

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Tamalpais Union High School District**

April 28, 2020

<https://zoom.us/j/96767797330?pwd=NmRIY1lwaWNHZElEZGkrK0c0OUpsZz09>

Attended on Zoom

Trustees

Leslie Harlander
Karen Loebbaka
Dan Oppenheim
Cynthia Roenisch
Kevin Saavedra

Student Trustees

Kara Kneafsey, Tamalpais High School
Lauren Steele, Redwood High School
Matty Darragh-Ford, Drake High School
Charlotte Pearson, Tamiscal High School
Devona Times, San Andreas High School

1. Call Meeting to Order

A regular meeting of the Tamalpais Union High School Board of Trustees was called to order on Zoom at 4:33 p.m.

2. Approval of Closed Session Agenda

M/S/C (Loebbaka/Roenisch), unanimously.

3. Public Comments on Closed Session Agenda

There were no public comments on the Closed Session Agenda.

4. Recess to Closed Session in the Superintendent's Office

The Board commenced with Closed Session at 4:34 p.m.

A. With respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to Gov Code 54957

B. With respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to Gov Code 54957.6:

C. With respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to Ed Code 54956.9(a):

1. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation

D. With respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to Gov Code 54956.9(b):

1. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation

2. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation

3. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation

4. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation

5. Reconvene into Open Session

The Board reconvened into Open Session on Zoom at 6:04 p.m.

6. Announcement of Reportable Action Taken in Closed Session

Ms. Harlander reported that in regards to Item 4. C. 1., the board voted unanimously to approve the agreement in case # 2019 09 0717 in the amount of \$60,000.

In regards to Item 4. D. 1., the board voted unanimously to approve a settlement for case # 2020-02 in the amount of \$40,000.

In regards to Item 4. D. 2., the board voted unanimously to approve a settlement in case # 2020 03 0629 in the amount of \$60,000.

In regards to Item 4. D. 4., the board voted unanimously to reject a claim.

7. Approve Agenda and Review Norms

M/S/C (Loebbaka/Oppenheim), unanimously.

8. Public Comment on the Consent Agenda

There was no public comment on the consent agenda.

9. Approval of Consent Agenda - ROLL CALL VOTE

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Kevin Saavedra and a second by Dan Oppenheim.

Yes Leslie Harlander

Yes Karen Loebbaka

Yes Dan Oppenheim

Yes Cynthia Roenisch

Yes Kevin Saavedra

10. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Ms. Harlander asked for speakers to limit their remarks to two minutes, because of the number of people in attendance at the meeting.

Dana Steele, Redwood parent, offered to help develop a plan for an equitable alternative graduation ceremony for all five schools.

11. Student Trustee Reports

Charlotte Pearson, Tamiscal High School, reported that distance learning was progressing smoothly, and that the new grading policy has helped to reduce stress.

Kara Kneafsey, Tamalpais High School, reported on Friday food bank distribution, students are discussing options for the grad ceremony, a new schedule was approved for next year with an 8:30 am start time, student leadership elections will be postponed until the fall, and Wellness and counseling have virtual drop-ins on Instagram.

Matty Darragh-Ford, Drake High School, reported that students and staff are considering alternative celebrations for seniors, SOAR is discussing the impact of COVID for people of color, and Peer Mentoring and student elections are going online.

Lauren Steele, Redwood High School, reported that Leadership elections will be online and possibly postponed until the fall, there has been good feedback on the new grading policy, and alternate plans for the graduation ceremony are being considered.

Devona Times, San Andreas High School, reported that distance learning is going well, and things are calm.

12. Trustee Considerations

A. Discussion of Next Steps for Potential Parcel Tax and Polling

Dr. Taupier presented the next step to prepare for a potential parcel tax, after the last meeting's debrief of the failure of Measure B. The trustees discussed when a poll should be conducted, and at what amount. The trustees asked for the opinion of consultants Bryan Godbe and Charles Hester. Trustees expressed their concerns, and there was consensus to have a survey prepared to meet the deadline for the July Board meeting.

Public Comment:

Chuck Ford commented on comparing TUHSD to similar Districts.

Steve Cuvin asked what parents can do to help pass a new parcel tax.

M/S/C (Saavedra/Oppenheim), unanimously, to develop a poll now to gauge support for a November Measure.

