

**NATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
GOVERNING BOARD**

December 14, 2021

6:00 PM

Administrative Center

1500 "N" Avenue

National City, CA 91950

<https://youtu.be/BrxE64vyNgw>

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President, Ms. Maria Dalla, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

**2. CLOSED SESSION ROLL CALL**

**Attendance taken at 4:03 p.m.:**

Present:

Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda

Ms. Maria Dalla

Ms. Michelle Gates

Ms. Rocina Lizarraga

Ms. Alma Sarmiento

Mrs. Jocelyn Gomez took roll call.

**3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS-CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

None

**4. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

**5. CLOSED SESSION- 4:00 P.M.**

Closed session was held from 4:03 p.m. to 5:58 p.m.

In Closed Session the Board voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Maria Garcia as the new Coordinator of Student Support Services.

In Closed Session the Board voted unanimously to approve a compromise agreement and release in OAH Case Number 2021090575. The agreement includes funds for special education services and fees in exchange for a waiver of claims against the District.

In Closed Session the Board voted unanimously to approve a compromise agreement and release in OAH Case Number 2021090690. The agreement includes funds for special education services and fees in exchange for a waiver of claims against the District.

## **6. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

## **7. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President, Ms. Maria Dalla, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

## **8. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board President, Ms. Maria Dalla, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **9. OPEN SESSION ROLL CALL**

Attendance taken at 6:03 p.m.:

Present:

Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda

Ms. Maria Dalla

Ms. Michelle Gates

Ms. Rocina Lizarraga

Ms. Alma Sarmiento

Mrs. Jocelyn Gomez took roll call.

## **10. ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

### **10.A. Election of Board President.**

**Motion Passed:** Election of Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda for Board President passed with a motion by Ms. Alma Sarmiento and a second by Ms. Michelle Gates.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda

Yes Ms. Maria Dalla

Yes Ms. Michelle Gates

Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga

Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

### **10.B. Election of Board Clerk.**

**Motion Passed:** Election of Ms. Alma Sarmiento as Board Clerk passed with a motion by Ms. Michelle Gates and a second by Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda

Yes Ms. Maria Dalla

Yes Ms. Michelle Gates

Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga

Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

**10.C. Appointment of Secretary to the Governing Board: Leighangela Brady, Ed.D., District Superintendent.**

**Motion Passed:** Appointment of Leighangela Brady, Ed.D., District Superintendent, as Secretary to the Governing Board passed with a motion by Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda and a second by Ms. Rocina Lizarraga.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda  
Yes Ms. Maria Dalla  
Yes Ms. Michelle Gates  
Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga  
Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

**10.D. Approve the National School District Governing Board meeting schedule for the 2022 calendar year.**

**Motion Passed:** Approval of the National School District Governing Board meeting schedule for the 2022 calendar year passed with a motion by Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda and a second by Ms. Alma Sarmiento.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda  
Yes Ms. Maria Dalla  
Yes Ms. Michelle Gates  
Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga  
Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

**11. PRINCIPAL RETIREMENT RECOGNITION**

**11.A. Honor Principals, Ms. Sonia Ruan and Ms. Luz Vicario on their retirement.**

Dr. Brady and Executive Cabinet honored Ms. Sonia Ruan and Ms. Luz Vicario on their retirement.

Governing Board members shared their appreciation for their service to the District.

Public Speaker: Dr. George Cameron, former Superintendent, spoke in honor of Ms. Sonia Ruan and Ms. Luz Vicario.

**12. RECESS**

At 6:52 p.m., Board Member Dalla called the meeting to a recess.

At 7:08 p.m., President Betancourt-Castañeda reconvened the public meeting.

### **13. PRESENTATIONS**

#### **13.A. Introduce and welcome the new employees.**

Dr. Leticia Hernandez, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, introduced and welcomed the new employees.

Board President, Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda, presented new employees present with a District pin.

