

RAVENSWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SPECIAL 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 6, 2019

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

President Sobomehin called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Trustees Sobomehin, Fitch and Gaona Mendoza were present, Trustee Wilson was attending the meeting via teleconference from Philadelphia, and Trustee Pulido was attending the meeting via teleconference from San Diego, CA.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

MSC (/Fitch/Gaona Mendoza) to approve the agenda with the previous changes. Roll Call Vote: President Sobomehin, Yes. Trustee Fitch, Yes. Trustee Gaona Mendoza, Yes. Trustee Wilson, Yes. Trustee Pulido, Yes. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

3. **A. ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING**

Election of Officers:

1. President. President Sobomehin opened the nomination for President.
Trustee Wilson nominated Trustee Pulido. President Sobomehin nominated Trustee Fitch.
No other nominations were made and President Sobomehin closed the nominations and called for the vote.
Roll Call Vote: Trustees Gaona Mendoza, Wilson, and Pulido voted for Trustee Pulido for President.
Trustees Sobomehin and Fitch voted for Trustee Fitch for President.
Trustee Ana Maria Pulido 3 (Trustees Gaona Mendoza, Wilson, and Pulido)
Trustee Stephanie Fitch 2 (Trustees Sobomehin and Fitch)
Trustee Ana Maria Pulido accepted the Office of President
2. Vice President. Trustee Sobomehin opened the nomination for Vice President.
President Pulido nominated Trustee Wilson. Trustee Sobomehin nominated Trustee Fitch. Trustee Fitch nominated Trustee Gaona Mendoza. Trustee Gaona Mendoza declined the nomination.
No other nominations were made and Trustee Sobomehin closed the nominations and called for the vote.
Roll Call Vote: Trustees Gaona Mendoza, Wilson, and Pulido voted for Trustee Wilson for Vice President.
Trustees Sobomehin and Fitch voted for Trustee Fitch for Vice President.
Trustee Sharifa Wilson 3 (Trustees Gaona Mendoza, Wilson, and Pulido)
Trustee Stephanie Fitch 2 (Trustees Sobomehin and Fitch)
Trustee Sharifa Wilson accepted the Office of Vice President.

3. Clerk. Trustee Sobomehin opened the nomination for Clerk.
Trustee Fitch nominated Trustee Sobomehin. Trustee Sobomehin declined the nomination. Trustee Sobomehin nominated Trustee Gaona Mendoza. Trustee Gaona Mendoza declined the nomination and nominated Trustee Fitch.
No other nominations were made and Trustee Sobomehin closed the nominations and called for the vote.
Roll Call Vote for Trustee Fitch: Trustees Pulido, Wilson, Gaona Mendoza, Sobomehin and Fitch Yes.
Trustee Stephanie Fitch 5 (Trustees Pulido, Wilson, Gaona Mendoza, Sobomehin and Fitch)
Trustee Stephanie Fitch accepted the Office of Clerk.

Trustee Sobomehin congratulated the new officers.

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 6:44 p.m. Open Session reconvened at 7:15 p.m.

4/5. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.1

Trustee Fitch welcomed everyone in the audience and reported that because the President and Vice President were attending the Meeting via teleconference, she will run the Meeting as the Clerk.

A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION. No reportable actions on Item 4.A.1.

1. Title: Interim Superintendent

6. CONSENT AGENDA

MSC (Sobomehin/Wilson) to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll Call Vote: President, Pulido Yes. Trustee Wilson, Yes. Trustee Fitch, Yes. Trustee Gaona Mendoza, Yes. Trustee Sobomehin, Yes. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

- A. Consideration to Approve Personnel Recommendations.
- B. Consideration to approve a Contract between the Ravenswood City School District and the County Counsel of the County of San Mateo for The Provision of General and Special Education Legal Services.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

