

TWIN RIDGES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

16661 Old Mill Rd., Nevada City, California

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th, 2023 4:00 PM GRIZZLY HILL SCHOOL

	1.	CALL TO ORDER: 4:07pm		
	2.	ROLL CALL		
		Malik Goodman Aubrey Puetz Mindi Morton Lorien Whitestone Jonathan Farrell	President Clerk NCSOS Representative/Timekeeper Member Member	present absent present absent present
	3.	ATTENDEES: Superintendent Scott Mikal, CBO Sunshine Bender, Morgan Street		
<i>Action</i>	4.	APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 12th, 2023 REGULAR AGENDA – Malik Goodman		
		<p>Request to move Owens Financial Report to between 7A and 7B.</p> <p>Request to re-open superintendent evaluation in closed session.</p> <p>Request to add non-action item after 8N: Education Protection Account.</p> <p>Mindi Morton makes a motion to approve the September 12, 2023 Regular Agenda with the additional requested changes, Jonathan Farrell seconds, motion carries as follows: (3/0/2/0)</p> <p>Malik Goodman - YES Aubrey Puetz - ABSENT Mindi Morton - YES Lorien Whitestone - ABSENT Jonathan Farrell - YES</p>		
	5.	PUBLIC COMMENT		
		<p>The Board of Trustees welcomes comments and suggestions from the public. While no action may be taken by the Board concerning items not on the agenda, comments are important for District information and for possible future action. Due to time considerations, the chair may request that comments by an individual be limited to two</p>		

minutes. Suggestions and comments from the public regarding items listed on this agenda should be raised during the comment period for the specific agenda item. (Education Code 35145.5; Bylaw 9322, Government Code 54954.3)


Grizzly Hill School 1st/2nd grade teacher Sierra Clemens reports on goings on in her class. Notes that I-ready is helpful and an upgrade from last year’s program (Prodigy), students in her class enjoy using it. She is relieved that the year is going really well, behavior is really good, students in her class are kind and able to play together. She notes that she is able to have more valuable class time, able to see more growth opportunities. All thank Sierra for the update.


Danielle (parent of a K student) voices some concerns about new changes, namely that there is no reading specialist anymore and library is absent, K class is too large. She notes that she chose to move here to have smaller class size and more connection with the community.


Malik Goodman makes a comment that the organizational nature of TK/K is being discussed and the plan is to logistically have smaller class sizes.

Danielle asks for clarity on the library issue. Malik Goodman states this is not on the agenda today, but it will be soon. Danielle notes that parents should be part of the discussion and want input. Malik Goodman says we could put time aside for public comment on the issue. Scott Mikal agrees.

Action **6. CONSENT ITEMS.** *These items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. The Board will act upon them at one time without discussion. Any Board member, staff member or interested party may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.*

Action **A.** Approval of the August 8th Board Meeting Minutes 

Action **B.** Approval of the August 21st Special Meeting Minutes 

Action **C.** Approval of the August Warrants 

Mindi Morton makes a motion to approve 6A, 6B, and 6C.

Jonathan Farrell asks to amend certain minutes to better represent a specific sentiment, and feels that existing minutes abbreviated the intended meaning.

Lorien Whitestone arrives at 4:19pm

Jonathan Farrell identifies the section in question: August 8th meeting, section 6G, topic of immunizations, “Are we liable?”. Jonathan Farrell requests additional language to be added regarding the issue of liability, specifying what liability is for. Jonathan Farrell states that he asked if we were liable for not providing the services of education to said students.

Discussion of the level of detail needed in minutes, direct quotes vs. capturing action and context.

Mindi Morton makes a new motion to approve 6A, 6B, and 6C with the added change to wording to previous minutes. Jonathan Farrell seconds, motion carries as follows: (4/0/1/0)

Malik Goodman - YES
 Aubrey Puetz - ABSENT
 Mindi Morton - YES
 Lorien Whitestone - YES
 Jonathan Farrell - YES

7. REPORTS

Report

A. Family Resource Center Report -*Diana Pasquini*

Diana Pasquini not present. Move to Owens Financial Report (7H)

Report

B. Superintendent/Principal Report -*Scott Mikal-Heine*

Scott Mikal presents updates: Credit to Shelline Martines for being on top of attendance, which has been up. SEL community of practice led by Adam Pearcy. Tier 2 PBIS team. Alan Staub relationship building SEL in classes as well as in service for staff. Intervention and I-Ready is moving along, and is very enlightening for teachers to give individualized learning. Combo classrooms make it complex, we will be assessing next steps at the staff meeting tomorrow. PE is going very well, thanks to Sammi Condo. Enrichment/electives are rolling for all grades: art, music, yearbook, PE helper, garden. Shout out to the nutrition staff. Sam Hinrichs was awarded the golden state teacher grant award. Cori Hobbs was awarded teacher of the year. Sports will include boys basketball, girls basketball, and girls volleyball. PD days are lined up with training next week (Sept 21/22).

