



**SHASTA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
Board Room
2200 Eureka Way
Redding, CA 96001**

**April 22, 2024
ADOPTED MINUTES**

A special meeting of the Governing Board of the Shasta Union High School District was called to order at 5:11 p.m. by Trustee Zufall in the Shasta Union High School District Board Room. Trustee Zufall led the pledge of allegiance, and Trustee Pepple recited the mission and vision statements.

ROLL CALL: Trustees Ron Zufall, Constance Pepple, Andrea Hoheisel, Mike Doran, and Joe Ayer were present. Also present: Superintendent Jim Cloney, Associate Superintendent of Instructional Services Leo Perez, and Associate Superintendent of Human Resources Jason Rubin.

RES. 24-063 That the Board approve the agenda, as presented. (Motion Pepple, second Hoheisel, carried 5-0)

RES. 24-064 That the Board approve the 2024-25 Application for Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act Funding. (Motion Pepple, second Ayer, abstain Hoheisel, carried 4-0)

RES. 24-065 That the meeting adjourn. (Motion Pepple, second Hoheisel, carried 5-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no comments.

DISCUSSION:

Student Engagement

Cell Phones: Jim Cloney stated that Trustee Pepple has requested the Board discuss the use of student smartphones on campus. He reported that under current law, districts may adopt a policy prohibiting the use of smartphones except in the following circumstances: when there is an emergency, when a teacher gives permission, when a licensed physician determines the smartphone is necessary for the health of the student, and when it is necessary for a student's IEP. He stated that AB3216 would change the word "may" to "shall" which would require Districts to adopt some type of policy on cell phones. Board policy allows the use of smartphones during noninstructional time as long as the device is utilized in accordance with law and any rules that individual school sites may impose.

Trustee Hoheisel inquired what the motive is to change may to shall. Mr. Cloney explained that the intent is to limit student use because cell phones are seen as a distraction at school.

Trustee Pepple emphasized the importance of the research that has been done showing that the use of cell phones should be limited. She stated that cell phones can create social issues and that the science of the addiction is concerning because it can lead to impulse control issues and social emotional damage. Trustee Pepple emphasized the importance of not using social media.

Pioneer Continuation High School (PHS) Principal Tim Calkins stated that cell phones are not allowed on campus and provided an overview of the Yondr pouch process. Students lock their phones in the pouch during first period and keep the pouch on them throughout the day until they are unlocked during the final period. He reported that there has been a decrease in discipline and an increase in grades and attendance. Mr. Calkins stated that most parents were supportive of the new system.

Trustee Hoheisel explained the cell phone policy at her work. Students are required to keep their phones in their backpack at all times and are charged a \$25 fee for their second offense. She stated that it is highly effective due to staff support of the policy.

Student Engagement (continued)

Foothill High School (FHS) Principal Kevin Greene stated that cell phones are prohibited on their campus. Enterprise High School Principal (EHS) Ryan Johnson stated that it is hard to isolate one variable such as improved test scores as a result of banning cell phones. He emphasized the importance of bridging the gap for students from a classroom to the real world.

Mr. Cloney and the site principals agreed that implementing the Yondr pouch system for all students at the comprehensive sites would be costly and logistically very time consuming. All were in agreement that frustrations surrounding cell phones come from the lack of consistency to enforce the policy. The pouches could be used for repeated offenders. Administration stated that parents are typically in favor of limiting the use of their child's cell phone.

Trustee Zufall inquired if teachers could use a box where students would place their phones at the beginning of each class. Mr. Cloney explained that teachers have their own process and that the District could implement something for each class so the teacher's have it as an option. Discussion continued on the use of cell phones as an instructional tool in the classroom, specifically for Kahoot quizzes.

Trustee Zufall inquired if a Board member would like to propose a policy change on the use of smartphones for a future agenda item. Trustee Hoheisel inquired if the Board could discuss the consistency of the policy at the sites. Trustee Ayer inquired if there could be a committee created to gather feedback. Mr. Cloney stated that the Administration team will focus on proper communication at the start of next school year regarding the use of cell phones and that he will also place it on a future agenda for further discussion.

