



**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
March 7, 2023**

**Closed Session 6:00 PM / Board Meeting 7:00 PM**

*Education Center · 685 E. Jack London Blvd. · Livermore, CA · 94551*

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**Board Members Present:** President Craig Bueno, Clerk Emily Prusso, and Members Steven Drouin, Yanira Guzmán and Kristie Wang were present.

**Administrative Staff Present:** Kelly Manke, Assistant Superintendent; Teresa Fiscus, Assistant Superintendent; Amy Robbins, Executive Director of Human Resources; Matthew Hart, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Frank Selvaggio, Executive Director of Special Education; Zandra Teixeira, Coordinator of Special Education; Michelle Dawson, Coordinator of Community Engagement; Kim McNeely, Bond Program Director; Clark Conover, Principal; Laura Lembo, Principal; Ravi Prabhala, Vice Principal; and, Chris Van Schaack, Superintendent.

**Student Board Member Representative Present:** Mackenzie Wherry, Livermore High School, and Loudon Philbrick, Granada High School, were present.

**1.0 6:00 P.M. - CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Bueno.

**2.0 6:00 P.M. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

2.1 The meeting was adjourned to Closed Session by President Bueno. The Board adjourned to Closed Session to discuss items 2.2 through 2.6. Staff in attendance included: Craig Bueno, Board President; Emily Prusso, Board Clerk; Board Members Steven Drouin, Kristie Wang, Yanira Guzmán; Chris Van Schaack, Superintendent; Melissa Theide, Assistant Superintendent; Teresa Fiscus, Assistant Superintendent; and, Kelly Manke, Assistant Superintendent.

2.2 Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Leave/Employment Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957

2.3 Conference with Labor Negotiator Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 Employee Organizations: California School Employees Association (CSEA) – Kelly Manke; Service Employees International Union (SEIU) – Kelly Manke; Livermore Education Association (LEA) – Kelly Manke

2.4 Anticipated Litigation, Conference with Legal Counsel – Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: One Case

2.5 Existing Litigation, Conference with Legal Counsel - Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 (Gov Code 54954.5(c)): One Case

2.6 Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Government Code Section 54956.8)  
Property APN No. 98-357-2 (685 E. Jack London Blvd) in Livermore, California  
Agency negotiators: Teresa Fiscus, Kelly Manke, Chris Van Schaack

### **3.0 7:09 P.M. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

3.1 The meeting was reconvened to Open Session by President Craig Bueno with Clerk Emily Prusso, and Members, Steven Drouin, Yanira Guzmán, and Kristie Wang.

3.2 The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from Joe Michell TK-8.

3.3 Actions approved in Closed Session - None

3.4 Expulsion Action - None

3.5 Meeting Procedures - President Craig Bueno reviewed all meeting procedures that included instructions for 8.0 Communication from the Public.

### **4.0 CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

#### 4.1 The Superintendent will announce any changes to the agenda

Superintendent Chris Van Schaack reported that there were no changes to the Agenda.

### **5.0 RECOGNITION**

#### 5.1 Recognition of Joe Michell TK-8 Students

Superintendent Van Schaack invited Ms. Laura Lembo, Principal, and Ravi Prabhala, Vice Principal - Joe Michell TK-8, to recognize Mary Burbano, Yard Duty Supervisor (not in attendance), and their students: Abigail Penner, Joanna Cho, Ingrid Siefering, Kate Bodily, Violet Woodworth, and Isaac White.

This group of student leaders served as valet's during morning drop-off at Joe Michell, and were recognized for their help setting others up for success each day with their positive attitude and a smile as students are dropped off for school.

#### 5.2 Recognition of Granada High School Students

Superintendent Chris Van Schaack invited Mr. Clark Conover, Principal - Granada High School, to recognize Ms. Sommer Newkirk, Teacher, and students: Angel Le, Sophie Yuan, Sarah Suresh, Najmah Roshan, and Jasmine Branda.

This group of students was recognized for all the work they put into organizing the Granada's 24 Hour Race. This race/event was a fundraiser with a focus to end modern slavery and human trafficking.

