Limit, which is a requirement for school districts. The Gann Limit is intended to constrain growth in state and local government spending by linking year-to-year changes in expenditures to changes in inflation and caseloads. Ms. Virginia Alvarez reported that Montecito Union School District met the requirement and is in compliance, as this is an annual requirement set for by legislature.

Mrs. Susannah Osley made the motion to approve Resolution #19/20-04: To Adopt the Gann Limit. Mr. Peter van Duinwyk seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk. Absent: Bachman.

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

MUS-Hosted Events

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that MUS continues to offer facility use for the broader community to host meetings and events.

Governance

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave the Board an update to the proposed educational bills that are currently on the governor's desk. He mentioned that some pertained to junior high school and high school start times, vaccinations, full day kindergarten, and willful defiance. He also discussed the school construction bond that will be on the state ballot next year and a second bond in 2022.

Board Reports

There were no board reports.

Consent Agenda

Regular Board Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2019

Warrants (8/9/19 – 9/9/19)

Personnel Action Items

2019-2020 Master Enrichment Calendar

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Chad Chase seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk. Absent: Bachman.

Closing Business

Suggested Agenda Items for Future Meetings and Board Business

Continue on with more information

Board Evaluation of the Meeting

The Board discussed how informative the solar presentations were. Mr. Anthony Ranii suggested a special board meeting to help facilitate another discussion on solar.

Adjournment

Mr. Chad Chase made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Mr. Peter van Duinwyk seconded. Motion carried 4-0, members Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk. Absent: Bachman.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mr. Chad Chase
Board of Trustees Clerk