



William S. Hart Union High School District
Regular (Virtual) Meeting of the Governing Board
March 02, 2022
Closed Session 6:00 p.m.
Public Session 7:00 p.m.

Minutes
(Unapproved)

I. Closed Session Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the William S. Hart Union High School District Governing Board was called to order by President Messina at 6:09 p.m.

I.A. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Board Members present:

Mr. Joseph V. Messina, President
Mr. Robert N. Jensen, Jr, Clerk (arrived 6:13 p.m.)
Mrs. Linda H. Storli, Assistant Clerk
Mr. James D. Webb, Member
Dr. Cherise G. Moore, Member

District Administrators present:

Mr. Mike Kuhlman, Superintendent
Dr. Michael Vierra, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Mrs. Kathy Hunter, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Mr. Ralph Peschek, Chief Business Officer
Dr. Collyn Nielsen, Chief Administrative Officer
Mrs. Erum Velek, Director of Student Services (Closed Session student expulsions only)

The President declared a quorum present.

II. First Closed Session

II.A. Public Comments for Closed Session Items

There were no public comments.

II.B. First Closed Session Items

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:11 p.m. Votes on items discussed in Closed Session were taken in Public Session, as reported below.

II.B.1. Conference with Legal Counsel Existing Litigation (per Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)) Case No. 2:19-cv-08328-CBM-GJS: William S. Hart Union High School District v. Antillon et al.; Consolidated Appeal Nos. 21-55491, 21-55769, 21-56267: William S. Hart Union High School District v. Antillon et al.; OAH CASE NUMBER 2021040086: Student v. William S. Hart Union High School District; OAH CASE NUMBER 202112044: Student v. William S. Hart Union High School District; OAH CASE NUMBER 2019010819: Student v. William S. Hart Union High School District

In public session Mr. Messina reported that in closed session, the Board approved Settlement Agreement and Release No. 18/19-18SE (*Case No. 2:19-cv-08328-CBM-GJS: William S. Hart Union High School District v. Antillon et al.; Consolidated Appeal Nos. 21-55491, 21-55769, 21-56267: William S. Hart Union High School District v. Antillon et al.; OAH Case No. 2021040086: Student v. William S. Hart Union High School District; OAH Case No. 202112044: Student v. William S. Hart Union High School District; OAH Case No. 2019010819: Student v. William S. Hart Union High School District*). The substance of the agreement is as follows: 1) The District agrees to reimburse the parents for educational expenses incurred during the 2019/20 and 2020/21 school years. Expenses include private school tuition, related services and mileage at an approximate cost of \$58,000. Parents are required to provide proof of expenses in the form of credit card receipts or cancelled checks; and 2) The District will pay \$30,000 in attorneys' fees to student's attorney. The roll call vote was: Jensen - yes; Messina - yes; Moore - yes; Storli - yes; Webb - yes. [See Closed Session Log 2021/22]

II.B.2. Public Employee Appointment/Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Reassignment/Non-reelection (per Government Code Section 54957)

In public session Mr. Messina reported that in closed session, the Board took action to approve a reassignment of one assistant principal to the position of classroom teacher for the 2022/23 school year at the request of the employee. The roll call vote was: Jensen - yes; Messina - yes; Moore - yes; Storli - yes; Webb - yes. [See Closed Session Log 2021/22]

Mr. Messina also reported that in closed session, the Board took action to approve a reassignment of one high school assistant principal to the position of junior high assistant principal for the 2022/23 school year. The roll call vote was: Jensen - yes; Messina - yes; Moore - yes; Storli - yes; Webb - yes. [See Closed Session Log 2021/22]

Lastly, Mr. Messina reported that in closed session, the Board took action to non-reelect one certificated teacher for the 2022/23 school year. The roll call vote was: Jensen - yes; Messina - yes; Moore - yes; Storli - yes; Webb - yes. [See Closed Session Log 2021/22]

