

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GAYLORD A. NELSON EDUCATION CENTER / BOARD ROOM  
2901 ARCH-AIRPORT ROAD / STOCKTON, CA  
JULY 15, 2015 / 12:00 P.M.  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Janet Dyk, President; Vernon Gebhardt, Vice-President; Dave Sorgent, Board member; Mark Thiel, Board member; Peter Ottesen, Board member; James Mousalimas, Secretary.

OTHERS PRESENT: Gary Dei Rossi, Karen DePrater, Wendy Frink, Ron Estes, Nancy Hopple, Kelly Fry, SJCOE staff; Nancy Teicheira, Manteca Unified School District Governing Board member; Bonnie King and Terry Cumpian, Lincoln Unified School District; Bill Draa, Ripon Unified School District Superintendent; Aimee Perry, Attorney at Law; Chet Quaide, Attorney at Law; Interdistrict transfer hearing appellants and families; Expulsion hearing appellants, representative, and families; Janai Stanton, Recorder.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

President Thiel called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Board member Ottesen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: There were no additions to the agenda.

III. COMMENTS:

Superintendent Mousalimas introduced Dr. Ronald Estes, the new Division Director of Operations and Support Services.

IV. ANNUAL ORGANIZATION MEETING:

1. Election of Officers and Appointments: On a motion from Dave Sorgent, second by Pete Ottesen, the Board elected the following officers for the 2015 - 2016 school year: Janet Dyk, President; Vern Gebhardt, Vice-President; and James Mousalimas, Secretary.

On a motion from Mark Thiel, second by Dave Sorgent, the Board appointed Pete Ottesen as the representative on the Venture Academy Family of Schools Charter Board and Vern Gebhardt as the board representative on **one**.Charter and San Joaquin County Building Futures Academy.

Outgoing President Thiel was presented with a pen in honor of his year of dedicated service as President of the San Joaquin County Board of Education.

AYES: Dyk, Gebhardt, Sorgent, Thiel, Ottesen  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

## V. PUBLIC HEARING:

2. Charter School Petition: President Dyk called the public hearing to order and requested public input relative to the River Islands Technology Academy #2 (RiTechA #2) petition, which has been submitted to the San Joaquin County Board of Education on appeal.

*Kathy Scholl*, lead petitioner, introduced the charter petition indicating that it is before the County Board due to the denial of the petition by the Banta Elementary School District Governing Board and that it is imperative to change the governance aspects of the charter petition. Ms. Scholl explained that the motto of the school is “college bound” and upon graduation from the school all students will be prepared to attend college or a career technical school. She said that there are 525 students currently enrolled at the school and there are 400 students on a waiting list. The school has the support of the River Islands developers who have come to the rescue in terms of constructing a brand new site due to the changes brought about by the denial of the current petition. Ms. Scholl said that she believes the petition stands on its own and meets the criteria and legal ramifications of charter school law.

*Lisa Goodwin*, a RiTechA #2 founder, parent of two students at the school, and spouse of a teacher at the school, spoke of the curriculum, cutting-edge technology, teacher and parent training, student interest-based activities/clubs, and volunteer opportunities the school provides for the entire program that focuses on the whole child. She added that an approval of this petition would provide a more sustainable governance structure that is able to uphold such a program.

*Herb Moniz*, RiTechA #2’s Executive Director and Board member, described his experience pertaining to executive management and administration in both the public and private sector, which translates well in terms of budgets and financial administration.

*Yasmeen ElFarra*, a RiTechA #2 sixth grade student, said she is excited to go back to school and she, after attending two other schools before this, believes this is the best education and learning environment she has ever experienced. She described the technology that is available to make presentations and practice English and Math, adding that the teachers are amazing, very nice, and understanding. She is excited to know the school is gearing her up for college.

*Summer Simon*, a first grade teacher at RiTechA #2, said the staff is dedicated, resourceful, goal-driven, and works hard to develop exceptional professional relationships with parents, students, staff, and administrators. She reported that all teachers tutor students after school, attend professional development sessions every Wednesday afternoon, and study student data in order to create a cooperative community in the classroom.

*Michelle Crippen*, Assistant Principal at RiTechA #2, reported that she supports the school site council and English/Language Arts Department. She works with the Manteca police and fire departments to provide a safe school site and, she said, the school has just been awarded a \$10,000 grant from Tracy Hospital Foundation and Sutter Health for programs supporting health and wellness.

*Susan Dell'Osso*, Board President and RiTechA #2 developer, described her background in the development of the original charter petition, the denial to change the governance structure, and her subsequent involvement in the current petition, the new school site, and the surrounding community. She described her expectations in terms of financial support, indicating that she will continue to provide financial and emotional support. She added that the change in governance is essential to the continued success of the school.

*Bennie Gatto*, a community member, said that RiTechA #2 is an asset to the community. He said he has attended many events at the school and he sees special enthusiasm and dedication at this school. He said he is confident the school will continue with its outstanding work and he requested support for the proposal.

*Brenda Scholl*, Principal at RiTechA #2, briefly reviewed the rigorous academic program, the school calendar, student support via technology, testing scores, special education services, instructional minutes, business operations, audit results, and ADA percentages. She reported that a new facility is currently under construction and acknowledged the support of Susan Dell'Osso and her team from River Islands, as she showed a video that illustrated the construction of the new school site.

Superintendent Mousalimas added that Dr. Dei Rossi and SJCOE staff would thoroughly review the petition application using SJCOE's evaluation rubric and present their findings at the next Board meeting.

## VI. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR INFORMATION:

3. Williams Uniform Complaints Quarterly Report: Superintendent Mousalimas presented this quarterly report that indicates there were no complaints received regarding the schools and programs operated by the San Joaquin County Office of Education between mid-April and mid-July.



On a motion from Mark Thiel, second by Vern Gebhardt, the Board ordered that the Ripon Unified School District expunge all district and student records of any reference to the expulsion action and such expulsion shall be deemed not to have occurred.

AYES: Dyk, Gebhardt, Sorgent, Thiel, Ottesen  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

8. Expulsion Appeal Hearing #15-16/02: On a motion from Mark Thiel, second by Pete Ottesen, the Board reversed the decision by the Governing Board of the Ripon Unified School District and ordered the reinstatement of student #15-16/02.

AYES: Dyk, Gebhardt, Sorgent, Thiel, Ottesen  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

On a motion from Mark Thiel, second by Vern Gebhardt, the Board ordered that the Ripon Unified School District expunge all district and student records of any reference to the expulsion action and such expulsion shall be deemed not to have occurred.

AYES: Dyk, Gebhardt, Sorgent, Thiel, Ottesen  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

9. Expulsion Appeal Hearing #15-16/03: On a motion from Mark Thiel, second by Vern Gebhardt, the Board reversed the decision by the Governing Board of the Ripon Unified School District and ordered the reinstatement of student #15-16/03.

AYES: Dyk, Gebhardt, Sorgent, Thiel, Ottesen  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

On a motion from Mark Thiel, second by Vern Gebhardt, the Board ordered that the Ripon Unified School District expunge all district and student records of any reference to the expulsion action and such expulsion shall be deemed not to have occurred.

AYES: Dyk, Gebhardt, Sorgent, Thiel, Ottesen  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

IX. CLOSING COMMENTS FOR BOARD MEMBERS:

- The next regular San Joaquin County Board of Education meeting will be held August 19, 5:00 p.m., at 2901 Arch-Airport Road, Stockton, CA.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Mousalimas  
Secretary to the Board /  
County Superintendent of Schools