

**SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

December 17, 2019  
**MINUTES**

Douglas E. Giles  
Educational Resource Center  
9619 Cuyamaca Street  
Santee, California

**A. OPENING PROCEDURES**

**1. Call to Order and Welcome**

President Fox called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present:

Ken Fox, President  
Dustin Burns, Vice President  
Barbara Ryan, Clerk  
Dianne El-Hajj, Member  
Elana Levens-Craig, Member

Administration present:

Dr. Kristin Baranski, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board  
Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services  
Tim Larson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources/Pupil Services  
Dr. Stephanie Pierce, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services  
Lisa Arreola, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary

**2. District Mission**

President Fox invited the audience to recite the District Mission.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

President Fox invited Boy Scout Troop #395, to lead the members, staff, and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

President Fox presented the agenda for approval. Member Ryan moved approval.

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|----------------|----------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| <i>Motion:</i> | <u>Ryan</u>    | <u>Fox</u>   | <u>Aye</u> | <u>Levens-Craig</u> | <u>Aye</u> |
| <i>Second:</i> | <u>El-Hajj</u> | <u>Burns</u> | <u>Aye</u> | <u>El-Hajj</u>      | <u>Aye</u> |
| <i>Vote:</i>   | <u>5-0</u>     | <u>Ryan</u>  | <u>Aye</u> |                     |            |

**B. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**1. Election of Board of Education Officers**

President Fox announced this meeting was the annual organizational meeting of the Board and explained the rotation of officers was as follows: Dustin Burns, President; Barbara Ryan, Vice President; Elana Levens-Craig, Clerk; and Dianne El-Hajj and Ken Fox, Members. President Fox asked for a motion to elect 2020 Board officers through rotation according to Board Bylaw 9120, and that Board Bylaw 9120 be revised to reflect the officer rotation for 2020. Member El-Hajj moved approval.

Incoming President Burns expressed his appreciation of outgoing President Fox for his leadership and presented him with a token of appreciation for his service as President. Following the approval of the item, Member Burns assumed the leadership of the meeting as the newly elected President.

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| <i>Motion:</i> | <u>El-Hajj</u>      | <u>Fox</u>   | <u>Aye</u> | <u>Levens-Craig</u> | <u>Aye</u> |
| <i>Second:</i> | <u>Levens-Craig</u> | <u>Burns</u> | <u>Aye</u> | <u>El-Hajj</u>      | <u>Aye</u> |
| <i>Vote:</i>   | <u>5-0</u>          | <u>Ryan</u>  | <u>Aye</u> |                     |            |

2. **Board Meeting Calendar for 2020**

Member Ryan moved to approve continuation of the existing meeting schedule with meeting dates for 2020 as listed.

|                |             |                     |            |                |            |
|----------------|-------------|---------------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| <b>Motion:</b> | <u>Ryan</u> | <b>Burns</b>        | <u>Aye</u> | <b>El-Hajj</b> | <u>Aye</u> |
| <b>Second:</b> | <u>Fox</u>  | <b>Ryan</b>         | <u>Aye</u> | <b>Fox</b>     | <u>Aye</u> |
| <b>Vote:</b>   | <u>5-0</u>  | <b>Levens-Craig</b> | <u>Aye</u> |                |            |

3. **Board of Education Representatives to Councils, Advisory and Other Committees**

President Burns inquired on the Board's preference to remain on their current committees. Upon discussion, it was the Board's consensus to remain on the existing assignments to Advisory and other committees for 2020 as currently assigned; with the exception of the Board/Santee City Council Joint Conference Committee.

