

**FAIRFIELD-SUISUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA
GOVERNING BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
July 9, 2013**

SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Governing Board of the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District was held in Conference Room #108, at the District Administrative Center, 2490 Hilborn Road, Fairfield, California, on Tuesday, July 9, 2013.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Board President Polk.

ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance: Dave Gaut, Judi Honeychurch, Kathleen Marianno, Perry W. Polk, Pat Shamansky, John Silva, David C. Isom, Kristin Hsu, and Kris Corey, Superintendent.

Member Absent: John Silva

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE
FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA**

Mr. Polk led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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Motion was made by Mrs. Marianno, seconded by Mr. Isom and carried with John Silva absent, to approve adoption of the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON STUDY
SESSION AGENDA ITEMS**

Joan Gaut, retired music instructor, stated that as part of the state standards in music and performing arts, she would like to see music instruction placed back in the classrooms. Mrs. Gaut stated that the District should keep faith with the students and the community. She added that as it is stated under the District's Goal IV, we should maintain positive communications with parents. According to Mrs. Gaut, with the use of the Common Core Standards, music can help to redevelop the creativity in students that have not had access to music or performing arts in recent years.

Jack Batson, retired teacher, stated that some students are going to be going to college but many of them are not academic. He stated that students should be going to different schools and taking classes in post secondary schools. Mr. Batson has projects that enable him to work with kids who want to attend a post secondary school. He stated that we need more vocational education for the District's students.

**BOARD GOALS AND
ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS OF
FOCUS (MAJOR ACTIVITIES)**

Kris Corey, Superintendent, reported that she met with cabinet members and they reviewed the goals. Some suggestions were made that the Board may want to consider regarding the implementation of the Common Core Standards. She stated that Common Core Standards are coming quickly. According to Superintendent Corey, professional development has been done over the past few years in this area.

**BOARD GOALS AND
ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS OF
FOCUS (MAJOR ACTIVITIES)**
(continued)

She stated that the Local Educational Agency (LEA) Plan was going to be revised, and with Local Control Funding Formula, the District's LEA Plan may look different.

Superintendent Corey reviewed the proposed Board Goals and major activities for the 2013-2014 school year as follows:

Goal I

Implementation, support, and monitoring of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

1. Revise the Local Educational Agency Plan for Program Improvement to incorporate the Common Core Standards
2. Focus on accountability measures that support the Common Core State Standards and writing across the curriculum (Smarter Balanced Assessments, college and career readiness measures)
3. Continue to monitor and provide support in the implementation of the Program Improvement model at all schools
4. Continue to guide, monitor, and support schools towards a minimum ranking of "5" on the Similar Schools Rank. (note: this scale compares our schools with the 100 most similar schools in California in terms of demographics)
5. Continue to guide, monitor, and support our high school reform
6. Continue to expand the alternatives for students, creating options for Fairfield High School and Rodriguez High School
7. Decrease the achievement gap at each of schools.
8. Increase the use of effective instructional strategies as defined by Teach 4 Success
9. Enhance International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, Gifted and Talented Education, Advancement Via Individual Determination, and Science/Technology/Engineering/Math programs
10. Expand the Public Safety Academy
11. Refine grades 7/8/9/10 Bridge to Success program, Matt Garcia Learning Center, and Sem Yeto (satellite and main campus)
12. Identify areas for expansion of Career Technical Education pathways within the District's course of study. Align our Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways with the State Board of Education adopted model CTE standards
13. Continue to make significant improvement in performance rates, graduation rates, drop-out rates, and attendance rates
14. Continue to provide quality professional development

Ms. Shamansky proposed that the Board goals are District goals. She stated that the Board and District are working together to approve District goals. According to Ms. Shamansky, this list is what the Board is agreeing upon together.

**BOARD GOALS AND
ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS OF
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(continued)

She added that the Similar Schools Ranking may only be good for another year. She asked the Board members why are they not listing to watch AYP and API. Ms. Shamansky is interested in keeping these assessments.

Superintendent Corey stated if the District is going to implement Common Core, that is not aligned to the California Standard Tests (CST).

