

YOLO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting: November 14, 2023
MINUTES

1.0 OPENING PROCEDURES

- 1.1 Call to Order and Roll Call. The Yolo County Board of Education met on November 14, 2023, at 3:31 p.m. at a Regular Board meeting session in person. Board Members present were Armando Salud-Ambriz, Tico Zendejas, Melissa Moreno. President Zendejas presided. Superintendent Garth Lewis was present. (Roll Call held). Elizabeth Esquivel arrived at 3:32 pm Vice President Shelton Yip is absent.
- 1.2 Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement. The land acknowledgement statement was conducted.
- 1.3 Pledge of Allegiance. The pledge of allegiance was conducted.
- 1.4 Approval of Agenda.
Motion to Approve agenda.

MOTION: Salud-Ambriz **SECOND:** Esquivel **AYES:** Salud-Ambriz, Esquivel, Moreno, Zendejas **NOES:** None **ABSENT:** Yip

2.0 RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2.1 YCOE Employee of the Month – November 2023
Cindy Nguyen, Interim Director, Human Resources introduced Principal Jared Coughlan who nominated Tommy Hobbs, Teacher at Dan Jacobs School. Superintendent Lewis thanked Mr. Hobbs for stepping into a leadership gap and all his work with the instructional position to help adults receive their General Education Diploma (GED).
- 2.2 2022 Innovation Grant Presentation – American Sign Language (ASL) Play Kits for Families with Deaf Hard of Hearing (DHH) Infants/Toddlers
Courtney Hipskind, DHH Infant/Itinerant Teacher presented the PowerPoint “Using ASL-Inclusive Play Kits to Encourage Language Acquisition & Whole Child Development.” Trustee Moreno thanked Ms. Hipskind for her work. Ms. Hipskind stated how important this kit is to bring to DHH families. All families could learn sign language in this program. Trustee Esquivel commented that brain development is important and learning dual language/ASL is important for children today.
- 2.3 2022 Innovation Grant Presentation – Junior MAMMXTHS – Social/Emotional Arts Creation and Marketing
Dennis Meeks introduced item and talked about this year’s innovation grant with a video played to trustees. Mr. MAMMXTHS was introduced to the Board and spoke about his past challenges and mental health issues. He always loved to

create art which he started around eight (8) years ago through trial and error. He discussed growing up in an environment struggling and discussed his past of finding fulfillment in life from mentoring and teaching students art and sharing his platform to bring other artists in to teach lessons to the community/students.

Trustee Esquivel thanked Junior MAMMXTHS for testimony, dedication, and commitment to give back to the community and students. She asked how he came up with a name, and clothing brand. He stated that he used to sell shirts with name on it to market cultural influences and urban culture. When changes happened to business, he decided to keep MAMMXTHS as nickname.

Trustee Esquivel asked how much the grant is for. Superintendent Lewis stated that the annual grant proposal increased from \$15,000 to \$30,000. Innovation is a key visionary component. In some cases, the innovation grant turns into core parts of a program. Program has a limit of three (3 years) to keep in place before moving into core portion of program with continuance and sustainability. Moving forward, how can we leverage funds to sustain and support this program at school sites, per Trustee Esquivel? Superintendent Lewis stated that the resource needs to look at SELPA to directly fund through school districts. Trustee Salud-Ambriz commented that this is purposeful work and thanked the staff. Trustee Moreno commented that this is a service to students and civic engagement. Is this program in districts or just the County Office of Education? Superintendent Lewis stated there is a two (2) year program in Lee Middle School and Harper Junior High. Mr. Meeks thanked staff for making connections and facilitating.

2.4 2022 Innovation Grant Presentation – Students vs. Staff Basketball League (Cesar Chavez Community School)

Tomas Montoya, Teacher, Cesar Chavez Community School, presented the PowerPoint “Cesar Chavez Sports Day.” He also introduced Isaiah Jonathan, Student, Mentor/Artist/Designer. Discussed this program for students lacking in PE credits and as a competition with teachers. It was also a celebration of all the programs on campus. Mr. Jonathan discussed the poster and shirts he created, basketball, bleachers, cornhole and how everyone participated. Students collaborated and provided support for school to participate in Physical Education (PE).