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

Interim Superintendent Sudaria provided a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the Board regarding the School Mergers Proposal. She informed the Board that it has been a collective effort from the Community, from the Board, and from the staff and the directors who have supported her through this process to be able to stand before the Board tonight with confidence. She believes they had one of the best proposals to be able to make a very difficult decision. The PowerPoint presentation included the following: (a) Discussion on the following questions: Why are we merging schools? How did we create the merger proposal? What is the proposal? and What happens next? (b) Decreasing enrollment: Given the high cost of living in our area many families have left EPA/EMP and our schools. RCSD is currently at approximately 2000 students. This decreased enrollment has drastically impacted our budget. Despite funding from foundations and federal funds for specific programs, we find ourselves short of funds to sustain the district. Goal for next year: Cut costs by \$1.35 million. They have tried everything possible to avoid merging schools, and explored lots of places to possibly cut. They found more savings, but it is not enough without 2 mergers. RCSD students deserve the best. We are at an important moment in our District where we can reconfigure our district with the right number of elementary schools to maximize the resources we currently have and to ensure the best possible education for our students. (c) They worked hard to engage community members about what our priorities should be. Meeting turnout was good, and feedback was positive. Nearly 200 people also shared their opinions through the online survey. (d) How they used community input to create a proposal. Community and Board Members identified four major priorities: Location -Keep neighborhood schools, Facility Size/Features: Keep larger sites with more resources, Number of Students -Reduction of disruption for students, Special Programs: Dual Immersion, Turnaround Arts, Makerspace, Music, Art, school-based mental health supports. (e) They considered >12 scenarios, and also checked the final scenario against extra factors. (f) Proposal for fall 2020: Los Robles/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. Know that they made the decision based on what they know and understand the tradeoffs. One scenario considered was to move Brentwood to Los Robles and only move the Brentwood students across the field but there would be no room to grow. Costaño would remain small and lower grade levels would have only 1 class per grade level. Brentwood would also have single classes at lower grade levels which would mean those students would be together in the same class for their entire elementary education. Other scenario considerations included moving Los Robles/McNair students but that would result in the move of three schools, instead of just two, impacting more students. (g) Student choices: Choice for current students (For Fall 2020): Brentwood and Willow Oaks students may choose a different school for Fall 2020 if they wish (RCSD will have open enrollment this spring). Students at other schools can choose to transfer after Brentwood & Willow Oaks students are accommodated. Choice for new students: All new students will have choice of which elementary school to attend (there will be no “default” school). There will be one TK class each at Costaño and Belle Haven next year. (h) What does this mean for staff? No changes during this school year; Staff will generally follow students (e.g., Willow Oaks staff to Belle Haven site, Brentwood staff to Costaño site); Some classified positions will be eliminated in Fall 2020; We are not implementing any teacher layoffs (any reductions will be covered by natural attrition). (i) Share this proposal and get feedback before the Board vote. Timeline: Meeting with staff: Wednesday, December 4, Proposal on website: Wednesday December 4, Flyer sent to every family: Thursday December 5, DAC/DELAC meeting: Thursday December 5, Board meeting: Friday December 6, School-based meetings: December 9 - December 17, Board meeting: Thursday December 12, Board meeting and vote: Thursday January/9, 2020. Through community meetings and surveys, we heard loud and clear from families and staff about how to make a transition smoother. (j) After a decision: Engage our community to plan and implement a smooth transition. Examples of transition activities: student and family visits to the new site this spring, social events at the new site this spring, playdates/meet-ups at the new campus during the summer. (k) Where students live. (l) Projected enrollment and staffing at each school. (m) Projected enrollment and staffing at each school. (n) Classified: Reduction of Services. (o) Certificated: Criteria for Assignments. (p) CAASPP Scores - Student Achievement.

Interim Superintendent Sudaria and Ms. Cindy Chin answered questions from the Board regarding transportation services/cost, crossing guards, safe routes to school, feedback from staff (afterschool program, transportation and attitude of the receiving school), pros/cons of moving Brentwood to Los Robles-Ronald McNair, pros/cons of moving Los Robles-Ronald McNair to Costaño and if the students from Brentwood and Willow will have a choice to attend other school.

Ms. Kathleen Daily, Menlo Park community member, acknowledged the work of this proposal. She raised a concern about the Willow School community if they close Willow Oaks School because the traffic from Willow to Belle Haven is a nightmare.

President Pulido asked Ms. Sudaria if they did a traffic analysis from Willow to Belle Haven. Ms. Sudaria indicated that they did not do a traffic analysis in that area. She will try to get that information before December 12.

Ms. Sudaria asked Ms. Lara Burenin, C&I Director, to speak about the value of collaboration and why they also took that into account when looking at whether or not they merge Brentwood with Los Robles-Ronald McNair or Los Robles-Ronald McNair to Costaño.

Ms. Sudaria asked Ms. Jennifer Graven, Special Education Director, to speak about how Special Education would be affected by this proposal and what considerations for Special Education are considered in the proposal. Trustee Fitch asked Ms. Graven if students with IEPs are going to be disproportionately affected with the changes. Ms. Graven indicated that there are relatively similar numbers of students with IEPs at the sites. She will provide those numbers on the 12th.

The Board thanked Interim Superintendent Sudaria and everyone one involved in this process.

Ms. Sudaria indicated that there are several next Steps and information that the staff needs to collect: A traffic study, getting Special Education numbers and other information requested, they will make sure to present the information on the 12th and prior to the 12th.

Trustee Fitch reported that the next Regular Meeting will be held on December 12, 2019. Trustee Sobomehin indicated that she will not be able to attend this meeting because she is going to be out of town.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Fitch adjourned the Meeting at 8:45 p.m.

February 13, 2020

Date of Approval

Clerk's Signature

/nm