C. **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

1. **Superintendent's Report**

- 1.1. Developer Fees and Collection Report
- 1.2. Use of Facilities Report
- 1.3. Enrollment Report
- 1.4. Claims Against the District
- 1.5. Schedule of Upcoming Events

2. **Spotlight on Education: Rio Seco School**

Debra Simpson, Principal; Chris Rogers, Vice Principal; and Tiger Rowan, Administrative Intern, shared how Rio Seco School is addressing student learning. Principal Simpson shared Rio Seco was proud to be sharing how the Roadrunners Rock and Roll; and shared Rio Seco has a strong foundation to sustain growth and sustainability. Vice Principal Rogers, shared Rio Seco continues to surpass the state and District averages in both English Language Arts and Mathematics. In some cases, by over 20 to 30 percentage points; and continues to monitor summative and formative assessments to determine areas that need more support. He noted the kindergarten, first-, and second-grade teachers have been focusing on BAS and guided reading data to analyze areas of strength and areas in need of more intense instruction. Many teachers have integrated CGI strategies to strengthen math concept comprehension. Principal Simpson explained that each grade level 3rd-8th analyzed their summative data from SBAC testing from last May and made note of either a deficit or weakness. In cases where a deficit was not indicated, the team noted any weaknesses as compared to how students performed on the rest of the test. Teachers then discussed areas of greatest need to see if they correlate with other assessments/observations in those areas; and they are aware of the areas of weakness of their current students, based on the previous year's data. Administrative Intern Rowan shared it is imperative that students know how they are doing academically and know how to meet academic goals; and shared slides that showed that each grade level has a plan for how they create and review goals with students and pictures of mixed professional learning teams discussing academic data. In closing, Principal Simpson shared Rio Seco strives to keep their goals in focus, learn from the past and always move forward.

The Board expressed their appreciation to the Rio Seco Administration for their presentation; and those in attendance in support of the *Rio Seco Roadrunners*.

3. **Spotlight on Education: PRIDE Academy**

Kristen Bonser, Principal, and Maria Parker, Vice Principal, were present to spotlight the work at PRIDE Academy. Principal Bonser welcomed and introduced those in attendance in support of PRIDE Academy; and shared their focus is moving students towards proficiency. She explained their goals were around literacy and safety. Principal Bonser shared this year focused around two aspects of literacy - Academic Vocabulary and Student Engagement. Principal Bonser explained that after examining the CAASPP data from 2019, they found that the students excelled in foundational reading skills, but struggled with their academic vocabulary; and noticed in last year's walkthroughs that

teachers were doing the heavy lifting instead of students. This year the entire staff is focused on two simple questions:

1. How are students deepening their understanding of key words?
2. Who's doing the work and how can we tell?

Principal Bonser shared the following targeted supports:

1. Professional development that aligns specifically to academic vocabulary and creates learning where students must do the heavy lifting.
2. Administrator walkthroughs that are focused only on their two goals (academic vocabulary and student engagement), and provide next steps for teachers to hone their practice.
3. Time for teachers to collaborate in professional learning communities and examine student work around one, powerful schoolwide standard.
4. Increasing our hours for our instructional aides to provide guided reading support daily in kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

She shared their focus on their academic vocabulary and student engagement goal are already having an impact on student learning. Principal Bonser explained seeing evidence of academic vocabulary in student writing and ability to use higher-level vocabulary during classroom discussions. She noted excitement amongst teachers around implementing the GLAD strategies, like the cognitive content dictionary; and working together on learning progressions that students can use to self-assess their own writing.

Vice Principal Parker, explained PRIDE's second focus is school connectedness. She shared wanting students, parents, and the local community to feel that they are members of PRIDE. This goal is being supported through carefully planned interventions that target attendance and mental health. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS), and Safe School Ambassadors to teach proactive behaviors on campus, have also been implemented. This year PRIDE Academy joined 18 other schools, county wide, in the Improving Chronic Absenteeism Network (ICAN). The goal of ICAN is to drop chronic absenteeism by five-percent (5%). Vice Principal Parker explained this would be done by sending parent letters four times a year to keep parents up to date on their child's absences. She shared these letters would provide a clear picture of average attendance compared to their child's same age peers. Vice Principal Parker noted the next focus is handwashing tutorials for the younger students in order to decrease the spread of illness; and continue PRIDE's attendance incentives and counseling supports to motivate students and address their needs. To teach behaviors proactively, PRIDE will continue their focus on implementing and refining PBIS. This year PRIDE will be:

- Communicating a weekly focus to parents, teachers, and students
- Identifying major versus minor behaviors
- Developing a schoolwide system of predetermined responses to misbehavior
- Increasing positive rewards for displaying the three core values across campus
- Using common language to hold kids accountable to the posted expectations across campus

Vice Principal Parker shared PRIDE partnered with the Community Matters organization to bring Safe School Ambassadors to the school. She explained Safe School Ambassadors are an evidence-based program that harnesses the power of students to prevent and stop bullying and mistreatment. It relies on the "inside-out" approach to improving school climate. Student bystanders see, hear, and know things adults do not, and can intervene in ways adults are unable to.

