

RAVENSWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Board Meeting Room
2120 Euclid Avenue
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

Board Members:

Ana Maria Pulido, President
Sharifa Wilson, Vice President
Stephanie Fitch, Clerk
Marielena Gaona-Mendoza, Member
Tamara Sobomehin, Member

Draft

MINUTES

December 12, 2019

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL.**

At 6:31 p.m. President Pulido stated that they were supposed to be calling the Ravenswood City School District Board of Trustees Regular Session of December 12, 2019. However, they do not have a quorum. They need three Board Members physically present at the Meeting. At this time, they only have present President Pulido and Trustee Gaona Mendoza and Trustee Wilson who is going to join the Board via teleconference. President Sobomehin is out of town and Trustee Fitch is sick, but she will come at 7:15 p.m. during Open Session. Therefore, they have to wait until she arrives to start the meeting.

President Pulido called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. Trustees Pulido, Fitch and Gaona Mendoza were present, Trustee Wilson was attending the meeting via teleconference from Philadelphia, and Trustee Sobomehin was out of town.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

President Pulido thanked Trustee Fitch for attending and participating during this Open Session even though she was sick because the Board has a very important budget on the Agenda that must to be approved. President Pulido indicated that there would be changes to the Agenda in addition to tabling the Closed Session Item 3. Interim Superintendent Sudaria asked the Board to move the First Interim Financial Report after the Consent Agenda. President Pulido requested to pull Item 7.E Consideration to approve the Third Amendment to the Property Lease between RCSD and The Primary School from the Consent Agenda and table it. Trustee Gaona Mendoza requested to pull Item 7.A Consideration to Approve Personnel Recommendations from the Consent Agenda and place it on the Regular Order of Business for discussion. MSC (Gaona Mendoza/Fitch) to approve the agenda with the previous changes. Roll Call Vote: President Pulido, Yes. Trustee Wilson, Yes. Trustee Fitch, Yes. Trustee Gaona Mendoza, Yes. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. MSC (Gaona Mendoza/Pulido) to approve the Minutes for the October 24, 2019 Regular Board Meeting. Roll Call Vote: President Pulido, Yes. Trustee Wilson, Yes. Trustee Fitch, Yes. Trustee Gaona Mendoza, Yes. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

6. **FROM THE FLOOR.**

Ms. Opal Okikiadi, CSEA Representative, announced that they had their election on Wednesday, and reported the results. President: Randy Jackson, Vice President: Opal Okikiadi, Secretary: Frankie Drake, Bilingual Secretary: Marielena Ayala, Treasurer: Mohammad Islam, Grievance Officers: Tala Salahi and Marielena Ayala, Member at Large: Margaret Thompson. Ms. Okikiadi stated that they will be the officers for the next two years.

Mr. Leland Francois, from Ravenswood Gardens Products and Ravenswood History Survey, addressed the Board regarding the MOU with the County of San Mateo for the school garden services at Los Robles- Ronald McNair. He noted that for a number of years he has been in the Old Ravenswood District community. For the last 30 years he researched the history and agriculture development in the community. He manufactures his own products, specifically for academic reasons. He indicated that the District did not need to go to San Mateo to get these services for our children because the Ravenswood Garden Products can provide these services. He is looking forward to establishing an MOU between the Ravenswood City School District and the Ravenswood Gardens Products.

Item 7.A was pulled by Trustee Gaona Mendoza from the Consent Agenda and placed in the regular order of business for discussion. Item 7.E was pulled from the Consent Agenda and tabled before approval of the Agenda.

- 7.A Consideration to Approve Personnel Recommendations. Trustee Gaona Mendoza asked if the employment of the Administrative Assistant was going to be retroactive to September and if she was going to receive retroactive pay. Ms. Toni Stone, HR Director, informed the Board that Ms. Lilli Piña has been working in that position since September and has been compensated for every day that she has worked in that role. She noted that there is no back pay and they have been dealing with this item since September. At that time the Board asked them to do new interviews with a different panel, and they did. Trustee Gaona Mendoza indicated that the approval date should be after the second interview. Ms. Stone indicated that the effective date of her employment has to be the date she started in that position, which is the September date.

MSC (Fitch/Pulido) to approve the personnel recommendations. Roll Call Vote: President Pulido, Yes. Trustee Wilson, Yes. Trustee Fitch, Yes. Trustee Gaona Mendoza, No. Motion carried (3-1).

7. **CONSENT AGENDA.** MSC (Gaona Mendoza/Pulido) to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Pulido, Wilson, Fitch and Gaona Mendoza, Yes. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).
- B. Consideration to approve Transfer of Special Education Funds Agreement with Redwood City.
 - C. Consideration to approve the MOU between the County of San Mateo and Ravenswood City School District for the school garden at Los Robles- Ronald McNair.
 - D. Consideration to approve the addenda to the 2019-2020 Facilities Use Agreement between the Ravenswood City School District and KIPP Valiant Community Prep Charter School.
 - F. Consideration to approve an Energy Services Contract between RCSD and ENGIE Services U.S. Inc., a Delaware corporation, with California State Contractor's License Number 995037.
 - G. Consideration to renew an Individual Service Agreement (ISA) for students with AchieveKids.
 - H. Consideration to approve MOU with WorldStrides for 8th Grade Field Trip to Washington, D.C.

