

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order at 4:45 p.m.;

Closed Session 4:50 p.m.;

Regular Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Zoom Link: [https://tamdistrict-org.zoom.us/j/93851992174?](https://tamdistrict-org.zoom.us/j/93851992174?pwd=R3UrYkRaYm53eHJqSnU5RUhRaHg0dz09)

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Webinar ID 938 5199 2174; Passcode 972643

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 4:53 p.m. A quorum was declared present.

2. Approval of Closed Session Agenda

M/S/C (Harlander/Roenisch), 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. Conference with Legal Counsel Regarding Existing Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a)

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

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

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

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

5. Reconvene Into Open Session

The meeting reconvened into open session at 6:03 p.m.

6. Announcement of Reportable Action Taken in Closed Session

Ms. Loebbaka announced the following reportable actions taken in closed session:

With respect to Item 4B., the board approved the legal settlement of case # 23-2957-KJM in the amount of \$50,000.

With respect to Item 4C., the Board approved the confidential settlement agreement of case # 2023-08-01 in the amount of \$16,000 per month for up to 4 months.

There were no other reportable actions taken in closed session.

7. Approve Agenda and Review Norms

Ms. Uhlhorn read the board norms. M/S/C (Uhlhorn/Harlander), unanimously.

8. Public Comment on the Consent Agenda

There was no public comment on the consent agenda.

9. Approval of Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was approved, with the exception of item 12.B. Personnel Summary.

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

Item 12.B. was pulled from the consent agenda to highlight the following changes that were made after the agenda was posted:

- Added Caitlin Moore and David Sandusky to Rehires
- Added Teresa Randall to Status Changes
- Added Dylan Borst to Revision from Previous Summary of Personnel Actions

There was no public comment on item 12.B.

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

10. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Ms. Mimi Willard, president of the Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers and a district resident, suggested that the District invite the bond consultant or bond manager to appear at a future meeting to explain how bond offerings will be structured, with the opportunity for the public to ask questions. Also, Ms. Willard said that the timer for public comments did not start promptly at the last meeting and felt that it did not accurately reflect her full 3 minutes for public comment.

Ms. Pat Ravasio, Corte Madera Town Council member, said that the Town of Corte Madera subsidizes the community swim program at Redwood High School, and said it is not fair for Corte Madera to bear the cost of the programs. She said that recreational and lap swimmers want equal access to the Redwood pool. She requested that someone follow-up with her regarding the District picking up the cost.

There was no other public comment.

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

A. Review and Take Action on the Instructional Minutes for the 2023-24 School Year (approx. 6:10 p.m.)

Kelly Lara, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, presented the Education Code regulations for instructional minutes, how they're calculated, and the actual instructional minutes for each District school site in 2022-23. Ms. Lara pointed out a typo on slide 10, titled "Instructional Minutes - Archie Williams", noting that the number of surplus minutes for Archie Williams was 5, not 64,800.

Board members asked questions about the differences between the instructional minutes at each site, and Ms.

Lara shared that the teachers at each campus collectively work with the District to develop the school bell schedules. Ms. Lara said that the differences in instructional minutes highlight the opportunity to create a common bell schedule across the comprehensive schools in the District, so they share the same start and end times. This would allow for more teacher collaboration across schools and the potential to create additional student programs, which students could participate in at schools in addition to their home campus.

There was no public comment.

B. Overview of the District's Attendance Policies and Attendance Improvement Strategies (approx. 6:30 p.m.)

Kelly Lara, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, presented an overview of District attendance policies, reporting procedures, trends and interventions. Ms. Lara started by welcoming families to the new school year, and encouraged every student, parent and caregiver to prioritize attendance. Ms. Lara reviewed excused absences, as defined in Board Policy 5113. She noted that students with 5 or more unexcused full-day or single class absences are considered truant. She said the District has been working on a District-wide multi-year attendance plan, and has implemented a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) approach to absences. She noted the importance of partnering with students. Ms. Lara also noted that the legislature recently approved mental health days as excused absences. The Superintendent said research has shown that typically parents are unaware of how many days students are absent, because absences are spread over several weeks and it is easy to lose track. The District piloted a program with an automated telephone system contacting students when they were absent which helped the students track their own absences. The Superintendent commented that last year the District's Learning Leadership Team found that the more students felt connected to their schools, the better their attendance records.

Board members asked questions about the maximum number of excused absences, outreach for students who call in for mental health days, types of attendance, the challenge for parents keeping up with the slew of information coming from the District, and parents excusing absences if children are "getting their work done". Ms. Lara said the District implemented better tracking for absences to get more details about the reasons for absences. She also said that schools are doing significant outreach to families about the importance of attendance and wellness services available for students who are struggling with mental health issues. The Board appreciated the presentation and the proactive approach to attendance challenges.

There was no public comment.

C. Discuss and Take Action on the Proposed Schematic Design (SD) for the Tam High STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) Building Replacement Project (approx. 7:00 p.m.)

Mike Woolard, Sr. Director of Facilities Planning, Aaron Jobson, Principal Architect of QKA Architects, and Jason Cave, Construction Management Leader of Greystone West, presented the fifth update on the Tam High "STEAM" (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics) building replacement project (previously known as the "Tamalpais High School Signature Project"). Mr. Elsen reminded the Board that the design is only at the 15% to 20% (of 100%) level.