Dress Code: Mr. Cloney stated that Shasta High School senior Aria del Rosario-Sabet conducted a presentation at a past Board meeting regarding the current dress code. Mr. Cloney stated that students are now allowed to wear hats during non-instruction time. Based on discussions he has had with the Superintendent Student Advisory Council, he inquired if the Board is interested in modifying the current policy on dress code, specifically if bare midriff should be allowed. He stated that the District will modify the policy from requiring a one inch strap, to requiring a strap. Mr. Cloney stated that enforcement needs to be more consistent.

Trustee Pepple stated that she was in favor of uniforms. Mr. Zufall raised concerns about adding more for teachers to do within their classrooms. He inquired if anyone would like to propose new policy. Trustee Hoheisel inquired if bare midriff should be defined. Mr. Cloney stated that the policy could be updated to state that excessive bare midriff is not allowed.

Mr. Johnson stated that when teachers collaborate they norm and dress code would be a good topic for them to discuss in smaller groups. He also explained how it can be sometimes difficult for a male staff member to dress code a female and they utilize a paper slip to dress code a student creating a more seamless process.

Trustee Zufall stated that based on discussion, there will not be any major changes to the dress code policy. Mr. Cloney stated that Administration will work with staff in order to be more consistent with discipline.

Off Campus Lunch – Mr. Cloney stated that SHS senior Jackson Richards expressed concerns regarding SHS's off campus lunch policy. Each Principal explained their current policy based on the layout of the campus. Mr. Cloney stated that the handbook will be updated to create a broader policy on off campus lunch in order to provide each site flexibility based on what works best for them. Overall general consensus was that there is room to review SHS's policy with the possibility of allowing juniors and seniors to walk off campus. Mr. Cloney stated that any new changes will be implemented in the fall.

Discipline: Mr. Cloney stated that Trustee Zufall would like to discuss student discipline, specifically how teachers can be supported by Administration and how communication can be improved. Mr. Cloney emphasized the importance of teachers feeling comfortable to speak with Administration when they feel student discipline isn't being handled properly. Mr. Cloney provided background on past community day

Student Engagement (continued)

schools and explained how the District oversees the education of all students within our District boundaries, regardless of discipline. Students are placed at alternative education schools within the District, but there is no longer a county school for students with consistent behavioral issues. He noted that Gateway to College and CHYBA are programs outside of the District available for students, but these typically don't meet the needs of students with consistent behavioral issues. Mr. Cloney stated that he and other local Superintendents will advocate for the county to create a program for these students.

Trustee Zufall inquired if the District is not suspending students in order to improve the State Dashboard. Mr. Cloney stated that based on state data, we suspend students more than we should. Trustee Hoheisel inquired if we enforce discipline in line with the handbook. Mr. Cloney explained that the discipline grid was created to provide Administration guidelines on how to discipline students. Mr. Cloney stated that Administration does a great job being consistent with discipline.

Trustee Hoheisel emphasized the importance of incorporating the freshman class in order to reduce discipline.

BREAK: 7:13 p.m. - 7:27 p.m.

Trustee Zufall stated that SHS teacher Brandon Good would like to make a public comment regarding student engagement. SHS teacher Brand Good stated that there has been an increase in students showing bare midriff and wearing attire that advertises alcohol and drugs. He stated that school should be a professional atmosphere and would like to see the dress code enforced consistently. Mr. Good stated that it is important for teachers to build relationships with their students in order to reduce discipline in the classroom. He emphasized the importance of the teacher exhausting all discipline options in the classroom before referring students to Administration. He stated that teachers would like more communication from Administration regarding student discipline. Mr. Good raised concerns regarding the use of cell phones and inquired if the students could put their phone in a bin during class.

