



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL
OCCUPATIONAL
CENTER

Board of Education - May 08 2023 Minutes

Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:30 PM

2300 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90501

1. Call Meeting to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

All Members were present.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Member Fournell lead the pledge of allegiance.

2. Approval Agenda

2.1 Approve the May 8, 2023 agenda.

Moved by: James Han

Seconded by: Linda Kurt

Carried

3. Commendations / Recognition:

None

4. Student Voices:

4.1 Jenna Esparza - Torrance High School - B. Montoya

Advanced Pet Health & Grooming

Dr. Montoya, Director of Programs & Student Support Services, introduced Jenna Esparza.

Jenna Esparza stated that she is a senior at Torrance High School and was introduced to SoCal ROC by a friend. Jenna

commented that from she discovered her love for animals at a young age. She is thankful that SoCal ROC has given her the opportunity to take classes in animal health science and expand her interest. Jenna shared that she learned about basic dog anatomy and proper dog handling. She stated that she plans to get a summer job working with animals and plans on going to college.

5. Program Highlight:

5.1 Pet Health & Grooming - B. Montoya

Thomas Leske

Dr. Montoya, Director of Programs & Student Support Services, introduced Thomas Leske, Pet Health and Grooming Instructor.

Mr. Leske stated that the Pet Health and Grooming program provides students with the skills in working with various breeds of dogs. This training includes learning to work with animals that have behavioral problems and overcoming the challenges of handling pets effectively and safely in order to perform the necessary grooming/styling procedures. Students learn to perform animal grooming duties such as washing, brushing, clipping, trimming coats, cutting nails, and cleaning ears. Mr. Leske commented that students also learn how to interpret animal behavior and identify grooming needs on live dogs.

6. Public Comment

Pat Harrison, Member of Harbor Area Model A Club

Ms. Harrison shared that they are a nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration, preservation, and enjoyment of the Model A Ford. Ms. Harrison stated that May is Model Youth Month. To kick off May, they had a wonderful event on Thursday, May 4th at SoCal ROC. Members of the car club brought their vintage vehicles and shared the distinctive features of each car. Students also learned the history of Ford and the many unique tools used necessary for repairing Model A Fords. Ms. Harrison invited all in attendance to their next Board Meeting on May 19th where people will be able to learn more about the Harbor Area Model A Club.

- 6.1 **Board Agenda Items: Any member of the audience may speak to any agenda item by submitting a yellow card (located on back table). Please hand the completed card to the administrative assistant at the Board table. When the item is considered by the Board, individuals submitting yellow cards will be called upon prior to Board action.**

6.2 **Topics Not on Agenda: Anyone in attendance may address any issue by following the same procedure process listed above. Since the Board cannot take action on items which are not on the agenda, such items may be referred to the Superintendent for handling. Individuals interested in speaking to items which are not on the agenda will be called upon at this time.**

7. **Acknowledgement of Correspondence to the Board**

None

8. **Superintendent's Remarks**

Superintendent Helaire shared that SoCal ROC's annual Night of All Stars was held on April 27th at Kincaid's Fish, Chop and Steakhouse in Redondo Beach. In total, 15 students were recognized for their achievements. Over \$11,000.00 in scholarships were awarded. SoCal ROC also recognized 3 winners for our first reel competition. Superintendent Helaire thanked community, staff, and Board members for their support.

Superintendent Helaire commented the Harbor Area Model A club came to visit the Automotive class on May 4th. They brought 12 Model A Fords and gave a presentation to the automotive students. Superintendent Helaire stated that Torrance City Cable covered the event and will air tonight on the cable channel and on their YouTube channel tomorrow evening.

Superintendent Helaire commented that the WASC visit was held last week. The visiting team was on campus May 1 - May 3, 2023. The team met with the SoCal ROC leadership team, staff members, and students. They also visited classrooms. The visiting team praised the staff on the dedication that SoCal ROC displayed towards CTE and students despite funding issues.