Trustee Moreno stated that this grant is an outstanding community team building event. Trustee Esquivel played basketball in school and is excited to see level of engagement in this event. It’s inspiring and wonderful that funds are being used to help students. President Zendejas thanked staff for work.

3.0 Public Comment
None

4.0 REPORTS

4.1 Board Reports

Trustee Esquivel

- Thanked staff for the Yolo County School Boards Association (YCSBA) webinar, “Managing Conflict and Safety in Board Meetings.”
- Attended many Fall festivals in West Sacramento including Elkhorn Elementary.
 - YCOE also represented at many events.
- Commented that the California County Superintendents (CCS)/California County Board of Education (CCBE) are putting forward many workshops/presentations at the California School Boards Association (CSBA) conference on roles of superintendents at the county level. Will discuss how to continue empowering and educating members.

Trustee Salud-Ambriz

- Currently recovering from being sick.
 - Hope everyone is well.
- Finishing master’s degree.
- Excited to attend upcoming symposium.
- Will visit Head Start facilities next month and CSBA conference.

Trustee Moreno

- The California Latino School Boards Association (CLSBA) has a plan to reschedule conference.
 - It will be accessible online to everyone who registered and to colleagues.
- Planning Yolo Empowerment conference in March.
 - Hopes YCOE considers sending students to participate.
- Participated in the American Educational studies conference that discussed ethnic studies as social foundations for education, starting with homeland, Native studies and how we approach ethnic studies. She will be on the presidential panel to discuss this topic.
 - Patina Love will give the keynote.
- She has been invited to support the curriculum development and planning for Miwok Wintun and central California spaces.
- Invited to collaborate with nonprofits and educators in Yolo County who want to support a community concert in Davis, a band that emerged in the nineties with socially conscious music and affirming of diversity on December 17, 2023.

President Zendejas

- Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and to enjoy time with family!

Superintendent

- Attended groundbreaking event in Davis listening to testimonies from community on Yolo Crisis Nursery.

- Maria Arvizu-Espinoza, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services met with Ken Hiatt, City Manager, Woodland on the Childcare Network.
- Attended Greengate harvest festival.
 - Great community event.
- Met with members of student aid commission regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) and student completion rates in Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Attended Breaking Barriers symposium today with Vice President Yip and team from YCOE. We shared our work with Roadmap to the Future with attendees.

Items discussed included:

SAT

Administrative Services

Veronica Moreno, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services gave updates:

- Hired Assistant Director, Corwin Lowe who starts on December 1. She will introduce him at the next Board meeting.
- Currently there are two (2) vacancies in Internal Fiscal Services.
- Auditor completed field work for organization. The report will be finalized in January.
- Trustee Esquivel expressed appreciation for the staff's priority on retention, recruitment, and commitment to leadership.

Educational Services

- Maria Arvizu-Espinoza, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services was not in attendance.
- No comments from Board on written report.

Committees

None

2.2

Associations

None.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda.

MOTION: Salud-Ambriz **SECOND:** Esquivel **AYES:** Salud-Ambriz, Esquivel, Moreno, Zendejas **NOES:** None **ABSENT:** Yip

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

- 6.1 Second Reading of Board Policies (9000 series)
Trustee Moreno asked about the conflict-of-interest policy and a review of changes made. Superintendent Lewis gave her an update on changes.

Motion to approve Board Policies:

BB 9270 - Conflict of Interest
BB 9321 - Closed Session Conduct and Reports
BB 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials
BB 9327 - County Board Minutes and Recordings

MOTION: Salud-Ambriz **SECOND:** Esquivel **AYES:** Salud-Ambriz, Esquivel, Moreno, Zendejas **NOES:** None **ABSENT:** Yip

7.0 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 7.1 Head Start/Early Head Start Reports
Shannon McClarin, Director, Early Childhood Education presented this item.