## 6.0 STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS REPORT

### 6.1 Student Board Member Representatives will report on their school activities

Mackenzie Wherry, Livermore High School (LHS) Board Member Representative, began by sharing that Trimester 2 finals week is done and their activities are picking up. Livermore High's 6th man basketball game is coming up, on April 15th. This basketball game gives non-high school basketball athletes a chance to play a real basketball game against Granada. Then April 20th, they will be hosting their last Girls Powderpuff flag football game. This is their last powderpuff football game because next year they will have a Girls' Flag Football team which will play like a regular high school sport. They are also preparing their Leadership and Student Body for ASB and Class Officer Elections at the end of March. These elections will be held the last two weeks before Spring Break and will allow students to vote other students into Leadership positions for the 2023-2024 school year.

Expo night which was on February 22nd in the LHS Gym, served as an informational night for incoming freshmen, current students, and families. Classes and clubs set up tables staffed with teachers and students to answer questions and promotion materials like flyers or pamphlets. She mentioned that one class many students and parents were asking about was a class run by Zachary Radecke, their SEL and Wellness counselor. She shared that Livermore High School is looking for "Culture Keepers", or LHS students interested in helping out in their Wellness Center as a class next year. She noted that becoming a culture keeper is a great opportunity for any student looking to go into a career as a psychologist or therapist. She mentioned that this is an awesome addition to their course calendar for next year.

She closed by thanking all and reminded everyone that, 'Today is a Great Day to be a Cowboy!'

Louden Philbrick, Granada High School (GHS) Board Member Representative, began by sharing that students are settling into the 3rd Trimester with their new classes and preparing for the final trimester of the year. Next week spirit games will take place for two consecutive weeks. Students will be showing off their best spirit in order to win an awesome prize. Granada Expo will take place next Wednesday, where incoming students will learn what Granada has to offer, such as clubs, activities, and academics.

Louden mentioned that Spring sports have now officially begun, and their boys golf team took first place in their most recent invitational. Loudon shared that the varsity girls basketball played in their first NorCal tournament in 30 years, and congratulated them and their incredible season. Their varsity boys basketball team played that night at Contra Costa College against Salesian in the CIF State Div. 1 Boys Basketball Regionals Finals Championships. Loudon congratulated them and their historic season so far.

He closed by sharing that Granada is excited to kick off the 3rd Trimester, and is even more excited to see what's in store in these upcoming weeks.

## **7.0 EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

### 7.1 Employee Associations will report on activities

Eileen Greenlee, Livermore Education Association (LEA) Vice President, representing teachers, nurses, counselors, psychologists, speech pathologists and teachers on special assignments, gave the LEA report.

Ms. Greenlee shared that she is nearing her first term as LEA - VP, and reflected on why she felt, and still feels, passionate about her role in representing Livermore educators. She noted that after spending 20 years in the classroom and watching decisions being made that impacted her classroom she felt frustrated. She wanted her experience, her expertise, and her knowledge to be valued. Since she was raised to be a problem-solver, she took on this role in hopes of being the bridge between the decisions being made at the district level and how those decisions impacted the classroom.

She continued by noting that the last year and half, while there are many accomplishments and successes that have been made, the bridge is still a work in progress.

She recently read the book “The Infinite Game,” and there was a chapter on “trusting teams” that really resonated with her. She shared quotes by author Simon Sinek: “trust is a feeling and that you have to feel safe to be vulnerable.” She added that if leaders avoid the existence of feelings, their employees will lose trust in their leaders and eventually lose their high achievements or performance. She said that as an elected leader of LEA it is her duty to listen to the feelings, the struggles, the obstacles, and the problems their members are experiencing. And that by allowing their members to feel heard, they are actively cultivating an environment of trust in hopes of making a more productive team.

She shared that the overall sentiment they hear from their members is that they feel dismissed. Dismissed in the decision-making that impacts their classrooms, their students, their site and their district.

She asked that tonight we: listen to them, hear them, believe them, trust them, and ask them, all of them, to complete the bridge. She first wants to create a trusting team and a trusting culture that will ultimately lead to a high performing district that will allow ALL of our students to be successful.