II.B.3. Conference with Labor Negotiator: Michael Vierra - Negotiations with Hart District Teachers Association (per Government Code Section 54957.6)

II.B.4. Conference with Labor Negotiator: Michael Vierra - Negotiations with California School Employees Association Chapter 349 (per Government Code Section 54957.6)

II.B.5. Student Expulsion Report No. 21/22-10 (Ratification) (per Education Code Section 48918 (c))

Motion Passed: Ratify Student Expulsion Report No. 21/22-10. Documentation is confidential and maintained in District files. Passed with a motion by Mr. Robert Jensen and a second by Mrs. Linda Storli.

Yes Mr. Robert Jensen
Yes Mr. Joseph Messina
Yes Dr. Cherise Moore
Yes Mrs. Linda Storli
Yes Mr. James Webb

II.C. Reconvene to Public Session

Mr. Messina called the Public Session meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

III. Organization

III.A. Report of First Closed Session Action

See action taken above in II-B - First Closed Session Items.

III.B. Re-Establishment of Quorum

Board Members present:

Mr. Joseph V. Messina, President
Mr. Robert N. Jensen, Jr, Clerk
Mrs. Linda H. Storli, Assistant Clerk
Mr. James D. Webb, Member
Dr. Cherise G. Moore, Member
Miss Pratika Prasad, Student Board Member

District Administrators present:

Mr. Mike Kuhlman, Superintendent
Dr. Michael Vierra, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Mrs. Kathy Hunter, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Mr. Ralph Peschek, Chief Business Officer
Dr. Collyn Nielsen, Chief Administrative Officer

The President declared a quorum present.

III.C. Pledge of Allegiance

Tobias Andrews led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III.D. Approval of Agenda

Motion Passed: Approve the agenda. Passed with a motion by Dr. Cherise Moore and a second by Mrs. Linda Storli.

Yes Mr. Robert Jensen

Yes Mr. Joseph Messina

Yes Dr. Cherise Moore

Yes Mrs. Linda Storli

Yes Mr. James Webb

Student Board Member Opinion: Yes

III.E. Approval of Minutes

Motion Passed: Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 2, 2022. Passed with a motion by Mr. Robert Jensen and a second by Mrs. Linda Storli.

Yes Mr. Robert Jensen

Yes Mr. Joseph Messina

Yes Dr. Cherise Moore

Yes Mrs. Linda Storli

Yes Mr. James Webb

Student Board Member Opinion: Yes

IV. Recognitions by Board

V. Communications

V.A. Board Member Reports

The following Board members relayed the events they recently attended and/or are interested in: Mrs. Storli (admonished people who visited her son's home uninvited, said it is Women's History Month and her mother is her role model), Dr. Moore (said two people came uninvited to her home and stated that people should not visit her home, but text, call, email, or speak at a Board Meeting when desiring to communicate with her; attended the Educating for Careers Conference in Sacramento; attended an English literature review meeting at Golden Valley High School; said she stands with Ukraine; today is Ash Wednesday; visited a Golden Oak Adult School English Learner class for Afghan evacuees; said it is Women's History month), Mr. Webb (attended the Student Television Network Convention in February and is proud of all the District schools that participated; visited Valencia and Canyon high schools and a Golden Oak Adult School English Learner class for Afghan evacuees; said March is Women's History Month, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and National Social Work Month, and today is Read Across America Day), Mr. Jensen (said the District Honor Band Concert will be held on Saturday at Hart

High School, said the Golden Valley Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program (including cadets from Canyon, Golden Valley, and Hart high schools) received an award for their unit assessment score that “exceeds standards”), and Mr. Messina (said his heart goes out to the Ukrainian people, he does not support going to someone's home and asks that the public email or call Board Members instead).