Mr. Woolard began by saying, per the Board's request, he would first review the project's background so anyone joining the meeting for the first time can be brought up to speed. He emphasized that the project is in the design phase and construction is predicated on the Board approving the Bond measure and the Bond being passed. Mr. Woolard discussed the background of the project and how priorities and proposed projects at each school site were a product of the Facilities Master Plan (FMP), which was approved in 2022. The work has progressed from each school site's facility analysis and assessment to concept to schematic design. He reminded the Board of the 50% rule, which means if the cost to repair a building is 50% or more of the building's value, then it is more economical to construct a new building.

Mr. Jobson presented the project design principles, site analysis, site concept and the schematic design. He further explained that trying to rehab old buildings is complex with many constraints not viable for buildings of this age. Building new structures will better meet the needs of education programs and address long-standing concerns about accessibility, fire equipment and emergency vehicle access, and security. He said the team spent the first phase of the project doing a lot of listening, with more than 15 meetings with multiple stakeholder groups (students, teachers, parents and community members).

Mr. Woolard finished the presentation with a revised cost estimate for the project, which was slightly lower than the approved FMP budget, and the proposed project schedule.

Board members asked questions about professional review of the design, constructability, and contingencies. They also praised the work to date, citing the focus on the students and the teaching environment as reflected in the design principals, sustainability, preservation of existing landscaping, and approach to addressing safety and accessibility

concerns. Board members were pleased by the inclusion of student and community feedback in the design process. One board member shared community interest/concern about long-term parking solutions for Tam. Mr. Jobson said that they will continue to get feedback on the design, including a constructability review by contractors. Board members noted the importance of having schematics for the community before considering going out for a bond, and emphasized that the project is for and about the students. The board asked that future presentations show the changes to cost estimates and sustainable features included in the design.

There was no public comment.

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

D. Take Action on the Response to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report: "Build More ADUs - An Rx to Increase Marin's Housing Supply" (approx. 7:30 p.m.)

Corbett Elsen, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, presented the District's response to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report: "Build More ADUs - An Rx to Increase Marin's Housing Supply". The District's response to R4 was that it is not applicable and will not be implemented. The District's response to F7 was that it partially disagreed with the finding.

There was no public comment.

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

E. Discuss the Board's vision for sustainability with respect to electrification (approx. 7:40 p.m.)

The Board discussed their vision with respect to sustainability, stemming from a proposed student Earth Day resolution. Board members agreed that sustainability should be a District value and should be front and center in the facilities modernization process, and also noted that it is a complex issue. Board members shared multiple examples of sustainability approaches on school campuses. One member suggested that the most attainable approach now would be to focus on our practices as we consider potential bond projects, yet would be uncomfortable passing an aspirational policy at this point. One member suggested the students start with an analysis of current sustainability practices on campuses, such as carpooling, public transportation, recycling and composting, before the Board considers creating a resolution or policy.

Corbett Elsen, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, said that sustainability was a top value and focus in the creating of the Facilities Master Plan (FMP), and cautioned against a micro-level approach, as there could be unintended consequences. Dr. Taupier, Superintendent, applauded the students for engaging and advocating with elected officials and said it can also be empowering for students to engage with their own campus communities.

There were no public comments.

12. Consent Agenda

A. Approve Draft Minutes of the August 8, 2023 BOT Meeting

B. Approve Personnel Summary for August 22, 2023

C. Approve Consolidated Application for Categorical Funds

D. Approve Purchase Orders over \$40,000 List # 03

E. Approve updated board policy and administrative regulation 3320, Claims Against the District

13. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Tara Taupier, Superintendent, said that on the eve of the first day of school, she wanted to thank Kelly Lara and the Student Services team for a successful launch for staff. She said that she got good feedback from staff on Dr. Bettina Love's keynote address, and said that it was invigorating for the learning community. She said that most sites brought the staff together to watch the presentation. Dr. Taupier also praised Cathy Flores, Sr. Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, and the District Equity Team, for creating discussion questions and for planning a series of professional development opportunities that will revisit Racial Equity themes throughout the year.

Dr. Taupier also thanked Wes Cedros, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, and the HR department, for getting teachers in every classroom, in spite of teacher shortages. Ms. Taupier said it was one of the most challenging years for staffing in her experience.

Dr. Taupier reminded the Board of the upcoming Back to School Nights for each site:

- Archie Williams - 8/31/23
- Redwood - 9/7/23
- Tamalpais - 9/21/23
- Tamiscal - 9/21/23
- San Andreas - 10/5/23

14. Trustee Reports

Leslie Harlander said that she would like to review the allocation of District pools, tennis courts and other facilities for public use at the next Community Education presentation by Chris McCune, Director of Community Programs. Other board members agreed that it was an ongoing issue and that the district needs to establish a clear hierarchy on facility use. The Board asked Mr. McCune to provide more details on facility rentals and use during his presentation.

Cynthia Roenisch asked when phone policy would be on the agenda. Said said she wanted to share "anecdotally" about the phone policy at Alameda HS, saying that they use phone pockets, but she is using Mr. Zalien's suggested approach of using a box. She said students have been relieved without their phones, and it has been successful.

Emily Uhlhorn said that Dr. Bettina Love's keynote was powerful, profound and relatable. She also attended the Back to School Coffee at Tamalpais and thought the new Admin team was very relatable and would make strong connections with students. Ms. Loebbaka agreed that Dr. Love was amazing and reiterated her message that equity is action, not talk. She hopes that board members can attend her presentations every time she speaks.

Karen Loebbaka said that the Board Governance Workshop on August 21, 2023 was excellent and said that she'll summarize and present their discussion at a future meeting.

15. Conclusion

Ms. Uhlhorn reflected on the board norms.

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.



Board Clerk