

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, May 2, 2023**

*Adopted*

**Members Present:** Nancy Chaires Espinoza, President; Beth Albiani, Carmine Forcina, Anthony Perez, Michael Vargas, Sean Yang; Oliver Trach, Student Board Member; Absent: Gina Jamerson

**Others Present:** Christopher R. Hoffman, Superintendent; Mark Cerutti and Kristen Coates, Deputy Superintendents; David Reilly, Associate Superintendent; Bindy Grewal and Chad Sweitzer, Assistant Superintendents; Amreek Singh, Chief Human Resources Officer; Jenifer Avey and Lisa Levasseur, Executive Directors; Steve Mate, Chief Information Officer

**CLOSED SESSION:** The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. to address items 1 through 5 on the closed session portion of the agenda.

*Mr. Perez arrived at 5:01 p.m.*

- I. Government Code Section 54957:** Public Employee Performance Evaluation - Title: Superintendent
- II. Government Code Section 54957:** Public Employee Appointment/Employment - Management Positions and Chief Financial Officer
- III. Government Code Section 54956.9 Subdivision (d) Paragraph (2):** Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation Significant Exposure to Litigation
- IV. Government Code Section 54957:** Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Complaint
- V. Government Code Section 54957.6:** Conference with Labor Negotiators  
Agency designated representatives: Christopher R. Hoffman, Karen Rezendes  
David Reilly, Amreek Singh, Mark Cerutti, Kristen Coates  
Employee Organizations: All Elk Grove Unified School District  
Bargaining Units and Unrepresented Employees

**OPEN SESSION:** Ms. Chaires Espinoza called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and announced that the Board met in closed session and the following action was taken:

***II. Government Code Section 54957: Public Employee Appointment/Employment***

The Board supported the Superintendent's appointment of Amari Watkins to the position of Chief Financial Officer. This appointment will require Board approval of an employment agreement during the open session portion of the Board's May 16, 2023, regular board meeting. *Ayes – Albiani, Chaires-Espinoza, Forcina, Perez, Vargas and Yang; Nays – None; Absent – Jamerson*

Ms. Chaires Espinoza provided a welcome and announced that live streaming of the board meeting is made available via the Zoom platform and meetings are recorded (video and audio) and will be made available on the Elk Grove Unified School District's YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/user/elkgroveunified](http://www.youtube.com/user/elkgroveunified)

**I. Pledge of Allegiance** – Ms. Desirae Fox led the pledge of allegiance and was recognized by the Board of Education for her contributions at Union House Elementary School.

**II. Presentations/Recognitions**

- 1. High School Student Representative Reports – Franklin, Valley, and William Daylor High Schools** – Students from Franklin, Valley and William Daylor High Schools reported on academics and activities at their schools.

# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, May 2, 2023

## III. Resolutions

- 1. Classified School Employees Week** – Motion No. 123, 2022-23, Motion by Mr. Vargas, seconded by Mr. Perez and carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all board members present that Resolution 78, recognizing May 21 - 27, 2023 as Classified School Employees Week in the Elk Grove Unified School District be approved.
- 2. National School Nurse Day** – Motion No. 124, 2022-23, Motion by Mr. Vargas, seconded by Ms. Albiani and carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all board members present that Resolution 76, recognizing May 10, 2023, as National School Nurse Day be approved.
- 3. School Lunch Hero Day** – Motion No. 125, 2022-23, Motion by Mr. Forcina, seconded by Mr. Vargas and carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all board members present that Resolution 75, designating May 5, 2023, as School Lunch Hero Day be approved.
- 4. Hmong American Day Resolution** – Motion No. 126, 2022-23, Motion by Mr. Yang, seconded by Ms. Albiani and carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all board members present that Resolution 77, designating May 14, 2023, as Hmong American Day, as a time to remember and honor Hmong people's history, stories, and contributions in the Vietnam War be approved.

