

ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
Board of Education Meeting Highlights 2/13/2018

The Spotlight was on Albany Middle School, and Principal Deborah Brill presented a video on the counselors. SchoolCare has provided funding for one counselor, which has made it possible to have three full-time AMS counselors. If three counselors can be maintained, each counselor will stay with a grade as they progress from sixth to eighth grades, improving continuity, deepening relationships, and increasing the efficacy of the counseling program.

In the Special Education Update, it was reported that Superintendent Williams has held discussions with special education staff throughout the district to identify key needs. A clerk position to assist with scheduling meetings and other logistics was posted on Jan. 30. Professional development for paraeducators is being planned for the 2018-19 school year, and the district continues to analyze needs and plan actions.

After ten months of stakeholder meetings, research, and deep thinking, Albany Coming Together (ACT) presented a comprehensive list of over one hundred recommendations to foster an equitable and inclusive school environment. Recommendations range from policies to parent education. Board members thanked ACT for their hard work. Staff now needs to identify recommendations that are already being acted upon and direct other recommendations to the appropriate bodies. For example, policy issues will be addressed by the Board's Policy Committee for analysis and drafting. Curriculum at the high school would be analyzed by the Instruction Improvement Council.

The Board approved a resolution to send to the City Council supporting a change to "ranked choice" voting for school board members. The City's Charter Review Committee has recommended switching from "plurality at large" to a "ranked choice" system as a means to better represent the diversity in our community. A resolution to change election methods would need to appear on the ballot in a city-wide election and be passed by Albany voters.

The budget planning process continues. One-time funds in the Governor's budget proposal have extended Albany's timeline for making the cuts necessary to balance our expenditures to revenue (currently we are spending about \$2 million more annually than we receive). The final state budget is not finalized until June, the same month AUSD must finalize our 2018-19 budget. If the one-time funds do materialize, and by all indications they should, Albany can use the additional year to carefully plan our transition to a balanced budget. To that end, the Board discussed establishing an ongoing Budget Committee to advise the Board.

These are my personal notes, any mistakes are my own. Trustee Kim Trutane