

**ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING**

**TUESDAY, February 13, 2018**

Closed Session: 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Open Session: 6:30 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

**A) CALL TO ORDER**

President Black called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**B) ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: President Black, Vice President Stapleton-Gray, Board Member Blanchard, Board Member Clark, and Board Member Trutane.

STAFF: Superintendent Valerie Williams

**C) IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION III BELOW**

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

No Public Comments

**III. CLOSED SESSION**

**A) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - Existing Litigation (Gov. Code section 54956.9):**

- Philip Shen, et al. v Albany Unified School District
- Doe, et al v Albany Unified School District
- John Doe v Albany Unified School District
- C.E. v Albany Unified School District et. al.
- Kaidong Chen v Albany Unified School District

**B) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION - Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of California Government Code Section 54956.9(a),(d)(2): Five (5) potential cases.**

**IV. OPENING BUSINESS**

**A) CALL TO ORDER (Reconvene to Open Session)**

President Black called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

## B) ROLL CALL

PRESENT: President Black, Vice President Stapleton-Gray, Board Member Blanchard, Board Member Clark, Board Member Trutane, and Student Board Members Attanayake and Silwal.

STAFF: Superintendent Valerie Williams; Allan Garde, Chief Business Official; Diane Marie, Director III, Special Education; Carrie Nerheim, Director I, Student Services; and Cynthia Attiyeh, Director III, Human Resources.

EXCUSED: Marie Williams, Director III, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

## C) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and members of the public who wished to recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

## D) READING OF THE AUSD MISSION & VISION STATEMENT

Student Board Member Attanayake read the AUSD Mission & Vision Statement.

## E) REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

President Black reported that no action was taken in Closed Session.

## F) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Black requested a motion to Approve: Albany Unified School District Board of Education Agenda for February 13, 2018 Meeting. Motion by Board Member Trutane, and seconded by Board Member Blanchard. The motion passed unanimously.

## G) SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: Albany Middle School

Principal Deborah Brill presented a video spotlight on Albany Middle School which highlighted the guidance counselors. Financial support from SchoolCARE has made it possible to have three full-time AMS counselors this year, instead of two and a half. 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.

## H) APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

### 1. Board of Education

#### a) Minutes of the January 9, 2018 Board of Education Meeting

The Board requested the following revisions:

Page 5:

#### F) School Spotlight: Albany High School

Ms. Ritchie introduced Albany High School student, Anna ~~Baker-Heims~~Baker-Heans, a member of the group titled SPEAK that was started after Instagram incident at Albany High School.

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#### J) STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Added to minutes: Speak Up Be Safe is a program provided by classroom teachers to students during the school day, and has been in place for the past four years.

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#### L) REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

##### 1. School Accountability Report Cards (Secondary)

Director Williams presented grade mark analysis data from Albany High School 2016-2017 spring and summer semester report cards that shows how all grades earned ~~that have~~ had a direct impact on graduation and college eligibility on that cohort.

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#### L) REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

##### 3. 9% Budget Reserve Policy

AUSD ~~did not issue any~~ was able to avoid taking out loans.

##### 2. Human Resources

###### a) Certificated Personnel Assignment Order & Classified Personnel Assignment Order

President Black requested a motion to approve: Consent Calendar with these changes. Motion by Board Member Trutane, seconded by Board Member Blanchard. The motion passed unanimously.

#### I) BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Williams stated that she and SELPA Director, Katy Babcock, visited with Senator Nancy Skinner regarding Special Education funding. She also announced that on February 14th, Board Member Trutane and Albany High School student Samantha Smithies will meet with Assemblymember Tony Thurmond and Senator Nancy Skinner.

Board Member Trutane presented a slide to share that the Albany High Environmental Design, Society, English, and Technology (EDSET) students posted their 2017-2018 Podcasts online at <https://tinyurl.com/EDSETpod>.

#### J) STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT

Student Board Members Attanayake and Silwal provided the Board with the Student Board Member Report, which announced some of the recent and upcoming events in various AUSD schools.

Recent events included:

On Thursday, February 1st, the *Ocean View Family Math Festival* was held in the Ocean View Multipurpose room. Students and families enjoyed fun math puzzles.

On Wednesday, February 7th, Ocean View Elementary hosted a *Walk and Roll to School* with Principal Georgeson. It was great chance for students and parents to enjoy the weather and the company.

