

YOLO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting: April 4, 2022
MINUTES

1.0 OPENING PROCEDURES

1.1 Call to Order and Roll Call. The Yolo County Board of Education met on April 4, 2022 at 8:46 a.m. in person at the Yolo County Office of Education. Board Members in attendance: Elizabeth Esquivel, Melissa Moreno, Carol Souza Cole, Shelton Yip and Tico Zendejas in person. President Melissa Moreno presided. Superintendent Garth Lewis was present. (Roll Call held).

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Approval of Agenda.
Motion to approve agenda.

MOTION: Zendejas **SECOND:** Souza Cole **AYES:** Zendejas,
Souza Cole, Esquivel, Moreno, Yip **NOES:** None **ABSENT:**
None

1.4 Public Comment.
None.

2.0 BOARD RETREAT

2.1 Notes attached.

3.0 **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

MOTION: Zendejas **SECOND:** Souza Cole **AYES:** Zendejas,
Souza Cole, Esquivel, Moreno, Yip **NOES:** None **ABSENT:**
None



Garth Lewis, Superintendent

Yolo County Board of Education
Board Retreat
April 4, 2022
8:30 am – 11:30 am

Board President Welcome

Team Building Exercise

President Moreno stated she is honored to be here in person and together in this time in history.

Question – who was the first person and the last person that has reminded that you were important and that ancestors matter and you can make a difference in community.

Trustee Zendejas – Listened to podcast facilitator in Sacramento region. She started introducing herself as ...I am the daughter of.....here are my ancestors..... she took 30 seconds to acknowledge where she came from. President Moreno stated that this is very common at ethnic studies workshops and virtual events to name an ancestor to bring in space that you are in.

Trustee Yip also commented that at the CCBE retreat they had asked attendees why are you here and to provide opportunities to become who they are.

Trustee Souza Cole – Told the story of a woman she knew who lost someone and she spent some time with her and how it made such an impact on her to remember to make that human connection. It is the little things you do as teacher, administrator and working with colleagues that you never know the impact you are making in someone's life.

YCOE's Mission and Vision

Superintendent Lewis presented the PowerPoint "YCOE Strategic Plan for 2021-2025 – We're Making Our Move...From Good to Great."

Items reviewed included:

- Reorientation to Strategic Plan.
- Example of Implementation – Roadmap to the Future for Yolo County Children and Youth.
- Vision, Mission, Core Values, and Cultural Norms.
- YCOE Goals for 2021-2025.

- The Four Cs – Collaboration, Capacity Building, Continuous Improvement, Coherence.
- Roadmap to the Future for Yolo County Children and Youth – Asset Mapping and Needs Assessment for Yolo County. Discussed goals to effectively coordinate services, supports, and opportunities that children, youth, and families need to thrive as well as establish framework.

The Yolo County Children, Youth and Families Collective Body of Work Opportunities and Intentions was shared along with:

- Phase Zero: Principles and Shared Priorities.
- Phase 1: Asset and Mapping
- Phase 2: Roadmap Publication

Questions and Items discussed from Board included:

Trustee Souza Cole expressed her thoughts on the board's involvement in the strategic plan. She stressed that the relationship between trustees and county superintendent is very unique.

President Moreno asked if board was asked to participate/consider the mission and vision statement. Admin, staff and board were invited to adopt mission and vision language per Superintendent Lewis. He also stated that we are moving forward together as a collective in terms of the strategic plan but the plan has not been fully rolled out and communicated – it is still a work in progress.

- Goals were reviewed and discussed as being revised on an annual basis. The board would like to hear significant updates and provide input on where the strategic plan can be strengthened.
- Superintendent Lewis reflected on first two goals which are extremely ambitious and involves effort that we have no control over for example school districts have to be willing to work with us on closing access and opportunity gaps. He also commented that YCOE focus is to engage, Increase, sustain, recruit, retain and develop staff which will give opportunities to support goals which include diversity.

Trustee Esquivel appreciate the four Cs, especially coherence.

Superintendent Lewis also commented on the Yolo County Children, Youth and Families work. He also commented on the need for greater involvement from Board on goals 1 and 2.