## IV. Student Expulsion/Involuntary Transfer Recommendations

- 1. Request for Student Expulsions** – Motion No. 127, 2022-23, Motion by Ms. Albiani, seconded by Mr. Forcina and carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all board members present that the recommendations for student expulsions be approved.

## V. Public Comment

Elda Garcia, Suzanne Tobar, Greg Burt, Kurt Thomas, Lori Gardner, Mark Ellis, Emelina Mendoza, Norman Kuhn, Jacqueline Ortiz, Heather Delfs, Charlotte Rieger, Ronald Owens, Veronica Garcia and Ret shared concerns about; explicit books that are available to students and asked for their removal, requested information about the book selection process for school libraries, spoke in opposition of the adopted sex education curriculum and a response to public comments made about the sex education curriculum was requested.

Dave Kirth shared concerns about there not being a plan for a middle school and high school in his neighborhood and the amount of time it takes to get to and from school.

Caroline Martin spoke to a message she received from HR indicating that 5 teachers were going to be downsized from her site and she requested that a downsizing process be adopted.

Nicole Strange asked that public comments reference a page or paragraph from the explicit books that are being read because there are children listening. Ms. Strange shared that she would like to improve staff morale at school sites and asked that she be contacted if there is a committee in place.

Jasmine Grady expressed concerns about ongoing inappropriate comments her daughter has been subjected to by a fellow student and shared that she has tried to contact the teacher but there has been no response. Ms. Grady indicated that she been in contact with the vice principal, but there has been no improvement with the situation and requested assistance. Ms. Grady shared further concerns with the staff's lack of response to an injury sustained by her son.

# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, May 2, 2023

Lorreen Pryor expressed her concerns about the racism black parents and students continue to deal with at district schools. Ms. Pryor requested that district staff stop ignoring parents and students.

Lisa Stanley shared her concerns about what Ms. Grady's family has been going through and shared her frustration about the treatment of black students in Elk Grove schools.

Heidi Moore shared graphic pictures from a book that was available in the Sheldon High School library. Ms. Moore stated that Ms. Avey indicated that the book has been removed from sites and book lists but requested that all explicit books be removed from school sites.

*At 8:06 pm Ms. Chaires Espinoza called for a break and called the meeting back to order at 8:15 pm.*

## VI. Consent Agenda – Action

Prior to the motion, Mr. Perez pulled Item No. 2 for discussion/approval.

Motion No. 128, 2022-23, Motion by Mr. Forcina, seconded by Mr. Yang and carried by a 5 - 1 vote that items 1 thru 9, except for item 2 on the consent agenda be approved. *The vote was as follows: Ayes – Trach (Student Board Member), Albiani, Chaires Espinoza, Forcina, Vargas, and Yang; Nays – Perez; Absent – Jamerson*

Motion No. 129, 2022-23, Motion by Mr. Forcina, seconded by Ms. Albiani and carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all board members present that item 2 on the consent agenda be approved.

1. **Personnel Actions** – Approved personnel appointments, leaves of absence, rehires, probationary releases, promotions, resignations, retirements, and returns from reemployment lists as submitted.
2. **Job Description Updates** – Approved the revisions to the following job descriptions; Office Assistant III, Warehouse Worker II FNS, Data Archive Technician II, Bus Attendant, Bus Driver, Journey Mechanic I, Journey Mechanic II, Lead Journey Mechanic II, Entry Level Mechanic, Supervisor-Fleet Maintenance, Mechanic's Assistant-Fuel, and Bus Driver Instructor.
3. **Acceptance of Gifts** – Approved donations to the district's schools/programs as submitted.
4. **Ratification of Grant Contracts/Agreements for Funding** – Approved grant contracts/agreements signed by authorized staff as submitted.
5. **Ratification of Contracts, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's) and Agreements for Services** – Approved contracts signed by authorized staff in accordance with Board Policy 3312 as submitted.
6. **Approval of Purchase Order Encumbrance Modification History** – Approved contracts signed by authorized staff in accordance with Board Policy 3312 as submitted.
7. **Portable Relocation from Elk Grove High School to Joseph Kerr Middle School Award of Contract** – Approved the award of a contract to Clayton A. Titus, Inc., for the total base bid of \$106,050.00.
8. **Pre-K, Replacement of Fall Material Acceptance and Notice of Completion** – Accepted replacement of fall material at Florence Markofer and David Reese Elementary Schools project and authorized the filing of the Notice of Completion.

