

EMPIRE SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

27740 JEFFERSON AVE • TEMECULA, CA 92590

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2024

9:00 a.m.

27740 Jefferson Ave. Temecula, CA

Rancho Cucamonga Student Center

8969 Archibald Ave.

Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Our mission is to empower students by fostering their innate curiosity, engaging their parents, and promoting optimum learning by collaboratively developing a personalized learning program for each student.

Present:

Dianne Mendez, Board Chair	Kathleen Hermsmeyer, Superintendent
Stephanie Vargas, Vice Chair	Vivian Price, Asst. Superintendent, Education
Craig Schneider, Treasurer	Michelle Sapanara, Asst. Superintendent, Student Services
Michelle Nagelvoort, Secretary	Virginia Smith, Asst. Superintendent, HR
Jason Rodriguez, Board Director	Tanya Rogers, Asst. Superintendent, Business
Ivo Caouette, Board Director	Natali South, Senior Director of Charter Relations
Tracey Vela, Board Director	Jared McLeod, Senior Director of Achievement & Assessment
	Sarah Adams, Senior Director of Student Services
	Joni Rogers, Director of Recruitment and Hiring
	Monica Lopez, Principal

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

- Ms. Mendez called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Ms. Nagelvoort moved to approve the agenda.
- Ms. Vela seconded.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

3. **Action: Approval of Board Minutes from February 8, 2024**
 - Ms. Vargas moved to approve the Board Minutes from February 8, 2024.
 - Mr. Caouette seconded.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

4. **Action: Approval of Consent Agenda**
 - Mr. Caouette moved to approve the Consent Agenda, consisting of Warrants, Personnel Action Report, and Contract Ratification: Instructure Canvas.
 - Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

5. **Public Comments**
 - None

6. **Information: Student Spotlight - Manuel**
 - Manuel, a 5th grader from Empire Springs Homeschool, showed several pieces of art he created. Manuel has been drawing since he was four years old, and his favorite way to draw art is pencil sketching.

7. **Information: CAASPP Participation Awards**
 - Jared McLeod presented certificates of recognition to students who made significant growth or earned perfect scores on last year's CAASPP test.

8. **Information: Superintendent's Report**
 - Dr. Hermsmeyer reviewed the Superintendent's Report featuring network-wide events and updates. She highlighted recent staff development days for both teaching and classified staff. Dr. Hermsmeyer invited the board to submit any pictures, stories, videos or testimonials that we might want to feature for next year's celebration of Springs' 25th anniversary. Pearson's Connections Academy online program for an additional online homeschool option.

9. **Information: Completion of Statement Conflict Interest Form 700**
 - Natali South reminded the board that it is time to complete the annual Conflict of Interest document, Form 700. Springs will retain the forms as approved by the County Board of Supervisors.

10. **Information: First Reading of BP 4019.1 Grants, Gifts, and Bequests**
 - Tanya Rogers explained this policy codifies the process for the school to receive funds through grant opportunities, gifts or bequests. There were no changes requested, and the policy will be brought forward for approval at the next meeting.

11. Information: Recruitment Efforts

- Joni Rogers provided a review of efforts being made in the area of recruiting, specifically for substitute teachers, and indicated that HR staff have been attending career fairs and have created new marketing materials including Now Hiring banners at the PLAZA.

12. Action: Approval of College and Career Access Pathways Partnership Agreement regarding Dual Enrollment between the Kern Community College District and Empire Springs

- Ms. Vela moved to approve the College and Career Access Pathways Partnership Agreement regarding Dual Enrollment between the Kern Community College District and Empire Springs.
- Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.
- Discussion: Sarah Adams explained the opportunity for our students to earn dual enrollment credits.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

13. Action: Approval of Second Interim Budget 23/24

- Ms. Vela moved to approve the Second Interim Budget for 23/24.
- Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers reviewed the Second Interim Budget report. She indicated that there have not been any significant adjustments compared to the First Interim projections presented earlier in the year.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

14. Action: Approval of Bonus Previously Paid

- Mr. Caouette moved to approve the bonuses that have been previously paid.
- Ms. Vela seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers informed the board that STRS and PERS have requested a separate action item to be taken regarding bonuses that were already paid. The bonuses were already board-approved through the budget and salary scale approvals, however, this allows for transparency regarding the payment of bonuses.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

15. Action: Second Reading and Approval of Policy Board Policy 4017.1- Hardship Wage Advancement

- Ms. Vargas moved to approve the Second Reading and Approval of Policy Board Policy 4017.1- Hardship Wage Advancement.

- Mr. Caouette seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers reminded the board that this policy provides the guidelines for salary advances based on hardship. The policy was brought forward for a first reading at a previous meeting, and no changes were requested.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

16. Action: Second Reading and Approval of Board Policy 4018.1 - ASBs, Booster Clubs, and PTO/As

- Mr. Caouette moved to approve the Second Reading and Approval of Board Policy 4018.1 - ASBs, Booster Clubs, and PTO/As.
- Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.
- Discussion: Trevor Johnson reminded the board that this policy provides the regulations for ASBs, Booster Clubs and PTO/As on our campuses. At a prior meeting, the policy was presented for first reading, with no requested adjustments.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

17. Board Comments

- Ms. Nagelvoort: I would like to invite everyone to participate in the second annual Walk Like MADD, sponsored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving, on April 6 in remembrance of Ivo Caouette's son, Garrett, who was killed by a drunk driver.
- Mr. Schneider: I've heard of vaping being an issue at schools in the local area. Has Springs experienced this?
 - Dr. Hermsmeyer indicated that Springs has experienced this at some of our campuses. Monica Lopez indicated that this has not been a major issue at the Rancho Cucamonga site.

18. Action: Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

- Ms. Vela moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 a.m.
- Ms. Vargas seconded.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Caouette, Mendez, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas, Vela; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted



 Michelle Nagelvoort, Secretary

March 14, 2024

 Date