Other items discussed included:

- Digital mapping.

- Key milestones for consideration of community - How they can be met in Esparto vs. West Sacramento.
- Gaps and opportunities to work together.
- Where does the Youth Master plan leverage data collected in effort similar to West Sacramento.
- Countywide view of assets and opportunities.
- Outreach from universities not in county also seen as potential partners in effort.
- Social innovation.
- Braided funding - Commitments to keep funding going.

President Moreno stated that schools are community hubs so this work is very important.

Effective Governance Conversation and Agreements

Land Acknowledgement Statement

President Moreno discussed the Land Acknowledgement and history

- Started as a movement of communities and schools in society for 10 years.
- Started in Canada with educators and native and non-native community organizers.
- Importance of place and impacts how we think about purpose and why.

Trustee Yip stated that there is a major shift to rethink meaning of school, purpose and curriculum. Many institutions, educational social and political shifted to include land acknowledgments including districts like Davis Jt. USD who recite the land acknowledgement before pledge of allegiance.

Superintendent Lewis stated that there has been collaboration with community educators and Indian curriculum advisory with this land acknowledgement that was adopted locally and approved by Yocha DeHe.

Trustee Zendejas asked in terms of process do we need to vote? Should this be an action item?

Trustee Souza Cole stated that she supports the land acknowledgement statement but how do we make it meaningful. She would like it printed on every agenda and recited before the pledge of allegiance.

President Moreno stated that the first step is to take space to actually verbalize land acknowledgement. School districts are doing it up and down the state. Trustee Souza Cole also requested if it could be on our website.

The approval of the Land Acknowledgement statement will be added to the next board meeting. The request will also be made to print it on every agenda and post on the website. Trustee Souza Cole asked President Moreno if she will ask someone to lead in reciting it at every meeting. It would be nice to include staff and students in reciting the land acknowledgement at some meetings.

Resolutions

Superintendent Lewis described the mechanics of resolutions which includes two (2) signatures: Board President and Superintendent. In doing so it recognizes a jointly adopted resolution. Questions what role would the board like to play in presenting resolutions? In the past the Superintendent presents all the resolutions but was curious if the Board would like to take a more active role in presenting? He asked for suggestions or recommendations on presenting future resolutions.

Trustee Souza Cole stated that the Board should be more involved in presenting resolutions. She would also like to see who is invited to accept resolution on the agenda.

President Moreno requested placing an Ethnic Studies resolution on the next board meeting agenda as an action item. Trustee Souza Cole asked what was purpose of resolution? President Moreno stated that the purpose is to affirm YCOE's role regarding Ethnic Studies and be on the public record. Other COEs have passed a similar resolution.

Trustee Zendejas supports approving resolution but who writes it? Superintendent Lewis stated that different people have been tasked in the past which include committees, staff, etc.

Board members would like to adopt an Ethnic Studies resolution in June. Trustee Souza Cole would like a resolution that has specific action and benchmarks which could then be reported back to Board in Fall.

Vice President Zendejas asked about language for a resolution. Is the Board able to revise/make changes? Superintendent Lewis requested that if there are any changes to please send to him directly.

Trustee Souza Cole requested that the ethnic studies resolution come to the Board first as information and then the next month as action.

Break at 10:22 am

Back at 10:34 am

Revisit Board Committee Assignments

Trustee Esquivel would like to learn more about the committees:

Trustee Yip is currently working on policies.

Trustee Souza Cole described the Budget committee prior to pandemic:

Would meet with staff to review draft budget prior to board meeting. There are two (2) board budget meetings in June. You can ask questions in informal setting and get more clarification which you can then report back to board.

Trustee Souza Cole described the facilities committee which included current projects. For example the conference room being rewired. This comes under role of board acquire lease purchase which includes the offices and insuring a safe educational environment.

Trustee Esquivel asked about the policy committee and do they ever discuss or support legislation?

Trustee Yip gave a budget update. Discussed LEAs ADA forgiveness and charter schools and COEs being left off. Discussed that on CSBA Legislative Day he had opportunity to talk about that issue with different senators and assembly staff. He also discussed the funding of differentiated assistance. Mental health legislation is also an important piece. Any letters regarding AB 75, AB 22, etc. come out of superintendent office.