Principal Bonser shared that in order to improve student connectedness, PRIDE targeted parent and community involvement. Their biggest change was hiring Allie Holstein, as their Community Liaison. Principal Bonser commended Ms. Holstein's work and shared that since August she started a breakfast club, hosted a literacy night called Camp Read S'more, made connections with local community services and businesses, and started fundraising for a food bank on campus. She shared seeing an increase in parent pride at school and plan on continuing forward momentum through 2020 and beyond!

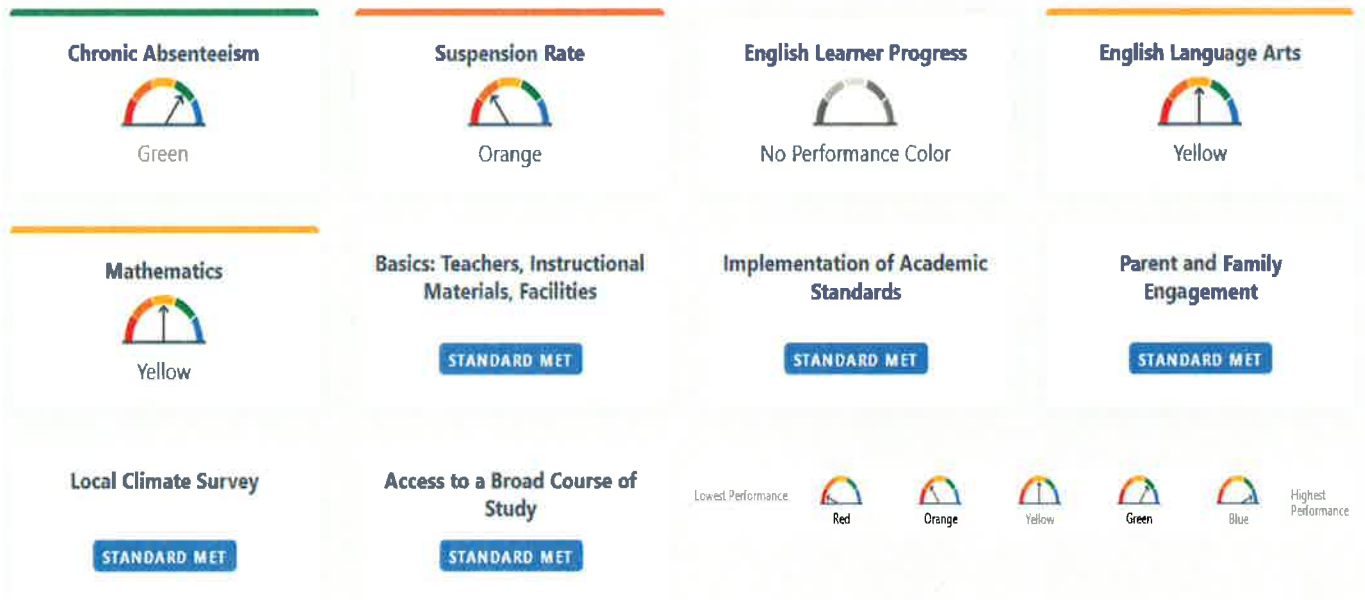
President Burns asked the students in attendance to share what they liked the most about their school. The students shared everyone at PRIDE feels like “family” and everyone helps one another.

The Board expressed their gratitude towards those in attendance in support of PRIDE Academy.

**4. California Dashboard**

Dr. Stephanie Pierce, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services; and Bonner Montler, Director of Assessment and Learning Support, presented an overview of the California Dashboard.