Wednesday, February 7th marked the 100th day of the 2017-2018 school year, and Marin Elementary celebrated with their annual PTA *Hundrathon Fundraiser*. Their goal is to raise \$18,000, which will help to sustain programs like STEAM Day, garden projects, classroom and art supplies, field trip scholarships, and the amazing Marin teachers. Donations welcomed big or small.

On Friday, February 9th, the Albany High Black Student Union and Feminist Club co-hosted a movie night, where students watched *Hidden Figures* and celebrated intersectional feminism.

The Albany Education Foundation (AEF) and the Albany Community Foundation (ACF) joined forces to host the *Chocolate and Champagne Gala* at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley on Saturday, February 10th. It was great night for our community.

Upcoming events include:

*Parent Education: Race & Bias-Continuing the Conversation*, on February 13th from 7:00- 8:30 p.m. at the Ocean View Multipurpose Room.

*The 3rd Annual Black History Month Celebration* on Thursday, February 15th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Ocean View Multipurpose room.

As part of this Celebration, the Albany Black Parent Advisory Group is holding a poetry contest open to all AUSD students. The theme is *Black History Month: How this brings our community together*. There is a \$25.00 award for one Elementary student who will be invited to recite their poem at the Black History Month Celebration program. Entries to be submitted to Melissa Boyd or Alexia Ritchie.

#### K) PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

An AUSD parent addressed the Board regarding how colonization was depicted/explained in a high school class.

#### L) STAFF REPORT

##### 1. Promoting Safe, Supportive, and Collaborative Environments for All Students

Carrie Nerheim, Director of Student Services, presented the Staff Report that highlighted the new *Ethnic Studies Program* at Albany High School. She introduced Michelle Lau-Seim, Albany High School teacher who developed the program, to discuss it in detail.

Ms. Lau-Seim has learned the importance of teaching “culturally relevant pedagogy” and the notion that this also includes, “having students see themselves in history.” She is now teaching ethnic studies as a “critical study of race, ethnicity, and indigeneity, with a focus on experiences and perspective of people of color.” This also includes gender, class, and sexuality.

Ms. Lau-Seim elaborated on her slideshow and added that the 4 themes of the course: Indegenuity; Coloniality; Hegemony; and Decoloniality/Regeneration, also incorporate Native American Studies; African American Studies; Asian-American Studies; Latino-Chicano Studies; implicit bias, local history, students’ own personal stories; Albany’s history; gentrification; cultural appropriation, etc. There is no specific textbook for the course, but rather, Ms. Lau-Seim has been supplementing with articles and readings throughout the course.

Board members and staff followed Ms. Lau-Seim's presentation with a few questions and comments. Ms. Lau Seim stated that the majority of students in the course are juniors and seniors, and the maturity level is at a point where students can actually benefit from the in depth conversations that are held in class. Efforts to grow the program and remove barriers that would grow the program include advertising the Ethnic Studies elective as an opportunity to look at different perspectives and narratives; word of mouth by students and teachers. Ms. Lau Seim expressed that she would like to branch out the course to include guest speakers and take field trips in the future.

Student Board Member Silwal congratulated Ms. Lau Seim for her efforts and success, stressed that she felt social sciences and humanities are just as important as STEM classes, and stated that she would love to see more courses in the Humanities open up. President Black stated that this sounds like a terrific course and hopes we have many sections in the future. Director Nerheim ended the Staff Report by extending a round of applause to Ms. Lau Seim, and commented on how impressed she is by the level of time, energy, and commitment Ms. Lau Seim took to build the curriculum; and she is also impressed by the students taking this course.

## 2. Special Education Update

Diane Marie, Director III of Special Education, presented the Staff Report: Special Education Department update since the last January 23, 2018 Board Meeting. She highlighted some of the actions that have taken place or plan to take place. Conversations between Director Marie and the school sites have been ongoing to determine needs and goals of the Clerk position that was posted on January 30th. At this point, the primary focus of this position is to help organize and coordinate paraeducators/subs at sites, and the secondary purpose is to help schedule IEP meetings. There is one more site to meet with before allocations are determined and interviews begin for this position.

Superintendent Williams stated that she has been meeting with paraeducators and special education staff at all sites, as well as with program specialists, psychologists, and other specialists. She has one more group to meet with, the Speech Language Pathologists. Once all meetings have taken place, she and the Special Education Department will review and determine their next steps. It is noteworthy to add that Professional Development is an area of commonality in conversations thus far.

Director Marie added an important note that since January 23rd, they have interviewed on two different days for paraeducators, and now have seven paraeducator subs going through the Human Resources process. One person cleared today and will be on the sub list beginning Monday, February 19th.

