

**VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017**  
**CITY OF VISTA**  
**MORRIS VANCE COMMUNITY ROOM**  
**200 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE**  
**VISTA, CA 92084**

**Board Members Present**

Rich Alderson, President  
Carol Weise Herrera, Vice President  
Jim Gibson, Clerk  
Rosemary Smithfield, Member  
Cipriano Vargas, Member

**Staff Members Present**

Dr. Matt Doyle, Interim Superintendent  
Elaine Alexandres, Assistant Superintendent, Human Relations  
Donna Caperton, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services  
Sherry Opacic, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Excellence  
Michelle Bell, Recording Secretary

**Item 1. Closed Session 5:00 P.M.**

A. CALL TO ORDER IN OPEN SESSION

B. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE (Government Code 54957)

C. LABOR NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE (GOVERNMENT CODE 54957.6 LABOR NEGOTIATOR(S):  
ELAINE ALEXANDRES

**Item 2. Open Session/Regular Meeting** Call to Order-Roll at 6:08PM by President Alderson. Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item 3. Public Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session** No action taken.

**Item 4. Approval of Agenda** Member Vargas moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Member Herrera. All in favor. YES (Alderson, Herrera, Gibson, Smithfield and Vargas) unanimously approved.

**Item 5. Presentation by Community Members**

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA / ITEMS FOR FUTURE – Pamela Swauger, teacher, expressed concerns about lack of response to her from Board Members regarding ARC materials email that she sent. Beth Duncan and Kelly McKinney spoke about Vista's BIG Give for the Make a Wish Foundation.

**Item 6. Public Hearing**

A. DECLARING SUFFICIENT TEXTBOOKS OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR EACH PUPIL  
Presented by Dr. Sherry Opacic. All six of the school sites evaluated by the SDCOE were compliant. Member Gibson asked about digital materials as well. How far along are we? Dr. Opacic said that the state law requires printed materials but we can advocate for more digital. Supplemental materials can be digital. Member Alderson agreed with Member Gibson.

**Item 7. District Announcements**

A. DR. DOYLE DISTRICT COMMENTS

We are now almost 5 weeks into the school year - 21 school days. Administration is working with five elementary schools to make the final adjustments to staffing so that all schools remain within the staffing projections. We started the school year with a focus on social emotional supports - with particular

attention on providing student, parent and staff workshops anti bullying, cyber safety and character education. Six schools have already had or will have within the month, Jon Moffat workshops, a nationally recognized expert in cyber education. Our schools have had Anthony Ceja visit to provide Restorative Practice workshops for staff. Eight schools have had Rachel's Challenge bullying prevention workshops already. Ten schools have already started PassAmericore Interns on campus focused on character education. Five schools have already started Project Aware, a secondary character education program. Rafael Olavide and Grapevine Elementary staff will officially kick off their year-long planning process for designing a dual language program. They are working closely with Olympia Kyriakidis from the San Diego County Office of Education. Tomorrow, September 15<sup>th</sup>, they have their first planning meeting. They have also scheduled the first red carpet tour of Dual Language exemplar schools for November 14, 2017 to Salt Creek Elementary school is Chula Vista. Board Members are invited. Donna and her team have already made progress on addressing the transportation challenges. Bill Weisberg has already set the Transportation Committee Meeting. Bill has also contacted the parents who indicated they wanted to be part of the process. Donna is finalizing the list of student who may have been displaced from VIDA and VMMS. We will then be developing a plan to address their needs. This may be a combination of access to the schools or a shuttle to RMMS or RMS. I had a chance to visit the RBV Math program. One challenge we have discovered during the school year start up is establishing sufficient support for the special education programs. To address these challenges, we have already met with principals to adjust program supports, with particular attention to creating a general education behavior support team. Finally, Vista Unified continues to be a nationally recognized district. The Next Generation Learning Challenges national organization has requested that Vista Unified Host the Annual Learning Journey for over 60 educators from across the nation on October 10, 2017.

**B. SUPERINTENDENT RECOGNITION – COLLABORATION – VISTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.**  
Sherry Opacic presented. Bret Schanzenbach accepted on behalf of the Vista Chamber of Commerce.

