

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE  
SIERRA-PLUMAS JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 11, 2019

5:30pm Closed Session

Downieville School, 130 School St, Downieville CA 95936

~~Videoconferenced to Sierra County Office of Education, 109 Beckwith Rd., Loyalton, CA 96118~~ *not available*

Immediately followed the 6:00pm meeting of the Sierra County Board of Education

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A. CALL TO ORDER

President MIKE MOORE called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mike Moore, President  
Allen Wright, Vice President  
Jenny Gant, Clerk  
Andy Genasci, Member – *resigned and left meeting at 7:11pm*  
Patty Hall, Member

ABSENT: None

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*HALL/WRIGHT*

*5/0*

D. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR CLOSED SESSION

1. Current location – *none*
2. Videoconference location – *not available*

E. CLOSED SESSION

*HALL/GANT*

*5/0*

The Board of Trustees, Superintendent Dr. Merrill Grant and Business Manager Nona Griesert will moved into Closed Session at 5:32pm to discuss the following item(s):

1. Government Code 54957.6

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Agency Negotiator for the Board: Dr. Merrill M. Grant, Superintendent

Employee Organizations:

Unrepresented Employees: Classified Employees

F. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION at 5:43pm and ADJOURN FOR BREAK

G. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

*MOORE: Discussed Classified Negotiations and gave direction to the Superintendent.*

H. 6:09PM – RECESS TO THE SIERRA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

I. RECONVENE THE SIERRA-PLUMAS JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING at 6:43pm

J. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Correspondence
  - a. California Department of Education, Letter of Positive Certification of 2018-2019 Second Interim Reports

2. Superintendent's Report
  - a. State of Schools – revamp event to be held before school starts in August  
*GRANT: Looking to do a Welcome Back meeting/presentation instead and get more interest from parents to get involved with LCAP.*
  - b. Letter to parents when new textbooks arrive at each site—for new Social Science/History curriculum recently adopted.
  - c. Safety Task Force Report  
*GRANT: There's a sheriff's deputy going around to the sites for site visits, observations and discussions with Administrators.*
  - d. Soccer Field Update  
*GRANT: Looking at maintenance, watering infrastructure. Will see what we can do before soccer starts up for 19-20, but looking to be more problematic than originally anticipated.*
  - e. Most Recent Inter-District Variance Requests
3. Business Report
  - a. Account Object Summary-Balance from 07/01/2018 to 05/31/2019
  - b. Ninth Month Enrollments for the 2018-2019 School Year
4. Staff Reports  
*Technical issues – videoconferencing not available*
  - a. *GRANT:*  
*SP—graduation Thursday 6/13/19*  
*LHS—graduation Friday 6/14/19*  
*DHS—graduation Saturday 6/15/19*
5. Board Members' Report
  - a. *WRIGHT: Was not able to attend Science Fair, but would like to see pictures.*
  - b. *HALL: Helped with judging at Science Fair. It was a great time.*
  - c. *MOORE: Handing out diplomas at LHS graduation and attending SP graduation.*
6. Public Comment
  - a. Current location –  
*DOWNIEVILLE STAFF: How is the transition being handled with change in Superintendent as this leaves the Principal/Administrator position vacant in Downieville?*  
*GRANT: Tom Jones will be named Interim Superintendent over the summer and until new Superintendent is hired—hopefully as planned by mid-August. Interim or New Superintendent will have to work through that piece depending on how the hiring process goes.*  
*LYNN FILLO: Immediate need for a part-time principal in Downieville. The morale of parents and staff is being effected with the announcement of having an Interim Superintendent who is a current Administrator at a different site. We have a great Lead Teacher, but they cannot perform certain duties that are needed from an Administrator.*
  - b. Videoconference location – **not available**

K. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held May 14, 2019
2. Approval of Board Report-Checks Dated 05/01/2019 through 05/31/2019
3. Approval of Consolidated Application for 2019-2020
4. Approval of Katie Campbell, Brad Campbell, Tom Jones and Steve Fillo as additional California Interscholastic Federation representatives for the 2019-2020 School Year
5. Approval of Pat Doyle Transferred to Sierra Pass Alternative Education Programs Teacher, effective August 26, 2019, 1.0 FTE
6. Approval of Laurie Petterson Transferred to Loyalton Elementary School Grade 6 Teacher, effective August 26, 2019, 1.0 FTE
7. Approval of April Burns Transferred to Loyalton Elementary School TK Teacher, effective August 26, 2019, 1.0 FTE
8. Approval of Staci Armstrong Transferred to Loyalton Elementary School Instructional Support and Intervention Teacher, effective August 26, 2019, 1.0 FTE
9. Authorization for Superintendent to enter into agreement with School Services of California for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year, Agreement 2020-03D
10. Authorization for Superintendent to enter into agreement with Janet Hamilton and Pamela Brandon to renew Commercial Lease for 22 Maiden Lane (Tech Shack) in Downieville, July 1, 2019-June 30, 2022, Agreement 2020-04D
11. Approval of assignment of 2019-2020 Extra Duty Athletic Coaches  
***Remove John Smith as Athletic Director in Downieville – re-slate for July***
12. Approval of assignment of 2019-2020 Extra Duty Non-Athletic positions
13. Authorization for Ou/t of State Travel Request to Cornelius, OR for Responsive Classroom Workshop—Karen Gress, LES 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher
14. Authorization for Out of State Travel Request to Washington DC for National FFA Leadership Conference—Cali Griffin, LHS FFA Coordinator

*HALL moved to approve as modified in County meeting. Second by WRIGHT.  
5/0*

L. ACTION ITEMS

1. Old Business
  - a. Approval of revisions to Technology Director Job Description
    1. Presentation of Expenditures related to AMS Technology Services  
*GENASCI: Need legal opinion regarding nature of this appearing as a Serial Contract.*  
***~Table until further details gathered and direction received from legal counsel~***
2. New Business
  - a. Adoption of the 2019-2020 Budget and the Criteria & Standards Report  
*WRIGHT/HALL*  
*5/0*
  - b. Approval of Resolution 20-002D, Request for Leave of Absence, Megan Meschery  
*HALL/GANT*  
*ROLL CALL VOTE*  
*MOORE – Aye*  
*HALL – Aye*  
*WRIGHT – Aye*  
*GANT – Aye*  
*GENASCI – Aye*  
*5/0*

- c. Approval of Amber Williams Assigned to Loyalton High School Math Teacher, effective August 26, 2019, 1.0 FTE  
*HALL/WRIGHT*  
5/0
- d. Approval of Anna Thorell Assigned to Loyalton High School Spanish Teacher, effective August 26, 2019, 1.0 FTE  
*HALL/GENASCI*  
5/0
- e. Approval of Katherine Genasci Assigned to Loyalton High School Art Teacher, effective August 26, 2019, 1.0 FTE  
*HALL/GANT*  
4/0  
*I ABSTENTION – ANDY GENASCI STEPPED OUT FOR VOTE*  
*GENASCI: I need to step down as a Board member now with my wife as a new hire in the District.*  
*\*Genasci handed out resignation letter and exited meeting at 7:11pm*
- f. Approval of Niecea Freeman Assigned to Downieville Elementary School Grades 4-6 Teacher, effective August 26, 2019, 1.0 FTE  
*HALL/GANT*  
4/0
- g. Approval of Patrick Williams Assigned to Downieville Elementary School TK/K-1 Teacher, effective August 26, 2019, 1.0 FTE  
*HALL/WRIGHT*  
4/0
- h. Authorization to fill two Loyalton Elementary School Teacher positions, 1.0 FTE each  
*GANT/HALL*  
*GRANT: This is due to the transfer of Pat Doyle to Sierra Pass and Staci Armstrong moving to Intervention Teacher.*  
4/0
- i. Accept resignation for Alyssa McCollum, Instructional Aide, Loyalton High School, .88 FTE, effective June 30, 2019  
*HALL/WRIGHT*  
4/0
- j. Authorization to fill Instructional Aide position at Loyalton High School, .88 FTE  
*WRIGHT/GANT*  
4/0
- k. Accept resignation for Margaret Daigle, Library Aide, Downieville School, .33 FTE, effective June 30, 2019  
*HALL/GANT*  
4/0
- l. Authorization to fill Library Aide position at Downieville School, .33 FTE  
*HALL/WRIGHT*  
4/0
- m. Accept resignation for Stephanie Shelby, Instructional Aide, Loyalton Elementary School, .88 FTE, effective June 30, 2019  
*HALL/WRIGHT*  
4/0