## **8.0 COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC**

### A) Audience Communication

1. Alexandra Izarraraz, Parent, commented regarding a teacher issue.
2. Alex Pepper, Granada High School Student, commented regarding hate speech on the Granada campus.
3. Julie Kozin, Granada High School Student, commented regarding student safety in schools.
4. Trenton Thompsen, Granada High School Student, commented regarding students and safety issues on campus.
5. Emily Wilson, Substitute Teacher and prior Student, commented regarding LGBTQ student issues.

6. Jaimee Mitchell, Graduate of Granada High School, commented regarding LGBTQIA+ support.

## B) Correspondence

Board Clerk Emily Prusso reported that there were no Board Correspondence submitted prior to the deadline.

## **9.0 INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 9.1 Joe Michell TK-8 School Report

Superintendent Van Schaack asked Ms. Laura Lembo - Principal, and Ravi Prabhala - Vice Principal, to present the Joe Michell TK-8 School Report, for information only.

Public Comments: None

### 9.2 Granada High School Report

Superintendent Van Schaack asked Mr. Clark Conover - Principal, to present the Granada High School Report, for information only.

Public Comments: None

### 9.3 Special Education Report

Superintendent Van Schaack asked Mr. Frank Selvaggio, Executive Director of Special Education, and Zandra Texeira, Coordinator of Special Education, to present the Special Education Report, for information only.

Public Comments:

1. Kristi Barcelona, SDC/RSP Co-Teacher - 5th Grade, highlighted words from some of her parents.
2. Varina Michaelis, Parent, commented regarding the transition program and the trust she feels in the program.

## **10.0 DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

### 10.1 Election of Representatives to California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly

Superintendent Van Schaack presented the Election of Representatives to California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly, for Board consideration and possible vote.

Public Comments: None

Board President Craig Bueno asked the Board if they were okay voting on the three candidates together as a slate.

## Amended - Motion

Member **Emily Prusso** Moved, and Member **Yanira Guzmán** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion to 'Approve the vote for Dianne Jones, Sara Prada and Kristie Wang, for CSBA Delegate Assembly.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 0 The motion **Carried** 5 - 0 - 0.

Craig Bueno	Yes
Emily Prusso	Yes
Steven Drouin	Yes
Yanira Guzmán	Yes
Kristie Wang	Yes

### 10.3 Approval of Proposed Amendments to the Measure J Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Bylaws

Superintendent Van Schaack asked Ms. Kim McNeely, Bond Program Director, to present the Approval of Proposed Amendments to the Measure J Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Bylaws, for Board approval.

Public Comment:

1. Jerry Yalon, Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) representing the Community at Large, commented in regards to the independence of the CBOC, and the authority that the District has to approve the proposed changes to the CBOC bylaws.

President Bueno clarified with Mr. Yalon if he was speaking on behalf of the CBOC, as the Chair. Mr. Yalon confirmed that he was speaking on behalf of the CBOC as the Chair.

The Board asked clarifying questions about what authority the Board has to approve the proposed CBOC bylaws, asked where the bylaws originated from, how the original CBOC was formed, and how the CBOC members were elected or selected.

Ms. Kim McNeely, Bond Program Director, clarified that the original bylaws were prepared by legal counsel, were reviewed by the original CBOC, and then brought to the Board for approval. She also clarified that the reason for this procedure was to be sure that there is consistency with regard to the legal requirements and with the procedures and policies of the Board. Ms. McNeely said that the reason the bylaws were brought to the CBOC is because there were many new CBOC members in the last year, and many of them had not had a refresher on bylaws or process. Staff recommended agendaizing the review. She shared that every agenda is reviewed with the Chair, and the Chair has the ability to create the agenda to decide what is, or is not, on each CBOC agenda. Ms. McNeely brought the bylaws forward to bring all members up to speed, and as part of that, legal counsel recommended to staff that the CBOC bylaws be compliant with current law and current operating procedures of the CBOC.

President Bueno adjourned the meeting for a break at 9:33 PM.

President Bueno reconvened the meeting at 9:38 PM.

President Bueno commented saying that as a District we have extraordinary citizens' support for education and many other things, and that it sounded like we are in sync with the CBOC. And that there may be a need to have further discussion to ensure that this spirit is maintained. He noted that we are in compliance with the law, but to maintain the spirit and independence, which will ensure that we maintain the community support.