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, May 2, 2023**

- 9. Sheldon High School, Roofing 2023 Acceptance and Notice of Completion** – Accepted the completion of the roofing project at Sheldon High School and authorized the filing of the Notice of Completion.

**VII. LCAP Update - None**

**VIII. Race and Educational Equity**

- 1. Race and Educational Equity Update** – Staff provided an update of the programs and services provided by EGUSD that directly align with the Educational Equity framework foundations. Included in the report was information about supports for young men of color, Student and Family Empowerment Center, Newcomer Welcome Centers, Community Partners, and the evaluation of programs for continuous improvement.

Board Members provided feedback and thanked staff for the update.

**IX. Budget Update – None**

**X. Facilities Update – None**

**XI. Bargaining Units – None**

**XII. Reports**

- 1. Measure M General Obligation Second Series Bond Sale and Issuance of Lease Purchase Financing Plan** – Lori Raineri, the District’s financial advisor, Government Financial Strategies, Joint Powers Authority, presented the Measure M General Obligation Bond financing plan that included the upcoming second series bond sale. In addition, the team presented the financing plan for the proposed issuance of a Lease Purchase. The report included the financial elements and considerations of the Measure M General Obligation Bond Plan, consistent with prior reports and discussions with the Board. Information on the tax rate, bond size and structuring, applicable considerations and necessary upcoming activities and actions by Staff and the Board of Education prior to the sale was included in the update.

Board members provided feedback and thanked Ms. Raineri for the report.

- 2. Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling** – The Board received an update that included background history, provided a program overview, illustrated the benefits of the training, and provided information on future steps with the LETRS Program.

Board members provided feedback and thanked staff for the update.

*10:17 pm – Motion No. 130, 2022-23, Motion by Ms. Albiani, seconded by Mr. Forcina and carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all board members present that the board meeting be extended to 11:00 pm.*

**XIII. Public Hearing/Action Items**

- 1. 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 School Years Meet and Confer Summary Regarding EGTEAMS; EGTEAMS includes site and District Administration, Classified Managers, Classified Administrative Support Staff and Supervisory Employees**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, May 2, 2023**

After the presentation, Ms. Chaires Espinoza opened the public hearing and there were not public comments related to this item. Ms. Chaires Espinoza then closed the public hearing.

Motion No. 131, 2022-23, Motion by Mr. Vargas, seconded by Mr. Yang and carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all board members present that the 2022-23 and 2023-24 Meet and Confer Summary regarding EGTEAMS; EGTEAMS includes site and District Administration, Classified Managers, Classified Administrative Support Staff and Supervisory Employees be approved.

**XIV. Discussion Items – None**

**XV. Action Items**

**1. School Board Finance Committee** – Motion No. 132, 2022-23, Motion by Mr. Forcina, seconded by Ms. Albiani and carried by a 5 - 1 vote of all board members present that the sunsetting of the current Finance Committee and the development of a new Budget Advisory Committee be approved. *The vote was as follows: Ayes – Albiani, Chaires Espinoza, Forcina, Vargas, and Yang; Nays – Perez; Absent – Jamerson*

**XVI. Board Member and Superintendent Reports** – Board Members and the Superintendent reported on organization and committee meetings and information relative to the district and its operation.

**XVII. Consideration of Future Agenda Items – None**

**XVIII. Adjournment** – 11:14 p.m.

Submitted by Christopher R. Hoffman, Superintendent

Approved by:   
Nancy Chaires Espinoza, Board President