

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

July 13, 2021

Regular Session immediately followed the 6:00pm meeting of the Sierra County Board of Education

*Loyalton:* Sierra County Office of Education, Room 4, 109 Beckwith Rd, Loyalton CA 96118  
Zoom videoconferencing was also available for the public.

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A. CALL TO ORDER

*President MIKE MOORE called the meeting to order at 6:27pm.*

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: *Mike Moore, President*  
*Allen Wright, Vice President*  
*Christina Potter, Clerk*  
*Patty Hall, Member*  
*Nicole Stannard, Member*

ABSENT: *None*

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*HALL/POTTER*  
*5/0*

D. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Superintendent's Report

- a. Loyalton High School Principal/Site Administrator – Megan Meschery  
*BERARDI: Welcome back to the District!*
- b. Special Meeting may be needed to approve In-Person Instruction Grant  
*BERARDI: Same as County – Plan for the IPI Grant is due to the State by July 22<sup>nd</sup> with community input, so a public meeting is required followed by a Special Meeting for formal board approval.*
- c. Facilities  
*BERARDI: Already discussing with Meschery what Loyalton High School needs for updates for safety and beautification. Downieville still has needed repairs, working to gather bids and numbers for the board to review.*
- d. Strategic Planning  
*BERARDI: Strategic Planning meetings slated to start in August. Communications to come in the next week.*
- e. Phones  
*BERARDI: On-going issues for several years. Currently we have internet-run phones versus traditional landlines. Multiple staff, particularly the site secretaries, have brought up having problems with the phones multiple times. We have contacted each company involved in a 3-part system with no resolution even after all of the trouble-shooting that has occurred over the last couple of years. We have contacted legal counsel to work on getting out of these contracts. Looking to go back to landlines or find another internet-based company/group that can better support our phone needs.*

2. Business Report

- a. Account Object Summary-Balance from 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021
- b. Tenth Month Enrollments for the 2020-2021 School Year

3. Staff Reports

LHS—MESCHERY: *Thank you for the warm welcome! Currently looking at facility updates for safety and beautification. Planning a possible Grizzlies Day August 19<sup>th</sup> for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade orientation, students and families to come in and get familiar with the site as well as pick up schedules, meet with teachers, etc.*

DES & DHS—BERARDI: *Just mostly working through facility projects over the summer.*

LES—CERESOLA: *Tying up loose ends from the end of the school year. New families coming in to talk about enrolling students for the next school year.*

4. SPTA Report

PRESIDENT—PETTERSON: *Welcome to Megan at the high school! Best wishes to the parting teachers moving on to their next adventures: Anna Thorell and Camille Alfred!*

5. Board Members' Report

WRIGHT: *Are the fires in the surrounding area going to have any effect on our students – enrollment or attendance?*

CERESOLA: *I would say "none" based on where the fires have already burned and where they are moving to. We have students in Chilcoot, but the fire no longer seems to be a threat to that area.*

6. Public Comment

*None*

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of Board Report-Checks Dated 06/01/2021 through 06/30/2021
2. Approval of Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints for the quarter ending June 30, 2021
3. Approval of Consolidated Application for 2021-2022
4. Approval of Agricultural Career Technical Incentive Grant 2021-2022

HALL/POTTER

STANNARD: *Would like some elaboration on the Williams Uniform Complaint received?*

BERARDI: *An anonymous complaint was received regarding a teacher's misassignment in Downieville. Prior to receiving the complaint it had already been addressed and the teacher reassigned. We were aware of the misassignment as it is allowed based on our waiver with the State. As a Necessary Small School, Downieville has the ability to assign teachers outside of their credentialed area in order to have a teacher in place for the necessary grades/classes when no other teachers can be recruited/hired with specific credentials.*

5/0

F. ACTION ITEMS

1. Old Business

- a. Approval of minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held May 11, 2021  
STANNARD/WRIGHT  
4/0 (1 abstention – HALL)
- b. Approval of minutes for the Special Board Meeting held May 26, 2021  
STANNARD/WRIGHT  
3/0 (2 abstentions – POTTER & HALL)
- c. Approval of minutes for the Special Board Meeting held June 10, 2021  
STANNARD/WRIGHT  
3/0 (2 abstentions – POTTER & HALL)

- d. Approval of Social Studies Elective: Global Issues & Model UN as a course  
STANNARD/HALL  
5/0