Trustee Doran inquired if teachers should have different levels of freedom to enforce cell phones. Mr. Good stated that consistent enforcement would be better for all students. Trustee Pepple inquired if cell phones should be banned and if any curriculum is important enough to allow the use of cell phones. Mr. Good stated that he would be in favor of banning phones and that phones are not needed for curriculum. Trustee Doran inquired if there is a committee of teachers for discipline. He replied that there was not.

2024 Bond Campaign: Jim Cloney reported that Chief Executive Officer Jon Isom of Isom Advisors has presented to the Board on various ways to obtain funds for facility upgrades and reviewed survey results from the community on whether they are in favor of a bond. Mr. Cloney stated that based on these presentations, it would be in the District's best interest to ask voters to extend the current bonds in order to upgrade District facilities, specifically paving, roofing, flooring, and tennis courts. He inquired if the Board was in favor of placing an extension of the current bonds on the ballot this year. Messaging to voters would be clear that there would not be an increase in what they are currently paying. Trustee Doran inquired what impact the economy would have on the bond market. Mr. Cloney stated that if the District were to pass a bond, the bond sales wouldn't be for another two years.

Trustee Zufall inquired if the Board was in favor of extending the current bonds. The Board stated that they were in favor. Mr. Cloney stated that he will partner with Isom Advisors to create a timeline for the November ballot.

Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP): Jim Cloney stated that all school districts in California are required to develop an LCAP. He reported that the 2024-2025 LCAP will be the first installment of a three-year plan that addresses specific goals and actions/services designed to address the eight priorities established by the California Department of Education.

Mr. Perez reviewed the LCAP survey results from staff, parents and students. He stated that parents would like more opportunities for their students to engage in school. Trustee Hoheisel emphasized the importance of creating an environment where learning is fun and engaging.

LCAP (continued)

Mr. Perez reviewed state dashboard metrics in order to highlight where the District is doing well and where there are opportunities. He presented data on the Kelvin surveys which highlights the student body's social and emotional well-being. Trustee Zufall thanked the District Administration for organizing the data.

Mr. Cloney stated that he and Mr. Perez will gather input from the Superintendent Student Advisory Council next week. An LCAP Community Partner meeting will also be held next week in order to solicit feedback from parents and staff. An LCAP Parent Advisory Committee meeting will be held in late May to finalize the LCAP. In addition to other forms of engagement with various community partners, the approval process for the SUHSD LCAP requires a public hearing be held so the Board can hear comments on the LCAP at the regular June meeting. A special meeting will be held to approve the LCAP following the regular June meeting.

2025 Curriculum Requirements: Jim Cloney reported that the state is requiring the freshman class of 2025-2026 to take a class on ethnic studies. He stated that Mr. Perez and himself have been attending meetings with the County Office of Education along with teachers to figure out the best way to implement the curriculum without impacting electives. The new curriculum will be incorporated into their social science class. The Board will be provided with the new curriculum once the lessons have been finalized.

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT:

Jim Cloney honored Trustee Connie Pepple for her twenty-two years of service on the Board. Mr. Cloney stated that tonight would be her last meeting. He thanked her for all of her years on the Board and stated that it has been a pleasure working with her.

CLOSED SESSION:

The Board adjourned to closed session at 9:04 p.m. to discuss the following: 1) Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Complaint (G.C. 54957); and 2) Conference with Labor Negotiator (G.C. 54957.6) Agency designated representatives: Jim Cloney – Superintendent, David Flores – Chief Business Official, Jason Rubin – Associate Superintendent/H.R. and Leo Perez - Associate Superintendent/ Instructional Services. Employee Organizations: Shasta Secondary Education Association (SSEA), Educational Support Professionals Association (ESP), California School Employees Association (CSEA) and Management/Supervisory/Confidential.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Board reconvened into open session at 9:14 p.m. The Board had no action to report out from closed session. The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Andrea Hoheisel, Clerk
Board of Trustees

Jim Cloney, Executive Secretary
Board of Trustees