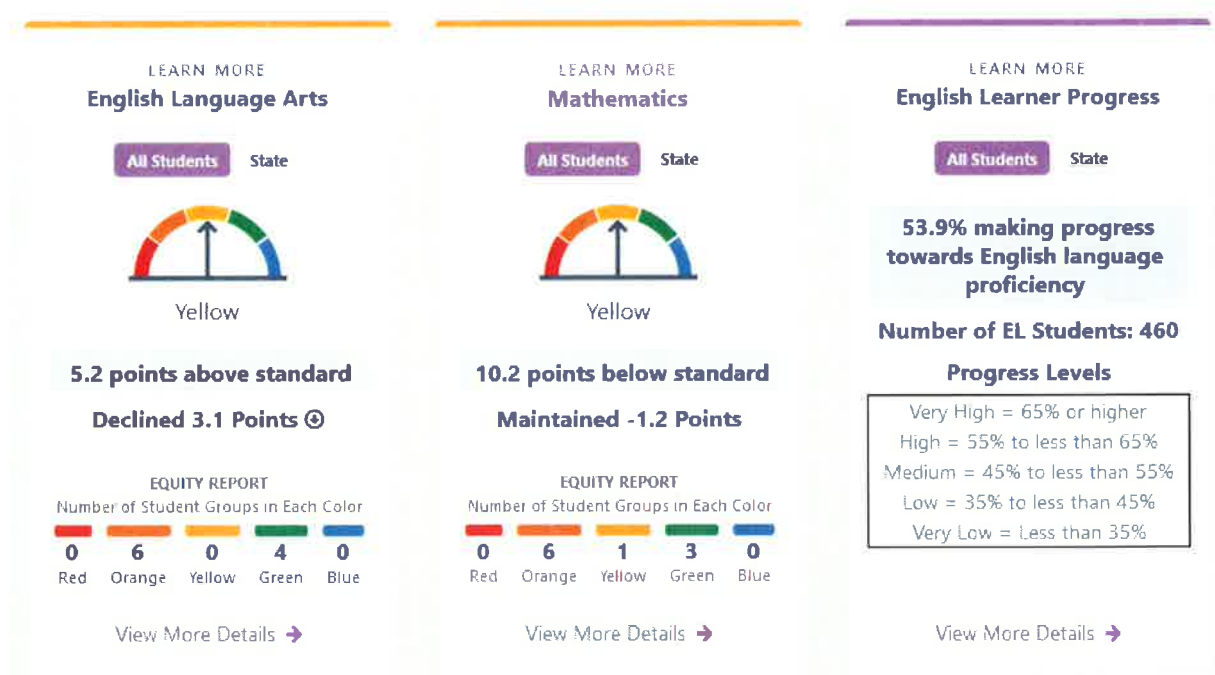
Dr. Pierce explained the State Indicators that are evaluated include chronic absenteeism; suspension rate; English learner progress (status only); and Academic (English language arts and mathematics). Local Indicators (met, not met, not met for two years) include Basics (teacher, instructional materials, and facilities); implementation of academic standards; parent engagement; and local climate survey. Mr. Montler provided an overview of the 2019 California School Dashboard. Results showed a decline of 3.1 points in English Language Arts; mathematics maintained the -1.2 point decline; chronic absenteeism had a 0.6% decline; and the suspension rate maintained at -0.2%. An overview of the parent resources on the District website were shared.



SANTEE

## Academic Performance

View Student Assessment Results and other aspects of school performance.



### D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

President Burns invited members of the audience to address the Board about any item not on the agenda.