Mr. Kuhlman said it has been a busy week with regard to masking rules and clarified that the lifting of the indoor masking requirement in public settings does not include schools. However, Los Angeles County will be aligning with the state, and the school masking requirement will sunset at the end of day on March 11. He said that since the start of the pandemic, the Board has taken no action to add additional requirements beyond the baseline standard. No additional action is required to follow the baseline. Masking will become a matter of individual choice beginning March 12. The Board has the authority to consider additional restrictions if they should choose to do so.

V.B. Student Board Member Report

Miss Prasad did not give a report.

V.C. Employee Association Leadership

V.C.1. Hart District Teachers Association (HDTA) President John Minkus

Mr. Minkus congratulated all the District teachers who have participated in NASA’s Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy program (SOFIA). He said education in the times of COVID is constantly changing and HDTA has worked with the District to make necessary adaptations. He reported that HDTA has advocated for a five-year evaluation cycle because current evaluations are rushed, don’t include necessary supports, and are exacerbating stress. He stated that the District needs to do everything possible to support and retain teachers.

V.C.2. California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 349 President Janice Dennington

Ms. Dennington said negotiations for the 2021/22 school year have begun and appropriate salaries are imperative. She pointed out that minimum wage has increased to \$15 per hour. She asked that the Board acknowledge the contributions of the classified staff and compensate them accordingly.

V.D. School Site Report - Canyon High School

Canyon High School Principal Shellie Holcombe introduced a presentation highlighting social emotional learning. Teacher Emily Miller said the goal of social emotional learning (SEL) is to create self-awareness, self-control, and emotional regulation. Canyon’s SEL class, in its second year, provides meaningful tools and coping mechanisms. Students Tobias Andrews, Lydia Movahedpour, and Mattias Berrios shared their experiences in the SEL class and the things they have learned that have benefitted them. Ms. Miller reported that 79 percent of SEL students cite

improved academic performance in other classes. She said the school is working to create a new education, child development and family services career pathway at Canyon High School.

District Wellness Coordinator Sarah Gilberts discussed the Caring for Cowboys wellness center and said there have been 6071 drop-in visits and 1261 counseling sessions this year. Wellness Center staff work collaboratively with the school counselors. There was one public comment. A copy of the presentation is attached to the agenda of this meeting.

VI. Special Items

VII. Public Comments

- A parent thanked the Board for making masks optional.
- Five parents and community members discussed concerns, including the need for more counselors, the need for a more vigorous academic program, autonomy from all future mandates, and confidentiality issues arising from naming members of the public during the meeting.
- A community member asked about the Golden Valley softball issue.

VIII. Information Items

VIII.A. School Safety Update

Dr. Nielsen said the District is using and applying safety practices on a regular basis, including lockdown notifications through CrisisGo. He reviewed the safety page of the District website. He explained that safety best practices, identified by Prince/Kallin Consultants, are best practices that every school district should strive for, and the Hart District continues to work to strengthen these practices. The safety page includes school safety plans, the superintendent's safety message, the full Safety Best Practices Report, previous safety updates to the Board, and other links. The four categories of best practices include a drop down that shows each best practice and the District's work in each area. Board members made suggestions to include a safety update from charter schools during their next renewal process, and to place the safety link in the same place on all District websites. There was one public comment.

VIII.B. Strategic Planning Update

Dr. Vierra said work is beginning on developing a strategic plan to provide a focus and framework for the District. He shared the five focus areas: Student Learning and Instruction, Access and Equity, Collaboration and Communication, Safety and Wellness, and Financial and Human Resources. Community input meetings will be held on March 25 and 26 and will include representatives from all stakeholder groups. The input will be used to write a draft strategic plan, which will be presented to the Board for review in May. A copy of the presentation is attached to the agenda of this meeting.

