

**FAIRFIELD-SUISUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA
GOVERNING BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
September 30, 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, September 30, 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.

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

Mr. Polk called upon Mr. Marianno, past Board member, to lead those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

** Motion was made by Mr. Isom, seconded by Mr. Gaut and carried unanimously, with Student Board member agreeing, to approve adoption of the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON STUDY
SESSION AGENDA ITEMS**

George Gwynn, community member, expressed his concern about the District changing to Common Core.

Murray Bass, community member, expressed his opinion about the District using Common Core.

Alvina Sheely, community member, relayed a message to the Board from a parent regarding their child not receiving a tablet.

STUDY SESSION

Study Session Report on:

- CCSS English Language Arts Activity
- CCSS Video Debriefing
- Culminating CCSS Activity

Kris Corey, Superintendent, stated that the Board Study Session was an appropriate forum to share Common Core with the community. According to Ms. Corey, Common Core State Standards (CCSS) was a state led effort and California volunteered to adopt the Common Core Standards. The Superintendent then introduced Malcolm Butler.

Malcolm Butler, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, began the presentation for the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Mr. Butler stated that the District must make sure its students master standards as the rest of the nation will. The District is responsible to teach them to problem solve and prepare them to compete on a local, national, and international level. He stated that current standards are considered a mile wide and an inch deep. Common Core is considered a mile deep and an inch wide. Mr. Butler then introduced Cara Mendoza.

STUDY SESSION (continued)

Cara Mendoza, Coordinator of PAR/BTSA and Professional Development, asked Board members to complete this sentence: "Tonight's study session will be successful if".....The following are the Board's responses in reference to the sentence posed by Mrs. Mendoza:

1. Better understanding of the new standards
2. The effects on student achievement
3. Be able to answer questions about Common Core
4. Expectations are clearly stated and achieved

5. In depth understanding of Common Core
6. Expectations of the Boards role in implementation
7. Material and resources students will require

Mrs. Mendoza then introduced Diane Ferrucci.

Diane Ferrucci, Coordinator of Elementary Education, presented a three minute video which focused on an introduction to Common Core and what it will mean for students. Mrs. Ferrucci presented information regarding the Anchor Standards, which explain explicitly what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade level. Mrs. Ferruci asked the Board to participate in an activity so that they could gain an understanding of how Common Core is going to be taught. The activity would show them the differences/similarities in the Anchor Standards between elementary, middle, and high school. She explained some of the differences/similarities between these grade levels and how a students' knowledge and skills will increase at each level as the Anchor Standards grow a little more at each of these levels. Each Board member was assigned a specific grade level from which to draw similarities and differences.

After spending several minutes discussing the standards and charts, the Board was debriefed and reported out what they had learned in this activity.

Sheila McCabe, Director of Secondary Education reiterated how at each grade level, (elementary, middle, and high school), the Anchor Standard grows a little more. She stated that Common Core is built around the state standards.

The Common Core Standards will have a "Shift of Emphasis" on the following:

More of:

- Applying content
- Higher order thinking skills
- Use of informational text across all academic areas
- Working collaboratively
- Application and analysis

Less of:

- Only knowing the content
- Questions and tasks that only ask students to understand
- Minimal use of informational text in selective content areas

STUDY SESSION (continued)

- Working isolation
- Skills and memorization

Mrs. Mendoza asked the Board what were two areas/topics in reference to Common Core, that interested them and that they would want to discuss further?

Their responses included:

1. The impact on struggling students and students in advanced placement classes
2. How to best spend our one-time monies
3. How can the Board engage the community about Common Core
4. How will the District manage parallel paths of assessment
5. With regard to professional development, how does Common Core fit into this
6. What resources are required
7. How Common Core will affect history, science, Visual and Performing arts, and P. E.
8. Effect on the achievement gap
9. Strategic deployment of resources for strategic development
10. Shift in pedagogy and what it means to teachers

Mr. Polk asked how we will deal with moving students who are already in the bottom of the achievement gap so that those students can achieve the rigor that the District desires them to.

Ms. Hsu believes that instead of falling further behind with Common Core, students will want to keep up with other students with the new rigor; that they will rise to the occasion.

Mr. Gaut asked how the culture of America will deal with the new Common Core change because the culture has changed and America has done a lot of dummying down.

Mr. Silva stated that the Board should be optimistic and that we will not know the affect Common Core will have on students for many years.

Ms. Shamansky stated that she believes using Common Core will be a better practice of developing the "whole" child.


Mrs. Honeychurch stated that one way the District has begun the process of involving the community in what it does is by giving them the opportunity to voice their opinions and thoughts through surveys.

In Closing, Superintendent Corey stated that the District needs to activate our youth. She stated that during this study session, the Board members used 21st Century learning skills by collaborating and communicating critically, and being creative. She added that Common Core will bring sense to students' learning and make learning relevant as we build relationships with our students. She thanked the Educational Services Team for their presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

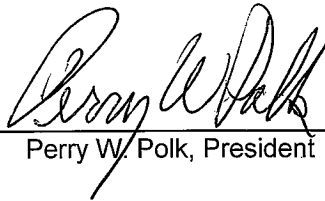
There being no further business, Board President Polk
adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Approved:



Judi Honeychurch, Clerk

Attest:



Perry W. Polk, President

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