



Board Members Present: Dr. Rommel Bal, President; Ms. Sherry Alexander, Vice-President; Mrs. Susan Macfarlane, Clerk; Mrs. Victoria Lenderman; Mr. Joe Nava; Mr. Courtney Porter; and Mr. Jeff Stroh

Administrative Staff: Mr. Neil Young, Superintendent; Dr. David Horton, Associate Superintendent; Mrs. Erin Church, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel; Mrs. April Juarez, Executive Director, Fiscal Services; and Mrs. Edith Holbert, Executive Director, Operations

Student Representatives: Ms. Margaret Machado, Tokay High School; Ms. Lexi Thor, Bear Creek High School; and Ms. Selene Wang, Middle College High School

Meeting Recorder: Mrs. Michelle Armstrong, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the James Areida Education Support Center, 1305 East Vine Street, Lodi, CA, and broadcast on YouTube.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

No comments were presented.

Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

Reconvene Open Session

The meeting reconvened at 7:06 p.m. Attendance was recorded, and Student Representative Selene Wang led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session

President Bal reported the following action was taken in Closed Session:

Conference with Legal Counsel:

Mrs. Macfarlane moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to reject claim #652907.

Spotlight

Salmon in the Classroom

Beth Fox, K-8 Science Instructional Coach, introduced the team who presented the Salmon in the Classroom Spotlight. The presenters included: Liz Wright, STEAM Coach; Sandi Starr, Science Coach; Andrea Ames, Teacher, Sutherland Elementary School; and Cora McGovern, Student, Vinewood Elementary School.

Comments from Student Representatives

Ms. Margaret Machado, Tokay High School; Ms. Lexi Thor, Bear Creek High School; and Ms. Selene Wang, Middle College High School, presented reports from their respective schools.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Young announced that Vinewood was selected as a California Distinguished School. He showed the flyer and announced the upcoming Input Forum for the Samuel M. Gantner school site, being held on April 3 at 4:30 PM. Mr. Young gave an update and showed renderings of the Lodi Middle School renovations.

Public Comments on Consent Agenda A

No public comments were received.

Consent Agenda A, Routine Business

Mr. Porter pulled Item A-3.

- Item A-1 Contracts List (Mrs. Juarez)
- Item A-2 Changes to the Adopted Budget (Mrs. Juarez)
- Item A-4 Resolution 2025-27 Approval of Revised Architect Proposal for Elkhorn Elementary School Modernization Project No. 0915-8215-470-36 (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-5 Resolution 2025-38 Designation of Lodi Unified School District as the Lead District of the Super USDA Food Co-Op Joint Powers Authority for the 2025-2026 School Year (Mrs. Holbert)
- Item A-6 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 18, 2025 (Mr. Young)

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda A, Routine Business, as amended.

Individual Action on Items Pulled from Consent Agenda A – Routine Business

Item A-3 Certificated and Classified Personnel Matters

Mr. Porter asked if staff receives an exit interview when resigning or retiring.

Mrs. Church stated that the exit interview is part of the resignation/retirement form.

The Student Representative preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Mr. Porter moved, Mr. Nava seconded, and the Board voted to unanimously approve Item A-3 Certificated and Classified Personnel Matters.

Public Comments on Other Action Items

No public comments were received.

Other Action Items

Item OAI-1 Request for Rescission of Vinewood Elementary School Uniform Policy

Peter Lambert, Area 2 Director, introduced Ben Koh, Principal, Vinewood Elementary School, who presented the request for rescission of the Vinewood Elementary School uniform policy for review and approval.

The student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Stroh seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-1 Request for Rescission of Vinewood Elementary School Uniform Policy.

Public Comments on Reports

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA), commented on the Proposed Revision to Board Policy 6158 Independent Study and Student Mobile Phone Use Update.

Reports

Proposed Revision to Board Policy 6158 Independent Study

Peter Lambert, Area 2 Director, and Mark Dawson, Area 1 Director, presented the proposed revisions to Board Policy 6158 for Board review. Rafael Ceja, Director of Education, spoke about the implementation plan and introduced Dave Vujovich, Principal, Valley Robotics Academy/Independence School, and Brad Braden, Teacher, Independence School, who shared their enthusiasm for the change in the California Ed Code.

Student Mobile Phone Use Update

Mark Dawson introduced Rafeal Ceja, Director of Education; Raphael Aseron, Associated Student Body (ASB) President, McNair High School; Margaret Machado, ASB President, Tokay High School; and Lexi Thor, ASB President, Bear Creek High School. They all spoke about their personal challenges and benefits that were presented when reducing screen time.

Board asked about timelines and expressed their excitement for the policy implementation.

Board Member Advisory Reports

No reports were given.

Comments from the Public

Anne Swehla Garcia, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary School, spoke about getting a staff survey before resignations and about Mr. Young and Mrs. Lenderman visiting Julia Morgan Elementary School.

Liz Wright, Parent, Vinewood Elementary School, spoke about her frustration with transportation limitations for study trips, and science camp.

Cindy Brownell, Teacher, Beckman Elementary School; Aimee Ramsower, Teacher, Beckman Elementary School; Melisa Shepard, Teacher, Larson Elementary School, spoke about the California Teachers Association Grant.

Jessica Harrower, Teacher, Lockeford Elementary School, spoke about the National Board Cohort.

Comments from Employee Group Representatives

Tamathy Braden, California School Employees Association (CSEA), Lodi Chapter #77, requested CSEA job descriptions be updated.

Lisa Lennon-Wilkins, President, Lodi Education Association, compared bargaining with Lodi USD to a student with attention deficit disorder (ADD) student and her frustrations about LEA not being involved in the creation of the cell phone policy.

Comments from Board Members

Mrs. Lenderman spoke about visiting Julia Morgan and Creekside Elementary schools.

Mr. Porter spoke about his concern about field trip transportation.

Mr. Nava spoke about the importance student field trips.

Ms. Alexander spoke about her excitement for the Lodi Middle renovations and wished everyone luck for the 4th quarter.

Mrs. Macfarlane commented on the disgust she felt when hearing Mrs. Lennon-Wilkins choice of words during her Employee Group Representative comments.

Dr. Bal thanked staff for the Salmon Spotlight and wished the students a great 4th quarter.

Dr. Bal announced that Board will be returning to Closed Session.

Board returned to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 8:50 p.m.

Reconvene Open Session

The Board reconvened Open Session at 9:20 p.m.

Closed Session

President Bal stated no action was taken in closed session.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Clerk of the Board

President of the Board