

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ALHAMBRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
October 5, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Alhambra Unified School District was held on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, in the Board Room of the District Office, 1515 W. Mission Road, Alhambra, California and virtually via Zoom.

PUBLIC SESSION: Board Room-District Office and Virtually via Zoom with Modified Meeting Procedures During the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Kenneth Tang, Board President, called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and requested a roll call of the Board.

ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD

Mr. Robert L. Gin, Member – present
Mrs. Kaysa Moreno, Clerk – present
Mrs. Joanne Russell-Chavez, Member – present
Mr. Kenneth Tang, President – present
Dr. Marcia R. Wilson, Vice President – present

Administration Present via Webinar: Ms. Janet Lees, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services; Mrs. Patricia Mahony, Assistant Superintendent, Student/Employee Welfare; Mr. George Murray, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Planning Development; Mrs. Josephine Quach, Assistant Superintendent, Financial Services; Mr. John Scanlan, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Administration Present in Board Room: Mrs. Denise Jaramillo, Superintendent and Mrs. Adrienne Barbara, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS – There were no requests.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION: At 5:02 p.m. on the motion of Mrs. Moreno, seconded by Mr. Gin and carried, the Board recessed to Closed Session to discuss items listed on the Closed Session Agenda via teleconference secure line.

PUBLIC SESSION: At 6:18 p.m., the Board reconvened in Public Session in the Board Room, District Office and via teleconference on Zoom.

ORDER OF BUSINESS (including addenda to items)

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Tang called the meeting to order led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Tang recognized World Teacher's Day and stated he had a pink background to honor breast cancer awareness month.

REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

By unanimous vote, the Board of Education voted 5-0 to accept the administrative recommendation to implement the OAH Case No. 2021080804.

Roll Call Votes:

Mr. Robert L. Gin, Member – yes
Mrs. Kaysa Moreno, Clerk – yes
Mrs. Joanne Russell-Chavez, Member – yes
Mr. Kenneth Tang, President – yes
Dr. Marcia R. Wilson, Vice President– yes

By unanimous vote, the Board of Education voted 5-0 to accept the administrative recommendation to approve charges and intent to suspend one classified employee for three days unpaid to take effect on October 13, 20, 27 of 2021.

Roll Call Votes:

Mr. Robert L. Gin, Member – yes
Mrs. Kaysa Moreno, Clerk – yes
Mrs. Joanne Russell-Chavez, Member – yes
Mr. Kenneth Tang, President – yes
Dr. Marcia R. Wilson, Vice President– yes

By unanimous vote, the Board of Education voted 5-0 to appoint Jessica Castillo as Assistant Principal of Instruction at Educational Services effective October 6, 2021.

Roll Call Votes:

Mr. Robert L. Gin, Member – yes
Mrs. Kaysa Moreno, Clerk – yes
Mrs. Joanne Russell-Chavez, Member – yes
Mr. Kenneth Tang, President – yes
Dr. Marcia R. Wilson, Vice President– yes

By unanimous vote, the Board of Education voted 5-0 to appoint Diana Diaz-Ferguson as Assistant Principal of Instruction at San Gabriel High School.

Roll Call Votes:

Mr. Robert L. Gin, Member – yes
Mrs. Kaysa Moreno, Clerk – yes
Mrs. Joanne Russell-Chavez, Member – yes
Mr. Kenneth Tang, President – yes
Dr. Marcia R. Wilson, Vice President– yes

By unanimous vote, the Board of Education voted 5-0 to appoint Rene Regalado as Assistant Principal of School Counseling at San Gabriel High School effective October 6, 2021.

Roll Call Votes:

Mr. Robert L. Gin, Member – yes
Mrs. Kaysa Moreno, Clerk – yes
Mrs. Joanne Russell-Chavez, Member – yes
Mr. Kenneth Tang, President – yes
Dr. Marcia R. Wilson, Vice President– yes

By unanimous vote, the Board of Education voted 5-0 to appoint Haydee Hernandez as Elementary Assistant Principal at Fremont Elementary School effective October 6, 2021.