Superintendent Williams gave a shout out to Berkeley City College and Dr. Loretta Kane for allowing her to visit and recruit students from the Teacher Assistant program.

Board Members, staff, and members of the community discussed the clerk position and the need for paraeducator subs at each site, and continued updates from the Special Education Department at future Board meetings. The clerk position would be responsible for organizing and coordinating subs and other paras at the sites. To cover absent subs at each school site, this plan may also entail adding FTE hours to current paras' schedules, which would increase their hours to cover absences. Mr. Ritchie, AMS Special Education teacher,

acknowledged the efforts put forth by members of the Board, the District Office and other staff for their efforts regarding Special Education. A request was made for more specific data to be presented at future Board of Education meetings, for meetings to be held with General Education teachers, and he commented on the new clerk position with respect to the accessibility of the Student Education Information System. An AUSD parent addressed the Board to thank them for the updates and movement, looks forward to hearing more, and reiterated that the conversation needs to be inclusive of all the stakeholders. For the complete report and discussion of the Special Education Update, please view the [February 13, 2018 BOE video](#).

## M) REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Albany Coming Together (ACT) Report with Recommendations

Superintendent Williams joined the ACT Co-Chairs Bonnie Wolfe and Carla Jorden-Swan to present the ACT Report with Recommendations. The third Co-Chair, Lerond Mallard, is out of the country and not able to attend. Committee members spent the last 10 months gathering as much stakeholder input as possible, and pulled together over 100 recommendations. Superintendent Williams and members of the Board thanked the ACT committee members for all their work. As a suggestion to move forward with these recommendations, Board Member Blanchard identified and named, for the record, seven Board policies to recommend the Board Policy Committee to review:

1. 5131.2 Bullying
2. 5137 Positive School Climate
3. 5144 Discipline
4. 5144.1 Suspension and Expulsion
5. 5145.3 Nondiscrimination Harassment
6. 5145.7 Sexual Harassment
7. 5145.9 Hate-Motivated Behavior

Various members of the Albany community, including teachers, staff, students, and parents, addressed the Board. For the complete report and discussion of the ACT Recommendations, please view the [February 13, 2018 BOE video](#).

### 2. Hiring Freeze

Superintendent Williams opened this up to the Board members for discussion, which focused on the idea of a hiring freeze at the District Office level, and the necessity of positions therein. Superintendent Williams stated that a district-wide hiring freeze has not been requested, and that a request to hire additional Special Ed Staff has been made. Recent downsizing, downgrading, and the elimination of position(s) has reduced manpower and the budget. It was suggested that comparisons of positions and salaries can be addressed by the Budget Committee. There was no consensus among Board members that a hiring freeze was necessary or advisable. For the complete discussion on the Hiring Freeze, please view the [February 13, 2018 BOE video](#).

## N) EXTEND TIME OF MEETING TO 10:00 P.M.

Motion by Board Member Blanchard to extend the Board meeting until 10:00 p.m., seconded by Board Member Clark.

## O) REVIEW AND ACTION

### 1. Resolution 2017-18-11: Election Methods

Superintendent Williams, the Board, staff, and members of the community discussed the Resolution that would be sent to the Albany City Council. Language in the resolution was hashed out by the Board, staff, and members of the community. Preston Jordan, a member of the City of Albany Charter Review Committee, also discussed the changes in election methods from “plurality at large” to a “ranked choice” method. Mr. Jordan explained this system does not mean a change in geography, but rather a change that represents the community. For the complete presentation and comments on the Resolution 2017-18-11: Election Methods, please view the [February 13, 2018 BOE video](#).

#### ***Revisions to Resolution 2017-18-11: Election Methods:***

WHEREAS Chapter VI of the City of Albany Charter includes the Albany Unified School District Board of Education (AUSD BOE), and;

WHEREAS the City of Albany charter sets the election methods for both the Albany City Council and the AUSD BOE, and;

WHEREAS the AUSD BOE is convinced that the method of election that best supports equity and inclusion and most accurately represents voter preference is ranked choice at-large, and would therefore prefer ranked choice at-large elections;

~~WHEREAS the AUSD BOE has determined that it is in the best interests of the public for the AUSD Board of Education to be elected by the same election method as the Albany City Council;~~

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the AUSD BOE would support a change in the method of electing the AUSD BOE to ranked choice at-large. ~~in the City of Albany City Charter to the electorate, the same change should be proposed for the method of electing the AUSD BOE.~~

President Black requested a motion to accept: Resolution 2017-18-11: Election Methods with changes. Motion by Board Member Trutane, seconded by Board Member Blanchard. The motion passed unanimously.