Updates:

- Installation of Montgomery School play yard work begins December 1.
 - President Zendejas asked how long process will take?
 - Staff stated that they were not sure but happy to have a start date.
 - Staff are currently working with Principal to move the play area.
 - There is a meeting next Friday to work on licensing.
 - Trustee Esquivel thanked Head Start staff for being at Westfield school and out in the community. Nice to see staff always recruiting for enrollment. Staff stated that they are always looking for more students.

- 7.2 Cesar Chavez Community School Attendance Report for November 2023
Principal Jared Coughlan, Alternative Education, presented this item. Trustee Esquivel asked how many students are in Yolo County Career Program (YCCP) and is there a limit? He stated that there are currently twenty-two (22) students. He also reviewed the PowerPoint in the Board packet.

- 7.3 LCAP Quarter 1 Update
Principal Jared Coughlan, Alternative Education, presented the PowerPoint in the Board packet and answered questions from the Board. Trustee Esquivel thanked him for the summary. She asked about goal 4 and the expended funds. Will the program be able to use all the funds? Staff stated that is the goal. Some items discussed also included the after-school program, students working on Ed Genuity,

UC Davis mentoring program for support and the need to have extra support for programs. Trustee Moreno thanked staff for the update and asked about culturally relevant curriculum and training for teachers per AB 101. Staff stated that they are currently working on several options with Heather Schlaman, Coordinator, Language and Literacy. Trustee Moreno also asked if there was a youth advocate hired? Just hired someone who should be onboarded shortly. She also asked about Brown Issues and if they will be used this year. Staff stated that Brown issues is a valuable program for students and that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being finalized for this program and Principal Coughlan summarized why there was a reason for the delay. She also asked about field trips to the cemetery for the Day of the Dead and how wonderful it is that the students can participate.

- 7.4 Program Evaluation & Juvenile Hall Certification that School Program is Compliant with Title 15, Section 1370 (b)
Gayelynn Gerhart, Director, Special Projects presented this item. She summarized the process for filing paperwork. Superintendent Lewis asked which staff participated in this process? Ms. Gerhart stated that the principals and teachers participate along with anyone on site. They also sought input with youth mainly regarding the classrooms. Staff also appreciate partnership with detention, etc.
- 7.5 2023-2024 (Quarter 1) Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints for YCOE Schools
Heather Schlaman, Coordinator, Language and Literacy, presented this item. President Zendejas asked who files Williams' complaints? Ms. Schlaman stated that currently parents file complaints with districts.
- 7.6 2023-2024 (Quarter 1) Williams Quarterly Report Letters
Heather Schlaman, Coordinator, Language and Literacy, presented this item. There are no questions from the Board.
- 7.7 Greengate Structural Project Financing Report
Veronica Moreno, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services presented the PowerPoint "Greengate Structural Project – Overview."

Trustee Armando Salud-Ambriz left at 5:02 pm

Trustee Esquivel asked about replacing the pathways and if they are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. Ms. Moreno stated YCOE is replacing or upgrading with more concrete which will help students with wheelchairs. Trustee Moreno appreciates the changes to ADA standards. She also asked if the materials being used are sustainable and/or environmentally friendly. Ms. Moreno will check with staff in our Support Operations Services (SOS) department on these questions. She did state that the materials being used are standard in school construction work being done for structural deficiencies.

Ms. Veronica Moreno also discussed the financing strategy and the challenge of timing for hardship funding. Trustee Moreno thanked staff for the presentation.

Ms. Veronica Moreno commented about the bidding process and the documents for bids will be out in the next month or so. Trustee Moreno asked if it is possible to recommend bidders who are environmentally friendly and use sustainable methods? Has this project included ventilation and filtration procedures to lower viral particles? Ms. Veronica Moreno stated that this project is specific in scope and nature. Superintendent Lewis stated that this project is very specific in scope and there are challenges we face since COE's do not have bond measures.