### **14. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

None

### **15. AGENDA**

#### **15.A. Accept Agenda.**

**Motion Passed:** Acceptance of Agenda passed with a motion by Ms. Maria Dalla and a second by Ms. Rocina Lizarraga.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda

Yes Ms. Maria Dalla

Yes Ms. Michelle Gates

Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga

Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

### **16. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA/ROUTINE ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**Motion Passed:** Approval of Consent Agenda passed with a motion by Ms. Michelle Gates and a second by Ms. Maria Dalla.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda

Yes Ms. Maria Dalla

Yes Ms. Michelle Gates

Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga

Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

#### **16.A. Minutes**

**16.A.I. Approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on November 10, 2021.**

**16.A.II. Approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on November 16, 2021.**

**16.A.III. Approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on November 23, 2021.**

#### **16.B. Administration**

#### **16.C. Human Resources**

**16.C.I. Ratify/approve recommended actions in personnel activity list.**

**16.C.II. Accept the employee resignations/retirements.**

**16.D. Educational Services**

**16.E. Business Services**

**16.E.I. Ratify/approve purchase orders, contracts and warrants as summarized and detailed in Exhibit A.**

**17. POLICIES, REGULATIONS, BYLAWS**

**17.A. Adopt Administrative Regulation 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP).**

**Motion Passed:** Following discussion, adoption of Administrative Regulation 1312.4 - passed with a motion by Ms. Maria Dalla and a second by Ms. Michelle Gates.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda

Yes Ms. Maria Dalla

Yes Ms. Michelle Gates

Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga

Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

**17.B. Adopt updates to Administrative Regulation 1312.3 Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) Policies and Procedures for the National School District.**

**Motion Passed:** Adoption of updates to Administrative Regulation 1312.3 passed with a motion by Ms. Michelle Gates and a second by Ms. Maria Dalla.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda

Yes Ms. Maria Dalla

Yes Ms. Michelle Gates

Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga

Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

**18. GENERAL FUNCTIONS**

**18.A. Nominate candidates as representatives to the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly from Region 17.**

**Motion Passed:** Nominate Maria Betancourt-Castañeda as representatives to the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly from Region 17 passed with a motion by Ms. Maria Dalla and a second by Ms. Alma Sarmiento.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda

Yes Ms. Maria Dalla

Yes Ms. Michelle Gates

Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga

Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

**Motion Passed:** Nominate Rocina Lizarraga as representatives to the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly from Region 17 passed with a motion by Ms. Rocina Lizarraga and a second by Ms. Michelle Gates.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda

Yes Ms. Maria Dalla

Yes Ms. Michelle Gates

Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga

Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

**Motion Passed:** Nominate Marco Amaral as representatives to the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly from Region 17 passed with a motion by Ms. Michelle Gates and a second by Ms. Alma Sarmiento.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda

Yes Ms. Maria Dalla

Yes Ms. Michelle Gates

Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga

Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

**Motion Passed:** Nominate Tamara Otero as representatives to the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly from Region 17 passed with a motion by Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda and a second by Ms. Maria Dalla.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda

Yes Ms. Maria Dalla

Yes Ms. Michelle Gates

Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga

Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

## **19. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

**19.A. Adopt Resolution #21-22.14 to authorize a Continued Funding Application and authorize a contract for California State Preschool Program for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023.**

**Motion Passed:** Adoption of Resolution #21-22.14 passed with a motion by Ms. Alma Sarmiento and a second by Ms. Rocina Lizarraga.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda

Yes Ms. Maria Dalla

Yes Ms. Michelle Gates

Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga

Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

**19.B. Approve the 2021-2022 School Plan for Student Achievement and Title I School Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Compact for Lincoln Acres, John Otis, Central, and Ira Harbison schools.**

**Motion Passed:** Approval of the 2021-2022 School Plan for Student Achievement and Title I School Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Compact for Lincoln Acres, John Otis, Central, and Ira Harbison schools passed with a motion by Ms. Michelle Gates and a second by Ms. Maria Dalla.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda  
Yes Ms. Maria Dalla  
Yes Ms. Michelle Gates  
Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga  
Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

**19.C. Amend contract #CT3125 with SAVE-A-HEART to provide National School District staff CPR/AED/First Aid online training for the 2021-2022 school year.**

**Motion Passed:** Following discussion, amendment of contract #CT3125 passed with a motion by Ms. Michelle Gates and a second by Ms. Alma Sarmiento.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda  
Yes Ms. Maria Dalla  
Yes Ms. Michelle Gates  
Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga  
Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

**19.D. Amend contract #CT3824 with Pediatric Therapy Associates to provide specialized academic instruction support and services during the 2021-2022 school year.**

**Motion Passed:** Amendment of contract #CT3824 passed with a motion by Ms. Maria Dalla and a second by Ms. Rocina Lizarraga.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda  
Yes Ms. Maria Dalla  
Yes Ms. Michelle Gates  
Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga  
Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