She stated there may be a drop in the CST scores and added there will no longer be bubble-in tests, but more writing in these tests. According to Superintendent Corey, we should focus more on using a format aligned to the Smarter Balanced Assessments.

Mrs. Honeychurch stated that if we leave out AYP and API, teachers can concentrate more on Common Core.

Ms. Shamansky stated that Superintendent Corey will be evaluated on how well students are succeeding. She stated that she has concerns on the positive direction of a particular site and that she would like to look at a different type of curriculum for a particular site; a K-8 site. She asked how we can make that site successful.

Superintendent Corey agreed and stated that all of our K-8 schools will need additional support.

President Polk stated that we should have broader goals for these sites.

Superintendent Corey stated that a new bullet should be added stating that we need to provide additional support for sites undergoing grade level configuration changes.

Mrs. Honeychurch stated that Suisun Valley has a new focus: agriculture.

Superintendent Corey stated that the Dual Immersion program and other specialty programs, like Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), should be added to the specialty programs.

Mrs. Honeychurch asked if writing rubrics would be used at elementary schools.

Per Superintendent Corey, we have piloted the My Access program. She added that we are looking at writing at all grade levels.

Ms. Hsu, Student Board Member, asked if rubrics are a similar writing style or is it something more specific.

Superintendent Corey stated that it depends on the genre.

**BOARD GOALS AND
ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS OF
FOCUS (MAJOR ACTIVITIES)**
(continued)

Mrs. Marianno stated that the goals should say we are going to enhance *all* programs.

Mr. Isom stated that the goal is written the same way it was written last year. He asked why there is a problem now regarding the way the goal is written. He stated that the word used previously in the goals was *enhance* versus the word *maintaining*. Mr. Isom expressed concern that we are leaving out students that are not in the *special programs*.

Superintendent Corey stated that last year when administrators looked at the budget, they wanted to make sure that they maintained these special programs, as well as enhance and improve them.

Ms. Shamansky stated that we have flexed monies from these special programs.

Superintendent Corey stated that as an example, the District wants to enhance and grow the AVID program. For the programs that are listed in the goals, we want to have an articulated path. She suggested that maybe the word should be *strengthening* these programs.

Ms. Hsu agreed. She stated that she understood it is about all FSUSD students, not a select few.

Superintendent Corey stated that maybe we should not list the programs and change the word to *enhance* all programs.

Mrs. Honeychurch stated that we expanded the programs to support and enhance all students' educational needs.

Superintendent Corey stated that we support specialty programs to meet all students' special needs; AVID, IB, engineering, math programs, and Dual Immersion.

Ms. Shamansky explained to Ms. Hsu about FSUSD special programs and stated that students are succeeding because of these special programs. She stated this was done in order that all of our students have the opportunity to succeed.

Mr. Polk asked if whether or not the overarching goal should focus on the Common Core State Standards or the LEA plan.

Ms. Shamansky stated that the new plan is going to look similar to our old LEA plan, which should focus on Common Core.

Mr. Polk stated that he is happy to have it the way it is stated.

Ms. Shamansky suggested that we see the final version of the goals. She recommended that no action be taken tonight on the goals because the public was not there to review the goals. She does not feel this is wise.

**BOARD GOALS AND
ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS OF
FOCUS (MAJOR ACTIVITIES)**
(continued)

Superintendent Corey stated that the discussion on the District's goals should happen in January each year. She stated that the discussions should take place earlier in the year.

Goal II

Maintain a safe environment for students and staff

1. Continue to collaborate with the police departments of Fairfield and Suisun around student safety and development of the Interagency Youth Center
2. Monitor and refine School Attendance Review Board and suspension and expulsion processes, including working with law enforcement, community agencies, and the District Attorney's office to decrease suspension and expulsion rates
3. Continue to focus on replenishing the deferred maintenance dollars to address critical needs and maintain physical plant integrity
4. Expand Crisis Intervention Training
5. Continue to develop Response to Intervention (RtI) systems for behavior, including proven, successful programs for prevention and interventions

Superintendent Corey stated that the wording should be changed in goal I and would like the Board to endorse this goal. She would also like to provide professional development under Goals I, II, and III

Ms. Shamansky stated that the District should strengthen counseling services to students. She would like to explore the option of using safety patrol at our school sites. Mrs. Shamansky asked who was responsible for maintaining site disaster plans.

