

West Park Elementary School District

Board Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2021

I. OPENING BUSINESS

a. Call public Session to order by Acting Board President Aida Garcia at 5:03 pm

b. Roll Call: Aida Garcia-Present

Mark Vivenzi-Present

Anna Benavidez-present

(2 Open seats)

c. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Aida Garcia

d. Adopt Agenda;

Board member Vivenzi would like to table all agenda items that are not time sensitive.

Board member Garcia states that the Resolution on the agenda is important because it has been tabled a few times. Board Member Vivenzi states that something like the ESSER can stay because it is time sensitive; but everything else should be tabled. Board member Benavidez agrees that all items that are not time sensitive should be tabled.

Teacher, Mrs. Johnson comments to say that the third grade teacher needs to be hired and that this position is time sensitive. Mr. Randolph adds that hiring the third grade teacher is time sensitive and suggests keeping the third grade hire on the agenda. Parent Mrs. Arambula states that the third grade class needs a permanent teacher; having a substitute is not the same as a teacher.

Community members comment regarding the importance of hiring. Board member Vivenzi gives his reasons for not wanting to hire. Board member Garcia states that everyone should think about the children's wellbeing and hiring teachers is a time sensitive matter.

Board Member Benavidez motions to accept the agenda, only including action item A, B, and upon discussion G.

Board Member Vivenzi seconds the motion.

3 Yeas

0 Noes

2 Open seats

e. Identify Closed Session Topics of Discussion; a. conference with legal and b. public employment of a third grade teacher.

f. Allow for Public to comment on closed session topics

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD RE; CLOSE SESSION ITEMS

Mrs. Johnson asks for the third grade position to be considered for the benefit of students.

Mrs. Ortega adds that students need a stable teacher that is not going to leave in a couple of weeks.

Community Member asks the board to consider hiring the third grade teacher for the students.

Community Member Alex asks if an independent study teacher will be hired. Board member Garcia states that the position was tabled. Mr. Alex would like updates regarding the status of the independent study and when it is expected to start.

Mrs. Padilla adds that a position went to approval but was tabled by the board. Community members question how many positions are needed.

Board member Aida states there are 5 positions currently on the agenda for tonight.

Comments continue from community members regarding the open positions and how the school is understaffed. Board Member Garcia states that many employees have been doing multiple jobs. Teachers comment in agreement to say that there is a staff shortage.

III. CLOSE SESSION:

Board Member Benavidez motions to move to closed session. Board Member Vivenzi Seconds the motion

3 Yeas

0 Noes

2 Open Seat

Moved to Close Session at 5:39 pm

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION:

Reconvene to Open Session at 6:47 pm.

No actions were taken during closed session.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Ortega comment that they are disappointed that Mr. Freitas is gone. He was very active in the school and wanted support for teachers. Everyone wants West Park to be a great school but support is needed to make that happen.

Mrs. Vivenzi informs the board that on October 15 the school was found non-compliant in two issues; one being not providing SPED Services. There were two superintendents involved. This was filed in August and the findings came back in October. Board member Benavidez asked if the letter went to the board.

Mrs. Pineda comments about the ESSER III and how beneficial it would be to students and staff. She continues to say that if the money isn't used, it will be lost. Having the amount of money that the district has, it should be spent before losing it.

Mr. Alex would like to know if there is an update on the Independent study position. Board member Garcia states that interviews will be coming up to find a qualified person. Mr. Alex asks if there is a timeline. Mrs. Padilla adds that there have been qualified people interviewed for the position but when the hire was denied, the qualified people left. When positions are tabled or postponed, we lose qualified personal. Mr. Randolph will post updates on the website as they come.

Mrs. Sandoval states that she appreciates the board looking into the issues the school is facing since she feels it hasn't been looked into in the past. There are communication issues and other issues like SPED and funding need to be looked at further. Mrs. Sandoval agrees that there shouldn't be hires just to fill spaces. Board member Vivenzi reads what he can and they are aware of what is going on.

Mrs. Tienda speaks about the approved law AB130 regarding independent study programs. There are currently 16 positions on Ed Join for West Park that need to be filled. When no action is taken, that means interview panels and the hard work was for nothing. Staff are leaving for better positions, others are exhausted and don't feel supported by the board. Mrs. Tienda appreciates the staff and everything they do.

VI. Discussion Items/ Information

Mr. Randolph state that the district received funds but a plan needs to be implemented. ESSER III was discussed at the last meeting and more details will be explained during action items.

Increasing hours and adding benefits for Paraprofessionals may be an action item at the next meeting.

General counsel contract is attached; the contract ends in 2022.

VII. ACTION ITEM

- a. APPROVAL: Resolution No. 2022-01; Williams Act Textbook and Instructional Compliance
Board member Vivenzi motions to approve Resolution No. 2022-1. Board Member Benavidez seconds the motion.

3 Yeas

0 Noes

2 Open Seat

- b. APPROVAL: ESSER III Expenditure Plan

Mr. Randolph sent out surveys to parents and staff. Board Member Vivenzi would like to know how many surveys were returned.

Board member Benavidez reads the benefits of the plan such as improving internet access, water refill stations, furniture, etc.

Mr. Randolph informs the board that there were 94 responses to the survey, 33% were of parents.

Board Member Vivenzi motions to approve, Board Member Benavidez Seconds the motion.

3 Yeas

0 Noes

2 Open Seat

- g. APPROVA: Request to Hire Third Grade Teacher

Board Member Benavidez motions to approve the Third Grade teacher. Board Member Vivenzi seconds the motion.

3 Yeas

0 Noes

2 Open Seat

XIII. Advance Planning

The next board meeting will be November 8, 2021.

A thank you to all parents and teachers who attended. Board Member Benavidez appreciates the staff and all they do.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

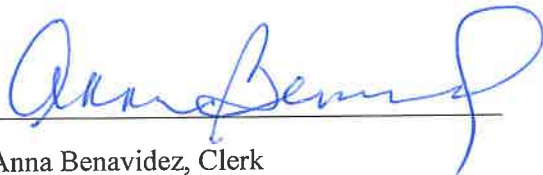
Board Member Vivenzi motions to adjourn the meeting. Board member Benavidez seconds the motion.

3 Yeas

0 Noes

2 Open Seat

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.



Anna Benavidez, Clerk
West Park Elementary School District, Board of Trustees
Fresno County, CA

11-15-21

Date