



**TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## Regular Board Meeting

**09/19/2023 - 06:00 PM**

Kreps Conference Room

395 Doherty Drive, Larkspur, California, 94939

Phone (415) 945-1020; [www.tamdistrict.org](http://www.tamdistrict.org)

### MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order at 4:55 p.m.;

Closed Session 5:00 p.m.;

Student Trustee Orientation 5:30 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Zoom Link: [https://tamdistrict-org.zoom.us/j/98082992771?](https://tamdistrict-org.zoom.us/j/98082992771?pwd=dnIyaS9URExUZmMwbUlsakxNNG5TQT09)

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Webinar ID 980 8299 2771; Passcode 081519

#### Board of Trustees

Karen Loebbaka, President

Leslie Harlander, Clerk

Cynthia Roenisch

Kevin Saavedra

Emily Uhlhorn

Tara Taupier, Ed. D, Superintendent

#### Attendees

##### Voting Members

Karen Loebbaka, Board President

Leslie Harlander, Board Member

Cynthia Roenisch, Board Member

Emily Uhlhorn, Board Member

#### 1. Call Meeting to Order

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Tamalpais Union High School District (District) was called to order in the Kreps Conference Room at 4:56 p.m. A quorum was declared present.

#### 2. Approval of Closed Session Agenda

M/S/C (Roenisch/Harlander), unanimously.

#### 3. Public Comments on Closed Session Agenda

There were no public comments on the closed session agenda.

#### 4. Recess to Closed Session in the Superintendent's Office

A. With respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to Gov Code §54956.95

B. Conference with Legal Counsel Regarding Existing Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a)

C. With Respect to Every Item of Business to be discussed in Closed Session Pursuant to Gov Code §54957

D. With respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to Gov Code §54957.6

E. With respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to Ed Code §35146

**1. Approve Waiver of Graduation Requirement - Student A**

**5. Reconvene Into Open Session**

The meeting reconvened into open session at 5:38 p.m.

**6. Announcement of Reportable Action Taken in Closed Session**

There was no reportable action taken in closed session.

**7. Approve Agenda and Review Norms**

Ms. Harlander read the board norms.

M/S/C (Roenisch/Harlander), unanimously.

**8. Student Trustee Orientation**

The Board welcomed the 2023-24 student trustees from Archie Williams, Redwood High School, San Andreas, Tamalpais (not present) and Tamiscal High Schools. Board members reviewed the role of the school board, student trustee expectations, board norms, the board's role in curriculum and instruction, budgeting, employees' unions and negotiations and the administrative structure of the District.

Student trustees introduced themselves and discussed why they are interested in serving on the Board.

There was no public comment.

**9. Public Comment on the Consent Agenda**

There was no public comment on the consent agenda.

**10. Approval of Consent Agenda**

M/S/C (Roenisch/Uhlhorn), unanimously.

**11. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda**

Clayton Smith spoke about California bills AB665, AB957 and AB1078 and claimed that, if approved, these bills will have a negative impact on families and parent-teacher relationships. He said that these bills transform the student-teacher relationship from focusing on educating to focusing on psychologizing, and are not conducive to improving dismal educational outcomes in California schools. He asked the public to urge the governor not to approve these bills.

Mimi Willard, President of the Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers, encouraged the Board to pay special attention to transparency when drafting the wording for the ballot if they move forward with the bond measure (75 word limit). She said that the description should inform voters of the total amount of bonds being issued, plus the interest to be paid over the life of the bond (estimated to be approx. \$1B).

The Board asked Corbett Elsen for clarification. Mr. Elsen confirmed that the estimated face amount of the bond plus interest would be approximately \$1B (including the estimated \$517M for design and construction, plus a similar amount in debt interest payments over 30 years), and said that the District fully intends to include this amount in the full text of the ballot measure. Dr. Taupier added that, if the bond is approved, the District hopes to reduce interest payments by refinancing, if possible.

There was no other public comment.

