
BOARD NOTES

Board of Education Regular Meeting – Thurs., March 3, 2022

Board Notes is provided as a public information service from the Office of the Superintendent and is intended to provide an immediate summary of the Board of Education's action and discussion on significant projects and services from the most recent board meeting. Not all items that were listed on the board agenda are included in this report. Please contact the Superintendent's Office (310.450.8338 x70229) with questions about this summary.

Upcoming board meetings in March 2022:

- Wed., March 9, 2022, 7 p.m. (special meeting via Zoom)
- Thurs., March. 17, 2022, 5:30 p.m. (regular meeting at the DO for board members and executive staff and via Zoom for all other staff and members of the public)
- Tues., March. 22, 2022, 5 p.m. (special meeting via Zoom)

The board took action on the following:

- The board adopted four resolutions that correspond with March each year. The first is in honor of Women's Herstory/History Month, recognizing the contributions women have made in our nation regarding education and equality. The second commemorates National Middle School Month, highlighting the special and unique experiences young adolescents navigate while in middle school and the importance of educators to support our middle schoolers' physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth. The third recognizes Art and Music in Our Schools Month, which celebrates the renowned VAPA programs that exist in our district. The fourth recognizes César Chávez Day, whose birthday was on March 31.
- As part of an annual legal process, the board adopted a series of resolutions that authorize the Human Resources Dept. to notify specific certificated temporary and probationary staff that their services might not be required for 2022-23. This notification must be completed by March 15 each year.
- The board adopted the Second Interim Budget Report for the 2021-22 budget. This report, which all districts must produce and adopt, certifies that we are able to meet our financial obligations for the remainder of this fiscal year and for the subsequent two fiscal years. Staff provided information on the difference between the 1st Interim (December) and 2nd Interim (March) reports and a Fiscal Stabilization Plan for 2021-22 and 2022-23, which the county is requiring our district to implement.

The board discussed the following:

- The Special Ed Dept. presented an update on the professional development in which the special ed staff has participated, teaching and classified staff that have been hired, various communications that have been shared with special ed staff, processes that have been streamlined and improved, cost-savings strategies and recommendations from the FCMAT report, legal cases and trends across the state, and the department's vision and steps to achieve that vision.
- The Santa Monica High School administrators and English Department leads shared the rationale behind detracking 9th and 10th grade English, a strategy which aims to increase equity among student learning experiences.

Special Note:

- In honor of Art and Music in Our Schools Month, SMASH teacher Genie Hwaung introduced three students, Sahar Aguilar, Ruzz Lee, and Darcy O'Connel, who shared their passion projects, which incorporated photography, music, and sewing.
- The board opened the meeting in memory of Scott Ferguson, a former SMMUSD parent and long-time member of the Visual and Performing Arts DAC.