

Dixon Unified School District  
Meeting of the Governing Board  
**Thursday May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**Closed Session 5:30 P.M.**

**7:00 p.m. – DHS Theater – 555 College Way, Dixon, CA 95620**

**Minutes**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Dixon USD Governing Board meets on the First and Third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., in the Dixon City Council Chambers located at 600 East A Street unless **otherwise noted above**. (Other meetings may be scheduled as necessary.)

The agenda is divided into four main sections:

- **CONSENT CALENDAR** – These matters typically include routine financial or administrative actions. Any item on the consent calendar may be pulled by the board or a member of the public to be discussed separately upon request. Consent items are usually approved with a single motion.
- **INFORMATION ITEMS** – These items are for information only and do not require any action by the Board. They are written unless otherwise noted on the agenda, e.g., oral.
- **DISCUSSION ITEMS** – This section is usually reserved for the First Reading of policies or Revised Policies. Other topics may also be discussed.
- **ACTION ITEMS** – These include significant policy, administrative, and financial matters, are classified by department, and will usually be acted upon individually.

An opportunity is provided for members of the public to speak on any item on the agenda at the time that item is addressed. In addition, there is a time for the public to speak on items that are not on the agenda. Speakers are allowed five minutes and are asked to complete a public comment form prior to the start of the meeting. (See Board agenda item, PUBLIC COMMENT.)

**District Mission**

We believe all students can learn. Therefore, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that all students do learn, grow, and succeed.

**Focus Areas for 2011-2012 include;**

1. Increase Student Learning
2. Improving the Learning Environment
3. Increasing Parental Involvement
4. Managing our Resources Effectively
5. Building Confidence in District Leadership

**Governing Board**

**Irina Okhremtchouk, President**  
iokhremtchouk@dixonusd.org

**Gil Piñon, Vice President**  
gpinon@dixonusd.org

**Herb Cross, Clerk**  
hcross@dixonusd.org

**Guy Garcia, Member**  
ggarcia@dixonusd.org

**Joe DiPaola, Member**  
jdipaola@dixonusd.org

**Brian Dolan,**  
**Interim Superintendent**  
Secretary to the Board  
bdolan@dixonusd.org

**Schools**

Anderson Elementary School  
(707) 678-5508

Tremont Elementary School  
(707) 678-9533

Gretchen Higgins Elementary  
(707) 678-6271

CA Jacobs Intermediate  
(707) 678-9222

Dixon High School  
(707) 693-6330

Maine Prairie High School  
Continuation  
(707) 678-4560

Community Day School  
(707) 678-3680

[www.dixonusd.org](http://www.dixonusd.org)

- I. **CLOSED SESSION** - The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by President Okhremtchouk. Mr. Moraes spoke to the complaint he has filed and informed the Board of his concerns. The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 5:40 pm. The Board adjourned to closed session at 7:15 pm
  - A. Confidential Parent Complaint – Board Policy 1312.1 – 1 Case
  - B. Conference with Real Property Negotiators - Government Code Section 54956.8  
Property: 5750 Sievers Road, Dixon, California  
Agency Negotiators: Brian Dolan, Cecile Nunley, & legal counsel  
Under Negotiations: Price and Terms
  - C. Public Employee Employment Superintendent – Government Code Section 54957
  - D. Negotiations with DTA & SEIU–Agency Designated Representative Brian Dolan – Gov. Code Section 54975.6
  - E. Consideration of Student Discipline Education Code 48900. et seq
    1. Stipulated Expulsion Case #11-12-15
    2. Stipulated Expulsion Case #11-12-16
    3. Stipulated Expulsion Case #11-12-17
  
- II. **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CLOSED SESSION**

The Board voted 4 to 1 to table 1.A until the June 7<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.  
The Board voted unanimously to reconvene to Closed Session item I.E after Open Session has adjourned.
  