Roll Call Votes:

Mr. Robert L. Gin, Member – yes
Mrs. Kaysa Moreno, Clerk – yes
Mrs. Joanne Russell-Chavez, Member – yes
Mr. Kenneth Tang, President – yes
Dr. Marcia R. Wilson, Vice President– yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion of Mrs. Russell-Chavez, seconded by Mr. Gin and carried, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 24, 2021 were approved.

Roll Call Votes:

Mr. Robert L. Gin, Member – yes
Mrs. Kaysa Moreno, Clerk – yes
Mrs. Joanne Russell-Chavez, Member – yes
Mr. Kenneth Tang, President – yes
Dr. Marcia R. Wilson, Vice President– yes

COMMUNICATIONS

Recognition of the Gateway to Success Mental Health Matters Poster Art Contest Winners

The Board recognized and honored the Student Support Services program Gateway To Success, “Mental Health Matter” poster contest winners. Mrs. Mahony, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services introduced Mr. Jim Schofield, Director of Student Support Services and Mrs. Ni’Kysha Johnson, Counselor of Gateway To Success who organized the poster art contest. There were 188 submissions of which 15 have been selected as Honorees in the Winner Circle. Mrs. Johnson presented a video explaining the contest and showed the awardees posters and names: Chloe Cao, 8th Grade at Baldwin Elementary School; Tiffany Chong, 8th Grade at Baldwin Elementary School; Juliet Consentino, 8th Grade at Baldwin Elementary School; Ella Fong, 8th Grade at Baldwin Elementary School; Yuxin Lai, 6th Grade at Baldwin Elementary School, Xiwei (Alice) Zhang, 6th Grade at Baldwin Elementary School, Fiona Han, 8th Grade at Baldwin Elementary School, Diego Rivera, 8th Grade at Baldwin Elementary School, Charlie Michael Van, 8th Grade at Baldwin Elementary School, Ailani Murguia, 8th Grade at Marguerita Elementary School,

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Evangeline Robledo, 8th Grade at Marguerita Elementary School, Yingyu (Vicki)Tan, 8th Grade at Marguerita Elementary School, Samantha Tjong, 8th Grade at Monterey Highlands, Carina Marie Tan, 11th Grade at Mark Keppel High School, Kelly Wu, 10th Grade at Mark Keppel High School. The Board of Education recognized and honored the students with a certificate of appreciation and acknowledged the difference each of them have made.

Recognition of Terry Skotnes, Executive Director for Alhambra Teachers Association

The Board recognized and honored Terry Skotnes, Executive Director for Alhambra Teachers Association for his dedication of 15 years working and supporting Alhambra Unified School District Teachers and certificated staff. Mrs. Jaramillo honored Mr. Skotnes and indicated that he has left his handprint on AUSD and certificated staff. The Board of Education recognized and honored Terry Skotnes with a certificate of appreciation and acknowledged his dedication and well wishes into retirement.

Recognition of the Alhambra Unified School District Employees of the Year Manager: Lindsey K. Ma, Director of Student Support Services, Classified: Roxanne Venegas, Cafeteria Manager at San Gabriel High School, and Teacher: Virginia Parra-Vasquez, English Teacher at San Gabriel High School

Mrs. Jaramillo, Superintendent stated she was proud to announce and introduce the Alhambra Unified School District Employees of the Year. The manager of the year is Lindsey K. Ma, Director of Student Support Services. The classified employee of the year is Roxanne Venegas, Cafeteria Manager at San Gabriel High School. The certificated employee of the year is Virginia Parra-Vasquez, English Teacher at San Gabriel High School and it was recently announced that she also is the Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year. The District showed a video to highlight each employee of the year. Each awardee said a few words and stated that they were honored to receive the recognition. The awardees were presented with a certificate of recognition and a personalized engraved golden bell.

LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

Alhambra Management Association

Mrs. Michele Yamarone, President for Alhambra Management Association, reported on AMA. Mrs. Yamarone stated that AMA is starting the year off with much dedication and the first meeting will be at the end of October. She shared there has been some concern regarding stress management and we will be addressing these concerns at the meeting along with our membership drive for student scholarships. Mrs. Yamarone also stated ACSA will be hosting their Annual Everyone Succeeds Awards and to start looking for students to nominate for this recognition. Mrs. Yamarone concluded by wishing Mr. Skotnes the best in his retirement and thanked him for his service.