### P) EXTEND TIME OF MEETING TO 10:30 P.M.

President Black stated that a vote was needed to extend the meeting time until 10:30 p.m. Motion by Board Member Blanchard, seconded by Board Member Clark.

### 2. Amendment for Design-Build Services with Rodan Builders for the Albany Middle School (AMS) Annex Project with Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP)

Change Order #5 is not listed because it does not require design work. No discussion on this item.

President Black requested a motion to approve: Amendment for Design-Build Services with Rodan (AMS) Annex Project with Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP). Motion by Board Member Clark, seconded by Board Member Trutane. The motion passed unanimously.

### 3. Public Hearing: Resolution 2017-18-12: Requesting the State Board of Education to Waive the District's Statutory Bonding Limit

President Black Opened the Public Hearing.

Chief Business Official Allan Garde presented slides with background information and discussed the importance of the waiver. The bonding capacity limits were set in 1878. Board members, staff, and members of the community discussed further the need for a waiver at this time. Essentially, two major factors are contributing to the low assessed valuation for Albany. Specifically, there are over 600 homes with an assessed valuation of under \$100,000, and it would take time for those homes to reach current market rate. The other major factor is limited business ownership contributing to the District's total assessed valuation. Due to Proposition 13, the assessed valuations of Albany businesses are significantly lower than those of neighboring districts. To listen to this discussion in its entirety, please view the [February 13, 2018 BOE video](#).

President Black Closed the Public Hearing.

President Black stated that the Resolution 2017-18-12: Requesting the State Board of Education to Waive the District's Statutory Bonding Limit is now open for discussion or a motion by the Board. Motion to approve by Board Member Blanchard, seconded by Board Member Clark. The motion passed unanimously.

### 4. Agreement with Sunesys for Wide Area Network (WAN) Services

This item was brought to the Board at the January 23, 2018 Board meeting, and the Resolution was passed with the names of the companies, but the contract itself was tabled due to the sequencing. Clarification was made on a footnote that stated this service would exclude 904 Talbot Avenue (the former location of the Albany Unified District Office) for Wide Area Network. That space is essentially now used by the school district, which is covered under Cornell Elementary School.

President Black requested a motion to approve: Agreement with Sunesys for Wide Area Network (WAN) Services. Motion by Vice President Stapleton-Gray to approve both this contract (Agreement with Sunesys for Wide Area Network (WAN)); and the agreement in Item #5: Agreement with CDW-G for Procurement of Wireless Access Points and Network Equipment. Motion to bundle and approve both contracts was seconded by Board Member Blanchard. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 5. Agreement with CDW-G for Procurement of Wireless Access Points and Network Equipment (No discussion; bundled with #4 above and approved).

### Q) EXTEND TIME OF MEETING TO 10:50 P.M.

President Black stated that a vote was needed to extend the meeting time until 10:50 p.m, and requested a



motion to Approve: Extend Time of Board Meeting to 10:50 p.m. Motion by Vice President Stapleton-Gray, seconded by Board Member Trutane.

#### 6. Board Appointed Budget Committee

Chief Business Official Allan Garde addressed the Board and stated that his intention for the committee is to utilize the framework of the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC). While developing the Board item, a couple of references to bonds and facilities that should have been replaced with references to the general operating budget were inadvertently left out. Revisions were made and presented regarding the purpose of the committee. Board members, staff, and members of the community discussed the details, purpose, goals, and composition of this committee as stated in the proposal, and further revisions were suggested and implemented. Selection of committee members was discussed, as well as the number of committee members to serve on the committee.

President Black suggested to table this Board Appointed Budget Committee and allow more thought and work to go into the proposal of the committee. He suggested it may be a two step process with first a discussion of how the committee will be selected, and then an action item on the creation of the committee. To listen to the discussion on the Board Appointed Budget Committee, please view the [February 13, 2018 BOE video](#).

Motion to table by Vice President Stapleton-Gray, seconded by Board Member Blanchard. The motion passed on a 4 to 1 vote: Members Black, Stapleton-Gray, Blanchard, and Trutane voting aye, Member Clark voting nay.

#### R) AGENDA ITEMS/MATTERS INTRODUCED BY THE BOARD

Outreach Hiring Retention Strategies Update

Technology Update

Review and Action: Budget Committee

Presentation by each of the Board-Appointed Committee Members, such as Parks and Recreation, at some future Board meetings.

#### V. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 11:05 p.m.