VIII.C. Governing Board Handbook Annual Review

Mr. Kuhlman explained that the Board held a number of workshops in the spring and summer of 2021, which were precursors to the strategic planning process. A Governance Handbook was created during these workshops and a commitment was made to review the handbook on an annual

basis. Mr. Messina suggested the handbook be reviewed biannually, after each election. Miss Prasad suggested adding a section for the role of the Student Board Member. Mr. Webb would like to add a code of ethics. Dr. Moore suggested removing names and dates and including references to Board Policies for each standard in the handbook. She also suggested that future review should take place during a Board study session. There was one public comment. A copy of the handbook is attached to the agenda of this meeting.

VIII.D. New, Revised, and Deleted Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, and Exhibit - First Reading

Staff is continuing to work to align Board policies (BP) and administrative regulations (AR) with a new Board Manual maintenance system. Mrs. Hunter presented new BP 3513.4 - Drug and Alcohol Free Schools and Exhibit 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures; revised BP 5111.1 - District Residency, AR 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records, and AR 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures; and deleted AR 5111.11 - Residency of Students with Caregiver and AR 5111.16 - Residency for Homeless Children, copies of which are attached to the agenda of this meeting. Board members may make suggestions before the second reading and approval on March 16, 2022.

IX. Action Items

IX.A. Proposal Asking for Increased Local Control Regarding COVID-19 Mitigation Measures

Motion Passed: Adopt the proposed letter with the following changes: remove the term “local control” from the last paragraph on page one and the last paragraph on page two, add Congressman Mike Garcia to the list of recipients, correct Alec Padilla to Alex Padilla, and add the sentence, “Furthermore we ask that you would work with state legislators to fully support the ongoing costs of the social and emotional needs of our District’s students and staff.” to the last paragraph. Passed with a motion by Dr. Cherise Moore and a second by Mrs. Linda Storli.

Yes Mr. Robert Jensen

Yes Mr. Joseph Messina

Yes Dr. Cherise Moore

Yes Mrs. Linda Storli

Yes Mr. James Webb

Student Board Member Opinion: Yes

Mr. Kuhlman introduced a sample proposal asking for increased local control that would allow agencies to take local conditions into account and align with the state when a county is more restrictive than the state. There were two public comments. A copy of the proposed letter is attached to the agenda of this meeting.

Mr. Jensen said the letter refers to the resolution approved by the Board in November regarding the vaccination mandate, mentions Santa Clarita as a distinct section of Los Angeles County, and it includes a focus on social emotional and mental health. He said the Board knows what is better for Santa Clarita students than the county does. Mrs. Storli said protocols have been necessary for protection, and she supports sending the letter. Mr. Webb pointed out that school districts are subordinate to the state and asked what the reference to local control means. Mr. Kuhlman

explained that the Board is not asking to exercise control without authority, but asking for a change from those with authority. Mr. Webb suggested removing the term “local control.” Dr. Moore believes that this letter is an opportunity to ask for more funding for counselors, increased supports, and to address the long-term impacts. Mr. Webb said he supports the idea of asking for funding, in particular, sustainable funding instead of one-time money. Mr. Messina said the letter was meant to separate Santa Clarita from the density of Los Angeles County and allow decisions to be based on state requirements.

* Miss Prasad left the meeting at 10:23 p.m.

IX.B. Mask Survey

Motion Passed: Remove this item from the agenda. Passed with a motion by Mr. James Webb and a second by Mr. Robert Jensen.

Yes Mr. Robert Jensen

Yes Mr. Joseph Messina

Yes Dr. Cherise Moore

Yes Mrs. Linda Storli

Yes Mr. James Webb

There was one public comment.

IX.C. Resolution No. 21/22-33 - Intention to Decrease the Number of Classified Employees Due to Lack of Work and/or Lack of Funds

Motion Passed: Adopt Resolution No. 21/22-33 to initiate a reduction in classified employee services pursuant to Education Code sections 45114, 45117, 45298 and 45308. Passed with a motion by Mr. James Webb and a second by Mr. Joseph Messina.

