

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

CONSENT

December 6, 2018

The Board of Trustees of the Rosemead School District met in a study session meeting on Thursday, December 6, 2018, in the District Office – Board Room at Rosemead School District, 3907 Rosemead Blvd., Rosemead, California at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

President Armenta called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Trustees present included: Ms. Nancy Armenta, Mr. Ronald Esquivel, Mr. John Quintanilla, Mrs. Rhonda Harmon, and Mrs. Veronica Peña.

Interim Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Fang was also present. Other *District personnel and guests* in attendance were: Leah Kilpatrick, Armida Carreon, Deborah Lawrence, John Benitez, Diane Benitez, Carol Mahoney, Reynita Amador, Sharon Giambalvo, Ginny Ford, Jason Costello, Monique Cooper, Claudia Herrera, Katherine Monte, Sylvia Petrovich, Bernadette Polich, Alex Gaeta, Nadine Wilcox, Cami Case, Maria Hernandez, Tiffany Samora, Gabriel Cardenas, Scott Levin, Grace Masuda, Jonnie Matsdorf, Brandi Matsdorf, Karen Carr, Danielle Kisich, Deborah Fleming, Chris Yu, Jerry Puente, Jan Brydle, Jenny Cheung, Roger Ng, Dawn Rock, Daniel Montoya, Sandra Almaraz, Diana Richardson, Annemarie Phillips, Terri Totten, Linda Ngo, Ruth Soto, Maura Perez, Kelly Wong, Lisa Elkins, Carrie Dam, and Nghia Ngoc Phan.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

There were none.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

President Armenta began Closed Session at 6:35 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

1. Public Employment (Government Code Section 54957)
 - Superintendent

RECESS CLOSED SESSION

President Armenta recessed closed session at 7:03 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

President Armenta reconvened the meeting to open session at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Armenta invited Dr. Laurie Baccus to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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

President Armenta reported that no action was taken in closed session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Monique Cooper and Jason Costello, parents; topic: need for a permanent teacher for special education kindergarten class at Encinita
2. Jerry Puente, RTA President; topic: thanked Trustees Esquivel and Quintanilla for attending the CTA dinner; requested to join administration for the next pancake breakfast; thanked the Board for their time spent on selecting the next Superintendent; and looks forward to working together to collaborate as a team

BOARD COMMENTS:

- President Armenta congratulated new Trustee Mrs. Diane Benitez and shared that the Board is here to support her.
- Trustee Harmon congratulated Mrs. Diane Benitez on the election and shared that she is very excited for her. She shared that this is her last meeting and thanked several. Mrs. Harmon expressed that the last 12 years have been her honor and privilege to serve the district, families, and community members. She was honored to get to know the most amazing visionaries both past and present. She is humbled by the amazing work and leadership of Dr. Enomoto-Perez and both past and present. She shared that the Rosemead School District holds a special place in her heart and recognized Mr. Dennis McDonald and Mr. Randall Cantrell who we have lost and have provided so much wisdom in this role. Mrs. Harmon acknowledged how much each employee gives of themselves for the students of the District. She thanked everyone for allowing her to be a part of the work.
- Clerk Esquivel recognized Mrs. Harmon for always putting the students first and her dedication to attend all the student events when her schedule allowed her to. Mr. Esquivel shared that Mrs. Harmon has done so much for many families in the district and thanked her for the 12 years of dedication she has already contributed. Trustee Esquivel congratulated Mrs. Diane Benitez on the election and recognized her for all her dedication and volunteer work in PTA. Clerk Esquivel requested for a Board action on the December 13, 2018 agenda to address the City of El Monte consideration of applications to place additional cannabis cultivation and distribution centers in El Monte which border the Rosemead boundaries including a letter of opposition. He requested for anyone available to attend the City of El Monte Council meeting on December 18, 2018. Mr. Esquivel requested for the sprinkler system schedule to be looked into to avoid scheduled watering meanwhile it is raining. Clerk Esquivel requested for the travel policy to be brought back to a future agenda for further clarification.
- Trustee Quintanilla congratulated new Trustee Mrs. Benitez and thanked Trustee Harmon for her 12 years of service to the children and the district.
- Trustee Peña thanked Trustee Harmon for her 12 years of service and congratulated Mrs. Diane Benitez.
- President Armenta wished Trustee Harmon well and shared that she will never forget the angel candle Trustee Harmon gave to her when her mother passed away.

ACTION ITEMS

Appointment of the Superintendent Mr. Alejandro Ruvalcaba

Minutes: That the Board of Trustees **appoint Mr. Alejandro (Alex) Ruvalcaba**, as the Superintendent for the Rosemead School District, Effective December 6, 2018.

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

President Armenta read the following statement: "The Board of Trustees received more than 30 applications for the Superintendent position. We had a very qualified pool of candidates, most of whom had extensive experience as teachers, principals, and district office administrators. With these many outstanding candidates, we are especially pleased to introduce the person that we have selected as Rosemead School District's next superintendent – Alejandro (Alex) Ruvalcaba.