- III. **BUSINESS MEETING – 7:00 P.M.** - The meeting was called to order 7:20 pm by President Okhremtchouk.
  - A. Pledge of Allegiance
  - B. Roll Call
    1. Irina Okhremtchouk, President-**P**
    2. Gil Piñon, Vice President-**P**
    3. Herb Cross, Clerk -**P**
    4. Joe DiPaola, Member-**P**
    5. Guy Garcia, Member-**P**
    6. Justin Giardino, Student Member-**P**
  
- IV. **NOTICE TO PUBLIC**

Persons wishing to speak to agenda items may present their written request at this time. While the written request is optional, those making a written request will be recognized first. Persons wishing to introduce a subject not on the agenda may also present their request at this time. The Board President will recognize you for the discussion at the appropriate time. Non-scheduled agenda items will be introduced under **Section IX** on the agenda. Speakers will be allowed five minutes per topic.
  
- V. **RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS**
  - A. Ron Mulligan, Dixon Chamber of Commerce Education Committee Chairperson  
Representatives from the Dixon Chamber of Commerce Education Committee shared what the committee has been planning. The Dixon Chamber of Commerce Education Committee serves to improve communications between education and business communities. Mutual understanding will lead to trust and respect; both are essential elements of an effective collaborative relationship. Goals of the committee are as follows; to act as a resource for schools, promoting the adoption of S.T.E.M. curriculum, and inform students of employment opportunities in and around Dixon. The committee would like a combination of the School Board and DUSD faculty to join the committee.
  - B. Bradley Immel, Outstanding Performance in the American Math Competition  
Bradley Immel was not available this evening and we will honor Brad at another meeting.  
Due to a lack of communication between offices, Chase Furman was unaware of his Achievement Award and would have been here at the last Board Meeting to accept his certificate. The District would like to apologize and ensure notifications will go out for future meetings.
  - C. Byron Chapman and Leslie Dedora with “Touch of Understanding”  
Mr. Chapman stated that “Touch of Understanding” (TOU) is a disability program helping students understand what it is like to be disabled. Ms. Dedora sponsored the program at GH and the Parent Teacher Organization sponsored the program at Tremont this year. The students loved the program and TOU received a lot of positive feedback. The program usually has an audience of 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders and goes all the way up to adults. There are several stations including, hands on brail, autism, canes, artificial limbs, wheelchair, and bullying.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

President Okhremtchouk stated she received all the cards inviting the School Board Members to various DUSD elementary school classrooms. She thought the cards were absolutely beautiful and the School Board members will be visiting the schools and honoring the invitations from the students.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – 8:02

- A. Approval of Consent Calendar
- B. Agenda May 24, 2012
- C. Warrants – monthly record of accounts payables that have been processed
- D. Approval of Minutes on April 19, 2012 & May 3, 2012
- E. Acceptance of Donation, Gretchen Higgins
- F. C.A. Jacobs Obsolete Instructional Materials
- G. Actuarial Study of Retiree Health Liabilities
- H. Independent Education Evaluation
- I. Safe Side Security, Inc. Agreement
- J. Amendment for Migrant Ed Summer Program Agreement

Mr. Dolan also asked the Board for permission to move item X-A.1 prior to item VIII on the Board agenda. The Board agreed to move item X-A.1 prior to VIII

Clerk Cross asked Ms. Nunley why the District has a pay as you go schedule for retiree liabilities. Ms. Nunley stated that health care rates and retirees change every year.

Member Garcia has several questions for Ms. Nunley concerning the warrants and will set up a time to meet with her.

Member DiPaola asked Ms. Nunley why there were certain items crossed out on the Safe Side Security Contract. Ms. Nunley stated the contract is subject to corrections.

A motion was made by Clerk Cross, seconded by Vice President Piñon to approve Consent Agenda and unanimously carried.

