

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
 COTATI-ROHNERT PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 16, 2018

President Farrell called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM at the Mountain Shadows Educational Center, 7165 Burton Avenue, Rohnert Park, CA 94928.	Call to Order
Trustees in attendance were Tracy Farrell, Tim Nonn, Marc Orloff, Jennifer Wiltermood and Leffler Brown.	Trustees in Attendance
Thomas Page Academy Student Liam Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.	Flag Salute
Trustee Brown requested Consent Item L be pulled and voted on separately.	Approval of Agenda
On the motion by Trustee Orloff and second by Trustee Wiltermood, Trustees voted 5-0 to approve the amended agenda.	
There were no presentations.	Presentations
Student Member Emilia Torres from Rancho Cotate High School gave a report.	Student Board Member Reports
Student Member Carolina Lenzi from Technology High School gave a report.	
Debbie Ziese, Rohnert Park Cotati Educators Association President, addressed the Board.	RPCEA Report
Redwood Empire Schools' Insurance Group Public Self-Insurers' Annual Report (posted on website).	Official Correspondence
On the motion by Trustee Wiltermood and second by Trustee Orloff, Trustees voted 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda.	Consent Agenda
Minutes of the Meeting of May 14, 2013	Minutes
Minutes of the Meeting of August 13, 2013	Minutes
Minutes of the Meeting of September 10, 2013	Minutes
Minutes of the Meeting of September 23, 2013	Minutes
Minutes of the Meeting of December 10, 2013	Minutes
Minutes of the Meeting of September 18, 2018	Minutes

Budget Transfers	Budget Transfers
Filed Williams Complaints for the April-June Quarter of 2018 and July-September Quarter of 2018 (received no complaints)	Williams Complaints
Memorandum of Understanding with Sonoma State University for the Fairfield Osborn Preserve	MOU - Fairfield Osborn Preserve
Intern Teaching Agreement with Sonoma State University 2018-20	Agreement - SSU
Memorandum of Understanding for SCOE for Tobacco Use Prevention Education 2018-2019	MOU - SCOE
Extension of Expulsion – Semester 2 (August 14, 2018-December 20, 2018)	Student Discipline
Stipulated Suspended Expulsion – Semester 2 (October 10, 2018-December 20, 2018)	Student Discipline
Student Stipulated Full Expulsion Cases #1819-02-SD, #1819-03-SD and #1819-04-SD	Student Discipline
On the motion by Trustee Wiltermood and second by Trustee Farrell, Trustees voted 4-1 to ratify Agreement with Social Sentinel, Inc. Trustee Nonn voted no.	Agreement - Social Sentinel, Inc.
On the motion by Trustee Wiltermood and second by Trustee Orloff, Trustees voted 5-0 to approve the Personnel Action Report 1819-3a (Certificated).	PAR 1819-3a
On the motion by Trustee Wiltermood and second by Trustee Orloff, Trustees voted 5-0 to approve the Personnel Action Report 1819-3b (Classified).	PAR 1819-3b
On the motion by Trustee Orloff and second by Trustee Wiltermood, Trustees voted 4-1 to ratify the Commercial Warrant Register. Trustee Brown voted no.	Warrant Register
Superintendent Haley gave a Fiscal Update and Planning Report to the Board:	Discussion - Fiscal Update and Planning
1. 2018-19 Budget Update	
2. Parcel Tax Update	
3. Bond Authorization Update	
4. Development Update	

5. Facilities Update
 - a. Rancho Cotate High School
Theater/Academic/Gymnasium Building
6. Safety Update
7. Enrollment Report

On the motion by Trustee Brown and second by Trustee Farrell, Trustees voted 4-0 to approve the Expense Reimbursement for Trustee Nonn pursuant to the mediated agreement. Trustee Nonn recused himself.

Expense Reimbursement

On the motion by Trustee Orloff and second by Trustee Farrell, Trustees voted 5-0 to accept the Gifts and Donations to Schools and District.

