

SULPHUR SPRINGS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Governing Board

March 26, 2025

MINUTES

Meeting Location:

Leona Cox Community School
18643 Oakmoor St.,
Canyon Country, CA 91387

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Catherine Kawaguchi, Superintendent
Dr. Joshua Randall, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services
Dr. Jay Greenlinger, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel/Pupil Services
Mrs. Julie McBride, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Ms. Nancy Raygoza, District Executive Secretary

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Mr. Denis DeFigueiredo, President
Mrs. Shelley Weinstein, Clerk
Mr. Ken Chase, Member
Mrs. Lori MacDonald, Member
Mrs. Paola Jellings, Member

Call to Order, Roll Call

Mr. DeFigueiredo called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:06 PM and noted the roll.

Pledge of Allegiance

Duncan Berry, a fifth-grade student at Leona Cox Community School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda,

DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye

The motion was made by Mr. Chase seconded by Mrs. MacDonald, and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to approve the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the March 12, 2025, REGULAR MEETING

DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye

The motion was made by Mrs. Weinstein, seconded by Mrs. MacDonald and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to approve the Minutes of the March 12, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

Hearing Session, Site Presentation Leona Cox Community School

Ms. Heather Drew, the Principal, Leona Cox Community School, welcomed everyone and presented a highlight of the school's students, staff, and activities.

Ms. Drew informed the Board of Trustees that the California Department of Education has recognized Leona Cox Community School as a California Distinguished School. She expressed her pride in being the Principal of such an outstanding school, where dedicated students and staff work hard to help everyone achieve high levels of success.

During the meeting, the Board of Trustees and Ms. Drew, presented certificates of recognition to the following individuals:

- Janet Gamez, Classified Employee
- Kathleen Perez, Classified Employee
- Crystal Martinez, Certificated Employee
- Kristina Puth, Certificated Employee

Hearing Session,
*Recognize Sulphur
Springs Community
School Students and
Teacher Mr. Ken
Newton- Public
Service
Announcement:
Many Families One
Community Family
Resource Fair*

The Board of Trustees honored several Sulphur Springs Community School students for their dedication and hard work in creating the Public Service Announcement for the Many Families, One Community, Family Resource Fair. The students received certificates of appreciation. Mr. Newton was recognized for his leadership and support, receiving a plaque acknowledging his contributions to the Ninth Annual, Many Families, One Community, Family Resource Fair.

Hearing Session,
*Advance Request(s)
to Address the
Board*

Mr. DeFigueiredo asked if any advanced requests to address the Board had been received. There was one request to address the Board.

Hearing Session,
*Comments and/or
Questions Regarding
Agenda Items*

Mr. DeFigueiredo asked if there were any comments or questions regarding agenda items. There were no comments or questions regarding agenda items.

Mr. DeFigueiredo announced a recess at 7:48 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 7:53 PM.

Consent
Calendar,
*DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye*

The motion was made by Mrs. Weinstein, seconded by Mr. Chase, and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to approve the Consent Calendar, as follows:

- Conference Action Report #25-05
- Field Trip Action Report #25-05
- Gift Action Report #25-05
- Personnel Action Report #25-05
- Consultant Agreement - Dairy Council of California - Golden Oak Community School
- Consultant Agreement - Dairy Council of California - Mint Canyon Community School
- Consultant Agreement - Wildlife Learning Center - Mitchell Community School
- Consultant Agreement - Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District - Valley View Community School
- Contract - Los Angeles County Office of Education - Sulphur Springs Community School
- Approval of Eide Bailly Consulting Engagement
- Smart Sites (by ParentSquare) Website Hosting Agreement
- Updated Salary Schedule for California School Employees Association Chapter #298
- Approval of Low Bid Contractor RC Becker to provide Unit Bid Contracting Services for Concrete Repairs and Maintenance District-wide.
- Addendum Agreement for Professional Services - Willdan Financial Services
- Request for a Home Teacher #109331
- Approval of Low Bid Contractor Saber to Provide Construction Services for the District Office Exterior Upgrades Project
- Approval of Contract with 3K Building Services, Inc. for Inspector of Record for 2025-07-15 CS Fire Alarm Replacement Project