Finally, Superintendent Helaire shared that he received letter from CTEIG indicating that we have been awarded the CTEIG grant in the amount of \$500,000.

9. **Staff Reports**

None

10. Consent Calendar

- 10.1 APPROVE BOARD MINUTES OF APRIL 2023
- 10.2 APPROVE PAYROLL A WARRANT REPORT APRIL 2023
- 10.3 APPROVE B WARRANT REPORT APRIL 2023
- 10.4 APPROVE B WARRANT REPORT WITHOUT PURCHASE ORDER FOR APRIL 2023
- 10.5 APPROVE PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENT ORDERS
- 10.6 APPROVE PURCHASE ORDER REPORT APRIL 2023
- 10.7 APPROVE REVOLVING CASH FUND APRIL 2023
- 10.8 APPROVE SOCAL ROC RECOGNITION ACCOUNT APRIL 2023
- 10.9 APPROVE AFFILIATION AGREEMENTS
MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR
NUMBERS 1 THROUGH 9

Moved by: Meredith Beachly

Seconded by: Linda Kurt

Carried

11. Personnel

None

12. Business Services

- 12.1 **Discuss and Select Firm(s) to Proceed to Contract - A. Helaire**

Superintendent Helaire stated that three RFP's were received, AALRR, BBK, and the Law Offices of Chidester & Associates. Each proposal was attached for review.

Member Cobb commented that she noticed that AALRR charges a 5% administration fee on top of attorney fee.

Member Fournell stated the both AALRR and BBK did not speak on CTE while Chidester & Associates seems to have experience with CTE and reference a number of organization and experience with joint powers agreement. Member Fournell shared that he is was happy to see that at least one firm had that experience.

Member Han stated that he was also glad to see that and notice that Chidester and Associates was the only one with ROP/C's reference.

Member Kurt stated that PVPUSD uses AALRR and prior to December she had never heard of them. Member Kurt commented that all three firms have similar fee rates but noticed that AALRR billed in 15 minutes increments. Member Kurt remarked that AALRR is the apparent company of ESS and their level of work is high quality and believes AALRR will do the same. The only concern with BBK is that there were no local districts served and AALRR represents PVPUSD and could possibly be a conflict of interest. AALRR said there would be no conflict of interest but Chidester and Associates implied that there would be.

Member Beachly stated that AALRR also represents ESUSD

Member Fenton shared that she is also concerned on the references and would like someone that understand SoCal ROC's business.

President Strutzenberg asked if these were the only RFP's received.

Superintendent Helaire remarked that there was one more firm that the RFP went to but they did not respond.

President Strutzenberg commented that AALRR also represent RBUSD. They are a big firm and can handle all aspects of the law. President Strutzenberg stated that he has spoken to representatives from the firm and expressed he concern on the conflict of interest potential. They indicated that yes, they represent most of the member districts and if a conflict arose they would recuse themselves and assist in finding another firm that could help. President Strutzenberg said he has dealt with BBK in past and seem very responsive. Grace is new to the firm but knows her limitations and refers you to the correct person. With Chidester and Associates. Maggie is very personable small firm but has the experience with CTE. Maggie is willing to come to a Board meeting to present at no charge.

Member Kurt asked how long Maggie was expected to continue practicing, she's been in business for over 30 years.

President Strutzenberg replied that that was a great question but one that he can't answer at the moment.

Member Kurt remarked that she was aware that that question could not be asked during an interview but was curious.

President Strutzenberg stated that tonight we have to decide who we would like to move forward with so the agreement could be brought forward next month for approval.

President Strutzenberg commented that this is not a financial commitment but a contract to use at will.

President Strutzenberg stated that BBK does not represent any JPA district but comfortable with any firm.

Member Cobb stated that she is comfortable with BBK.

President Strutzenberg commented that he would like to move forward with BBK and Chidester & Associates.

Member Fournell stated that he was not sure SoCal ROC needed two and suggest only going forward with one.