President Bueno asked that this item be tabled, and that we give our administration, staff and CBOC proper time to review.

Superintendent Van Schaack clarified that there is no time limit on this item.

Superintendent Van Schaack clarified that we will reconvene, and that District staff, legal counsel with the CBOC as an entity, will work to find a resolution to the question as to whether or not the Board ultimately has the responsibility or authority to approve changes to the bylaws made by the CBOC itself.

President Bueno asked that we table this item, if there was no objection, to give staff proper time to review.

President Bueno would like to maintain the spirit and independence and great oversight with public trust. He shared that we should take the time that is needed between the two groups to have discussions, and then bring this forward after it has been unified.

## **11.0 CONSENT ITEMS - MOTIONS**

11.1 Approval of Consent Items - Motions

11.2 Approval of Consultant

11.3 Approval of Employment of Extracurricular Coaches, 2022/2023

11.4 Approval of Employment of Personnel

11.5 Approval of Resignation/Retirements

11.6 Approval of Leaves of Absence

11.7 Approval of Out-of-State Conference for One Staff Member to Attend the Peer-to-Peer Conference in Texas, March 14-16, 2023

11.8 Award of Contract for the Arroyo Seco Shade Structure Project

11.9 Approval of February 21, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **Emily Prusso** Moved and Member **Yanira Guzmán** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion to 'Approval of Consent Items - Motions.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was:

Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 0 The motion **Carried** 5 - 0 - 0.

Craig Bueno	Yes
Emily Prusso	Yes
Steven Drouin	Yes
Yanira Guzmán	Yes
Kristie Wang	Yes

Public Comment: None

## 12.0 CONSENT ITEMS - RESOLUTIONS

12.1 Approval of Consent Items - Resolutions

12.2 Resolution No. 041-22/23, Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Equipment

Public Comment: None

### ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **Emily Prusso** Moved and Member **Steven Drouin** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion to 'Approve the Consent Items - Resolution Nos. 041-22/23.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 0 The motion **Carried** 5 - 0 - 0.

Craig Bueno	Yes
Emily Prusso	Yes
Steven Drouin	Yes
Yanira Guzmán	Yes
Kristie Wang	Yes

## 13.0 CONSENT ITEMS REMOVED FOR SEPARATE DISCUSSION/VOTE

13.1 Consent items removed for separate discussion will be placed here and voted on separately

No Consent Items were removed for separate discussion.

## 14.0 BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

14.1 Board Members reported on their activities and/or made requests to staff.

Trustee Wang began by sharing that she attended the TK & Kindergarten Enrollment Fair, and that it was well attended with lines out the door. She shared that it was really cute to see all the kindergarteners, and all of the principals in one room. She shared that she also has been attending the Equity and Inclusion Committee meetings. She noted that they have been active and thought provoking, interesting and important discussions. She also mentioned that they are preparing for CSBA Legislative Action Week next week, where they will meet with their local elected officials about issues that are important to our schools. She spoke about the Read Across America and noted that it was fun to see so many involved on social media. She personally thanked our Mayor who she had invited to come to Marylin. He had a really packed schedule, but made time to come. Ms. Wang also attended the Pedrozzi Young Scholars Social, which she said is always a heart-warming event. She attended Family Science Day at the Livermore Library with Quest Science, and other groups. She mentioned that they are working on a Livermore Youth Climate Summit in September. She added that tomorrow is a YouthBuild Milestone Event, and then Thursday is Science Odyssey.



Trustee Guzmán began by sharing that she attended the Registration event that was held at the Robert Livermore Community Center. She commented about the leadership of Tracie Christmas, and Executive Assistant, Jessica Torres, and said the event was seamless. She said that it was great to see all the representatives from the elementary and K-8 schools, and many local community based organizations such as the City, Library and Access Health Care. They were there to offer their services and help families. She also attended Granada's Safe and Sober Grad Night fundraiser at a local winery before attending the Livermore High Theatre performance 'Queens.' She added that the students did a phenomenal job in relating the story of King Henry the Eighth, and his wives. Ms. Guzmán thanked principal Joe Meunier for the invitation to witness the 5th Grade Leadership Class lead their class in the Choose Love assembly. She also thanked principal Andrea Tapia at Altamont Creek for inviting her to her school to participate in Read Across America, and added that she had the pleasure of reading the book 'Couch Potato,' which she felt was really relevant to our current students. She is really looking forward to participating in the Spring activities.