**Conference
Calendar,
K-6th English
Language Arts
Adoption Update**

Mrs. Julie McBride, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, presented an update on the adoption of the K-6 English Language Arts Curriculum to the Board of Trustees. The Sulphur Springs Union School District has been reviewing and piloting a research-based and standards-aligned English Language Arts curriculum for grades K through 6. The Board received additional updates on the adoption process and provided feedback.

**Conference
Calendar,
Boundaries for New
School in Skyline
Ranch Community**

Dr. Joshua Randall, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services, presented the proposed boundaries for the new school in the Skyline Ranch Community to the Board of Trustees. He highlighted several key points regarding these boundaries. According to Board Policy 5116, which addresses School Attendance Boundaries, the Board of Trustees is responsible for establishing these boundaries to optimize the use of district facilities and ensure effective administration of district schools. The goal of this policy is to enhance facility utilization and improve school management.

Dr. Randall reviewed projected enrollment figures from the Skyline Ranch Community and noted transfer rates indicating that there will be sufficient students to support the new school. Most students are expected to live within walking distance, so busing will not be required for the majority, except for students who receive special education services and it is part of their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). He stated that the proposed boundaries align with the Skyline Ranch neighborhood, which will help reduce student travel distances. These changes will not disrupt the attendance of students from school sites in the District, ensuring continuity within the District.

Dr. Randall also shared that the District gathered community input through meetings with various councils. The feedback regarding the school boundary has been overwhelmingly positive. Upcoming steps include an HOA meeting, a public hearing and Board Resolution on April 30, 2025, and the implementation of the new boundaries set for July 1, 2028. The Board of Trustees asked questions and provided feedback regarding the proposed boundaries for the new school in the Skyline Ranch Community.

**Conference
Calendar,
First Reading: Board
Policy 5131.8:
Mobile
Communication
Devices**

Dr. Randall presented the first reading of Board Policy 5131.8: Mobile Communication Devices to the Board of Trustees. A Cell Phone Committee Meeting was held to review Assembly Bill 3216, which addresses the use of smartphones by students, along with the recommended Board Policy. This first reading incorporates the feedback from that committee.

The Board of Trustees asked questions and provided suggestions regarding Board Policy 5131.8: Mobile Communication Devices. Trustee Mr. Chase emphasized that a cell phone can be a lifeline for students and pointed out that the Policy does not mention how it may relate to students under a 504 plan. Mr. DeFigueiredo requested that the District address the concerns raised and bring this information back to a future meeting.

**Action Calendar,
Recommendation for
Mild/Moderate
Preschool
Developmental
Curriculum Adoption
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye**

Mrs. McBride presented a recommendation to the Board of Trustees for the adoption of a Mild/Moderate Preschool Developmental Curriculum.

During the 2024-2025 school year, Educational Services Administrators collaborated with teachers to review and pilot a developmental curriculum for preschool students in the Mild/Moderate preschool program. The teachers piloted two programs as part of the adoption process: The Creative Curriculum and Frog Street.

Following the pilot, both the teachers and administration evaluated all the programs. They identified the most effective state-approved instructional curriculum that aligns with the California Preschool Learning Foundations, which support early learning and development. This developmental curriculum encompasses various areas, including math, language and literacy, science, social-emotional development, history-social science, health, visual and performing arts, and physical development.

The Board of Trustees expressed gratitude to the committee and the pilot teachers for their efforts in reviewing and piloting the curriculum.

The motion was made by Mrs. MacDonald, seconded by, Mrs. Jellings and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to approve the adoption of The Creative Curriculum Beginning 2025-2026 School Year Grade: Preschool.

