

ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
Highlights of the June 26, 2018 Regular Meeting

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

The Board approved the Local Control Accountability Plan on second reading, the 2018-19 budget on second reading, and a series of contracts. The Board also discussed a proposal to request a ballot measure to implement ranked choice voting for members of the Board of Education and asked staff to schedule a special meeting for further action.

The superintendent reported on AUSD actions to address a set of demands presented by four parent engagement groups (quoted from the demand letter and followed by the District response).

“We are demanding the following:

1) Before the end of this school year, we want the District to conduct a school climate survey, to be administered to students in grades 4 through 12, faculty and school site administrators. This survey has already been developed in conjunction with ACT recommendations.”

AUSD response: The District conducted several surveys with students in the Spring of 2018. The California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) for grades 5, 7, 9, and 11 was administered as usual and will be reported.

“2) We want the School Board to provide regular updates regarding the District’s progress in implementing the ACT recommendations at every Board meeting. These updates will be an agenda item at monthly Board meetings.”

AUSD response: Staff will report to the Board in fall, winter, and spring in the regular Safe and Inclusive Schools report on any actions taken with respect to over 100 ACT recommendations.

“3) We want to mandate that each of the AUSD school sites report all incidents of hate acts, harassment and bullying to the District, which will compile data regarding the number and details of each incident, and will report these incidents to the AUSD community quarterly.”

AUSD response: Site administrators currently report every incident to the District administration. The Director of Student Services will work with site administrators to compile data regarding the number and type of each incident. Staff will report to the Board of Education in the fall, winter, and spring without making personal information public.

“4) We want the District to hire a Coordinator of Equity who will organize a campaign to promote racial equity and inclusion; rebuild the AHS fabric and climate; facilitate partnerships between staff, students and teachers that promote equity goals; and coordinate the implementation of ACT recommendations. This person will help foster accountability and responsiveness on the part of the District in order to achieve our goals of equity and inclusiveness for all AUSD students. The Coordinator will also ensure that there are compassionate, pro-active and thoughtful plans in place to support students and families who have been harmed by hate or feel marginalized in our community. These responsibilities will be the core components of the position, rather than merely a small component of a broader position.

Representatives from the three parent engagement groups will participate in the hiring process for selecting the Coordinator.

In addition, we request a minimum of a .2 AHS teacher on special assignment to focus on social-emotional issues at AHS.”

AUSD response: The Superintendent and Director of Student Services will coordinate efforts to promote racial equity and inclusion. A one-year 0.2 FTE allocation for a teacher on special assignment at AHS to focus on social-emotional issues was approved by the Board in the adopted budget.

“5) We want AHS to offer an ethnic studies class which will be required for all students. In addition, we want the District to support teachers in each of the AUSD schools with culturally responsive training, navigating “courageous conversations,” and assistance in implementing culturally diverse curriculum.”

AUSD response: The Board approved an ethnic studies elective class on April 24, 2018. The Social Studies department did not recommend that this class be required. The AHS administration is working with the Social Studies department to increase enrollment in the ethnic studies course.

“6) We want the District to provide \$80,000 to each of the families of the students and the staff member targeted by the racist Instagram account as compensation for their harm and suffering.”

AUSD response: No action can be taken. The District cannot authorize payments of public funds to individuals.