Mr. Ruvalcaba has been an educator for more than 20 years. He has been an administrator for more than 12 years, serving as a principal at schools in Pasadena and West Covina. He has spent the last four years serving as assistant superintendent in the Upland Unified School District. During his time in Upland, he has been in charge of educational services, and most recently human resources.

Mr. Ruvalcaba has many impressive achievements as an educational leader. Here are just a few:

- Leading the transition to implementation of Common Core State Standards and College and Career Readiness*
- Expanding the AVID program*
- Ensuring equitable access to technology for all students, including the implementation of a multi-million-dollar technology bond*
- Developing and a program of differentiated professional development for all employees*
- Serving as chief negotiator, collaborating with employee associations to finalize bargaining agreements and control rising district health care costs*

Mr. Ruvalcaba's current superintendent and other colleagues have praised his, knowledge, leadership skills, and sensitivity to the needs of all stakeholders. Here are some of their comments:

- "As second-in-command, he has assumed the leadership of the district's 14 schools when the superintendent has been out of the office."*
- "He has forged a positive and collaborative working relationship with the district's bargaining units."*
- "He is bright, articulate, transparent, and collaborative – a professional, poised, student-centered, and dedicated leader."*
- "One of his greatest strengths is his ability to communicate with all stakeholders in an articulate, compassionate way that creates a tone of we are in this together while he clarifies high expectations for all."*
- "He has the ability to ensure a common vision, engage collaborative teams, and design and sustain effective systems."*

- *"He is a true leader among his peers. He is someone that other administrators of all levels look to for advice in dealing with many situations."*

We are very fortunate to have found a leader with the vision, skills, integrity, and dedication to students that have been the hallmarks of Mr. Ruvalcaba's career. We look forward to working closely with him as he leads the Rosemead School District to new levels of excellence. Please join me in welcoming our next Superintendent, Alex Ruvalcaba."

Each Trustee congratulated and welcomed Superintendent Ruvalcaba to the Rosemead family and shared that they are sure there will be amazing things ahead for the District.

Superintendent Ruvalcaba thanked the Board and Cabinet. He expressed that he was honored, humbled, and excited he is about being selected as the Superintendent for the Rosemead School District. He shared a little about what he shared with the Board during the interview process that he was picky about what organization he wanted to work with because the different districts he has worked with have molded who he is as an educator. Mr. Ruvalcaba shared that his research about Rosemead led to an amazing discovery about all the good things happening in Rosemead. His mission will be to bring back some more "rosy" to Rosemead.

ACTION ITEMS (continued)

Employment Contract for the Superintendent

Minutes: That the Employment Contract for the Superintendent Mr. Alejandro Ruvalcaba with Compensation in the Amount of \$195,000 representing Salary per Year and a Term of 2.5 Years, **be approved.**

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

Nomination of Member to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization

Minutes: Item died due to the lack of a motion.

AWARDS/RECOGNITION PRESENTATIONS:

1. Recognition of DREAMS STEAM TEAM

President Armenta and Interim Superintendent Fang recognized each member of the team and presented a plaque.

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Mrs. Christina Arce, Savannah Teacher | • Mr. Christopher Yu, Shuey Teacher |
| • Mrs. Diana Richardson, Muscatel Teacher | • Ms. Jenny Cheung, Janson Teacher |
| • Mrs. Lisa Elkins, Encinita Teacher | • Ms. Summer Agnes, Muscatel Teacher |
| • Mrs. Terri Totten, Janson Teacher | • Mrs. Jan Brydle, Shuey Principal |
| • Mrs. Deborah Lawrence, Coordinator, Preschool & Child Development | • Dr. Laurie Baccus, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services |
| • Dr. Jennifer Fang, Interim Superintendent | |

2. Recognition of Interim Employees

- Dr. Laurie Baccus, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
- Dr. Lis Hanacek, Interim Principal, Encinita Elementary School
- Mrs. Kathleen La Piana, Interim Principal, Encinita Elementary School

RECESS FOR BRIEF BREAK

President Armenta recessed the meeting for a brief break at 8:17 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

President Armenta reconvened the meeting to open session at 8:32 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

There were none.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

President Armenta began Closed Session at 8:32 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

2. Public Employment (Government Code Section 54957)
 - Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
 - Coordinator of Assessment and Special Projects
3. Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) and (e)(2))
 - Significant exposure to Litigation: one matter

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

President Armenta adjourned closed session at 9:08 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

President Armenta reconvened the meeting to open session at 9:08 p.m.

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

President Armenta reported that no action was taken in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Minutes: That the December 6, 2018 Board of Trustees meeting, **be adjourned** at 9:09 p.m.

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

Signed,



President



Clerk