Alhambra Teachers Association

Mrs. Tammy Scorcia, President for ATA, reported on ATA. Mrs. Scorcia stated that ATA is grateful for Terry and saying goodbye is difficult but wishes him the best in his retirement. Mrs. Scorcia stated that ATA was in the process of hiring his replacement. Mrs. Scorcia announced that a NEA grant was received for the ULTA Dream Center, to their surprise they received \$75,000 when expecting \$25,000 due to what they have
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accomplished to create safe places for students. With this grant they plan to expand to San Gabriel High School and Mark Keppel High School. Mrs. Scorcia concluded by providing an update on the food pantry, school supplies drive, and collecting monetary donations for the MDD students garden.

California School Employee Association

Mr. Craig Proffitt, President for CSEA Chapter 295, reported on CSEA. Mr. Proffitt stated that on behalf of CSEA they wanted to congratulate Terry Skotnes on his retirement. Mr. Proffitt stated he wanted to address the life-time benefits and the medical bridge program and requested this benefit for the members. Mr. Proffitt also requested the Board to consider more full-time positions with benefits with a competitive salary. He stated some of the lowest paying positions are imperative to the District and don't want to lose these employees. Mr. Proffitt concluded by asking the Board to be creative with a plan that is fair and affordable for all members.

STAFF REPORTS

Overview of the Proposed Safe Alternatives for Teens and Youth – Acute (SAFETY-A) Program

Mrs. Mahony, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services introduced Dr. Anna Lau, UCLA Department of Psychology and Dr. Laurel Bear who presented the Safe Alternatives for Teens and Youth – Acute (SAFETY-A). They stated the that program's purpose is to promote equity in suicide prevention outcomes in schools that and the program provides evidence-based interventions. The presentation covered in great detail the following areas: history of partnership between UCLA and AUSD, school-based suicide risk screening and management, SAFETY-A program and its intended use as well as the benefits for using the program. The sequence of intervention and support was also explained as well as the components of support and training for staff. The presentation concluded by taking additional questions from the Board.

Overview of Proposed New Board Policy 5116.2, Involuntary Student Transfers

Mrs. Mahony, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services and Mr. Schofield, Director of Student Support Services presented an overview of the proposed new Board Policy 5116.2, Involuntary Student Transfer. The presentation covered in great detail the following areas: reasons, limitations, and durations of involuntary transfers. It was further explained that the District did not currently have this policy in place and it will support those students in violation of education code as well as giving students an opportunity for a fresh start. It was also explained that the first read of the proposed board policy is located as an agenda item for approval which has been recommended by the California School Board Association. The presentation concluded by taking additional questions and recommendations from the Board.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS TO ADDRESS BOARD ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Christian Prado, speaking as a private citizen and employee of the District addressed the Board regarding the vaccine mandate. Mr. Prado stated that employees should have the choice to do what they want with their bodies and not be mandated to vaccinate. He does not agree and stated that there should be a free choice of vaccinations and stated his concerns regarding the long term effects of the vaccine.

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Ms. Valerie Tonche, speaking as a private citizen and employee of the District addressed the Board regarding the vaccine mandate. Ms. Tonche said that she has been an employee for 17 years and is not comfortable getting the vaccine due to religious beliefs. She stated that this mandate has been stressful and that she is an employee at a school site and wanted the board to imagine what it would be like if custodians were not present.

Mr. Hector Lopez, speaking as a private citizen and employee of the District addressed the Board regarding the testing and vaccine mandate. He stated that he sent a letter to the Board regarding his stance on testing and vaccinations and wanted to be sure it was received. Mr. Lopez requested the Board too reconsider this mandate and this should be a choice of the employees and that this mandate is effecting everyone.

Ms. Diana Vasquez, speaking as a private citizen and employee of the District addressed the Board regarding the vaccine mandate. She stated she is deeply concerned regarding the conditions of employment and requested the Board to rescind the mandate and requested that religious exemptions be considered as this is affecting numerous employees of the District.

Mr. Johnny Armendariz, speaking as a private citizen and employee of the District addressed the Board regarding the vaccine mandate. He stated he supported his co-workers' choice not to vaccinate and that it should not be a condition of employment. He stated that no vaccine should not coincide with no job and that was unfair and not right.

