

General Functions:

1. Personnel Status Report

Minutes: That Consent Agenda, **be approved**, as presented.

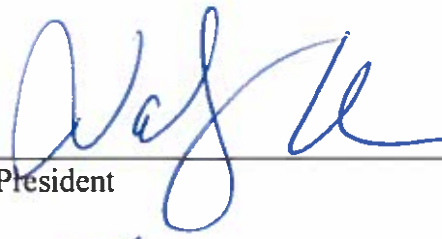
<u>Motion made by:</u>	Mr. Quintanilla	<u>Seconded by:</u>	Ms. Armenta
<u>Votes:</u>	Yes	Mrs. Peña	Yes
Ms. Armenta	Yes	Mr. Quintanilla	Yes
Mr. Esquivel	Yes		
Mrs. Harmon	Yes		

ADJOURNMENT:


Minutes: That the February 15, 2018 Board of Trustees meeting, **be adjourned** at 10:19 p.m., in memory of those who lost their lives in the Florida school shooting.

<u>Motion made by:</u>	Mr. Esquivel	<u>Seconded by:</u>	Mr. Quintanilla
<u>Votes:</u>	Yes	Mrs. Peña	Yes
Ms. Armenta	Yes	Mr. Quintanilla	Yes
Mr. Esquivel	Yes		
Mrs. Harmon	Yes		

Signed,



President



Clerk

**ROSEMEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING MINUTES**

CONSENT

February 15, 2018

The Board of Trustees of the Rosemead School District met in a regular meeting on Thursday, February 15, 2018, in the District Office – Board Room at Rosemead School District, 3907 Rosemead Blvd., Rosemead, California at 7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

President Armenta called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Trustees present included: Mr. Ronald Esquivel, Mr. John Quintanilla, Mrs. Rhonda Harmon, Ms. Nancy Armenta, and Mrs. Veronica Peña.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Armenta invited Dr. John Lovato to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Minutes: That the Agenda, **be approved** as amended.

<u>Motion made by:</u>	Mr. Quintanilla	<u>Seconded by:</u>	Mrs. Peña
<u>Votes:</u>	Ms. Armenta Yes	Mrs. Peña	Yes
	Mr. Esquivel Yes	Mr. Quintanilla	Yes
	Mrs. Harmon Yes		

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Ms. Terri Totten and Mr. Jason Huett, Teachers requested permission from the Board of Trustees to conduct a research study as required by their Masters coursework. Ms. Totten and Mr. Huett explained their research study, the Capstone project, will research the impacts of chunking a lesson of math in increments of 10 minutes with brain breaks during the lesson. The research would be for 1st grade and 2nd grade for a period of 3 weeks. All data gathered during their research study will be kept anonymous with no identification of participants. The research would be conducted after obtaining parent permission during the month of March. The teachers answered Board questions and confirmed that students who don't receive permission to participate will definitely be included in the math lesson, however, the collection of data/observation will not occur for those students.

It was the Board's consensus to grant permission to conduct the research study and requested for Ms. Totten and Mr. Huett to return at a later date to present their research results.

INTRODUCTION OF DISTRICT PERSONNEL

1. Superintendent Enomoto-Perez was also present. Other *District personnel and guests* in attendance who legibly signed the register were:

Armida Carreon, John Lovato, Deborah Lawrence, Karen Carr, Gabriel Cardenas, Jason Huett, Terri Totten, Jan Brydle, Ruth Soto, Dawn Rock, Ginny Ford, Frank Quintanilla, Dawn Rock, and Candice Camacho.

SPECIAL REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

1. Report on EDI/UCLA Research – Mrs. Deborah Lawrence, Coordinator, Preschool and Child Development Programs

Superintendent Enomoto-Perez introduced Mrs. Deborah Lawrence the Coordinator of Preschool and Child Development programs and Mr. Danny Hanley from the Early Development Instrument (EDI) and First 5 LA. See both presentations attached for details.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

1. Review and Evaluation of Current Services provided by Legal Firm Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (AALRR) for the 2017-2018 School Year