Superintendent Corey stated that we are collaborating with the Cities of Fairfield and Suisun regarding this issue. She stated that the District should continue to develop and maintain Response to Intervention Systems (RtI).

Goal III

Maintain fiscal solvency, liquidity, and effective use of District resources

1. Increase knowledge of Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and set District spending priorities
2. Continue to develop strong working relationships with all employee associations
3. Continue to leverage Federal categorical dollars in the best interest of the students
4. Continue to improve current attendance rates at our schools
5. Continue to seek and secure grant opportunities
6. Utilize technology to become more cost effective, efficient, and environmentally friendly

**BOARD GOALS AND
ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS OF
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(continued)

Goal IV

Maintain positive District and community relations

1. Continue to hold Superintendent Open Forums with staff at each school site and location within our District to engage in open, honest dialogue and information sharing
2. Continue to work with law enforcement and fire departments on Public Safety Academy
3. Continue to emphasize the Parent Leader Forum
4. Work with community groups, businesses, and other governmental entities to create partnerships
5. Utilize social and electronic media (Facebook, Twitter, website) to improve communication and positive marketing of FSUSD
6. Support the development and operation of the Interagency Youth Services Center

Superintendent Corey stated that we should continue to work with law enforcement. She would like to add an item to goal V, stating that the District will utilize social and electronic media.

Mr. Isom stated that he supports the development of the Sullivan site. He asked how the Board could recommend various groups to operate there.

Superintendent Corey stated that there is a committee consisting of two people from our District, as well as the Fairfield police chief and Fairfield city manager. She added that Stacy Burke is working on the mission statement and vision of the Interagency Youth Center.

Mr. Polk asked how the District could do better to outreach to the community. He stated that he likes the idea of moving the District's goal setting process earlier in the year.

Superintendent Corey stated that the District should explore ways to get community input. She added that we need to figure out ways to get information from our community, whether it is a website or electronically, surveys, etc. The Governance Subcommittee could work on what questions they want to ask the community.

Goal V

To function as a continually effective Governance Team

1. Continue to provide professional information presentations at Study Sessions for the Board
2. Continue the work of the Governance Subcommittee to update policies, as well as develop strategies to improve the effectiveness of the Governance Team
3. Continue our work as a team committed to excellent stewardship of the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District
4. Continue to maintain a culture of mutual support between the Board and Superintendent

**BOARD GOALS AND
ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS OF
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(continued)

- 5. Continue to operate openly with trust, integrity, and respect for each other
- 6. Seek, advocate, and/or encourage legislation to reduce encumbrances on effective education
- 7. Embrace the perspective of the newly appointed student Governing Board member

Superintendent Corey noted that she added item #7, which speaks of embracing the perspective of the newest Board member.

Ms. Shamansky would like to add an item in regards to professional development for the Board, in order to provide ongoing professional development regarding the use of social media and technology, for purposes of enhancing communication with the public.

Ms. Shamansky does not want the Governance Subcommittee to lose site that they are not just about board policies. She stated that the subcommittee's purpose is also to develop strategies, as well as update policies.

Mr. Polk stated that for the November 2014 Board elections, the Board should make sure that they have candidates who come from various trustee areas.

The Board members discussed trustee areas and how to familiarize the community with what it means and the process if one wants to run for one of the Board positions.

Mr. Gaut believes this information should be brought to the Governance Subcommittee.

Ms. Shamansky stated that there is a process for evaluating the Superintendent, that it is antiquated. She stated that the Board needs to determine criteria for evaluating the Superintendent.

The revised goals will be brought to the Board for action at the August 8, 2013 Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Board President Polk adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Approved: _____
Judi Honeychurch, Clerk

Attest: _____
Perry W. Polk, President

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