Trustee Esquivel requested to be on the policy committee and will replace Vice President Zendejas. She would like to look at legislation for consideration.

Trustee Souza Cole stated that for the YCSBA committee you usually serve for two years.

A request was made to use Trustee Esquivel's YCOE email on communication and to renew California Latino School Boards Association membership for all trustees next year, 2022-23. Trustee Souza Cole asked about the communication reports that used to be sent to trustees at the beginning of pandemic? Why do they not receive them anymore and can that start again? Superintendent Lewis stated that it was necessary at the time with all the changes in county. Board members confirmed that it helps to be aware of events and not finding out information about YCOE by reading it in the Daily Democrat. It also helps build coherence between trustees and staff at YCOE.

Superintendent Lewis appreciates feedback and the value of the reports. YCOE had to shift in pandemic and at the time so much information was being changed and released that we had to prepare those reports constantly but currently it is a capacity issue and we are in the process of addressing that piece.

The reports will continue post pandemic and will list events, celebrations, legislation, etc. Also emails from Superintendent's office will happen on a more frequent basis on news and we hope to commit to an update every other week (but may need to adjust dependent on capacity).

The Board requested communication to be shared out with entire board and not just executive committee. This includes any correspondence, grand jury information, public comment.

Superintendent Lewis prefers board members to text him for any questions, etc.

Training requirements

The Board will be sent the annual training for employees. This includes active shooter, COVID, sexual harassment and mandated reporter training. Staff was asked to review if this requirement is in policy, if not staff should update.

When and How the Board Conducts a Self-evaluation

President Moreno reached out to CSBA and asked about possible board self-evaluation surveys. CSBA has one available for a fee. The last survey filled out by Board was in the Spring 2020. Trustee Yip stated that we may be able to utilize same survey but tweak some items. Trustee Souza Cole discussed using the survey tool which calculates results that the President individually tallies and is able to review data. Trustee Yip managed this a few years ago and found the summaries that the board sent back very valuable when he collected comments. He would not mind doing this again and the narratives would be optional. He would be able to compile and organize it.

Superintendent Lewis would like to decide on the cadence of self-evaluation. Does the Board prefer to adopt this process and if so what time of year? Results can be reviewed at special meeting. The cost of evaluation is \$200.00 and the facilitator would be \$2,700. Trustee Yip stated that we can get the evaluation and then he can separate the questions from comments and send directly to board from Superintendent's office.

Yvette Seibert will help follow up with CSBA survey. CCBE is in the process of creating one for county offices but is not ready yet. Staff will ask if Superintendent Lewis can participate in survey.

Timeline – Sooner than later. Hopefully a May or June deadline for survey and then discuss results at a special meeting in August.

Future Agenda Items

Vice President Zendejas left meeting at 11:29 a.m. and was back at 11:30 a.m.

Board requests focus on updates to strategic plan when opportunities for board to provide input and updates. Superintendent Lewis will forward proposed schedule. The LCAP quarterly updates are aligned with goal 3 and Board does receive updates.

- Policy update.
- Youth master plan.
- Roadmap
- Land acknowledgement.
- Ethnic studies resolution.
- May revise (budget will look like)

Closing Item

President Moreno invited trustees to briefly share one take away of this time together.

Trustee Esquivel – Coherence.

Trustee Yip - Coherence. Nice to come back together again and have these discussions of where we are at and where we are going. It is very important.

Trustee Souza Cole - We have so few opportunities to talk informally about our work and operations. Doing this once a year doesn't seem to be enough and would like to have more opportunities like this in the future is important.

Vice President Zendejas– Collaborative nature and looking forward to working with everyone. I like how if we have a disagreement that it is done in professional and safe way.

President Moreno – Collaboration and support, vision and goal and purpose with commitment. Affirmation and importance of communication builds collaboration.

Maria Arvizu-Espinoza– Planning and opportunity to think of future. Making sure we are moving as one entity.

Micah Studer – Collaboration and continue good work

President Moreno thanked everyone for offering their time and service.