

ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
Board of Education Meeting Highlights, 02/27/2018

These highlights are the personal notes of Board member Charles Blanchard. They are not official AUSD minutes.

Trustee Kim Trutane reported that she and Superintendent Williams traveled to Sacramento, meeting with State Assemblymember Thurmond and State Senator Skinner to support legislation that would raise base funding levels for public education. The student Board members described several events and they reported that students from Marin Elementary placed first among 24 schools competing in a recent chess tournament.

Carrie Nerheim, Director of Student Services, reported that 40 staff members attended two days of professional education at the Museum of Tolerance in southern California during mid-winter break. The trip was supported by a grant from the museum, which also provides free, curriculum-aligned materials. Staff members are looking forward to integrating the learning experience into their curricula.

Superintendent Williams presented a report on paraeducators who provide services for students with special needs. Public discussion identified issues surrounding the availability of substitute paraeducators to ensure full coverage, lack of funding, the need to make more parents aware of the lack of funding, and the value of parents advocating for additional state funding.

Marie Williams, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, described the process for updating the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). A noteworthy change is the option for people to provide electronic input this year (one less meeting to attend).

The Board approved a new contract with employees represented by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), which provides a 2% salary increase retroactive to July 2017 and helps stabilize AUSD's costs of full-coverage health care benefits. The Board approved the release of teachers with temporary teaching contracts (people filling positions of teachers who are on leave) until AUSD knows which positions will be available next year.

The Board approved issuance of Series B construction bonds totaling \$44 million, to be timed to take advantage of historically low bond interest rates. Early issuance of Series A bonds provided a net savings of \$9.8 million in interest costs.

The Board approved a lease agreement for extra office space in Berkeley to accommodate the AUSD business office and the department of human resources. Other District Office departments, including special education, enrollment, and student services, will be relocated into available space in AUSD schools when the current District Office lease with UC Berkeley expires at the end of June. The costs of leasing office space will be offset by a combination of savings from the existing lease and payments received when AUSD leases space in its buildings to community organizations.

The Board approved Phase I of a contract with Alten Construction to build additional classrooms at AHS. The project design can be seen at www.ausdk12.org and a video of the project is available for viewing at the link there.

The Board agreed to vote for four candidates (from neighboring school districts) to serve as delegates to the California School Board Association (CSBA).