X. A.1

Progress Report on Secondary Education in Dixon Unified

Information

Mr. Dolan stated that representatives from the secondary school sites will be presenting a progress report on what is happening to improve student achievement to the Board, much like the elementary school sites did about a month ago.

Mrs. Felkins, Ms. Lupercio and Ms. Lehman from CA Jacobs informed the Board that the teachers are learning as educators to work collaboratively in recurring cycles of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for students they serve. This approach is the essence of a Professional Learning Community. They believe all students can learn. As educators they need to collaborate and analyze results of learning, to then decide what it is they need to learn to best meet the needs of their students. They accept learning as the fundamental purpose of their school and therefore are willing to examine all practices in light of their impact on learning. After creating and administering a common assessment, they look at the outcomes of specific skills and concepts for each student and avoid looking at averages. They use data to pursue specific and measurable performance goals in order to improve student learning. When team members feel comfortable they share data in order to collaborate and learn ways to improve teaching strategies.

Mrs. Jimenez and Mrs. LaBass also from CA Jacobs presented a High Intensity English Language Development update to the Board. They stated that in the prior practice there was no formal ELD program, ELD students were not leveled or instructed at their level, and that last year's CST data showed a decline within our EL population. Currently students are producing their way to higher levels of language proficiency. They are producing at least half of the language during a language lesson. Students are using complete, vocabulary – rich, grammatically correct sentences at all times. Each lesson has a clear language objective so students know what they are learning. Students are grouped for language instruction by their language level. The student's confidence level has been huge.

President Okhremtchouk stated that the current curriculum for ELD and state testing do not complement each other and is concerned that the tests may not provide accurate results on how well the students are really doing.

Mrs. Jimenez and Mrs. LaBass were concerned about President Okhremtchouk's comments and explained they don't pick the curriculum to teach but at the same time the curriculum has done excellent things for their students and they are making great strides.

The new ELA Adoption update for the 2012-2013 School year was given by Mrs. LaBass and Mrs. Jimenez. They are hoping to complete two day training during the summer and at least three days during the school year. During the 2012-2013 school year they will be focusing on Common Core Standards. There will be an online Essay grader for student writing assignments that will provide

individualized feedback to each student. Teachers will then be able to run a variety of progress monitoring reports using this program.

Ms. Scheuring and Ms. DeWeese teachers at Dixon High School brought several AVID students to speak about the AVID program and the opportunities it has and will provide for them. The students stated that some of them didn't know what they needed to do to get to college. AVID has given them the skills and guidance to get in to a four year college. These students are enrolled in honors classes and benefit from AVID tutors. Through AVID they have improved their speaking skills as well.

Students also attended to speak about the Algebra support class also offered at Dixon High School. In this class the students have an opportunity to relearn skills and practice them. They participate in group work and UCD interns have been a great asset. There is also time to receive support with homework. Students stated that this is a great class with a great teacher with a large amount of support with motivation.

Dixon High staff also discussed the implementation of PLC, the Back on Track Intervention Program, and the 10<sup>th</sup> grade Advising Program as ways the site is supporting student learning. Many Maine Prairie High School students came forward to speak about their educations at MPHS. They said MPHS offers individual attention every day. Mrs. Becerra the Counselor is extremely supportive. The staff is amazing and supportive as well. Many of the students are graduating early or are on track to graduate on time. MPHS give you the mind set to push forward and works hard to have all the students succeed. Very much like a family.

Mrs. Coogan a Special Education teacher at MPHS and oversees the TPP, Transitional Partnership Program. Dixon is the only District in the County that offers the program. She helps students with credit recovery. She advocates for their futures. She helps find the right jobs for them and life management.

MPHS just received their WASC report. Some of the highlights from the report were; Standard Based Curriculum is reaching students, the Counselor is bilingual/bicultural, and the school has a family atmosphere. Some follow up for MPHS is that EL and Migrant Education is not supported adequately, lack of professional development, the master schedule needs refinement, secure a full time counselor, increase parent participation and include parents in the family aspect, improve facilities, and create effective use of technology.

