

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE  
LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

November 7, 2018

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Long Beach Unified School District, County of Los Angeles, California, was held in the Community Room of the Administration Building at 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California, on November 7, 2018.

Present: Members Benitez, Craighead, Kerr, Meyer, and Williams  
Student Member Elaine Contreras, Jordan HS

Absent: None.

Call to  
Order

President Craighead called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. in Room 464.

Closed  
Session

President Craighead announced that the Board would be considering Items 6, 10 and 11 as listed on the Closed Session agenda.

Call to  
Order

Having completed the Closed Session, President Craighead called the Open Session meeting to order in the Community Room at 5:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Student Member Contreras.

Report of  
Closed  
Session

President Craighead reported that the Governing Board had been meeting in Closed Session regarding matters listed on today's Closed Session agenda and wished to announce that the Board voted to approve a settlement agreement providing for an administrative transfer of a classified employee to a non-supervisory position.

The vote was unanimous with all five members participating in the vote.

Public  
Hearing

President Craighead announced the public hearing for Resolution 110718-A, Notice of Authorization to Dedicate Easements to the City of Long Beach at Jordan High School, Located at 6500 Atlantic Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90805, for Double Check Detector Valve Purposes. She asked if there were any speakers.

Res. 110718-A,  
Dedicate  
Easements at  
Jordan HS

There were no speakers and the hearing was declared closed.

Call for  
Agenda  
Items/  
Adopt  
Agenda

President Craighead asked if Board Members had any items listed on the agenda for separate action.

It was moved by Member Meyer that the agenda be adopted as published.

The motion carried. The vote was 4-0 with Member Williams not present.

Approval  
of  
Minutes

It was moved by Member Kerr that the minutes of October 17, 2018 be approved as written.

The motion carried. The vote was 4-0 with Member Williams not present.

Communi-  
cations

Service  
Member  
Patriot  
Award

Pamela Seki, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, introduced Thomas Bell. Mr. Bell stated that he represents the Department of Defense for Orange County. The ESGR is a group that recognizes employers who support members of the Guard and Reserve. Sergeant Stephanie Faria, United States Army Reserve, submitted a nomination to award the Patriot's Employer Award to James Petri.

Sergeant Stephanie Faria shared that she is with the 300th Army Band and is also an elementary music teacher. She recommended this award to Mr. Petri because he has gone above and beyond in supporting her when the Army has asked her to go on active duty, sometimes with just a 24 hour notice. It can be quite stressful to just drop everything and leave not only your work, but leaving the students also. Mr. Petri always makes sure that she and her students are taken care of.

Dr. Jeremy Arnold, Associate Director of Bands at Cal State Long Beach, was there representing the State of California as the Chair for the National Band Association. Dr. Arnold stated that Mr. Petri is not only a tremendous person but beyond that, his desire to achieve music education for every student in Long Beach is unparalleled. He truly fights for every single student and he sets a vision of music education in the Long Beach Unified District. Each year the National Band Association awards Certificates of Excellence to outstanding educators in various states. This year, one of the outstanding educators that the National Band Association would like to recognize is Mr. James Petri. It is for his outstanding contribution to bands, band music through professional leadership, and he has inspired and motivated excellence in musical performance. His record of service to this profession is one of which he may be justifiably proud.

Mr. Petri stated that he is extremely surprised by these awards. He told Sergeant Faria that it is an honor and a privilege to know her, as she gives her best first of all to our students, and then number two for serving our country. He thanked her for this honor. He also thanked Dr. Arnold and the National Band Association. It's quite an honor and a privilege to be part of Long Beach Unified School District. The support he gets from the administration and from each of the schools, is what makes Long Beach so unique. He also thanked the Board for supporting the arts.

Hearing of  
Public  
Testimony

President Craighead asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Board on matters of school district business listed on the agenda.

Mithun Kumar Govind, employee, spoke regarding his termination.  
Raja Singh, employee, spoke regarding an employee's termination.

Staff Report

None.

Hearing of  
Public  
Testimony

President Craighead asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Board on matters of school district business not listed on the agenda.