The Washington after school program is running. Successfully negotiated backflow preventer installation and tractor maintenance in exchange for tractor use.

Contacts at NCSOS are supporting TRESA to develop the Community Schools and ELOP programs and associated staff roles.

Report

C. Current Enrollment - Grizzly Hill School

Grade	TK/K	1/2	3/4	5/6	7/8	Total
Students	3/21	11/13	14/15	12/13	5/10	117
Teacher	Caughey	Clemens	Hobbs	Pearcy	Hinrichs	

Trustees express concern about large class sizes. Class size can be discussed as a future agenda item, including thresholds and actions.

Report

D. Little Acorns Preschool -*Pam Langley*

		Pam Langley not present, Scott presents. T/Th still light on attendance.	
Report	E.	Teacher's Report/Field Trip - <i>Scott Mikal-Heine/Staff</i>	
		No teacher present to report. Brief discussion of scheduled field trips.	
Report	F.	Parent Teacher Club Report - <i>Sunshine Bender</i>	
		Nothing to report.	
Report	G.	Student Services Report - <i>Cindy Browning</i>	
		Cindy Browning reports that I-Ready testing has been completed. My Path is the next step that is catered to every student at their level. Teachers will help come up with ideas on how implementation will work best in their classrooms. SPED need is growing. Discussion of mileage reimbursement process for transport, Sunshine Bender overseeing it.	
Report	H.	Owens Financial Report - <i>Peter Ketchand</i>	
		Peter Ketchand presents a statement on deeper policy issues related to the financial report. Written statement that was read aloud: "The original purpose of my attendance today was to take care of some administrative issues. However, before that, I believe that there are some deeper policy issues that need to be addressed in terms of the current investment mandate. Before we dive into those, I would like to review some of the history of the current mandate as background. From the earliest discussions on the current mandate, both the Board of Directors and the Superintendent/Principal were in alignment with the key precepts that would define the mandate. They wanted to manage it separately from the county. Specifically, there was concern that excess reserve funds may be reclaimed by the state. The interest rate environment was such that the county investments were generating close to zero investment income and that was also of concern. The Board of Directors and the Management Team came to Owens and asked us to review the possibilities and make our best proposal for an investment mandate that would seek to address their requirements. At their request, we engaged in that process. We researched what was possible. We worked with the Board, the Management Team and District Counsel to develop an Investment Policy Statement. We submitted our proposal. Clearly, there were and are elements to the mandate as it is currently structured which allowed it to be managed separately but have also introduced additional administrative and cost requirements. This involved Owens acting as consultant while retaining a third-party manager to manage the bond selection. It involved additional Board review and oversight. I believe that these elements have been revisited and agreed upon as the mandate has progressed.	

At that time, Owens Estate and Wealth decided that we would provide our services at 35% of the standard fee that we charge for similar services. We also worked with the third-party manager to lower their fee as well. We believe that as a local business we should seek to be a good partner for local institutions insomuch as we are able.

It was also discussed at that time, and has continued to be discussed at Board Meetings, that the investment income, especially relative to the county, was dependent on changing market conditions.

The Board decided that they wanted to proceed with the mandate. With that, there have been times where I, as the consultant, have suggested other potential investment options to the board, other than the current mandate. When I discussed the potential suitability of returning to the county during the last rate hiking cycle, both the board and the management team were interested in maintaining separate management within the current structure.

As Board meetings resumed within the Covid era – the interest rate environment had degraded such that I repeatedly recommended that they look at suitable projects to deploy funds. Once again, the decision was to keep things as they are. I have also recommended a bond ladder, which the Management Team could manage themselves thus remaining separate from the county but without the current cost structure and removing the need for outside advisors. However, the result was the same.

More recently, the current rate hiking cycle has once again benefitted the investment policy pursued by the county. I knew that there have been some verbal discussions about the possibility of returning the funds to the county among the Management Team and the Board, but it was my understanding that it had been considered and reviewed and that the decision, as it had been before, was to keep everything the same.

However, after a scheduled meeting last week on Sept 5th that included significant discussion with the current Management Team, it is my determination that the Board and the Management Team are fundamentally no longer in alignment as to the key precepts of the mandate. They no longer agree as to whether a mandate that seeks to keep the funds managed and held separately remains necessary or valid.