Risa Farber, First Grade Teacher at Chet F. Harritt, addressed the Board regarding student behavior (and/or lack of) and how it affects her teaching and student learning. She noted an increase of students with emotional and physical behaviors in the last six years; and shared this has been her most challenging year. Ms. Farber explained that in August, her class list included eight students with behavioral concerns with an additional student added on the third day of school; and noted a third of her students started the year with behavioral concerns. She explained the range of student behaviors. Ms. Farber explained believing more students are entering school with behavioral problems and issues with combination classes. She shared combination classes usually do not have behavioral issues; and explained students in combination classes are typically independent workers that can handle the two curriculums. Ms. Farber noted the other first grade class also has eight students with behavioral concerns; or 20% of the first grade students having identified problems. She explained this did not include those that have problems, but have not be labeled. Ms. Farber shared addressing her concern with her Principal. She explained a typical day in her classroom includes a child at a desk with a chair turned upside down; another at a desk playing with a pencil; a third child reading a book at their desk; a fourth student walking around; another three on the carpet playing and/or laying down; all while she is trying to read a story to the class. Ms. Farber shared the next day may be similar; except a student may also be attempting to run away, refusing to do work, under a table, etc. She noted it was evident that the students of today, are not the students of yesterday; as the District is piloting a social and emotional curriculum, there is a counselor at the school site four days a week, and an additional behavioral specialists were added at the District-level. Ms. Farber explained these solutions, and needy students, are creating additional work for the teachers; as they now have surveys and questionnaires to complete, meetings, behavioral plans to complete, parents to contact daily, students in/out of the classroom to receive special services, and more curriculum to teach in the same school day. She asked how she is expected to be an effective teacher given her situation. Ms. Farber shared a solution would be to reduce or eliminate combination classes; the addition of one or two teachers at each site; and class size reduction. She shared feeling as if she was cheating many of the other students' learning because of her frustration and exhaustion of dealing with the constant interruptions and uncontrollable students.

Ms. Farber shared her final thoughts by asking the Board to remember her classroom data when looking at the testing data; as 33% of her students are physically and/or incapable of focusing on test material; another 33% are falling through the cracks because she is busy managing behavioral problems; and luckily the remaining 33% are natural learners are able to excel with minimal teacher support. She shared being present to teach all children but explained knowing some students needed behavioral interventions that go beyond her teacher qualifications and school day.

**E. CONSENT ITEMS**

President Burns invited comments from the public on any item listed under Consent. There were no public comments. There were no public comments.

**Superintendent**

- 1.1. Approval of Minutes
- 2.1. Approval/Ratification of Travel Requests
- 2.2. Approval/Ratification of Expenditure Warrants
- 2.3. Approval/Ratification of Purchase Orders
- 2.4. Approval/Ratification of Revolving Cash Report
- 2.5. Acceptance of Donations, Grants, and Bequests
- 2.6. Approval/Ratification of General Services Agreements
- 2.7. Approval of Agreements for Mileage Reimbursement In Lieu of District Transportation
- 2.8. Approval/Ratification of Expenditure Transactions Charged to District Issued Purchasing Cards (P-Cards)
- 2.9. Authorization to Sell/Dispose of Surplus Items
- 2.10. Authorization to Solicit Formal Bids for Asphalt Replacement at Cajon Park School
- 2.11. Authorization to Solicit Bids for Milk and Milk by Products
- 3.1. Approval of Comprehensive School Safety Plans
- 3.2. Approval of Agreement with Western Governors University for Student Teacher Placement
- 3.3. Approval of Services Contract Between Santee School District and San Diego County Office of Education Regarding Participation in the CREEC Grant – pulled for separate consideration.
- 3.4. Approval of Individual Services Agreement with Stein School for Nonpublic School Services
- 3.5. Approval of Individual Services Agreement with The Institute for Effective Education Nonpublic School Services
- 3.6. Approval of Nonpublic School Individual Services Agreement and Residential Care Agreement with San Diego Center for Children Nonpublic School Services
- 4.1. Personnel, Regular
- 4.2. Approval of Agreement with Community Information Exchange
- 4.3. Adoption of Resolution No. 1920-12 to Eliminate Vacant Classified Non-Management Positions
- 4.4. Adoption of Resolution No. 1920-13 to Eliminate a Classified Non-Management Position
- 4.5. Approval to Increase Work Hours for Identified Classified Non-Management Position

President Burns pulled item 3.3. Approval of Services Contract Between Santee School District and San Diego County Office of Education Regarding Participation in the CREEC Grant, for separate consideration. He noted being employed by the San Diego County Office of Education; and explained that although there was no conflict of interest, he would be abstaining from the vote.