Chett Davidson, employee, spoke regarding the maintenance department.

Personnel

Member Kerr presented the Certificated and Classified Recommendations, prepared by the Deputy Superintendent of Education Services, Human Resource Services, and approved and recommended by the Superintendent.

It was moved by Member Kerr that the Certificated and Classified Recommendations of the Deputy Superintendent of Education Services, Human Resource Services, be approved and authorized.

The motion carried. The vote was 4-0 with Member Williams not present.

Declaration of  
Need for Fully  
Qualified  
Educators

Member Kerr moved approval of the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators.

The motion carried. The vote was 4-0 with Member Williams not present.

Instruction  
Report

Member Meyer moved approval of the Instruction Report.

Member Meyer commended Jordan HS for initiating a Career in Teaching and Internship course. He recognized Lamar Biffle, Activities Specialist at Jordan, who was in attendance. He thanked him for his work with young people in the education business and for giving that a big push at Jordan.

The motion carried. The vote was 4-0 with Member Williams not present.

Finance  
Report

Member Kerr moved approval of the Finance Report.

The motion carried. The vote was 4-0 with Member Williams not present.

Business  
Report

Member Meyer moved approval of the Business Report.

The motion carried. The vote was 4-0 with Member Williams not present.

Purchasing  
& Contract  
Report

Member Kerr moved approval of the Purchasing & Contract Report.

Member Benitez wanted to highlight and thank Alan Reising, Facilities Branch Director. He gave really good context regarding those factors that impact the cost of projects. If anyone is curious it is all on video from the recent Board Workshop. He think it's important for our public to understand what cost measures and procedures are in place to account for rising costs on projects.

The motion carried. The vote was 4-0 with Member Williams not present.

Superin-  
tendent's  
Items

None.

Unfinished  
Business

None.

New  
Business

Member Kerr moved to approve the Reappointment of Personnel Commissioner.

Reappoint  
Personnel  
Commission

Ken Kato, Personnel Commission Director, reminded everyone that on August 15 Ms. Bender was appointed as an interim Personnel Commissioner in order to respond to one of the Commissioners resigning unexpectedly. The current term that Ms. Bender was serving ends on November 30, and the process states that

we have to nominate her again. She's been a great asset to the Personnel Commission Office, and her knowledge and experience that she brings from the City of Long Beach and the Port of Long Beach is appreciated.

Ms. Bender thanked the Board for their consideration and expressed her delight in working for the district.

The motion carried. The vote was 4-0 with Member Williams not present.

BP 5145.13,  
Resp. to  
Immigration  
Enforcement

Member Kerr moved approval of Board Policy 5145.13, Response to Immigration Enforcement.

Member Benitez asked to reaffirm that one of the key components of the policy is that district staff will not ask for nor collect data regarding immigration status of our students.

Ms. Seki confirmed this. In addition, the district will not cooperate in the securing of those documents with any outside agency unless there is a court order present. Dr. Benitez added that another component requires our schools to post that anyone, particularly if they're representatives from ICE or another government entity, have to register and meet certain criteria to be able to enter a campus. He believes it's important for our community members to get that reaffirmation from us, particularly for our immigrant community members to know that our district is adhering to that policy.

The motion carried. The vote was 4-0 with Member Williams not present.

Res. 110718-A,  
Dedicate  
Easements at  
Jordan HS

Member Kerr moved approval of Resolution 110718-A, Approving the Notice of Authorization to Dedicate Easements to the City of Long Beach at Jordan High School, Located at 6500 Atlantic Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90805, for Double Check Detector Valve Purposes.

The motion carried. The vote was 4-0 with Member Williams not present.

Report of  
Board  
Members

Student Member Contreras shared that this year the school returned to block schedule, and the adjustment has been rough on both teachers and students, but overall it will have benefits such as more time in class and extra classes. They continue to have ongoing construction on campus. Homecoming week was a success with the fair and dance, and the ASB created a pumpkin patch. During halftime of the football game, the jersey belonging to Robert Davenport, class of 1952, was added to their Hall of Fame. He is a part of the City of Long Beach's top 100 athletes. November 15th will be their shadow day and they will have about 95 to 100 8<sup>th</sup> graders shadowing students at the school. This will be one of the largest numbers they've had in past years.