2. New Business

- a. Approval of minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held June 22, 2021  
HALL/WRIGHT  
3/0 (2 abstentions – MOORE & POTTER)
- b. Approval of minutes for the Special Board Meeting held June 24, 2021  
HALL/WRIGHT  
4/0 (1 abstention – MOORE)
- c. Approval of proposed *pilot* Elective Courses for the 2021-2022 School Year:
  - 1. Plant Science
  - 2. Project Math
  - 3. The Hero's Journey
  - 4. Introduction to PhilosophyWRIGHT/HALL  
5/0
- d. Approval of assignment of Niecea Freeman, Teacher, Downieville High School, 1.0 FTE, effective August 23, 2021  
HALL motioned to table this item to the August meeting. Second by WRIGHT.  
(Same as discussion from County meeting)  
BERARDI: This item was not yet officially finalized as of the June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting – we received an email from Niecea 15 minutes prior to that meeting, which was not seen in time, asking for the item to be removed. And tonight this is still not yet officially resolved due to issues with the SPTA Bargaining Agreement not allowing Niecea to maintain her spot on the seniority list if she moves to a District position. This will be tabled again to August in hopes of Niecea and SPTA reaching a resolution by the next regular board meetings. May need to discuss with legal counsel.  
5/0
- e. Acceptance of resignation for Camille Alfred, English Teacher, Loyaltan High School, 1.0 FTE, effective June 29, 2021  
STANNARD/HALL  
5/0
- f. Authorization to fill English Teacher, Loyaltan High School, 1.0 FTE  
HALL/POTTER  
5/0
- g. Acceptance of resignation for Anna Thorell, Spanish Teacher, Loyaltan High School, 1.0 FTE, effective July 1, 2021  
HALL/POTTER  
5/0
- h. Authorization to fill Spanish Teacher, Loyaltan High School, 1.0 FTE  
HALL/STANNARD  
5/0
- i. Approval of additional Teacher, Loyaltan Elementary School, 1.0 FTE  
HALL/POTTER  
MOORE: I have not received additional information requested regarding this item: effect on budget, enrollment by grade level, number of staff, etc.  
CERESOLA: A lot of this information was already shared through email in June.

*BERARDI: Based on projected class sizes we need to have an additional teacher in place by law if we hit 30 students in one particular classroom mid-year.*

*MOORE: We have other options we should be able to look at. I'm not against this, but want to explore all options before adding an additional \$70K-\$100K to our budget.*

*CERESOLA: The Kindergarten class is currently at 29 students before the school year has even begun. At the K-1 level I am concerned with the quality of teaching/learning – even with an aide in the classroom it's a lot more classroom management versus quality teaching with such a large class size.*

*WRIGHT: Could this be a preliminary one-year assignment?*

*CERESOLA: Yes.*

*STANNARD: I propose we approve this additional Teacher for one year due to class size and the one-time COVID funding we are applying for.*

*Reassess the need for an additional Teacher the following school year.*

*HALL & POTTER withdrew the motion and second.*

*STANNARD motioned to approve an additional Teacher for Loyalton Elementary School, 1.0 FTE, for the 2021-2022 School Year only and revisit the need for the additional Teacher for the 2022-2023 School Year.*

*Second by POTTER.*

*4/0 (1 abstention – MOORE)*

- j. Authorization to fill Instructional Aide, Loyalton Elementary School, .67 FTE (4 hours/day)

*STANNARD/HALL*

*5/0*

- k. Adoption of Resolution 22-003D, Authorize use of funds in special Fund 40 at Loyalton High School

*WRIGHT/HALL*

*GRIESERT: A portion of Fund 40 is currently set aside for Loyalton High School flooring only. This Resolution opens up those funds to be used on other Capital Outlay projects as needed by Loyalton High School such as replacing locker room benches, gymnasium bleachers, etc. There's approximately \$45K in this fund.*

*ROLL CALL VOTE:*

*POTTER – Aye*

*MOORE – Aye*

*HALL – Aye*

*WRIGHT – Aye*

*STANNARD – Aye*

*5/0*

- l. Adoption of Resolution 22-004D, Fund Transfers for 2021-2022 Fiscal Year

*STANNARD/HALL*

*ROLL CALL VOTE:*

*POTTER – Aye*

*MOORE – Aye*

*HALL – Aye*

*WRIGHT – Aye*

*STANNARD – Aye*

*5/0*


- m. Approval of construction at Downieville Schools  
*No action – no bids available to review at the time of this meeting*
- n. Approval of vegetation removal at Downieville Schools  
*No action – no bids available to review at the time of this meeting*
- o. Approval of plan with Liberty for vehicle charging stations  
*No action – no plans available to review at the time of this meeting*
- p. Authorization for Superintendent to enter into agreement with California School Boards Association for GAMUT Policy/Policy Plus services, Contract 2022-004D  
*HALL/WRIGHT*  
*5/0*

G. ADVANCED PLANNING

- 1. Next Regular Board Meetings will be held on August 10, 2021 at Downieville School, 130 School St, Downieville CA 95936, beginning with Closed Session as needed at 5:00pm and the Regular Board Meetings at 6:00pm. Zoom videoconferencing will also be available.
- 2. Suggested Agenda Items
  - Special Meeting update on IPI Grant*
  - Graduation Requirements – referring to email from Rebecca Kinhead*
  - Update on Technology Audit Report*

H. ADJOURN at 7:40pm  
*POTTER/HALL*  
*5/0*

  
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Christina Potter, Clerk

  
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James Berardi, Superintendent