Action Calendar,
Sulphur Springs
Union School District
Transportation Plan
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye

Dr. Randall presented the Sulphur Springs Union School District Transportation Plan to the Board of Trustees. He shared that the Plan is an update to the 2023-2024 Transportation Plan, which is required to be updated each year, which must be updated by April 1st of each year. Dr. Randall thanked Danielle Cuevas, Director of Transportation.

The motion was made by Mr. Chase, seconded by, Mrs. Weinstein and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to approve the Sulphur Springs Union School District Transportation Plan.

Action Calendar,
Bylaw 9240: Board
Training
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye

Dr. Kawaguchi presented Bylaw 9240: Board Training, which includes updated language from the California School Boards Association (CSBA) as a recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Kawaguchi highlighted that the Bylaw now specifies that all Board members, except for those whose term ends before January 1, 2026, are required to receive training in Ethics by January 1, 2026, and at least once every two years thereafter.

Additionally, the updated language allows individual Board members to seek out and participate in extra professional development opportunities, provided that there are funds available in the District's adopted budget for this purpose.

The motion was made by Mrs. Weinstein, seconded by Mrs. Jellings and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to approve Bylaw 9240: Board Training.

Action Calendar,
Provisional
Internship Permit for
Elen Carr
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye

Dr. Jay Greenlinger, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Pupil Services, presented to the Board of Trustees a request for a Provisional Internship Permit for Elen Carr for the 2025-2026 school year. The specific site and grade assignment for the teacher will be determined at a later date.

The motion was made by Mrs. MacDonald, seconded by Mr. Chase and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to approve the Provisional Internship Permit for Elen Carr.

Action Calendar,
Provisional
Internship Permit for
Caitlyn Reyes
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye

Dr. Greenlinger presented to the Board of Trustees a request for a Provisional Internship Permit for Caitlyn Reyes for the 2025-2026 school year. The specific site and grade assignment for her teaching role will be determined at a later date.

The motion was made by Mrs. Jellings, seconded by Mrs. Weinstein, and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to approve the Provisional Internship Permit for Caitlyn Reyes.

Action Calendar,
Resolution R-25-06
to Approve
Amendment to
Agreement with RISE
After School
Programs, LLC for
Expanded Learning
Opportunity
Program Services
DeFigueiredo-Aye

Dr. Randall presented Resolution R-25-06, which seeks to approve an amendment to the agreement with RISE After School Programs, LLC, for Expanded Learning Opportunity Program services, to the Board of Trustees. On May 22, 2024, the Board of Trustees approved the original agreement with RISE After School Programs, LLC, to provide these services to the District.

Dr. Randall shared that the District now intends to amend specific terms of this agreement, including its duration and the scope of services, among other revisions, to serve the District's interests better. These services are exempt from competitive bidding per Government Code Section 53060, which allows the Board to contract with individuals or

Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye

organizations that are specially trained, experienced, and competent to provide the necessary services. Dr. Randall stated that RISE After School Programs, LLC is uniquely trained, experienced, and qualified to deliver Expanded Learning Opportunity Program services.

The motion was made by Mr. Chase, seconded by Mrs. Jellings, and passed 5-0 by roll-call vote, to approve Resolution R-25-06 to Approve Amendment to Agreement with RISE After School Programs, LLC for Expanded Learning Opportunity Program Services.

The roll-call vote results were:

Ayes: Mrs. Weinstein, Mr. Chase, Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. Jellings, Mr. DeFigueiredo

Action Calendar,
Resolution R-25-07
to Approve
Amendment to
Agreement with
Sunshine Day Camp
for Expanded
Learning
Opportunity
Program Services
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye

Dr. Randall shared that the District now intends to amend specific terms of this agreement, including its duration and the scope of services, among other revisions, to serve the District's interests better. These services are exempt from competitive bidding per Government Code Section 53060, which allows the Board to contract with individuals or organizations that are specially trained, experienced, and competent to provide the necessary services. Dr. Randall stated that Sunshine Day Camp is uniquely trained, experienced, and qualified to deliver Expanded Learning Opportunity Program services.