**19.E. Approve contract #CT3909 agreement for disclosure and use of data between California Department of Health Care Services, National School District, and Practi-Cal, Inc. for purposes of the Local Education Agency Medi-Cal billing reimbursement program.**

**Motion Passed:** Approval of contract #CT3909 passed with a motion by Ms. Michelle Gates and a second by Ms. Alma Sarmiento.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda  
Yes Ms. Maria Dalla  
Yes Ms. Michelle Gates  
Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga  
Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

**19.F. Approve the purchase of a one year extended warranty (January 2022 through December 2022) for ASUS Chromebooks from CDW-G LLC.**

**Motion Passed:** Following discussion, approval of the purchase of a one year extended warranty for ASUS Chromebooks from CDW-G LLC passed with a motion by Ms. Maria Dalla and a second by Ms. Michelle Gates.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda

Yes Ms. Maria Dalla

Yes Ms. Michelle Gates

Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga

Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

**19.G. Approve contract #CT3911 with Edupoint to provide professional development training for the 2021-2022 school year.**

**Motion Passed:** Approval of contract #CT3911 passed with a motion by Ms. Michelle Gates and a second by Ms. Alma Sarmiento.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda

Yes Ms. Maria Dalla

Yes Ms. Michelle Gates

Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga

Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

**20. HUMAN RESOURCES**

**20.A. Approve Memorandum of Understanding with the National City Elementary Teachers Association and National School District for negotiated impact and effects related to COVID-19 safety protocols and independent study due to COVID-19 for the 2021-2022 school year.**

**Motion Passed:** Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the National City Elementary Teachers Association and National School District passed with a motion by Ms. Maria Dalla and a second by Ms. Rocina Lizarraga.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda

Yes Ms. Maria Dalla

Yes Ms. Michelle Gates

Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga

Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

**20.B. Approve increased rate of pay for retired National School District certificated teacher substitutes.**

**Motion Passed:** Following discussion, approval of increased rate of pay for retired National School District certificated teacher substitutes passed with a motion by Ms. Maria Dalla and a second by Ms. Michelle Gates.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda  
Yes Ms. Maria Dalla  
Yes Ms. Michelle Gates  
Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga  
Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

**20.C. Authorize additional services with SWING Education for substitute services for the 2021-2022 school year.**

**Motion Passed:** Authorization for additional services with SWING Education passed with a motion by Ms. Michelle Gates and a second by Ms. Rocina Lizarraga.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda  
Yes Ms. Maria Dalla  
Yes Ms. Michelle Gates  
Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga  
Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

**20.D. Adopt Resolution #21-22.15 recognizing and celebrating Juneteenth Day of Observance.**

**Motion Passed:** Adoption of Resolution #21-22.15 passed with a motion by Ms. Michelle Gates and a second by Ms. Alma Sarmiento.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda  
Yes Ms. Maria Dalla  
Yes Ms. Michelle Gates  
Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga  
Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

## **21. BUSINESS SERVICES**

### **21.A. Report on and approval of the Positive Certification and Budget Revisions for the First Period Interim Financial Report as of October 31, 2021. (Exhibit B)**

Mr. Arik Avanesyans, gave a presentation on the Positive Certification and Budget Revisions for the First Period Interim Financial Report as of October 31, 2021.

**Motion Passed:** Following discussion, approval of the Positive Certification and Budget Revisions for the First Period Interim Financial Report as of October 31, 2021 passed with a motion by Ms. Michelle Gates and a second by Ms. Maria Dalla.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda  
Yes Ms. Maria Dalla  
Yes Ms. Michelle Gates  
Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga  
Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

### **21.B. Approve the District Annual Developer Fee Report for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.**

**Motion Passed:** Approval of the District Annual Developer Fee Report passed with a motion by Ms. Maria Dalla and a second by Ms. Michelle Gates.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda  
Yes Ms. Maria Dalla  
Yes Ms. Michelle Gates  
Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga  
Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

### **21.C. Approve Educator Effectiveness Block Grant Plan for National School District.**

**Motion Passed:** Approval of the Educator Effectiveness Block Grant Plan passed with a motion by Ms. Maria Dalla and a second by Ms. Rocina Lizarraga.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda  
Yes Ms. Maria Dalla  
Yes Ms. Michelle Gates  
Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga  
Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

### **21.D. Approve updates to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III (ESSER III) Expenditure Plan.**

**Motion Passed:** Approval of the updates to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III (ESSER III) Expenditure Plan passed with a motion by Ms. Michelle Gates and a second by Ms. Alma Sarmiento.