Member Benitez thanked the staff, community members and parents that participated in the board workshop. He encouraged the community members to take a deep dive into the video of the workshop, as many important topics were covered. He congratulated Nica Rumion, teacher at Stevenson, who was recognized by the City of Long Beach at the CCEJ Gene Lentzner Humanitarian

Awards for all of the wonderful work that she's doing with regards to our arts programs.

Dr. Benitez shared that next week is National Apprenticeship Week and he encouraged everyone to research the wonderful benefits that apprenticeships have, particularly in those fields that we need highly skilled workforce. Finally he thanked everyone that came out to the Local Control & Accountability Plan (LCAP) Forum at Cabrillo High School.

Member Meyer shared that it was a joy to see the ribbon-cutting ceremony take place at Educare and he complimented Member Kerr, who delivered such nice introductory remarks. It's a wonderful facility and will go a long ways towards being a national model for early childhood education. He also attended the NAACP dinner where Judy Seal, LB Education Foundation, received the Humanitarian Award. Also being recognized was Myrna Wigod, whose husband was a noted physician in our district and whose son, Robbie Wilson-Wigod, is the current CIF commissioner of athletics.

Member Kerr added about the Educare ribbon cutting. She recalls the conversation she had with Dr. Baker four years ago regarding this project, so to go from inception in April of '14 to cutting a ribbon and actually hosting kids is a pretty amazing achievement. She thanked our partners at the LA Area Chamber of Commerce who came to Long Beach because they know that we have a great reputation for innovation of programming. A big thanks to our partners at First 5 LA, to the Educare Learning Network and all of those people who have worked tirelessly to make it a reality. She looks forward to doing some important policy work around funding and best practices for early childhood.

President Craighead attended an event at the Grant CDC, the Early Childhood Learning Center, who hosted a visit by the Lions International Group. Not only did they visit the center, but also conducted screenings for vision and hearing on the students. The Lion's Club will also provide whatever other resources are needed, such as glasses and doctor's visits. It was really wonderful to witness all that.

October was a very busy month, with something scheduled every Saturday, whether it was the LCAP Forum or the high school summits, and she thanked everybody who had to work Saturdays in addition to their Monday through Friday jobs. She attended a Speakeasy Soiree for Dramatic Results, who were recently granted a \$2.5million grant which will help fund and support a collaborative four year program for our low income gifted middle schoolers called the Art of Building a City Ecosystem. McBride HS hosted a town hall event with the Long Beach Chapter of the March for our Lives group, led by McBride student Jolie Reader. This was a candidate forum and Member Kerr served as the moderator. The town hall was live-streamed and they were taking questions from people who were not there in person. What a great way for these kids to be engaged and participate, and they are educating themselves and being a part of the process the way we all should.

Announcements

Member Kerr invited everyone to a fundraising event for the Harmony Project. There are now about a couple hundred kids, who will be performing at the Terrace Theater Foyer on December 12th at 5:30 p.m. She also extended an invitation to the Band Spectacular on November 14th at Lakewood HS.

Lastly, it's time once again for the CSPAN projects for Mr. Montooth's class at Long Beach Poly. Students are looking to interview adults about their views on a Constitutional issue, specifically related to education.

Member Benitez stated that we as a community, have the potential to shape the future of our local university. Cal State Long Beach is initiating its strategic planning process, called Imagine Beach 2030, which will be an interactive process and the community is encouraged to submit ideas on November 14 and 15. Given that the Long Beach Promise 2.0 was just launched, all community members are encouraged to participate.

ADJOURNMENT

President Craighead adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m. in memory of Isaac Jetmore, McBride student.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, December 5, 2018 in the Administration Building, 1515 Hughes Way, at 5:00 p.m.

Leticia Rodriguez  
Assistant Secretary