**12. Trustee Considerations (Please note that times listed for each item are estimated and actual times will vary)**

**A. Update on School Openings at Archie Williams and Redwood High Schools (approx. 6:20 p.m.)**

LaSandra White, Principal of Archie Williams High School, and Barnaby Payne, Principal of Redwood High School, presented an update on the first few weeks of school at Archie Williams and Redwood High Schools. Ms. White and

Mr. Payne discussed new student orientation, back to school night, Principal coffee chats and other beginning of school events. They both described the staff development keynote address by Bettina Love as an impactful, powerful way to open the school year. They also reported on the implementation of the Tam4Ward Multi-Tiered System of Support, and other student interventions and support offerings provided at both schools.

There was no public comment.

**B. Hold Public Hearing: Sufficiency of Instructional Materials (approx. 6:40 pm)**

The Board recessed at 6:36 p.m. for a public hearing on the sufficiency of instructional materials in the Tamalpais Union High School District.

There was no public comment.

The Board reconvened at 6:37 p.m.

**C. Take Action on Resolution #23-02 : Sufficiency of Instructional Materials - ROLL CALL VOTE (approx. 6:45 pm)**

Motion made by: Leslie Harlander

Motion seconded by: Emily Uhlhorn

Voting:

Karen Loebbaka - Yes

Leslie Harlander - Yes

Cynthia Roenisch - Yes

Emily Uhlhorn - Yes

**D. Discuss and Take Action on the Proposed Schematic Design (SD) for the Redwood HS Fine Arts, Student Commons & Dining Building Replacement Project (approx. 6:50 p.m.)**

Mike Woolard, Sr. Director of Facilities Planning, and Aaron Jobson, Principal Architect of QKA Architects, presented the schematic design for the Redwood HS Fine Arts, Student Commons and Dining Building Replacement Project (previously known as the "Redwood High School Signature Project"). Mr. Woolard reminded the Board that the schematic design represents 15% to 20% of the total design process, and construction is contingent upon the approval of a bond measure.

Mr. Jobson presented the project design principles, site analysis, site concept and the schematic design. Mr. Woolard finished the presentation with a revised cost estimate for the project, which was slightly lower than the approved FMP budget, noting that the design pre-work will save an estimated \$14-15 million in escalation costs, due to time savings. The estimated timeline of the project is 2 1/2 years, starting in August 2024 and ending in January 2027.

Board members praised the design and asked questions about feedback from the RHS Foundation and PTSA, and soft costs (architectural expenses) that were included in the budget.

There were no public comments.

**E. Discuss and Take Action on the Proposed Resolution to Exempt Tamalpais Union High School District (TUHSD) from Local Ordinances (approx. 7:20 p.m.)**

Mike Woolard, Sr. Director of Facilities Planning, presented Resolution #23-04 - Exempt TUHSD from local ordinances of Corte Madera, Larkspur, Mill Valley & San Anselmo, where its campuses/sites are located. Mr. Woolard explained that the resolution is intended to notify these cities that the District's school facilities construction projects will be regulated, managed and approved by the California Division of State Architect's (DSA) and are exempt from most local zoning ordinances. The exceptions to this exemption are any local ordinances regulating drainage improvements/conditions, road improvements/conditions and grading plans.

The Board asked questions about the District's plan to notify the cities about these projects, establish regular and clear communications, and clarify what aspects of the project the cities are approving versus the DSA. Dr. Taupier and Mr. Elsen told the board that they had already attended one city council meeting to present the Facilities Master Plan, and would keep the cities informed and included in the planning process.

There was no public comment.

Motion made by: Emily Uhlhorn  
Motion seconded by: Cynthia Roenisch  
Voting:  
Karen Loebbaka - Yes  
Leslie Harlander - Yes  
Cynthia Roenisch - Yes  
Emily Uhlhorn - Yes

**F. Take Action on Amendment No. 3 to the QKA Agreement for Architectural Services for Specialty Consultants for Redwood HS Fine Arts, Student Commons & Dining Building Replacement Project (approx. 7:30 p.m.)**

Mike Woolard, Sr. Director of Facilities Planning, presented Amendment No. 3 to the QKA Agreement for Architectural Services for Specialty Consultants for Redwood HS Fine Arts, Student Commons & Dining Building Replacement Project. He explained that the addition of specialty consulting services was anticipated and budgeted for in the project's soft costs, but could not be added to the contract until specific needs were identified based on the schematic design.

The Board asked for more updates and timely notifications when additional consulting needs and project costs are identified.