The motion was made by Mr. Chase, seconded by Mrs. Jellings, and passed 5-0 by roll-call vote, to approve Resolution R-25-07 to Approve Amendment to Agreement with Sunshine Day Camp for Expanded Learning Opportunity Program Services.

The roll-call vote results were:

Ayes: Mrs. Weinstein, Mr. Chase, Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. Jellings, Mr. DeFigueiredo

Action Calendar,
Santa Clarita Valley
Education
Foundation Teacher
Tribute Sponsorship
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye

Dr. Greenlinger presented the sponsorship opportunity for the Santa Clarita Valley Education Foundation's Teacher Tribute Event to the Board of Trustees. He recommended that the Board approve a sponsorship level to support the event scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2025. Dr. Greenlinger noted that the Sulphur Springs Union School District Board of Trustees has previously sponsored the Teacher Foundation to promote student enrichment. He also reminded the Board of their sponsorship level from the previous year.

The motion was made by Mr. Chase to renew the District's Star Level of Sponsorship, seconded by Mrs. Weinstein, and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to approve Mrs. Weinstein's recommendation of Star Sponsorship level at \$500.00 for Sant Clarita Valley Education Foundation Teacher Tribute Sponsorship.

Action Calendar,
Business Services
Report #25-05
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye

The motion was made by Mrs. Jellings, seconded by Mrs. MacDonald, and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to approve Business Services Report #25-05.

Correspondence
and Board
Information

Mrs. Weinstein praised the District for the Many Families, One Community, Family Resource Fair. She emphasized the need to find ways to encourage more families to attend the presentations because they love the vendors. The William S. Hart Union High School District inquired why the Family Resource Fair isn't implemented across the valley. Mrs. Weinstein responded that she believed that was a great idea and that they should pursue it. She also noted that the

principal of Golden Valley High School, Mr. Sal Frias, is consistently very involved in the annual Many Families, One Community, Family Resource Fair.

Mrs. Weinstein shared that she attended the CLASS Education Foundation meeting, where they were updating their mission and vision statements. She shared that the Foundation is looking for board members who want to be more involved with our schools. She encouraged individuals who enjoy communicating with families to join, noting that residency in the District is not a requirement.

Mr. Chase expressed his regret for not attending the Many Families, One Community, Family Resource Fair.

Mrs. MacDonald shared that she attended the Many Families, One Community, Family Resource Fair, where she had the opportunity to speak with District social workers about the great work they are doing. She attended two sessions; the second session focused on Alzheimer's and brain health, which she found to be very informative. She thought the topics presented were excellent and wished she could have attended more than two sessions.

Mrs. Jellings described the Many Families, One Community, Family Resource Fair as a hidden gem. She wishes more people knew about it and attended, as there is always great attendance, but she hopes for even more participants. She recalled that the first session she attended felt like a therapy session for her inner child. She shared that it was wonderful, and she appreciated the smaller, more intimate setting. The session focused on four strategies for managing anxiety, which she found particularly helpful. Additionally, she participated in a second session on Orton-Gillingham (OG) methods, eager to absorb all the information provided. She shared that she wanted to soak up all the information and found it to be very informative. She shared that if we can encourage more families to attend these breakout sessions, it would be beneficial.

Mr. DeFigueiredo shared that he had never heard a kids' chorus sound so good. It was lovely and inspiring. Mr. DeFigueiredo noted that the junior high's complimentary sound and musical presentations were exceptional. He spoke to the jazz band director, who was thrilled to work with many talented kids. Golden Valley High School and the William S. Hart Union High School District are committed to placing students in respected music programs with full scholarships.

Mrs. MacDonald shared that the saxophone players were great, and she is excited to see what they could develop into.

