

ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
Board of Education Meeting Highlights 10/09/2018

The Board approved a resolution stating that the district has provided required textbooks to every student. It came up in the discussion that a process for re-evaluating textbooks that were previously approved is being developed. Albany has been busy adopting texts that conform to the new(ish) Common Core Standards, and in 2019-2020 the District will adopt science texts that work with New Generation Science Standards. In addition, the Board recently approved a long (and fascinating!) list of fiction and nonfiction that the Albany High School English Department requested, diversifying their approved texts both in the area of multicultural perspectives and female authors. I recommend anyone looking for a great read to consider the books on this list, and perhaps discuss them with a high schooler. (See pg. 15 in <http://www.ausdk12.org/board/08142018BOEAgendaPacket.pdf>). A new process for taking a fresh look at texts approved years ago will enable departments to push their curriculum ahead of the curve.

A brief Special Education Update explained the process of out-of-district placements, including necessary out-of-state placements. Students' needs are the district's top priority.

The Board reflected on goals for this school year. There is no lack of goals, maybe even a surfeit. The Local Control Accountability Plan details many specific goals, and "Site" plans (the Single Plan for Student Achievement) that each school creates contain more. In addition, the District is guided by its mission and by three strategic objectives (Providing Opportunities for Engagement and Growth, Supporting the Whole Child, and Communicating and Leading Together). The question becomes, what measurable goals can be set for this year? Board members will bring back specific goals for further consideration related to the district budget, communications around budget issues, curriculum, pedagogy, graduation requirements, emergency protocols, student stress, facilities, communications around facilities projects, and expanding the options for helping students in need of alternatives to the standard classroom. It's an ambitious list.

In the "Safe, Supportive, and Collaborative Schools" report, progress was reported on many of the recommendations made by the Albany Coming Together committee last year. The committee's recommendations have been summarized in twenty-five points. The detailed progress report on every action taken comprises sixteen pages, but this discussion was limited to four topics. A part-time (.2 FTE) Safe and Inclusive School Coordinator has been hired at the high school and has launched school-wide activities. Staff professional development in several different areas has occurred and will continue. All schools will be focusing on Culturally Responsive Teaching, Social Justice Competencies, and Social Emotional Learning this year. Parent Education in these areas is a high priority.

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