Yes Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda  
Yes Ms. Maria Dalla  
Yes Ms. Michelle Gates  
Yes Ms. Rocina Lizarraga  
Yes Ms. Alma Sarmiento

## 22. BOARD/CABINET COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Dalla wished a happy retirement to Ms. Sonia Ruan and Ms. Luz Vicario. She welcomed the new employees. She shared that she attended the California School Boards Association Annual Education Conference. She congratulated the newly appointed Board President and Clerk.

Ms. Lizarraga welcomed the new employees. She thanked Ms. Kathy Melanese for having her be part of Lincoln Acres School parent meeting. She wished a happy retirement to Ms. Sonia Ruan and Ms. Luz Vicario. She wished everyone happy holidays. She congratulated teacher, Ms. Christina Benson for the work with her students in putting together a mural. She congratulated the newly appointed Board President and Clerk.

Ms. Gates wished a happy retirement to Ms. Sonia Ruan and Ms. Luz Vicario. She welcomed the new employees. She thanked Dr. Hernandez and the labor unions for their commitment they make to bargaining. She thanked Mr. Avanesyans for his presentations this evening. She shared that she attended the California School Boards Association Annual Education Conference. She honored and remembered the 9th anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School and the recent Oxford High School shootings. She wished everyone happy holidays and a great winter break.

Ms. Sarmiento wished Mrs. Jocelyn Gomez an early happy birthday. She wished everyone happy holidays and a great winter break.

Mr. Avanesyans thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the California School Boards Association Annual Education Conference. He thanked the Maintenance and Operations department for their hard work. He thanked teacher, Ms. Somer Bizzle for the tamales.

Dr. Hernandez welcomed the new employees. She congratulated and wished a happy retirement to Ms. Sonia Ruan and Ms. Luz Vicario. She thanked the Central and Ira Harbison school teachers and students who participated in the "*What brings you joy?*" project. She wished everyone happy holidays.

Dr. Kraft welcomed the new employees. She wished a happy retirement to Ms. Sonia Ruan and Ms. Luz Vicario. She congratulated the newly appointed Board President and Clerk. She thanked principals, Ms. Young and Mr. Sanchez along with the Educational Services department for their hard work in meeting Federal Program Monitoring (FPM) deadlines. She wished everyone a happy holiday break.

Dr. Brady thanked Ms. Dalla for her service as Board President and Ms. Betancourt-Castañeda for her service as Clerk. She congratulated the newly appointed Board President and Clerk. She mentioned \$2 million in bond dollars that are allocated for safety including locks and blinds for all the schools. She thanked Dr. Hernandez for continuing the School Safety Committee. She reminded everyone that the State mandate for face coverings will go into effect tomorrow. She wished Mrs. Jocelyn Gomez an early happy birthday. She wished everyone happy holidays.

Ms. Betancourt-Castañeda wished Mrs. Jocelyn Gomez an early happy birthday. She shared that she attended her first in-person Delegate meeting. She shared that she attended the California School Boards Association Annual Education Conference. She wished a happy retirement to Ms. Sonia Ruan and Ms. Luz Vicario. She welcomed the new employees. She thanked the Maintenance and Operations department for their hard work. She thanked Mr. Avanesyans for his presentations this evening. She wished Noah Brady a happy birthday. She wished her husband a happy belated birthday. She wished everyone happy holidays. She congratulated Dr. Brady for receiving the Classroom of the Future Foundation Innovative Superintendent Award for the 18th Annual Innovation in Education Awards, and presented her with a flower arrangement.

### **23. ADJOURNMENT**

Closed session was held from 4:03 p.m. to 5:58 p.m. and 8:46 p.m. to 8:54 p.m.

In Closed Session the Board voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Maria Garcia as the new Coordinator of Student Support Services.

In Closed Session the Board voted unanimously to approve a compromise agreement and release in OAH Case Number 2021090575. The agreement includes funds for special education services and fees in exchange for a waiver of claims against the District.

In Closed Session the Board voted unanimously to approve a compromise agreement and release in OAH Case Number 2021090690. The agreement includes funds for special education services and fees in exchange for a waiver of claims against the District.

Board President, Ms. Maria Betancourt-Castañeda, adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

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Clerk of the Governing Board

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Secretary to the Governing Board