**Item 8. Reports from School Related Organizations**

A. Vista Teachers Association (VTA). Tod Critchlow spoke. Class Size - VUSD/VTA have some of the most powerful kid centered contract language in all of California. It has been a source of pride for VTA for years. It has often been a bone of contention among our teams in years past. The adults in the room throw around concepts like kids first and let's do what's best for kids. VTA has striven to do this every time we come to the bargaining table. VTA, and by VTA all our members have consistently told us that keeping our class sizes low is something we believe in strongly. In our new models of education as we discuss personalized learning and restorative practices it is assumed that students need to have caring responsible adults that they can relate to. Every child should have contact with adults that know them. Getting to know our students is how we can best help prepare them for adulthood. I know that's simplistic, but I don't think that anyone will argue that to be an effective teacher requires a relationship, a connection, with students that allows for the trust and respect that we espouse. How do we expect our teachers to make those connections with huge numbers of students. Several years ago VTA agreed to increased student numbers. There was one year, as an 8th grade science teacher, I had over 220 students. There were kids that year that I was never able to connect to. There were just too many. Our current contract language says that middle school teachers can have 190 students and high school teachers can have 165. That's a lot of students to be responsible for. That's a lot of students to make connections with. And this is one area that VUSD is definitely the model of education in. Without going into details I am here to stress the importance of keeping the numbers of students that teachers are responsible for at this model level. I ask you the board to consider if you really want classes as large as some of our neighboring districts have. Our practice in VUSD has been to honor this agreement. Our practice in VUSD is to see the importance of smaller class sizes. I should have worn my old yellow and black shirt.

B. California School Employees Association (CSEA) – No Report.

C. District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) - No Report. First meeting of school year will be held on September 25, 2017.

**Item 9. Staff Committee Reports to the Board**

A. GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP – Facilitated by Peter Fagen.

7:29pm Break – Jim Gibson left the meeting ill.

VTA President, Tod Critchlow, would like to urge the Board to include teachers in the discussion. Special Education is a challenge.

B. STAFF REPORT: SPECIAL EDUCATION. Introduced by Sherry Opacic. Presented by Leslie Taylor and Jana Hegg. Special Education Strategic Plan 2013, Successes, Current Challenges, Continuous Improvement Plan Actions. Member Herrera asked how many students at lower grade levels come to us with deficits? Should we be looking at the students when they are younger at three years old? If we did, would we have fewer children in this program? Ms. Hegg said that it could be tied into the P-3 Continuum. Member Alderson asked if we are assessing many students who are not qualified. We have cognitive assessments in place but it will not be the sole assessment. Are general education teachers experiencing problems in the classroom with such a high number of special education students spending 80% of their day in general education classes. We do not want to do it at the expense of the other students and teachers. Member Alderson suggested that we set benchmarks on the IEP goals so that we have another measure for their progress. Member Smithfield suggested that we would be better off if we identified special education issues with students at a younger age. Interventions and instruction. Autism students do not need the academic but they do need social for interaction with other students. Ms. Hegg said that we have state laws that define what qualifies as special education. Member Herrera said that we need an evidence based program for these students. We need targeted intervention. We must see achievement. Member Smithfield commented that the instructional aides are so valuable. She also thanked them for meeting with principals. Member Herrera thanked the special education team for their hard work. Matt Doyle thanked the special education team. He said that they are meeting with all elementary principals to address concerns. Focus on bringing on a general education support team to assist in the transition to support teachers. The strategic plan will take the entire year to update.

Tod Critchlow, VTA President, mentioned some of the data scores. He would like to see more information broken out.

C. STAFF REPORT: GOAL 7 - MISSION AND VALUES Presented by Matt Doyle. Goal Seven: Our Values, In Focus: Students, In Focus: Parents, In Focus: Teachers, In Focus: School Classified, In Focus: Leaders/Managers, Next Steps. Member Herrera commented about the safety results and wonders if the students feel safe anywhere right now. Member Herrera mentioned a report she read recently that the number one cause of death for high school students is suicide. We need to do whatever we can to help these students. What kind of programs are we putting in place starting at the elementary level? Matt Doyle mentioned that we are working with John Moffet to do workshops with students, teachers and parents. Cyber bullying is our largest focus right now.

Gail Cantrell, teacher, mentioned professional development and curriculum concerns.

D. STAFF REPORT: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN Presented by Sherry Opacic, Sharmila Kraft, Matthew Steitz, Linda Guerrero, Mayra Helguera, Kyle Ruggles. Elementary Curriculum, Secondary Curriculum, English Language Development, Special Education, Student Support Services. Member Smithfield asked why we are only training Math teachers 3-5? Dr. Kraft said due to lack of substitutes, We are offering after-hour integrated trainings. We have not had much success with after school training. Training is planned for the summer. Member Smithfield said that we are creating a gap for the younger grades. Who will be doing language arts training? Member Alderson asked if this is a better assessment. Member Alderson asked if we are getting grant money for IB professional development. Dr. Steitz said

no. Member Alderson asked how we do professional development for IB. Dr. Steitz said that we have money in the blueprint for it. Member Herrera asked if we have stabilized numbers in the AP and IB classes. Member Vargas asked what we are doing for students who are struggling. Ms. Guerrero stated that we have a team who reviews all of the monitoring forms on a site level to see what students are on track and which ones are not. Member Vargas asked for a list of the resources that we provide.