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| <b>Motion:</b> | <u>El-Hajj</u> | <b>Burns</b>        | <u>Aye</u> | <b>El-Hajj</b> | <u>Aye</u> |
| <b>Second:</b> | <u>Fox</u>     | <b>Ryan</b>         | <u>Aye</u> | <b>Fox</b>     | <u>Aye</u> |
| <b>Vote:</b>   | <u>5-0</u>     | <b>Levens-Craig</b> | <u>Aye</u> |                |            |

**3.3. Approval of Services Contract Between Santee School District and San Diego County Office of Education Regarding Participation in the CREEC Grant – pulled for separate consideration. Member Ryan moved approval.**

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| <b>Motion:</b> | <u>Ryan</u>    | <b>Burns</b>        | <u>Abstained</u> | <b>El-Hajj</b> | <u>Aye</u> |
| <b>Second:</b> | <u>El-Hajj</u> | <b>Ryan</b>         | <u>Aye</u>       | <b>Fox</b>     | <u>Aye</u> |
| <b>Vote:</b>   | <u>4-0</u>     | <b>Levens-Craig</b> | <u>Aye</u>       |                |            |

**F. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS**

**Superintendent**

**1.1. Agreement with SchoolMessenger (West Corporation) for Website Hosting Services, Communication Notification Services and Customized Mobile Communication App**

Superintendent Baranski shared the District currently uses two vendors for website (SchoolWires) and communication (SchoolMessenger). She explained that to improve overall communication, provide for instant notification and increased parent engagement, the District is implementing a mobile communication app with integration to the District website and parent calling system. The mobile communication app will improve home-to-school communications and safety notifications and will allow families to readily access school and District information. Superintendent Baranski explained that during the investigative process for the best quality, communication services, SchoolWires and SchoolMessenger were invited to present their services to the District Technology Committee. The District Technology Committee, after much deliberation and consideration, selected SchoolMessenger as the vendor for all District communications. The company's web services will directly feed communications to the newly created district mobile communication application, an important feature in implementing a mobile communication application. Superintendent Baranski explained that the Technology Department is in the process of establishing a timeline for school site and district personnel regarding the maintenance of current websites prior to conversion from SchoolWires to SchoolMessenger in the summer. She shared Administration recommends SchoolMessenger migrate all teacher websites to the new webhosting site in order to reduce teacher workload. Member Ryan moved approval.

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| <b>Motion:</b> | <u>Ryan</u> | <b>Burns</b>        | <u>Aye</u> | <b>El-Hajj</b> | <u>Aye</u> |
| <b>Second:</b> | <u>Fox</u>  | <b>Ryan</b>         | <u>Aye</u> | <b>Fox</b>     | <u>Aye</u> |
| <b>Vote:</b>   | <u>5-0</u>  | <b>Levens-Craig</b> | <u>Aye</u> |                |            |

**Business Services**

**2.1. Approval of Monthly Financial Report**

Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, reported the monthly financial report was for cash and budget revision transactions posted through October 31, 2019, and shared the District ended the month with a cash balance in the General Fund of approximately \$10,092,465, sufficient to pay all of the District's financial obligations for the fiscal year. He noted the Budget Revisions transactions continue to project deficit spending and declining reserve percentages over the three years of the multi-year projection. Mr. Christensen noted an update would be provided at the February 4 budget workshop. Member Ryan inquired on the decrease in projected reserves. Mr. Christensen explained the decrease was due to the recent retroactive personnel salary increases. Member Ryan moved approval.

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| <b>Motion:</b> | <u>Ryan</u>    | <b>Burns</b>        | <u>Aye</u> | <b>El-Hajj</b> | <u>Aye</u> |
| <b>Second:</b> | <u>El-Hajj</u> | <b>Ryan</b>         | <u>Aye</u> | <b>Fox</b>     | <u>Aye</u> |
| <b>Vote:</b>   | <u>5-0</u>     | <b>Levens-Craig</b> | <u>Aye</u> |                |            |

**Human Resource/Pupil Services**

**3.1. Acceptance of 2018-19 School Program Services Year End Report**

Tim Larson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources/Pupil Services, provided an overview of the 2018-19 School Program Services Year End report for the Board's acceptance. Mr. Larson noted a two-percent (2%) increase in independent study contracts. He commended the school sites for an increase in the collection of assignments from the independent study contracts. The habitual truancy remained consistent with 390 habitual truant students in 2017-18 and 391 in 2018-19; a small increase in school site suspensions from the previous year; and a decrease in suicide risk notifications. Mr. Larson noted the Interdistrict Attendance Permits (students leaving Santee School District) showed there were 252 students leaving Santee School District and 1,249 students on Interdistrict Attendance Permits (students entering the District). The Board accepted the report as presented.