- n. Authorization to fill Instructional Aide position at Loyalton Elementary School, .88 FTE  
 WRIGHT/HALL  
 4/0
- o. Authorization for Superintendent to enter into agreement with Sierra Transportation Company for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year, Agreement 2020-05D  
 HALL/WRIGHT  
*GRANT: Nona and I have been working with Doug from Sierra Transportation on this extension of current agreement. Alleghany route is potentially going away, but we will have more on that come August.*  
 4/0
- p. Discussion and possible appointment of Thomas Jones as Interim Superintendent at current daily rate through Superintendent search process  
 HALL/WRIGHT  
*GRANT: Tom will have full authority as Interim Superintendent to carry the District through the Superintendent search process. He will not be a candidate for the Superintendent position, so he will go back to working as the LHS Administrator at the end of August. The Board will have to discuss options at that time if a new Superintendent has not yet been named and seated.*  
 4/0
- q. Discussion and possible action on Superintendent search contract with McPherson & Jacobson LLC  
 WRIGHT/HALL  
*MOORE: We did an in-house search and hiring process when Dr. Grant was hired six years ago. Lots of personal time was spent on this process by multiple Board members. Looking to hire the same consultant that worked with us during the Board retreat last month, Bob Ferguson, to conduct the search and application process so as not to disrupt District operations to hire a new Superintendent. This consultant and his firm, McPherson and Jacobson, are highly recommended by CSBA. Hoping to schedule a Special Meeting June 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> at 11am to meet with Bob and get input from the community on both sides—Loyalton and Downieville. Will get a timeline set up and go over criteria and expectations for candidates.*  
*GRANT: I would emphasize that it's important for community members to attend the meetings for community input to address the concerns being brought up tonight to give Bob an understanding of what the communities need on both sides of the county/district.*  
*MOORE: The consulting firm will get us through the whole process including developing interview questions and setting up interviews, doing reference checks, etc. However, the Board makes the final decision as to who is hired—not the consultant or the firm.*  
*GRANT: There have been calls from interested candidates already.*  
*GANT: Would like to verify that there's a legitimate paper trail on this firm being referred by CSBA? Also, was there a bid process?*  
*MOORE: Yes, we have a paper trail. There was an informal bid process used to look into the list of recommendations. Based on availability, need and price, McPherson and Jacobson was the best option.*  
 4/0

BOARD POLICIES, ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS, EXHIBITS, BOARD BYLAWS

- r. 0420.4—Charter School Authorization
  - 1. Board Policy, *revisions or DELETE*
  - 2. Administrative Regulation, *revisions or DELETE*
- s. 7160—Charter School Facilities
  - 1. Administrative Regulation, *DELETE*
- t. 1312.1—Complaints Concerning District Employees
  - 1. Board Policy, *revisions*
  - 2. Administrative Regulation, *revisions*
- u. 3250—Transportation Fees
  - 1. Board Policy, *revisions*
  - 2. Administrative Regulation, *revisions*
- v. 3540—Transportation
  - 1. Board Policy, *revisions*
  - 2. Administrative Regulation, *revisions*
- w. 6142.1—Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction
  - 1. Board Policy, *revisions*
  - 2. Administrative Regulation, *revisions*
- x. 6142.6—Visual and Performing Arts Education
  - 1. Board Policy, *NEW*
- y. 6146.1—High School Graduation Requirements
  - 1. Board Policy, *revisions*
- z. 6145—Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities
  - 1. Board Policy, *annual review – no changes per Administrators*
  - 2. Administrative Regulation, *annual review – no changes per Administrators*
- aa. 5116.1—Intradistrict Open Enrollment
  - 1. Board Policy, *annual review – no changes per Administrators*
  - 2. Administrative Regulation, *annual review – no changes per Administrators*
  - 3. Exhibit, *annual review – no changes per Administrators*

*HALL moved to approve all policies/regulations as was done in County meeting.*

*Second by GANT.*

*4/0*

M. ADVANCED PLANNING

- 1. Next Regular Board Meeting will be held on July 09, 2019 at Sierra County Office of Education, 109 Beckwith Rd., Loyalton, CA 96118 beginning with Closed Session, as needed, at 5:00pm and the Regular Board Meeting at 6:00pm.