9. **BUSINESS DEPARTMENT**

- A. Consideration to approve the 2019-20 First Interim Financial Report.

Mr. Jim Lianides provided a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the Board on the 1st Interim Budget. He informed the Board that the State of California requires school districts to file two interim status reports at specific dates each year. He presented the Ravenswood City School District's First Interim Financial Report for fiscal year 2019-20. This report reflects the District's financial status for the period of July 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019. He indicated that the good news is that the District will be able to meet its financial obligations for the current year and the two out years (2020-21 and 2021-22) by proceeding with its plan to close two elementary schools, leasing out one of the empty sites, and utilizing one time former RDA funds as a bridge to support the budget through the current year and two out years. Mr. Lianides stated that the district will need to identify additional revenues and/or reductions that would be best implemented in 2021-22. Assuming that declining enrollment will level off by 2022-23, this second round of revenue enhancement/reductions should lead to a longer period of budget stability. He predicted that more action should be taken in 2021-2022.

Mr. Lianides noted that the multiyear budget makes use of Fund 25 RDA funds (\$750 K – 2019-20, \$1.25 M- 2020-21, \$1.25 M- 2021-22) to meet revenue needs. This will leave only \$1,000,000 left of these funds for 2022-23 and beyond. The multiyear budget projects that the district will have a \$1.4 M unrestricted deficit in 2021-22

A key component of the multiyear budget for 2020-21 is that one of the empty sites will be leased at market rates by the Fall of 2020. This will mean that staff will need to move quickly beginning in January with the process to declare the site surplus and actively seek an appropriate tenant. The multiyear is also assuming that due to declining enrollment the number of classroom teachers will be reduced by six each year. Given the consolidation of the elementary schools from five to three, this should allow for more efficient staffing at the remaining sites, thus, possibly increasing this number and the resulting savings.

MSC (Gaona Mendoza/Wilson) to approve the 2019-20 First Interim Financial Report. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Pulido, Wilson, Fitch and Gaona Mendoza, Yes. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

A. School Mergers Proposal: Belle Haven School, Brentwood Academy, Costaño School, Los Robles/Ronald McNair Dual Immersion School, Willow Oaks School.

1. Summary from the December 6, 2019 Presentation.
2. The School Mergers Proposal.
3. Board Discussion: Proposal, Timeline and Next Steps.

Interim Superintendent Sudaria indicated that they presented the proposal on December 6, and they are presenting it again. She provided a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions regarding the Community Engagement on School Mergers along with Ms. Cindy Chin and Ms. Jennifer Graven. The PowerPoint included: (1) Proposal - Los Robles-Ronald McNair remains at current site as dual immersion. Brentwood and Costaño Merge and locate at Costaño. Willow Oaks and Belle Haven merge and locate at Belle Haven. No change to the middle school. District explores options to lease out Brentwood and Willow Oaks sites and address Prop 39 Charter Request. (2) Feedback from parents/community, Priorities: Location, Facility Size and Features, Number of Students, Special Programs. (3) Updated information requested by the Board on Transportation, Traffic, Special Education, Afterschool Programs. (4) Pros/cons of an alternative scenario. (5) Other data requested by the Board under Appendix. (6) Student numbers by location (including KIPP). (7) Details about special education enrollment. (8) Impact of increased number of students on the McNair site. (9) School-based Community Meetings at Willow Oaks, Los Robles-Ronald McNair and Brentwood. (10) Pros/cons 2nd Scenario: Brentwood moves to Los Robles instead of Costaño, Willow to Belle Haven, Costaño remains at its current site. (11) 3rd Scenario: Los Robles to Willow Oaks, Brentwood to Costaño, Belle Haven stays alone. (12) Next steps: December 16th: Belle Haven school-based community meeting, December 17th: Costaño school-based community meeting January 9: Board Meeting and vote on proposal.

Due to the time in Philadelphia, Trustee Wilson left the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

The Board held a discussion on all the scenarios. Trustee Gaona Mendoza suggested moving Los Robles to Brentwood or move Costaño to Brentwood and close Costaño. Trustee Fitch suggested moving Willow to Brentwood and Costaño to Belle Haven. President Pulido indicated that her biggest concern is that they are leaving a huge region unattended because is all on the same side and Brentwood in particular is located in the center of the City.

The following individuals addressed the Board on this item:

Ms. Opal Okikiadi, CSEA Representative, thanked Ms. Sudaria and the Board for taking the time to give the Community an opportunity to get informed and involved.

Ms. Gloria García, Parent, stated that she is sad for the closing of the schools.

Mr. Ruben Abrica, Community Member, raised a concern about closing Willow because even though it is in Menlo Park its students are from the East Palo Alto Community. He noted that the original dual immersion school was at Willow and they have better possibilities there because is on the west side of Menlo Park.

President Pulido indicated that the Board would like to see other scenarios that include the pros and cons of all the options so the Board understands the process that they all took to get the final decision.

10. **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Because one of the Trustees was sick and needed to go home, President Pulido continued with item F.

F. President Pulido reported the following Special Board Meetings: January 6, 2020 and January 9, 2020.

G. President Pulido reported that the Next Regular Board Meeting will be held on January 16, 2020.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Pulido adjourned the Meeting at 9:35 p.m.

February 13, 2020

Date of Approval

Clerk's Signature

/nm