Mimi Willard, President of the Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers, suggested that Mr. Woolard provides a running total of costs for architectural and specialty services when presenting amendments to the Board, and said that the District is contractually obligated for these costs, even if the bond is not approved.

Mr. Elsen confirmed that the District is contractually obligated for these costs, even if the bond is not approved, and pointed out that this design pre-work will potentially save the District approximately \$14-15 million in the long run, if the bond is approved. Dr. Taupier shared that the district had saved about \$23 million in debt by refinancing the last bond, so the total cost could be less, based on the financial forecast.

There was no other public comment.

M/S/C (Roenisch/Harlander), unanimously.

**G. Take Action on Amendment No. 2 to the QKA Agreement for Architectural Services for Specialty Consultants for Tam High STEAM Building Replacement Project (approx. 7:45 p.m.)**

Mike Woolard, Sr. Director of Facilities Planning, presented Amendment No. 2 to the QKA Agreement for Architectural Services for Specialty Consultants for Tam High STEAM Building Replacement Project, which is similar to Amendment No. 3 for the Redwood HS Fine Arts, Student Commons & Dining Building Replacement Project.

There was no public comment.

M/S/C (Harlander/Roenisch), unanimously.

**13. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approve Draft Minutes of the 9/5/2023 BOT Meeting
- B. Approve Personnel Summary for 9/19/2023
- C. Request for Waiver of Graduation Requirement - Student A
- D. Ratify Contracts under \$40,000 - September 19, 2023
- E. Approve Purchase Orders over \$40,000 - List# 05
- F. Approve Out of State Field Trip- Advance Journalism - Boston- Redwood High School
- G. Approve Global Studies Field Trip - Pamplona, Spain- Tamalpais High School

H. Approve Global Studies Field Trip- Pau, France - Tamalpais High School

I. Approve Global Studies Field Trip - Tokyo and Kyoto , Japan - Tamalpais High School

#### 14. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Tara Taupier, Superintendent, reported on the following:

1. School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs) are now available on the Tamalpais District website and were included in the September Superintendent's newsletter.
2. The first progress reporting period of the 2023-24 school year (R1) ends on 9/29/23 and will provide a first look at student data for attendance and grades. .
3. District cell phone surveys for parents, students and staff will be conducted next week 9/25-9/29/23.
4. Dr. Taupier is presenting at the Marin Promise Partnership "Strive Together" conference on 9/20/23, regarding the creation and progression of the District's student success network, which started at Tamalpais seven years ago.
5. In addition to the book "Accountable" by Dashka Slater, Dr. Taupier recommends "Never Enough" by Jennifer Wallace, which is about the toxic achievement culture in high-achieving, affluent communities. The themes of both books are about student belonging and mattering.

#### 15. Trustee Reports

Leslie Harlander commented on the book "Accountable" by Dashka Slater, and asked Dr. Taupier for information on how the District can apply the lessons from the book to prevent similar outcomes in our District. Ms. Harlander requested demographic information from a previous board meeting that was included in a presentation by Insight. She and Ms. Roenisch also requested an update on the Team program and efforts to make it more inclusive, in light of budget adjustments in prior years.

Cynthia Roenisch asked for an update on college counseling services for students in Special Education, based on a public comment from a prior meeting. Ms. Roenish also asked for an update on measures taken after a student was left out of the Redwood High School graduation program.

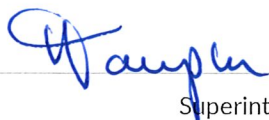
Emily Uhlhorn reported that the September 14th MCOE Efficiency and Effectiveness (E2) Collaborative meeting focused on setting direction and building cohesion, and said that they will look at survey data to determine board interest in shared systems across districts. Ms. Uhlhorn discussed the bond exploratory committee meeting, reporting that community polling will take place in October, they are drafting ballot language for the bond measure, and need to find chairpersons to serve on the Bond Committee, if it is approved. Ms. Uhlhorn also reported that the Mill Valley Town Council is largely focused on reducing traffic, which will be a key metric when the District proposes new parking lot plans for the Tamalpais High School facilities project.

#### 16. Conclusion

Leslie Harlander reflected on the board norms.

#### 17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



Superintendent