**G. BOARD POLICIES AND BYLAWS**

President Burns noted items F.1.1., 1.2., and 1.3, as second readings; and F.1.4., 1.5., and 1.6., as first readings. He asked Board members to contact Administration if there were any questions and/or concerns. With one motion, Member El-Hajj moved approved of the second reading, items F.1.1., 1.2., and 1.3.

**1.1. Second Reading: Revised Board Policy 3311, Bids**

**1.2. Second Reading: New Board Policy 3311.1, Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Procedures**

**1.3. Second Reading: Revised Board Policy 3312, Contracts**

**1.4. First Reading: Revised Board Policy 3314.2, Revolving Funds**

**1.5. First Reading: New Board Policy 3320, Claims and Actions Against the District**

**1.6. First Reading: Revised Board Policy 3350, Travel Expenses**

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| <i>Motion:</i> | <u>Levens-Craig</u> | <u>Fox</u>   | <u>Aye</u> | <u>Levens-Craig</u> | <u>Aye</u> |
| <i>Second:</i> | <u>El-Hajj</u>      | <u>Burns</u> | <u>Aye</u> | <u>El-Hajj</u>      | <u>Aye</u> |
| <i>Vote:</i>   | <u>5-0</u>          | <u>Ryan</u>  | <u>Aye</u> |                     |            |

**H. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATION**

Melanie Hirahara, STA President, shared speaking to the site representatives about updating their teacher website prior to the conversion, to allow for a smooth transition. Mrs. Hirahara wished everyone happy holidays.

**I. BOARD COMMUNICATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS**

Member Burns noted the Santee Chamber of Commerce Heroes Luncheon is Friday, March 27 where the Bonnie Jackson would be honored as the District Teacher of the Year. Superintendent Baranski shared the District would have a table and mentioned someone would follow-up on their availability to attend. He noted the list of upcoming events.

Superintendent Baranski shared the San Diego County Superintendent of Schools had asked the Districts to adopt a resolution in support of the 2020 Census; a draft of the resolution was provided. It was the Board's consensus to adopt the resolution at the next meeting.

Member Ryan shared material from a Live Well meeting. She discussed one of the topics at the CSBA conference was school bonds and the mixed feelings on their placement on the 2020 ballot.

Member Levens-Craig shared learning a lot at the CSBA conference and would be sharing the information.



Member El-Hajj shared enjoying the conference and shared the public speaker reminded her of a session where the speaker discussed the National-level increase of student behavioral issues; and would share the presentation.

Member Fox shared one of the highlights of being President was the ability to bring the Boy & Girl Scout Troops to lead in the pledge of allegiance before every meeting. He shared volunteering for Santee Santas and the opportunity to help pack the boxes. Member Fox commended the District for their fundraising efforts in obtaining donations for Santee Santas.

President Burns shared enjoying the CSBA conference. He shared attending a session and learning new ways to fund a music program; and a session that discussed data on the great influence male volunteers are on a school campus. President Burns inquired on the Board's thoughts on having discussions on this subject. He inquired on the parent survey and next steps. Superintendent Baranski shared she would be presenting the data results at the next meeting; and upon the Board's review of the results, discuss next steps. President Burns asked that a message go out to all staff, on the Board's behalf, wishing everyone happy holidays.

**J. CLOSED SESSION**

President Burns announced that the Board would meet in closed session for:

1. **Conference with Labor Negotiator** (Gov't. Code § 54956.8)  
*Purpose:* Negotiations  
*Agency Negotiators:* Tim Larson, Assistant Superintendent  
*Employee Organizations:* Santee Teachers Association (STA); and  
Classified School Employees Association (CSEA)
2. **Public Employee Performance Evaluation** (Gov't. Code § 54957)  
*Superintendent*


The Board entered closed session at 8:16 p.m.

**K. RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board reconvened to public session at 10:35 p.m., and reported no action was taken.

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the organizational meeting of December 17, 2019 was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

  
Elana Levens-Craig, Clerk

  
Dr. Kristin Baranski, Secretary