Ms. Yesenia Lira, speaking as a private citizen and employee of the District addressed the Board regarding the vaccine mandate. She stated that she has been an employee for the past 6 years and has excelled in her position. She stated the mandate requirement is unacceptable and employees are fearful of losing their jobs. She requested that religious exemptions be considered for employees and quoted a bible verse.

Mr. Juan Barrientos, speaking as a private citizen and employee of the District addressed the Board regarding the vaccine mandate. He stated an employee, out of fear of losing their job, received the vaccine three weeks ago and is currently suffering with serious side effects. He stated the vaccine is not 100% effective and since he has already caught COVID, the anti-bodies to protect himself should be sufficient. He asked the Board to reconsider the mandate.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS TO ADDRESS BOARD ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA – There are no requests.

Board Action

Business Services

On the motion of Mr. Gin, seconded by Dr. Wilson and carried, the Board approved Items B-1 through B-8 as recorded below:

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- B-1 Accepted Gifts from Various Donors to the Alhambra Unified School District.
- B-2 Approved Contracts/Agreements/Amendments/Memberships.
- B-3 Approved Disposal of Surplus E-Waste.
- B-4 Approved to Extend Trans Disposal and Recycling Services Contract pursuant to Public Resources Code 40059(a)(2).
- B-5 Approved Payment of Warrants & Purchase Orders September 1-15, 2021.
- B-6 Approved to Utilize Another Agency's Bid for Janitorial Supplies and Equipment.
- B-7 Approved to Utilize Another Agency's Bid for Playground Equipment, Safety Surfacing, Outdoor Site Furnishings, DSA Shade Shelters, and Athletic Equipment.
- B-8 Awarded Bid #1216-21/22 for Park Elementary – early Education Center Tenant Improvement Project.

Roll Call Votes:

- Mr. Robert L. Gin, Member – yes
- Mrs. Kaysa Moreno, Clerk – yes
- Mrs. Joanne Russell-Chavez, Member – yes
- Mr. Kenneth Tang, President – yes
- Dr. Marcia R. Wilson, Vice President – yes

Facilities and Construction

On the motion of Mrs. Russell-Chavez, seconded by Mr. Gin and carried, the Board approved Items FC-1 through FC-3 as recorded below:

- FC-1 Approved Change Order #1 for the SoCalRen-Energy Efficiency Measures, heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning (HVAC) Equipment & Controls at (6) Sites Project.
- FC-2 Approved Resolution of Acceptance and Notice of Completion for Park Elementary School – Early Education Center Infrastructure Project, PO #2200000559.
- FC-3 Approved Resolution of Acceptance and Notice of Completion for Park Elementary School – Early Education Center Painting Project, PO #2200000544.

Roll Call Votes:

- Mr. Robert L. Gin, Member – yes
- Mrs. Kaysa Moreno, Clerk – yes
- Mrs. Joanne Russell-Chavez, Member – yes
- Mr. Kenneth Tang, President – yes
- Dr. Marcia R. Wilson, Vice President – yes

Human Resources

On the motion of Dr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Gin and carried, the Board approved Items HR-1 through HR-7 as recorded below:

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- HR-1 Approved Human Resources Transaction Report.
- HR-2 Approved Human Resources Conference Attendance Report.
- HR-3 Approved Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Alhambra Unified School District and the Alhambra Teachers Association (ATA) Regarding the Updated Return to Traditional Instruction 2021-2022.
- HR-4 Approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Alhambra Unified School District and the California School Employees Association (CSEA) Regarding the Updated Return to Traditional Instruction 2021-2022.
- HR-5 Approved the Job Description for the Position of Instructional Coach.
- HR-6 Approved the Job Description for the Position of Special Education Principal.
- HR-7 Approved the Revised Certification Substitute Teacher Rate for 2021-2022.

Roll Call Votes:

- Mr. Robert L. Gin, Member – yes
- Mrs. Kaysa Moreno, Clerk – abstain
- Mrs. Joanne Russell-Chavez, Member – yes
- Mr. Kenneth Tang, President – yes
- Dr. Marcia R. Wilson, Vice President– yes

Student Support Services – *moved up on the agenda*

On the motion of Mr. Gin, seconded by Dr. Wilson and carried, the Board approved Item SSS-1 as recorded below.