Member Han also commented that he would prefer one firm.

Member Fenton shared that MBUSD has two firms as well as other districts.

Member Kurt said she is ok with two firms, one primary and one as back up.

A motion was made by Member Fournell to proceed to engage with Chidester and Associates. Member Han seconded the motion.

A substitute motion was made President Strutzenberg to move forward with a retainer of contract with BBK and Chidester and Associates. Member Fenton seconded the substitute motion.

MB-Yes; NC-Yes; JF-No; BF-No; JH-No; LK-Yes; RS-Yes

Member Kurt asked the Members for the reasoning for the no vote.

Member Han stated that he believes we do not need multiple firms and suggested the first motion.

Member Fournell agreed.

A motion was made by Member Fournell to proceed to engage with Chidester and Associates only

MB-No; NC-No; JF-Yes; BF-Yes; JH-Yes LK-Yes; RS-No

Member Fournell said he was ok with switching his vote to support the two firms and let AALRR expire at the end of the year.

President Strutzenberg stated that this was only to move to the contract phase.

A motion was made President Strutzenberg to move forward with a retainer for contracts with BBK and Chidester and Associates. Member Kurt seconded the motion.

MB-Yes; NC-Yes; JF-Yes; BF-Yes; JH-No; LK-Yes; RS-Yes

Carried

12.2 **Approve Spectrum VoIP Agreement - A. Helaire**

Superintendent Helaire commented that the current phone system is obsolete. Simple changes are becoming difficult to resolve and too many calls are being missed. Superintendent Helaire stated that this new contract will include an upgraded phone system with new phones and an intercom system. The new phone system will be VOIP. All equipment will be leased through Spectrum. Cost will be \$5400.00 per month. The monthly cost might be reduced depending on how many phones are actually needed.

President Strutzenberg asked what the current cost of the phone service was.

Superintendent Helaire commented it is about \$500 to \$800 less than the quoted amount.

President Strutzenberg stated that 75 total units seems like a lot and asked if all were needed.

Superintendent Helaire stated that they were going off the number of desk, but a walk through will be done to confirm how many are actually necessary.

President Strutzenberg asked if Ambassador High School had their own units and who did they use.

Superintendent Helaire remarked that they did and currently use AT&T.

President Strutzenberg asked if the quantity of the equipment was fixed for the 5year contract.

Superintendent Helaire stated that it was not. In fact, equipment can be added or removed from the quote. The number of necessary units will be installed once the walkthrough is completed.

Member Kurt would like more clarification on the terms and conditions, specifically the termination clause.

A substitute motion was made by Member Kurt and seconded by President Strutzenberg to bring this item back in June with clarification on the opt out clause penalty.

MB-Yes; NC-Yes; JF-Yes; Bf-No; JH-No; LK-Yes; RS-Yes

Carried

12.3 Approve Liftech Agreement - A. Helarie

Superintendent Helaire commented that the current company that services the elevators in building A & C will be going out of business and has given a 30day notice. The Center will soon need to find another company that will provide preventative maintenance and repairs. Currently, Liftech services Building B. If this agreement is approved, Liftech would service all of the Center's elevators.

Member Fournell asked what the difference in cost was between the companies.

Superintendent Helaire shared that it was a \$100 difference.

Moved by: Bill Fournell

Seconded by: Meredith Beachly

Carried

12.4 **Approve acceptance of gifts donated to the Center - B. Montoya**

Dr. Montoya acknowledge the donated gifts to the Center from a local dentist. The donated items will be used in the Dental program.

Moved by: Bill Fournell

Seconded by: James Han

Carried

13. General Services

13.1 Discuss and Approve LRI Proposal for Strategic Plan - President Strutzenberg

President Strutzenberg stated that this item was discussed at last month's meeting with the understand that Superintendent Helaire was to reach out to member districts for any other recommendations.

Superintendent Helaire shared the he received one recommendation, Clifford Moss from Dr. Moore and one from RBUSD for LRI.