Mr. DeFigueiredo expressed that many people have dedicated much time, sacrifice, and intensity to the community. He highlighted how much everyone loves the outcome of the Many Families, One Community, Family Resource Fair, which began as an educational initiative for the Board to empower families and strengthen their bonds.

Mrs. Weinstein mentioned that it is enjoyable to see kids leave the event with scooters and bikes.

Dr. Kawaguchi expressed her gratitude to everyone who contributed to the preparation of the Many Families, One Community, Family Resource Fair. She emphasized that it took the collective effort of the entire District to bring the event together.

Dr. Kawaguchi specifically thanked Heather Drew, Leona Cox Principal, for her hard work in organizing and running the children's program at the event. She also acknowledged Nancy Raygoza, the District Executive Secretary, for her dedication and the extra hours she spent organizing the event. Nancy was consistently proactive, addressing tasks before they even needed to be mentioned. Additionally, Dr. Kawaguchi recognized Sharon Murray, the secretary of the Technology Department, for her assistance in gathering items for the giveaway the night before the Fair. Sharon also helped manage the booth alongside Dr. Kawaguchi, particularly during a moment when a parent shared how much Sulphur Springs Union School District had saved his life.

Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye

With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to Section 54956.9 (i.e., potential litigation).

- Potential Litigation:
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL: EXISTING LITIGATION Government Code
Section 54954.5 (c) and (d)(1): Student Expulsion case 2024-2025 #113519

With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to Section 54956.9 (i.e., potential litigation).

- Potential Litigation:
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION
Government Code sections 54954.5 (c) and 54956.9 (d)(1): 3 Cases:
OAH Case No. 2024120933
OAH Case No. 2024120931
OAH Case No. 2025020230

Reconvene to
Open Session
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye

The motion was made by Mrs. Jellings, seconded by Mrs. MacDonald, and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to reconvene to Open Session at 9:35 PM.

Report of Closed
Session

Approve the Stipulated Agreement to Expel and Suspend Expulsion for expulsion case #24-25-113519 and the student be placed at Fair Oaks Ranch Community School.

Names of members in favor:

Mrs. Weinstein, Mr. Chase, Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. Jellings, Mr. DeFigueiredo

The Board voted by a vote of 5-0 to accept the settlement offer of the student in the case named Student v. Sulphur Springs Union School District, OAH Case No. 2024120933. The District will pay a total of \$21,500.00 to settle this case.

Names of members in favor:

Mrs. Weinstein, Mr. Chase, Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. Jellings, Mr. DeFigueiredo

The Board voted by a vote of 5-0 to accept the settlement offer of the student in the case named Student v. Sulphur Springs Union School District, OAH Case No. 2024120931. The District will pay a total of \$26,500.00 to settle this case.

Names of members in favor:

Mrs. Weinstein, Mr. Chase, Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. Jellings, Mr. DeFigueiredo

No report out for OAH Case No. 2025020230.

Reconvene to
Closed Session
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Abstain
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Abstain

The motion was made by Mr. Chase, seconded by Mrs. Jellings, and passed 3-0-2, with two abstentions by Mrs. Weinstein and Mrs. MacDonald, to reconvene to closed session at 9:41 PM.

Jellings-Aye

With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to Section 54957.8 (i.e., property negotiations).

- Property Negotiations

With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to Section 54956.9 (i.e., potential litigation).

- Potential Litigation

With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to Section 54957.6 (i.e., labor negotiations)

- Labor Negotiations

With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to Section 54957 (i.e., Personnel).

- Personnel:

Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release: Government Code Section 54957

Adjournment

DeFigueiredo-Aye

Weinstein-Aye

Chase-Aye

MacDonald-Aye

Jellings-Aye

The motion was made by Mrs. Jellings seconded by Mrs. MacDonald, and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to adjourn the Board Meeting at 10:43 PM.

April 16, 2025


Mr. Denis DeFigueiredo, President
Mrs. Shelley Weinstein, Clerk