Ms. Enriquez, a student of Ms. Circo at Anderson Elementary, presented a complaint letter concerning the Columbus school holiday to the Board. Ms. Enriquez believes that the Columbus holiday is not an appropriate day for the District to celebrate. She also believes Cesar Chavez Day would be a more appropriate day to celebrate.

Mr. Simmons was very impressed with what is happening in the schools and found it very encouraging.

Clerk Cross noticed that UC Davis was mentioned a couple of time this evening. The District is fortunate to have UC Davis and their support.

Ms. Felkins was disappointed with the happenings earlier this evening in regards to Mrs. LaBass and Mrs. Jimenez and comments made.

President Okhremtchouk apologized for sounding negative and knows how hard the teachers work and knows they are making a difference.

Member DiPaola asked to make a public comment. He said what may have seemed like a bad attitude was really the Board trying to understand.

Member Garcia recognized how clear it was on how important the students are to Mrs. LaBass and Mrs. Jimenez. The Board needs to see presentations on what is going on in the schools and encourages and looks forward to seeing more.

Mrs. LaBass believes that it was the tone that was perceived as being negative and talking down. She knows it is not perfect but it is the best program they have ever seen.

Mr. Dolan stated that the District was here yesterday at the end of the year celebration and talked about the District's progress with relationships. Trust each other and be respectful of each other as there will be some growing pains. The District staff wants the Board to know what they are doing. President Okhremtchouk apologized and did not intend to upset the presenters or anyone else.

#### VIII. COMMUNICATIONS – Three Minute Reports

##### A. Student Board Member Report

Graduation and finals are next week. DHS just finished their yearbooks. There was a Band camping trip, our end of the year rally, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade shadow day.

##### B. Parent Association Representatives

None

##### C. Employee Association Reports

DTA Co-President Amy Circo stated that the end of the school year is coming and teachers are getting students ready for next level. The Fantastic Finishing Festivities was a success and Ms. Circo thanked the Board members for attending. DTA met with Superintendent Dolan on Tuesday and the meeting was extremely informative, respectful and professionalism was shown throughout the year. Ms. Circo announced the new leadership for DTA; Co-Presidents Amy Circo and Julie Felkins, Vice President Ed Reed, Treasurer Sean McGreevy, Secretary Erin DeWeese, and Bargaining Chair Tanya LaBass. Suzanne Galloway has retired and will be missed. She has done a lot for our district.

SEIU Representative Ian Arnold congratulated DTA Co-Presidents Amy Circo and Julie Felkins to continue another year in their positions. Mr. Arnold stated that it has been a quiet month and has work to do with Superintendent Dolan and SEIU have also had good relationship with him this year. SEIU visited the State Capital to talk about School funding.

D. Budget Advisory Committee Report

None

E. Athletic Policy Task Force Report

None

F. Cabinet Reports

1. Senior Director Education Services

None

2. Chief Business Official

None

3. Director Special Education/Pupil Services

None

4. ITS Coordinator

None

G. Interim Superintendent's Report

Mr. Dolan quickly went through a list of end of the year event he attended along with several meetings.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT: Persons wishing to introduce a topic within the subject matter jurisdiction of the District and not on the agenda may do so at this time. By law, subjects not on the agenda cannot be acted upon by the Board, except to briefly respond, clarify, or refer to staff for review and presentation at a future meeting. Comments will be limited to five minutes per person to maximum of twenty five minutes per topic unless extended by the Board President.

Colleen Britton of Vacaville presented the Constitution Week Essay Project to the Board. During the first week of school, students in grades 7 through 12 will receive a 2 page handout with the Essay topic. Essays will be submitted via email by September 14<sup>th</sup> and will be judged by a panel of retired high school teachers and other volunteers. There will then be an awards dinner and the resident school of the student who wins the Grand Prize will receive a matched set of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence.

X. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, ACTION

A. Brian Dolan, Interim Superintendent

1. Progress Report on Secondary Education in Dixon Unified

Information

2. Update on the I-STAR Stem Initiative

Information

Arthur Beauchamp is the coordinator on the I-STAR STEM Initiation and presented an update of the program to the Board. There currently is collaboration between Davis Unified and UC Davis. They have received a strong response from Dixon and all spots are filled except one to participate. There is a need for a whole new thinking for students around learning in the STEM content areas. Dixon teachers will work eight days this summer on building an understanding of their own and will follow up with two additional summers of work.

Clerk Cross would love to integrate the business community.

3. Results of Staff Survey on the Governing Board and Administration

Information

Mr. Dolan presented the results of the Staff Survey on the Governing Board and Administration. All District staff had the opportunity to complete the survey. Along with the results was a comparison with last year's results as well as comparing the results with the goals set in Board Policy 0200. Member Garcia was interested in looking in to a parent survey and would like to see more participation with District staff.

Member DiPaola suggested a Question and Answers session.

Mrs. Felkins stated that DTA will present their survey in June

SEIU has not surveyed members this year.

4. Public Hearing on Superintendent Contract

Public Hearing

The Governing Board and Interim Superintendent would like to give the public the opportunity to comment on some of the specific areas of contract for the Superintendent position.

Ms. Felkins wanted to ensure that the contract will be available to the public at the next Board meeting. Mr. Dolan stated that the contract will be available to the public at the next Board meeting and there will also be Public Comment.

There was also a request that the contract should not expire during a School Board Election year.

**B. Jesus Contreras, Senior Director of Educational Services**

**1. 2012-13 Intra-District Transfers Report and Implementation of BP 5116.1** Information

Mr. Contreras provided 2012-13 Intra-District Transfers Report and Implementation of BP 5116.1 to the Board. The District's Open Enrollment window ran from March 9<sup>th</sup> –April 13<sup>th</sup>. Data was then collected including transfer requests, boundary and out of boundary attendance, which resulted in the 2012-13 Projected Enrollment.

Member Garcia asked Mr. Contreras if the schools were at their full capacity and is there room for Pre-K? Mr. Contreras assured Member Garcia that the schools are not at their full capacity and that there was sufficient room for Pre-K if need be.

**2. Approval of the DUSD Consolidated Application Part II** Action

Back-up for this will be presented at the June 7<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

A motion was made by Clerk Cross, seconded by Vice President Piñon to approve Approval of the DUSD Consolidated Application Part II and unanimously carried.

**3. Approval of DUSD School's Single Plans for Student Achievement** Action

Mr. Contreras brought the 2012-13 DUSD School's Single Site Plan for Student Achievement to the Board for approval. These plans must be based on the analysis of student achievement data and account for student activities funded with state and federal resources to improve student success.

A motion was made by Clerk Cross, seconded by Member Garcia to approve DUSD School's Single Plans for Student Achievement and unanimously carried.

**C. Cecile Nunley, Chief Business Official**

**1. Update on Governor's Revised Budget Proposal** Information

Ms. Nunley presented an update on the Governor's Revised Budget Proposal to the Board, which included the National Economy, State Economy, Unemployment Rates, The General Fund for 2012-13, the risks to the Revised Budget Proposal, Prop 25, 2012-13 K-12 Revenue Limits, Special Education, Transportation, Transitional Kindergarten update, Multi-Year Projections, and Principal Apportionment.

**XI. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Member Garcia would like ongoing communication with the public.

**XII. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Irina Okhremtchouk  
Gil Piñon  
Herb Cross  
Joe DiPaola  
Guy Garcia

**XIII. COMING EVENTS**

- A. May 30 – MPHS Graduation
- B. May 31 – Last day of School
- C. June 2 – DHS Graduation
- D. June 7 – Board Meeting

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT – 11:44 pm**