Member Fournell stated the he reached out to a friend that has done strategic consulting to various educational organizations. He stated that he believes the new superintendent should be involved.

President Strutzenberg commented that he did reach out to the organization recommended by ESUSD. In talking to them, they came to the conclusion that what SoCal ROC needs is not what they do. They do more of a long term planning versus a one time thing which is what SoCal ROC is looking for.

Member Fournell stressed that he would like this proposal in place before the new superintendent begins.

President Strutzenberg commented that this would give the new superintendent a starting point and he would be able to give input as the process went on.

Member Han asked what the goal was from this strategic plan. What is \$20,000 getting us?

Member Kurt respectfully disagreed and asked what are we actually getting. She stated that a facilitator gives us thoughts. We know what we need. We need more successful courses, more companies willing to support us and give monies. The new superintendent just brought in 4 million in grants in his current role. Member Kurt stated that the new superintendent should be given a chance to see what he can do. If in six months he needs help, this can be revisited.

Member Fournell stated that what we are looking for is a road map, something that has the who, what, why, and where answers.

Member Han stated that a strategic plan takes time and asked if we are willing to provide the input. He stressed that only 4 members have been on the board for longer than 4 months.

After discussion It was decided that start the strategic planning in August.

MB-Yes; NC-Yes; JF-Yes; BF-Yes; JH-Yes; LK-No; RS-Yes

Moved by: James Han

Seconded by: Bill Fournell

Carried

13.2 Approve Honda High School Pilot Program Agreement - A. Helaire

Superintendent Helaire stated that Honda approached SoCal ROC asking to partner. This agreement would give students the opportunity to intern with Honda. Honda would also provide donations for the Automotive course.

President Strutzenberg asked how would incorporating Honda's curriculum into our curriculum impact our program. He asked if this would prolong the Automotive course. President Strutzenberg also asked when students would be awarded certificates.

Member Han stated that he would like to see Honda provide more incentives for SoCal ROC.

Member Cobb stated that she would like to see this agreement approved. The fact that it is Honda gives the program name recognition.

Superintendent Helaire stated that he would get answers to these questions and report back to the Board for the June meeting.

13.3 Idea Parking Lot - A. Helaire

The following are items that were suggested by Board members for future Board discussion:

1. Facilities Plan - discuss facilities update and future plans

14. Board Members' Remarks

Member Beachly commended the staff for a very successful *Night of All Stars* scholarship event.

Member Kurt stated that she had received the email regarding the conditions of the center's facilities and asked Superintendent Helaire for additional information.

Membr Cobb no comment.

Member Han no comment.

Member Fournell no comment.

Member Fenton no comment.

President Strutzenberg also addressed the email and asked Superintendent Helaire to send an email and respond to all allegations as soon as possible.

15. Adjourn to Closed Session

Adjourned to closed session at 8:40 p.m.

Moved by: Nancy Cobb

Seconded by: Bill Fournell

Carried

16. Closed Session

16.1 *Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release - per Government Code 54957*

16.2 *Public Employee: Appointment/Employment - Title: Superintendent, per Government Code Section 54957*

Any action taken in Closed Session will be reported out in Open Session

17. Adjourn to Open Session

Adjourn to open session at 9:02 pm.

President Strutzenberg reported that the Board unanimously voted to appoint Dr. Rodriguez as the new Superintendent.

Moved by: Bill Fournell

Seconded by: Meredith Beachly

Carried

18. Action Items

18.1 Approval of Employment Agreement of Employment for Superintendent

President Strutzenberg announced that the Board unanimously voted to approved the contract to hire Dr. Julian Rodriguez effective July 1, 2023. The salary will be \$188,000 with an annual 3% increase with a satisfactory evaluation.

19. Adjournment

Adjourn to open session at 9:15 pm.

19.1 Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Moved by: James Han

Seconded by: Bill Fournell

Carried



President



Date