President Armenta asked each Trustee to share their discussion items regarding this item. Trustees Harmon and Esquivel shared that their main concern is to know the reasons why there is such an urgency and need for immediate action on the current contract. Clerk Esquivel shared that he also wants to know why. Trustee Quintanilla shared that his discussion items would be savings cost to the District. His overall philosophy of getting RFPs for contracts that we continually have. President Armenta shared that it is her understanding that AALRR has been with the District for over 20 years and she feels that it is always good practice that when we have a long term standing contracts that they be re-evaluated. Trustees Harmon and Esquivel inquired as to why there was such an urgency to change course in regards to the current contract, as opposed to waiting until the contract would normally come up for renewal in a few months. They understand the need to look at other attorneys and the process of an RFP, however, the urgency to terminate a contract early is not clear. President Armenta shared that there are certain things that can't be discussed in certain forums and some things may not be appropriate for this forum, as it may violate the Brown Act. Clerk Esquivel and Harmon shared that by law if the discussion is about a contract, the conversation needs to occur in open session. Clerk Esquivel shared that the current attorney has helped the district avoid lawsuits, saved the district thousands of dollars, and it looks like other attorneys would cost us twice as much. Trustee Harmon shared that she doesn't understand how they are supposed to vote on a termination of a contract when they are not informed of the reasons why the termination of the contract is necessary. Trustee Quintanilla shared that he would like to see more transparency and accountability on the School Board and feels that the Board is ultimately responsible for the budget and everything. Trustees Harmon and Esquivel shared that because they are not prevue to the reasons why the contract is in need of an urgent termination, they cannot vote. Superintendent Enomoto-Perez shared that the District currently works with several law firms for different support and in previous years our billing was not as high, however, last year it was requested by the Board to have an attorney present during our Board meetings. The Superintendent recommended for the Board to continue with the current contract until June 30, 2018, its original expiration to ensure we have a smooth transition and current support is continued.

Trustee Harmon stated that her first question still remains, in regards to the urgency. To her, this is a hasty action. This type of drastic change shouldn't be taken lightly and she feels like all of a sudden it was thrown out there. She understands that if we do want to look at someone else, there is a process for that which is one of the options. There are two other options are even more concerning to her and she doesn't understand what the

urgency is about and it's obviously a very long process, it's going to be disruptive. If there was something serious that has happened, then she could understand that and would like such information shared with all Board members that due to her lack of knowledge of any concerns or problems, that she does not support this action especially at this time and therefore considering the options, especially it is in regards to our attorney Mr. Guy Bryant. The limited information that she is going on at this moment, that's the reason why she is taking the position that she has. To her knowledge, she doesn't believe that there has ever been an issue with this firm or Mr. Bryant's representation and it is her belief that he has kept us above Board and saved the District numerous times, between costs, public scrutiny, unfavorable publicity, and a lot of things that the firm knows how to handle. The firm is very prudent and she feel that they are extremely ethical – and that is the way we've always been guided. She doesn't understand, because she feels like if something is not broken, why fix it – why steer the ship in a different direction, especially when to her it is very favorable and things are working the way they should be. Most districts only wish they could have such a great relationship with their legal counsel for such a long time – with a firm that has such as solid reputation. She doesn't understand why we would give up such a relationship with such well respected person and firm. This firm has seasoned veterans with proven track records and they all know us in the District and that is one of the reasons why everything works so well because we all work together. Mrs. Harmon shared that it goes back to the original question of why we are considering termination of this contract at this time and whether this serves our sole purpose we are here, which is to serve the kids of the District.

Clerk Esquivel shared that he is still concerned on the reasons why we need to take this action and feels that when things are going bad you see it occur over time – which he has not seen. He shared that sometimes we need to look at things and take things slowly. He feels that the attorney has told them what they “need” to hear instead of what they “want” to hear. He wants to hear what we need to hear from our attorney and our current attorney has done that on several occasions but it was the best thing for the District. Mr. Esquivel shared that in his experience on the Board, all the attorney firms the District has worked with have always worked on according to the Board's direction. He is perplexed as to why the Board needs to consider the terminate of the current contract now, instead of going through the process. He understands that some have their reasons as to why this is necessary and shared that unfortunately both he and Trustee Harmon are unaware of the reasons. Trustee Harmon shared that she does not understand how more than one person has the same opinion and is not willing to share. Trustee Quintanilla shared that he feels that we need change and that now is the best time. He also shared that there will never be a perfect time to do so. Superintendent Enomoto-Perez shared that staff will be bringing another contract for approval that is related to an ASCIP matter that our property/liability joint powers has an attorney that they have recommended handle this new matter. The contract will come to the Board in March.