Break 9:47pm-9:52pm.

E. STAFF REPORT: BLUEPRINT UPDATE - STRATEGY 1 Presented by Erik Korporaal and Jacqueline Bispo. Strategy 1: Family and Community as Partners in Education – Communications Strategy, Expanded Communications Modes, Communication Matrix and Family Engagement. Member Vargas thanked the community liaison team. He suggested partnering with more community organizations. Appreciates and encourages the events they put on. Member Alderson commented that we are down in enrollment. The Board sent out a message last year about supporting the community. Do they have a sense that students have left the community or stay home due to the situation? Ms. Bispo commented that some parents have said that they were returning to Mexico before changes occurred. Some parents ask what the district is going to do. Ms. Bispo said that they are fearful so some have left. Member Vargas asked what policies that we have in place to protect families in the event ICE shows up at schools. Dr. Doyle said that we do have a protocol and we will share it with you. Member Alderson commented that homeland security will not come to hospitals, churches and schools. Dr. Doyle said that we have no record of any agencies coming on our campuses.

**Item 10. Consent Calendar** - Member Herrera moved to approve, seconded by Member Vargas. All in favor. YES (Alderson, Herrera, Smithfield and Vargas) ABSENT (Gibson)

A. APPROVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES: AUGUST 30, 2017

**Item 11. Human Relations**

A. APPROVE THE HUMAN RELATIONS CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL REGISTER

B. CLASSIFIED BOARD REGISTER

**Item 12. Student Support Services**

**Item 13. Special Education**

**Item 14. Curriculum & Instruction**

A. APPROVE THE FIELD TRIP OVERNIGHT REGISTER

B. APPROVE THE OUT OF DISTRICT TRAVEL REGISTER

**Item 15. Business Services (Fiscal Services, Accounting, Child Nutrition Services, Purchasing and Facilities)**

A. RATIFY AND APPROVE PURCHASE ORDERS

B. RATIFICATION AND APPROVAL OF WARRANT NOS. 14291143 THROUGH 14301628

C. ACCEPT WORK AND FILING OF NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR BID #PW17180043R, REMOVE AND INSTALL RAIN GUTTERS AT RANCHO BUENA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL

D. ACCEPT WORK AND FILING OF NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR BID #PW17180039, CONCRETE AND ASPHALT AT MULTIPLE SITES

E. ACCEPT WORK AND FILING OF NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR BID #PW17180053, ROOFING AT TWO SCHOOL SITES

F. APPROVE RESOLUTION 18-10 REGARDING APPROPRIATIONS SUBJECT TO THE "GANN LIMIT" IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY LAW

G. APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU #V17180429C) BETWEEN THE DISTRICT AND SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION ON PEOPLESOFT IMPLEMENTATION

H. RATIFY AND APPROVE GRANTS RECEIVED FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 21, 2017, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

I. BOARD APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS TO VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT TOTALING \$35,897.90

J. RATIFY AND APPROVE CONTRACTS

**Item 16. Board Business** None.

**Item 17. Discussion/Action Items**

A. APPROVE RESOLUTION #18-09 OF THE VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT DECLARING SUFFICIENT TEXTBOOKS OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR EACH PUPIL. Member Herrera moved to approve, seconded by Member Smithfield. All in favor. YES (Alderson, Herrera, Smithfield and Vargas) ABSENT (Gibson)

B. APPROVE THE 2016-17 REPORT ON THE UNAUDITED ACTUALS AND ENDING FUND BALANCE AS PRESENTED. Member Vargas moved to approve, seconded by Member Herrera. All in favor. YES (Alderson, Herrera, Smithfield and Vargas) ABSENT (Gibson)

**Item 18. Continuation Item 5.A. Presentation By Community Members/Public Comments** None.

**Item 19. Board Business/Discussion**

A. Request for Future Board Agenda Items or Other Business

B. Board Members Reports or Comments – Move the Board Meeting times for future meetings to 5:00pm (Closed Session), 6:00pm (Open Session).

C. Board Members Reflection on Board meeting

D. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING - OCTOBER 19, 2017

Meeting Adjourned at 10:32PM.



Secretary of the Board of Trustees



Clerk of the Board of Trustees