Gifts and Donations

The following individuals addressed the Board on non-agenda items:

Public Comment

- Peter Kostas
- Andrew Leonard

Board President Farrell read the following:

Adjournment to Closed Session

Dr. Haley informed the Board of Trustees that he was selected as the sole finalist, and then appointed, as Superintendent in a district in San Diego County. He did so on Thursday, September 13, 2018 by sending the following email:

Trustees,

I need to inform you that I have been selected for appointment as a superintendent in a district in San Diego County and I intend to accept. This is not final and will require agreement on a contract for employment. I will keep you informed in the process and work with the Board President on beginning a transition plan when the offer is finalized.

Robert Haley

On Friday, September 14, Dr. Haley sent a message to all staff in the district informing them of his appointment. As Dr. Haley explained to the Board of Trustees, by law, a Board can only take action on a chief executive officer at a regularly scheduled meeting. For the district he was appointed to that would not occur until October 11.

Rather than wait until that date, per the above, Dr. Haley wanted to give as much time as possible to Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified to plan its transition. At the direction of the Board President, he prepared options for the district as to how to move forward. Due to timing considerations, which included the upcoming election,

the most reasonable course of action was to look for an interim superintendent who could begin as soon as was required.

A list of possible interims included retired superintendents who had familiarity with the district. One would have been preferable, but do to conflicts of interest he was not able to be considered. Additionally, a problem with retired superintendents is a cap on their earnings imposed by the State Teachers Retirement System. This can result in reduced work weeks or the necessity to secure more than one to finish a school year. This often results in an increased work load for staff.

During this period of time, a possible interim superintendent indicated to the district that he was available. He had not yet retired and was interested in changing districts. The Board was informed of his application and a special meeting was called for October 12 for the full Board to interview him for the position.

Dr. Haley's contract was approved by his new district on October 11 with a start date of November 1. This necessitated swift action by the Board to have someone in place, as is required, as chief executive, for the same date. The Board will further discuss this appointment in closed session. If agreed in closed session, immediately following, the Board will consider action on a contract to appoint an interim superintendent in open session. The Board needs to take action tonight, or if not, it will not be able to take action until its next regularly scheduled board meeting on November 13.

Regarding this process, we held our Regular Board Meeting on September 18 at which all trustees had an opportunity to comment. Two trustees passed and made no comment.

There is no set way of seeking an interim superintendent as each situation is unique. Any Trustee had the opportunity to contact me regarding the process, ask questions, or offer a recommendation.

Hiring an interim superintendent is not the same process as seeking a permanent superintendent. By hiring an interim superintendent now, the Board can take the time needed to develop next steps for seeking the permanent superintendent. This process can, and should, include community involvement.

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:49 PM, pursuant to Government Code section 54957.

Trustees in attendance for Closed Session were Leffler Brown, Tracy Farrell, Tim Nonn, Marc Orloff and Jennifer Wiltermood.

Trustees in Attendance for Closed Session

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:34 PM by Board President Farrell.

Meeting Reconvened to Open Session

The following Closed Session was reported: The Board met in closed session to consider public employee appointment of an Interim Superintendent and considered terms of an employment agreement. No action was taken.

The Board of Trustees designated representative negotiated an employment agreement for interim superintendent, Tony Roehrick, which includes the following fiscal terms:

Contract for Employment

1. The term is for eight months beginning on November 1 and ending on June 30, 2019.
2. Placement at Step 3 on the Certificated Management Salary Schedule, \$200,857 which prorated for the term of the agreement.
3. The interim superintendent is eligible for the same benefits as other certificated staff.

On the motion by Trustee Wiltermood and second by Trustee Orloff, Trustees voted 3-2 to offer a contract for employment to the Interim Superintendent. Trustees Brown and Nonn voted no.