Trustee Peña shared that for her it is very difficult because she is new and she really doesn't know what is going on and her conscious she doesn't know how to go with this matter. She shared that this is her honest opinion and this is every difficult for her.

President Armenta shared that we as Board Members have a responsibility that everything that we do, that we do it with a clear conscious and think about the pros and cons, and taking everything into consideration. She shared that the decisions she makes personally,

she sits down and evaluates and comes to a conclusion – and this was not just something that was abrupt. As Board members, she said, we each have to vote for what is most appropriate. She thanked everyone for the discussion and for their honesty. She feels that as a Board we show that we respect one another and listen to one another. We don't take things lightly and take things into consideration and maintain that respect for our colleagues. Thank you for that.

ACTION ITEM:

Current Contract for Legal Services with Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (AALRR)

Minutes: That the Board of Trustees Completely Terminate the Full Contract with Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (AALRR) with a 60-day Written Notice, Except in Relation to Already Pending Open Cases and Any New Cases During the Transition Period, **be approved.**

<u>Motion made by:</u>	Mr. Quintanilla	<u>Seconded by:</u>	Ms. Armenta
<u>Votes:</u>	Ms. Armenta Yes		Mrs. Peña Yes
	Mr. Esquivel No		Mr. Quintanilla Yes
	Mrs. Harmon No		

Request for Proposals (RFP) Process and Timeline for Legal Services for the 2017-2018 School Year

Minutes: That the Request for Proposals (RFP) Process and Timeline for Legal Services for the 2017-2018 School Year, **be approved.**

<u>Motion made by:</u>	Mr. Quintanilla	<u>Seconded by:</u>	Ms. Armenta
<u>Votes:</u>	Ms. Armenta Yes		Mrs. Peña Yes
	Mr. Esquivel No		Mr. Quintanilla Yes
	Mrs. Harmon No		

NEW BUSINESS

President Armenta asked each Trustee and the Superintendent to report any new business:

- Superintendent Enomoto-Perez read a prepared statement to advise the Board of Trustees concerning two parent letters regarding verbal harassment.

“Dear Board of Trustees:

Rosemead School District is committed to providing a safe, healthy learning environment for all students. That commitment is unwavering and will not be compromised. We are also committed to communicating with all the Rosemead School District community in an open and transparent manner, always.

It is in this spirit that we inform you that earlier this month the District received an anonymous letter, and another letter from the parents of a student, both concerning three Muscatel Middle School physical education instructors. The letters allege verbal harassment by these instructors. Once the complaints became known, and in compliance with the District's zero-tolerance harassment policies, all three teachers were placed on paid administrative leave, and the District began the process of conducting an independent investigation from an outside source.

The investigation into these allegations are on-going, and the Muscatel Middle School community will be updated as facts become known. In the meantime, please feel free to contact my office, directly, at (626) 312-2900 x212 (which is Cynthia Bracamonte's extension), if you have any questions or concerns.

We trust that this matter will be resolved swiftly and satisfactorily for all parties involved.”

- President Armenta shared that on Monday the “Retain and Recruit” Team met to work on our enrollment and had great dialogue resulting in great ideas that were brought to the table by the team. She added that we currently don’t have policies which address social media and the team wants to make sure we bring those forth for Board consideration based on CSBA’s sample policies. Meanwhile the policies are adopted by the Board, Dr. Lovato will create a Facebook page and will monitor it regularly.
 - Superintendent Enomoto-Perez shared that the draft policies will be brought forward for Board consideration.
- Clerk Esquivel requested for the meeting to be adjourned in memory of all of those who lost their lives in the Florida tragedy.

RECESS OPEN SESSION TO RECONVENE CLOSED SESSION

President Armenta recessed the open session to reconvene closed session at 8:58 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

1. Conference with Labor Negotiators
2. Personnel Actions – Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, and Discipline/Dismissal/Release (Government Code Section 54957)
3. Public Employee Performance Evaluation and Contract (GC§ 54957 & GC§ 54957.6) – Superintendent Evaluation and Contract

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION

President Armenta adjourned closed session at 10:17 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

President Armenta reconvened open session at 10:17 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION (if any)

President Armenta announced that the Board of Trustees took no action in closed session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

President Armenta announced that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered by the Board to be routine and will be enacted by the Board in one motion in the form listed below. There will be no discussion on these items prior to the time the Board votes on the motion unless members of the Board or the Superintendent, request specific items to be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Agenda.