

Santa Ana Unified School District
1601 East Chestnut Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92701

MINUTES

Special Board Meeting/School Budget Town Hall
Santa Ana Board of Education

Monday, August 29, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Board President Rodriguez opened up the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Other members in attendance were Mrs. Amezcua and Mr. Palacio

Ms. Torres and Dr. Alvarez were absent.

Cabinet members in attendance were Superintendent Almendarez, Ms. Flores, Dr. Llamas, Ms. Barquin, and Mr. Williams.

Dr. Perez, Ms. Marking, and Dr. Olamendi were absent.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A public speaker addressed the Board regarding the school lunch menu.

PRESENTATION

Dr. Sonia Llamas, Assistant Superintendent, K-12 School Performance and Culture and Johnny Leuta, Controller, provided a presentation the District's Local Control Accountability Plan to show how the District is funding various initiatives to support the Board priorities that help meet the academic needs and well-being of students. They highlighted the different revenue sources and how funding for SAUSD can vary each year depending on several external factors. Board members asked questions and provided individual input.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Llamas read out questions that were submitted prior to the meeting and staff members provided answers. Public speakers addressed HVAC, Refresh account at Jefferson, the need for desks at Jefferson, need for library and gym at McFadden Institute of Technology, special education issues, crossing guards, safety at MIT, school police and possible involvement with PAAL & DARE, and substitutes. Speakers also addressed the needs at Jefferson like funding, automatic gate, golf cart, desks, mesh for fencing, funding for computer technicians to start earlier, field trips, and asked for guidance as to what parents need to do to have site funds allocated. In addition, speakers addressed the needs at Santa Ana High School that includes the band program funding, VAPA, lack of activity monitors, federal grant dollars for crossing guards, open shared spaces with the City of Santa Ana, joint-use parking with the City of Santa Ana, budget, campus safety, school lunch menus, school site administrators, Principal at Lincoln Elementary School, Century High School music program, funding for physical education (PE) and books, notification of meetings, low academic levels in elementary schools, and the need for funding for elementary schools.

Mrs. Amezcua recommended that Superintendent consider the request for mesh covering at Jefferson Elementary School, checking that technology is working at all school sites, assessment of campus security, request for more information on the crossing guard block grant with the City of Santa Ana, and consideration of District's capacity to do more in lieu of GRIP.

Mr. Palacio encouraged the community to be more proactive with respect to the budget. He suggested that each school site should have their respective budgets posted on their school website. He addressed the downgrade in music programs, lack of activity supervisors, crossing guards, hiring specialized staff, ESSER funds allocation, hiring of special education staff, technology, parent involvement, relationship with the City of Santa Ana, safety issues, the need for police officers and district safety officers, safety trainings, and methods of communication for the community.

Dr. Rodriguez thanked the community for their participation and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to inform how the budget is set and the influence it has on the budget for next year. He announced that there will be school site listening sessions in October and November to address the unique needs of school site budgets. Dr. Rodriguez added that there are certain things that were heard today that could be addressed today with this year's budget. Lastly, he shared that he trusts Cabinet and Superintendent will ensure a bottom up impact.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business come before the Board, Dr. Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST: _____


Superintendent