Trustee Drouin began by sharing that he too has been busy. He noted that he visited two schools, Lawrence Elementary and Del Valle, and was impressed by both school sites. He commented saying that the Leader in Me program is phenomenal. He shared that students led him around campus and taught him about the culture and the community. He added that the job that the administration and staff has done to make visible the games that document growth and challenges regarding math on school campus is amazing. Mr. Drouin gave a shout out to Mr. Sean's class for making soup and cake. He was also impressed by programming and focus on the adult ed population, policies and procedures and student centered focus of the faculty and staff at Del Valle. Trustee Drouin was at Altamont Creek for Read Across America, and read about why dragons love tacos and tried his best to explain what it means to be a Board Member to 1st Graders.

Trustee Prusso began by sharing that it has been a busy couple weeks and that she is gearing up for a busy time. She attended the TK & Kinder Enrollment Fair, Livermore High School Expo, and the Pedrozzi Young Scholars dinner. Ms. Prusso explained that the Pedrozzi Young Scholars program selects 5th graders who have earned a place on the Marylin Ave Elementary School Principal's Honor Roll. And explained that these students receive age-based targeted support as they progress through Grades 6 through 12th Grade. She went on to say that the program is designed to help encourage these students to succeed academically in their middle school and high school years, and to be better prepared to enter college and vocational training programs. Each year a new group of 5th Graders is invited to enter the program, and she believes there are about 60 students now. She added that she also attended Read Across America at Altamont Creek. She shared the way that she describes who she is to the students as a Board Member. She says that she is the boss of the Superintendent, and then she asks the student who her boss is, and she tells them that the parents are her boss. Ms. Prusso also attended the Winter Concert for the LHS Choir which she says is great. She added that Mr. Filice has a great show and program.

President Bueno began by sharing that he attended the TK & Kindergarten Registration fair, and that it had a really good flow and was really well run. He added that he has been to this event for several years and said that Tracie Christmas and her staff did a really good job. People were able to get inside and it was very well represented: cabinet, teachers, principals and school nurses were in attendance. He shared that there was a lot of assistance, and said that it sounded like the numbers were good. President Bueno thanked LARPD for the use of the Robert Livermore Community Center. Mr. Bueno closed by announcing that Granada High School won the Division 1 Boys Regional Basketball

Championship and is going to the State Championship, Division 1 against Notre Dame High School. He congratulated Coach Q and his staff, and the amazing players.

## **15.0 SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

### 15.1 The Superintendent reported on District activities.

Superintendent Van Schaack began by sharing that we have had the good fortune of having a number of incredibly successful teams and individual students so far this year, several of which have been mentioned this evening. He took a moment to discuss how proud we have been about not just the accomplishments themselves, but the way in which our students have conducted themselves during those successes.

He noted that last Saturday was a great example. Our Boys and Girls basketball teams both played in the semifinal round of the Northern California playoffs. The top eight teams in the State made it that far. The crowd was loud and spirited, filling the stands and standing along the baselines. Parents and staff showed up in force. The games were close and both contests came down to the final minutes. However, in a day and age of crazy fans and aggressive parents and players who lose their cool, we had none of that. The student section was great, the parents were supportive of their players but also appreciative of the opponent, and the players handled themselves in a manner which made us all proud. It was high school sports at their best. Our coaches reminded their players that it’s important to act like they’ve been there before when they win, and to handle losing with grace and poise. Our basketball teams did exactly that on Saturday night.

He also shared what we want our high school graduates to look like when they leave us, and that we have seen many examples so far this year that remind us that we’re heading in the right direction. All of the many educational professionals in this community, along with the parents of thousands of students, should feel proud of the work they’ve done.

Mr. Van Schaack closed by sharing that we all love to win, but we’re also showing how important it is to win the right way.

## **16.0 ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, President Bueno adjourned the Meeting at 9:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Board President

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Board Clerk

Approved and entered into the proceedings of this Board this 21st day of March, 2023.