

WCCUSD Governance Subcommittee

Alvarado Adult Education Campus

September 25, 2019

Minutes

I. Opening Procedures

A. Roll Call and Introductions

Chairperson Stephanie Hernández-Jarvis called the meeting to order at 6:13 PM.

Committee Members Present: Stephanie Hernández-Jarvis, Tom Panas

Staff Attendees: Matthew Duffy Superintendent; Luis Freese, Associate Superintendent Facilities Operations; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Roxanna Molina, Interpreter; Melissa Payne, Director Contracts; Tony Wold, Associate Superintendent Business Services

Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis provided opportunity for those in the audience to introduce themselves.

B. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Panas and Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis accepted the agenda.

C. Approval of Minutes May 15, 2019; July 24, 2019

Mr. Panas moved approval of the meeting minutes for May 15, 2019 and July 24, 2019. Ms. Hernández-Jarvis seconded. Motion carried.

D. Public Comment

None

II. Action Items

A. Proposed Revision to Board Policy 7214.2 (CBOC)

Superintendent Duffy provided background, noting input to the proposed redlined revision of the policy. He invited staff from both Facilities and Business Services to share thinking around edits.

Public Comment:

Lorraine Humes spoke about suggestions from Trustee Lara and statute law. She also spoke about the need for maintenance and updates to the CBOC website information.

Don Gosney remarked about an independent citizens' committee and the need for greater transparency to assure the public. He also spoke about CBOC member access for website maintenance.

Sallie DeWitt spoke about strong oversight, spending efficiency, improvements during the transition period, and recruitment to fill vacancies to ensure diversity in membership.

Discussion:

Dr. Tony Wold, Associate Superintendent Business Services, spoke about the expertise and knowledge of the committee, past challenges and implementation of processes and procedures to address audit findings. He proposed use of bond counsel to review the policy under consideration to assure legal compliance and avoidance of additional costs to the general fund in order to aid the Board to understand full consequence.

Mr. Luis Freese, Associate Superintendent Facilities Operations, also supported a review by counsel.

Public Comment:

Anton Jungherr said he was disappointed at the recommendation from staff for bond counsel review. He asked what issues Dr. Wold found. Mr. Jungherr supported the current revision with a few additional points of clarification.

Discussion:

Mr. Panas said he was unhappy to hear the recommendation to now have legal counsel review. He did not see anything that could cause financial impact. He also asked Superintendent Duffy about his reticence regarding CBOC legal counsel. Superintendent Duffy spoke about an understanding of when it appropriate to call an attorney, budgetary concerns and best practices in place by the wider district staff. Superintendent Duffy also spoke about internet access, no desire to make a commitment that the district could not keep, and language of law regarding required document posting. Mr. Panas' discussion continued with specific sections of the policy.

Superintendent Duffy responded that this policy would go to the Board with differing opinions. He said he felt it valid to provide the Board with a legal review.

Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis had comments about inclusion of the reference to a website as required by Ed. Code. She also talked about the importance of transparency and internal controls resulting from the audit. Superintendent Duffy clarified. Ms. Hernández-Jarvis continued with remarks about use of legal counsel, expense, and support for a diverse CBOC. She proposed creating processes to determine answers.

Mr. Panas said he supported a mutually agreed upon budget for legal expenses and that legal written opinions should be delivered to staff at the same time as the CBOC. He also spoke about consulting with the Superintendent before seeking legal counsel advice.

Superintendent Duffy acknowledged Trustee Lara's recommendations.

Discussion continued.

Motion:

Mr. Panas moved approval of Board Policy 7214.2 with additional revisions, and presentation to the full Board at its October 16 meeting along with any recommendations from legal counsel. Mr. Duffy and Ms. Hernández-Jarvis proposed further added language. Ms. Hernández-Jarvis seconded the motion as amended. Motion carried.

III. Discussion Items

A. Student Cell Phone Policy

Superintendent Duffy began the discussion regarding student cell phone use, saying the Student/Parent Handbook had very general language. He looked forward discussion.

Public Comment:

Demetrio Gonzalez, UTR President, spoke about the lack of policy effecting learning in the classroom, and concern about liability around confiscation of phones. At a previous meeting, he presented policies from other districts on banning cell phone devices from classrooms. He spoke about the use of classroom tablets lessening the need for use of cell phones and offered to assist in drafting policy language.

Jacob Gran, Richmond High School teacher, spoke about technology advances influencing classrooms in negative ways with a constant battle to engage students who defer to their cell phone devices. He spoke about the lack of consequences and inequity of policy applications causing frustration for both classroom teachers and students.

Committee Discussion:

Mr. Panas shared information about new California legislation AB 272. He said he was interested in gathering input, saying he supported the same policy for elementary, middle and high schools.

Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis shared her thoughts about cyber media disruption to learning and students' cognitive separation anxiety. She supported a campaign approach to involve and engage students in proactively shifting the culture about phone usage. She also supported stakeholder input.

Superintendent Duffy said he would approach UTR and WCCAA to lead a group to learn from schools experiencing success in this area. He spoke about parent opposition and supported strategic thinking about policy development.

Mr. Panas inquired about feasibility to target the second semester of 2019-2020 as a time frame for implementation.

B. Student Uniform Policy

Superintendent Duffy provided background saying that current board policy called for a mandatory uniform policy but was unevenly enforced.

Public Comment:

None

Committee Discussion:

Mr. Panas spoke about some schools attempting to enforce the policy. He would like to hear from principals and remarked about the challenges faced with a dress code. He would like to broaden the conversation with other opinions.

Superintendent Duffy agreed about the policy needing revision and the difficulty for principals to enforce. He shared the idea of school t-shirts used to create identity, unity and pride of school. He would also like to see school identification and lanyards included in the policy.

Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis agreed it important to review the policy. She remarked about a stigma for wearing certain colors and acceptable outfits for both boys and girls.

Superintendent Duffy said he would ask UTR, WCCAA and Bayside Council of PTAs to organize a group to look into developing policy for the 2020-2021 school year.

C. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy

Superintendent Duffy presented information saying that no current policy addressed diversity, equity and inclusion. He presented samples of various policies that speak to this intent while addressing other matters, such as employee hiring and Title IX standards. He supported looking for model policies to review.

Public Comment:

None

Committee Discussion:

Mr. Panas said he supported doing more in this area and making intentions clear to the community. He had a sample CSBA policy provided by Trustee Lara that he would forward to Ms. Hernández-Jarvis and Superintendent Duffy.

Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis acknowledged the position of other trustees on the matter. She continued with questions about the Office of Educational Equity. Superintendent Duffy clarified its purpose in handling of complaints and compliance training.

Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis continued to speak about gaps in services for children and families of various ethnicities and equity not at the forefront of school professional development training. She would like to better engage staff and seek support from the Board.

Superintendent Duffy concluded the discussion about the importance for setting tone, direction and attitude in working with leaders to develop and implement such a policy. He will bring sample language to begin discussion in November.

IV. Governance Committee Next Meeting

The following meetings dates were scheduled:

Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 6:00 PM

Thursday, November 14, 2019, 6:00 PM

V. Adjournment

Chairperson Hernández-Jarvis adjourned the meeting at 8:16 PM.