Yes Mr. Robert Jensen

Yes Mr. Joseph Messina

Yes Dr. Cherise Moore

Yes Mrs. Linda Storli

Yes Mr. James Webb

A copy of the resolution is attached to the agenda of this meeting.

IX.D. Governing Board Meeting Schedule, 2022/23

Motion Passed: Approve the 2022/23 Governing Board meeting schedule as revised: remove the August 3, 2022, meeting. Passed with a motion by Mr. Robert Jensen and a second by Dr. Cherise Moore.

Yes Mr. Robert Jensen

Yes Mr. Joseph Messina

Yes Dr. Cherise Moore

Yes Mrs. Linda Storli

Yes Mr. James Webb

A copy of the proposed schedule is attached to the agenda of this meeting.

IX.E. Revised Board Policies and Administrative Regulations - Second Reading

Motion Passed: Approve the following Board policies: BP 1321 Solicitation of Funds from and by Students, BP 3513.3 Tobacco-Free Schools, BP 3515.2 Disruptions, BP 7131 Relations with Local Agencies, BP 7140 Architectural and Engineering Services, BP 7210 Facilities Financing, and BP 7310 Naming of Facility. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Linda Storli and a second by Dr. Cherise Moore.

Yes Mr. Robert Jensen
Yes Mr. Joseph Messina
Yes Dr. Cherise Moore
Yes Mrs. Linda Storli
Yes Mr. James Webb

Mrs. Hunter presented a list of revised Board policies (BP) and administrative regulations (AR) for a second reading. She said there was one wording change from parents to families. No other changes were requested since the first reading on February 2. Copies of the BPs and ARs are attached to the agenda of this meeting.

X. Consent Calendar

X.A. Consent Calendar-Removal of Items

There were no items removed from the Consent Calendar.

X.B. Consent Calendar-Personnel

X.B.1. Personnel Report No. 21/22-13

X.B.2. Student Teaching Agreement Between the William S. Hart Union High School District and California State University Northridge

X.B.3. School Counseling Intern Agreement Between the William S. Hart Union High School District and UMass Global

X.C. Consent Calendar-Curriculum/Instruction

X.C.1. Final Adoption of Textbook/Instructional Materials, 2021/22

X.C.2. Request for Overnight/Out-of-State Trips - Golden Valley, Hart, Saugus, Valencia, West Ranch, and Rio Norte Junior High Schools

X.C.3. Memorandum of Understanding between the William S. Hart Union High School District and the SETI Institute

X.C.4. Document Tracking Services

X.C.5. Revisions to School Plans for Student Achievement (La Mesa Junior High School and Sierra Vista Junior High School)

X.D. Consent Calendar-Business Services

X.D.1. Agreement for Consulting Services (C Financial Investment Inc., dba CA Financial Services/KeyAnalytics)

X.D.2. Ratification of Out-of-State Conference Event - Hart High School

X.E. Consent Calendar-Operations

X.F. Consent Calendar-Requests for Information

X.G. Approval of Consent Calendar

Motion Passed: Approve Consent Calendar. Passed with a motion by Mr. Robert Jensen and a second by Mrs. Linda Storli.

Yes Mr. Robert Jensen

Yes Mr. Joseph Messina

Yes Dr. Cherise Moore

Yes Mrs. Linda Storli

Yes Mr. James Webb

XI. Items for Future Consideration by the Board

- Mr. Messina suggested holding a town hall meeting
- Dr. Moore asked for an update on next year's school start time changes

XII. Second Closed Session

XIII. Adjournment

Motion Passed: Adjourn the meeting at 10:40 p.m. Passed with a motion by Mr. Robert Jensen and a second by Mr. James Webb.

Yes Mr. Robert Jensen

Yes Mr. Joseph Messina

Yes Dr. Cherise Moore

Yes Mrs. Linda Storli

Yes Mr. James Webb

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph V. Messina, President

Robert N. Jensen, Jr., Clerk

Approved and entered into the proceedings
of the District:

Date