Leff Brown

- Pass

Board Member Reports

Tim Nonn

- Need steps to hire a Superintendent

Jennifer Wiltermood

- Thank you to all who came out and attended Founders Day
- Thank you Superintendent Haley for the service to the district and everything you have done for the students and the community

Marc Orloff

- Founders Day was a great day. Thank you to the committee.
- Attended a choir concert fundraiser at Rancho Cotate
- Attended the Fairfield Osborne meeting
- Attended a Rancho football game and a Tech High soccer games

Tracy Farrell

- Thank you Superintendent Haley for your years of service to the students, staff, and community of the Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District
- We're really, really going to miss you

Superintendent Haley read the following:

Superintendent's Report

Dear Board of Trustees,

I am resigning my position as Superintendent of Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District effective October 31, 2018. I have truly enjoyed the last seven years serving in the district, but the time has come to move on to a new challenge. I appreciate the opportunity the Board of Trustees gave me in the spring of 2011. At the time, the district was in severe declining enrollment and facing certain state takeover. Despite that, I saw the district for what it could be not what it was at the time. The district had a great history and I knew we could return to serving the community and giving the community the schools it needed and deserved.

I want to thank Trustee Marc Orloff who met with me soon after being hired to share what he wanted from me as Superintendent. He wanted our district to refocus on the needs of students first, he wanted our teachers supported and respected, he wanted programs brought back, and most importantly, if possible, he wanted schools reopened. Since that initial meeting he has never wavered in supporting me, and supporting what is best for the district as a whole. When I told him we would stop laying off teachers, and never do it again, he said he would support me in making sure Sonoma County Office of Education understood what we were doing.

Jennifer Wiltermood, along with other community members and teachers, met with me as well. I quickly learned of Jen's commitment to her community, which she demonstrated by volunteering and being involved every day. She gave me a list of items she, and her friends, thought we needed to do to change the course of the district. I looked at the list and realized the thought that went into it. It was not casual, but instead showed a depth of knowledge about the district. Within a few short years we accomplished everything that was on the list. Of course, Jen continued to demonstrate her commitment by running and being elected to the Board of Trustees in 2012. Thank you Jen.

In 2011, I met many parents to listen to what they wanted from our schools, one of them was Tracy Farrell. She was part of a focus group put together by our Assistant Superintendent. The group explained the desire for a year-round calendar option. In

the spring of 2012, Tracy and her family were instrumental in helping us pass our first ever parcel tax. She is not one to sit on the sidelines, she gets involved to help and bring about positive change. I have seen her as a parent volunteer and later she ran and was elected to the Board of Trustees. She has been instrumental in the renaissance of our district. Thank you Tracy.

There are many community members and staff members who all contributed to this renaissance. Too many to thank them all. We developed a shared vision that all students are entitled to a successful education, our focus is learning and we are a team. The concept of team permeates the district and hopefully it will be preserved. Together we:

- Passed a parcel tax to support smaller class sizes, open libraries, open computer labs, support music and provide other enrichment opportunities,
- Passed two \$80 million bonds to support implementation of our facility master plan,
- Developed a year-round program that led to the opening of Richard Crane Elementary School,
- Opened Technology Middle School,
- Opened University Elementary,
- Gave parents the choice of K-8 at Thomas Page Academy,
- Reimagined the pathways for students at Rancho Cotate High Schools,
- Moved the Phoenix Program to locate at Rancho Cotate High School and then expanded it to serve more students,
- Implemented a sports program and expanded Technology High School,
- Brought middle schools back and provided funding for sports,
- And, Implemented the Education Summit to guide our direction.

I believe I am leaving the district in better shape than I found it, it is bittersweet to leave, but my time has come to move on. I truly hope Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District stays on a positive course. I want the best for the students, parents, teachers, support staff, and the community.

Sincerely, Robert A. Haley, Ed.D

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM.

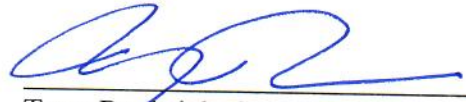
Adjournment

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Tracy Farrell, Board President

MINUTES ADOPTED: November 13, 2018

Respectfully submitted,


Tony Roehrick, Secretary

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