The Greengate Structural Project will include enhanced safety and functionality. Superintendent Lewis commented on the costs for ADA enhancements and the plan to bring the building into compliance that will increase the functionality of the site. The filtration system is currently not part of the plan and lets the Board know that staff will manage expectations with flexibility during the selection process. There are some guidelines/constraints that YCOE has regarding cost and how high bids come in. Trustee Moreno asked if those issues can be shared with the facilities committee. Superintendent Lewis stated that staff can share information with the facilities, but the final decision will be with YCOE staff.

Trustee Esquivel stated that this information and historical background are helpful. She asked if all COE's can apply for hardship funding? Ms. Veronica Moreno stated that the funding is not just for COE's, and it is dependent on need (emergency). Superintendent Lewis stated that we are not able to pursue a bond and facilities upgrades happen on a recurring basis. This current situation with Greengate is an emergency and we will not know the amount until approved. There was also a discussion on reserves and how to leverage bond dollars passed through cities, and funds allocated by county property tax. The State Hardship Funding amount will be determined in March 2024 after the State Allocation Board reviews our funding application and the remaining unfunded costs may need to be funded through securing debt/loans or interfund borrowing. Project is incurring expenses now in preparation for construction in summer 2024. Reimbursement resolution will allow for temporary inter-fund borrowing to support cash needs that may arise prior to knowing hardship funding amount and in advance of issuing debt for the unfunded costs.

Trustee Esquivel stated that shade structures address heat actions in certain locations and can mitigate heat in concrete playgrounds and blacktops. She asked for consideration to staff to think about shade structures in that space.

President Zendejas asked how long has it been since the roof has been replaced? Ms. Veronica Moreno did not know but stated it probably has not ever been replaced and it is long overdue. YCOE has not experienced this issue before so there has been a lot of research on this specific situation. He asked if it was possible, they could not approve funding? Ms. Veronica Moreno stated that she is not 100 percent sure since hardship funding is a new process for her.

Trustee Moreno asked for consideration for the shutters to be energy efficient along with the ventilation filtration when the roof's heating and air system is

replaced. President Zendejas suggested looking into if there is a warranty from the last time the roof was built or repaired. Superintendent Lewis commented that staff will engage with the Division of the State Architect on this issue. Trustee Esquivel commended the staff for their engagement with the Department of State Architect especially with the backlog that we have in terms of facility needs statewide for us to be able to put this forward and to already have the state allocation board be able to review it come early spring is very telling of the need and I'm sure it's a lot of preparation and a lot of work to move fast in that direction. So, thank you to, to everyone who's working on this. Ms. Veronica Moreno stated that this is really a collaborative effort between a lot of different departments including educational services and lots of kudos to our support operations services department with Matt Juchniewicz, Director of SOS as the lead in this project.

7.8 Monthly Board Financial Report

Frances Palu, Director, Internal Fiscal Services presented this item. No questions.

7.9 Set Date of Organizational Meeting in December 2023

Superintendent Lewis presented this item. No questions.

7.10 First Reading of Board Bylaws (9000 series)

BB 9250 - Remuneration, Reimbursement, and other Benefits

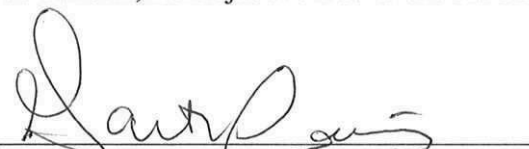
Superintendent Lewis presented this item. Trustee Moreno thanked staff for tracking the policies.

8.0 Suggested future agenda items.

- EL RISE – Future meeting.
- Status of Juvenile Hall – Cost and how many students (requested by Trustee Moreno at Board Retreat)

9.0 ADJOURNMENT. Adjourned at 5:36 pm

MOTION: Esquivel **SECOND:** Moreno **AYES:** Esquivel, Moreno, Salud-Ambriz, Zendejas **NOES:** None **ABSENT:** Yip


Garth Lewis, Superintendent