- SSS-1 Approved Expulsion: 2021-2022 Case No. 002.

Roll Call Votes:

- Mr. Robert L. Gin, Member – yes
- Mrs. Kaysa Moreno, Clerk – abstain
- Mrs. Joanne Russell-Chavez, Member – yes
- Mr. Kenneth Tang, President – yes
- Dr. Marcia R. Wilson, Vice President– yes

Educational Services

On the motion of Mrs. Russell-Chavez, seconded by Mr. Gin and carried, the Board approved Item ES-1 as recorded below.

- ES-1 Approved Field Trip Report as of this Date.

Roll Call Votes:

- Mr. Robert L. Gin, Member – yes
- Mrs. Kaysa Moreno, Clerk – yes
- Mrs. Joanne Russell-Chavez, Member – yes
- Mr. Kenneth Tang, President – yes
- Dr. Marcia R. Wilson, Vice President – yes

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W. San Gabriel Valley Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)

On the motion of Mr. Gin, seconded by Dr. Wilson and carried, the Board approved Items SE-1 through SE-2 as recorded below:

SE-1 Approved Contracts/Agreements/Memberships for WSGV SELPA.

SE-2 Approved Human Resources Conference Attendance Report for WSGV SELPA.

Roll Call Votes:

Mr. Robert L. Gin, Member – yes

Mrs. Kaysa Moreno, Clerk – yes

Mrs. Joanne Russell-Chavez, Member – yes

Mr. Kenneth Tang, President – yes

Dr. Marcia R. Wilson, Vice President – yes

Superintendent

On the motion of Mrs. Russell-Chavez, seconded by Mr. Gin and carried, the Board approved Items S-1 through S-3 as recorded below:

S-1 Acknowledged Condolences.

S-2 Approved 2021-2022 Booster Organization.

S-3 Approved First Read and Review of Board Policy 5116.2 Involuntary Transfers.

Roll Call Votes:

Mr. Robert L. Gin, Member – yes

Mrs. Kaysa Moreno, Clerk – yes

Mrs. Joanne Russell-Chavez, Member – yes

Mr. Kenneth Tang, President – yes

Dr. Marcia R. Wilson, Vice President – yes

Board of Education

On the motion of Mr. Gin, seconded by Mrs. Moreno and carried, the Board approved Item BE-1 as recorded below:

Prior to Board approval of Item BE-1, Mrs. Russell-Chavez, requested the item be pulled for discussion. Mrs. Russell-Chavez stated that the resolution weighs heavy on her and that she also believes in the health and safety of the employees and students. Mrs. Russell-Chavez suggested to pull the resolution and follow the mandate from Governor Newsom.

BE-1 Approved Second Read and Final Approval of Resolution No. 21-22-02 to Mandate COVID-19 Vaccinations for Alhambra Unified School District Employees.

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Roll Call Votes:

Mr. Robert L. Gin, Member – yes
Mrs. Kaysa Moreno, Clerk – yes
Mrs. Joanne Russell-Chavez, Member – no
Mr. Kenneth Tang, President – yes
Dr. Marcia R. Wilson, Vice President – yes

Board of Education Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations

Mrs. Moreno requested an update on ethnic studies and an update on middle school programs.

Mr. Gin stated that the Equity Task Force Committee would like to provide an update next month.

Mrs. Russell-Chavez thanked Mrs. Stone, Principal at San Gabriel High School, for her hospitality to host the SGHS Alumni of 1980 with a tour of SGHS.

Mr. Tang stated the he looks forward to hearing the updates on the *Community, Transparency and Engagement* and *Equity, Inclusion and Diversity* Community Task Forces.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION: At 8:53 p.m. the Board recessed to Closed Session to discuss items listed on the Closed Session Agenda via teleconference secure line.

At 9:30 p.m., the Board reconvened in Public Session and Mr. Tang reported that no action was taken.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 in the Board Room at 1515 W. Mission Road, Alhambra 91803 and virtually with details and link to be posted on the District website. Being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned 9:32 p.m.

Secretary

Clerk