B. Budget Update and Discussion

Dr. Taupier reviewed the District priorities, major expenses impacting the budget, and the budget forecast, given the latest information from the County. Changes due to COVID related expenses and reduced revenue will affect the budget and impact reserve levels required by board policy. Dr. Taupier showed graphs to illustrate various adjustments to the budget. Budget reduction options for 2020-21 were presented on Slide 17, including release periods, suspension of the Team program, and suspension of the teacher leader program for a total yearly savings of more than \$1,164,000.

The Board discussed the next steps, how to explore additional budget reductions and long-term solutions. The Board also discussed how the Team program might be restructured, and whether or not it should be suspended.

Public Comment:

Mimi Willard spoke regarding her views on the reduction of property tax revenue and the impact of COVID on the TUHSD budget.

The following people spoke in support of the Team program and objection to the suspension of the program: Joanne Brooks, Danielle Wiley, Lindsey Burkart-Lima, Charlotte Pearson, Jennifer Bjerke, Eric Best, Dianna Goldberg, Sophia Brooks, Kate McSween, Lucas Roy, Dean Griffin, Jessica Allison, Mark Wild, Erin Kelly, Paige Burkart-Lima, Hannah Cuvin, Jacob Weller, Satchel Daly, Cale Nichols, Julianna McKenna, Jeremy Becker, Selena Marmolejo, Sean MacKenzie, Justina Kane, Ethan Parker, Nathaniel Burroughs, Magdalena Maguire, Anthony Scopazzi, and Chuck Ford. Erin Salcuni, Jason Pitts, Lindsay Wilson, and Kathleen Mulcahy emailed the board prior to the meeting to express support of the Team program.

Kelsey Riemer, Sophia Martin, and Benjy Wall-Feng spoke in opposition to the elimination of Journalism teacher release periods.

The Board asked clarifying questions, discussed their position on cuts, and the responsibilities of making difficult fiscal decisions. M/S/C (Roenisch/Saavedra), 4 Ayes (Harlander, Loebbaka, Roenisch, Saavedra) and 1 Nay (Oppenheim), to approve all of the budget reductions in Slide #17.

C. Approve Variable Term Waiver Request for Redwood High School Math Teacher
Mr. Christensen asked for approval of a credential waiver for a Redwood High School teacher. M/S/C (Roenisch/Saavedra), unanimously.

D. Update on COVID-19 Response and Distance Learning

Dr. Taupier noted that the Shelter-in-Place has recently been extended through May, and many questions remain to be decided. First, senior activities and graduation ceremonies will be determined. Secondly, preparing for the opening of school in the fall will depend on the developments over the next few months.

13. Consent Agenda

A. Approve Minutes of the April 14, 2020 BOT Meeting

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Kevin Saavedra and a second by Dan Oppenheim.

Yes Leslie Harlander

Yes Karen Loebbaka

Yes Dan Oppenheim
Yes Cynthia Roenisch
Yes Kevin Saavedra

B. Approve Personnel Summary for April 28, 2020

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Kevin Saavedra and a second by Dan Oppenheim.

Yes Leslie Harlander
Yes Karen Loebbaka
Yes Dan Oppenheim
Yes Cynthia Roenisch
Yes Kevin Saavedra

C. Adopt Resolution #19-14, 2020-2021 Authorization to Sign on Behalf of the Governing Board

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Kevin Saavedra and a second by Dan Oppenheim.

Yes Leslie Harlander
Yes Karen Loebbaka
Yes Dan Oppenheim
Yes Cynthia Roenisch
Yes Kevin Saavedra

D. Ratify April Contracts Under \$40,000

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Kevin Saavedra and a second by Dan Oppenheim.

Yes Leslie Harlander
Yes Karen Loebbaka
Yes Dan Oppenheim
Yes Cynthia Roenisch
Yes Kevin Saavedra

14. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Taupier noted that National Day of the Teacher is May 5. She expressed appreciation for all teachers and counselors in their efforts to support all students.

15. Trustee Reports

Ms. Roenisch noted that distance teaching is difficult, but the TUHSD has a supportive and productive structure.

Ms. Loebbaka expressed appreciation for the teachers.

Ms. Harlander also expressed respect for teachers.

Mr. Saavedra noted that parenting is difficult with students at home, and for teachers, it is even more difficult to adapt to new methods while coping with COVID challenges.

16. Board Communications

17. Conclusion

Devona Times, San Andreas Student Trustee, thanked the Board for navigating a difficult meeting and making tough decisions.

Matty Darragh-Ford, Drake Student Trustee, mentioned the difficult format on Zoom related to student trustee participation.

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 p.m.


Clerk


Date