*Special Meeting to be held June 18, 2019 at 11am at Sierra County Office of Education.*

- 2. Suggested Agenda Items


*None*

N. ADJOURN at 7:37pm

*HALL/GANT*

*4/0*

  
Jenny Gant, Clerk

  
Tom Jones, Interim Superintendent

**SIERRA-PLUMAS JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT—SPJUSD**  
**CLOSED SESSION REPORTING FORM**

DATE: June 11, 2019

CLOSED SESSION BEGAN AT: 5:32 P.M.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Patty Hall  Allen Wright  Andy Genasci  Mike Moore  Jenny Gant

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

- Dr. Merrill M. Grant, Superintendent
- Ms. Nona Griesert, Business Manager
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**I. SESSION TOPIC(S):**

<p><b>Item #1—Government Code 54957.6</b> CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS Agency Negotiator for the Board: Dr. Merrill M. Grant, Superintendent Employee Organizations: Unrepresented Employees: Classified Employees</p> <p><b>Negotiations—RESULT:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>DIRECTION WAS GIVEN TO SUPERINTENDENT</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>THE CLOSED SESSION WAS FOR PURPOSES OF DISCUSSION ONLY. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN:</b> HALL _____ WRIGHT _____ GENASCI _____ MOORE _____ GANT _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN IN OPEN SESSION:</b> HALL _____ WRIGHT _____ GENASCI _____ MOORE _____ GANT _____</p> <hr/> <p><b>Item #2—Government Code</b></p> <p><b>—RESULT:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>DIRECTION WAS GIVEN TO SUPERINTENDENT</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>THE CLOSED SESSION WAS FOR PURPOSES OF DISCUSSION ONLY. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN:</b> HALL _____ WRIGHT _____ GENASCI _____ MOORE _____ GANT _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN IN OPEN SESSION:</b> HALL _____ WRIGHT _____ GENASCI _____ MOORE _____ GANT _____</p>
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**II. MOTION TO ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION AT 5:43 P.M. AND RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

BY: Gant (NAME)      SECONDED: Genasci (NAME)

MOTION  PASSED /  FAILED

PRESIDED BY: Mike Moore  
Mike Moore, PRESIDENT

RECORDED BY: Jenny Gant  
Jenny Gant, CLERK





From: Andy Genasci

11 June 2019

To: the Sierra Plumas Joint Unified School Board:

A year and a half ago, Laura Calabrese, the LHS Art Instructor, mentioned to my wife (Artist in resident at LHS) that she was planning on retiring in 2019, and that my wife, Katherine Genasci, should apply for the position. As a family, we began to consider this opportunity for Katherine.

A few months later, I was approached by several people within our community to consider running for School Board should Sharon Dryden get elected as County Supervisor. It was at this time that we began researching if Katherine and I could do both.

While conducting my due diligence, speaking with people in the community, our local government, lawyers, and people that work in and with the school district, I ultimately relied heavily on The Political Reform Act of 1974 which states that as long as I declared any possible conflicts on Form 700, and recuse myself from any decisions that directly affect Katherine's position, and because wages and contracts are handled through collective bargaining of which I am not apart, I could still be on the board should my wife be a teacher in the district. This was my reasoning for proceeding onto the election.

However, on 22 May 2019, our District Attorney drafted a 7-page review of potential conflicts of interest. Subsequently, I also conducted my own extensive research on Government Code 1090 as it applies to my situation. I spoke with independent lawyers, The State Attorney General's Office and school board members in other districts. I found those independent opinions consistent with the school district's attorney's opinion which is: under the political reform act of 1974 I could in fact recuse myself to avoid a conflict. However, recusal is not sufficient under Government Code 1090.

I would like to record to show that within our own school policies there is no prohibition from me being a school board member and my wife teaching in the district. So that there is no future confusion on this matter, I would like the Board to consider creating a set of black and white policies consistent with the Government Code 1090 about who can be on the Board and who cannot. In a town of just over 1000 people, where we are all pulling double duty in order to create a bigger and brighter community, it would be beneficial to know who is eligible to be on the Sierra Plumas Joint Unified School District (SPJUSD).

Effective 11 June 2019, pending Katherine Genasci board approval to be hired as a teacher in the SPJUSD, I am resigning as a Trustee member of the SPJUSD.

Respectfully,



Andy J. Genasci