That determination is outside my scope as your financial consultant. However, like the Board and the Management Team, as your financial consultant, I do have a fiduciary responsibility with regards to the best interests of the end client which is the School District as represented by both the Board of Directors and the Management Team that they have selected.

With that, I believe that it is prudent for the Board and the Management Team pursue a formal process that will allow them to address the misalignment. There should be agreement on the most basic, key elements of the mandate before further investment decisions are made.

In consultation with Trustee Mindi Morton, the Investment representative as designated by the Board, I am recommending that the Board instruct the Management team to make a written presentation and

proposal and make their case that there is no longer any need to separate the special reserve account from the pooled county funds and have a vote on their recommendation.

If they are able to make their case and convince the Board that it is no longer necessary to have the funds managed separately, then I believe that it would be suitable from an investment standpoint to return the funds to the county mandate, as the part of the mandate which introduces the additional administrative and cost burdens has been deemed to be no longer necessary.

If after review, it is decided that the part of the mandate involving separate management remains necessary, then I believe that it would be prudent to put the mandate out for RFP. This would allow other firms to put forward alternate proposals while also allowing the Board and the Management Team to seek alignment as to the team selected to oversee the mandate. Owens would welcome the opportunity to participate in the process and once again put forward our proposal, so that we might have the opportunity to compete for the mandate going forward.”

Malik Goodman thanks Peter Ketchand, agrees that the past was well represented and appreciates ongoing advice.

Mindi Morton suggests a future agenda item discussing future investment moves.

Scott Mikal references BP 3430: Investing. Malik Goodman requests a future agenda item to discuss BP 3430.



Jonathan Farrell queries if TRES D decides to move partial funds to the county, is this an all or nothing offer from Owens? Peter Ketchand notes that he can't advise on that.

Malik Goodman notes that the purpose was to maintain funds.




Scott Mikal requests a record of the mandate.






Malik Goodman recommends a special meeting to discuss further.



Peter Ketchand clarifies the mandate is the policy surrounding how funds are invested, it is up to the board and the management team to come up with a resolution on how they would like to proceed. Reminder of 600k coming due Sept 30th.


<i>Report</i>	I.	Finance Committee Report from 9/5 meeting	 
		<p>Note to move this report earlier in future meetings. Scott Mikal presents the minutes from the 9/5 finance committee meeting. Clarification that this committee is not about quality of service, it's about improved communication. Calls on the Board to speak up about financial concerns.</p> <p>Malik Goodman notes that the fund was intended to be exhausted, it's unfortunate that it's set up in such a way that we use it to pay our bills. Discussion of reasoning for investments (take backs).</p> <p>Scott Mikal notes that Darlene Waddle should also be part of this conversation for insight on take backs and beyond. Discusses the current board policy regarding the issue. There will be another meeting of the committee, Peter Ketchand's participation is appreciated and needed in these conversations.</p>	

<i>Report</i>	J.	Board Report - <i>Malik Goodman</i>	
		Nothing to report.	
	8.	DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS	
<i>Discussion</i>	A.	Capital Facilities Funding Update - Eastshore	
		<p>Scott Mikal and Michael Riemenschneider present the Capital Facilities Funding update, note that this content justifies a special meeting that will cover facilities, TK/K grant, general obligation bond etc. Scott Mikal and Michael Riemenschneider note the current nature of this as a living working document and emphasize the desire to preserve the March option. TK/K grant identified as key. Report from Williams should be done by the end of the month.</p> <p>Scott Mikal identifies Chris Delong and Michael Riemenscheider as especially important due to the scale of the district and the range of staff availability. Previous FIT report was a step but lacked scope of work as well as monetary amounts.</p> <p>Mindi Morton notes the importance of community contact. Outreach, town halls etc</p> <p>General request for a special meeting to further discuss Capital Facilities Funding.</p> <p>Scott Mikal notes that there are options for facilities funds to be reimbursed through the state. Discussion of past proposals that were not approved because reimbursement was not guaranteed. Scott Mikal notes the intention to spread out funding sources.</p> <p>Discussion of ADA funding.</p> <p>Scott Mikal gives an update on the TK/K grant, after resubmitting got approved for a funding match. Another source of that match could be a general obligation bond. Grizzly Hill currently does not have the facilities to grow yet does have a growing need. Chris Delong will share further TK grant updates at the special meeting.</p> <p>Michael Riemenschneider requests authorization to reach out to attorneys to get initial bids with no commitment. Authorization approved.</p> <p>Scott Mikal refers to his work on previous, similar projects and identifies that the current situation is prime. Further discussion of the need for community outreach. Discussion and debate on community ability and desire to pay.</p> <p>10 minute recess</p>	

<i>Discussion</i>	B.	Report and discussion on prospective Home Study / Independent Study programming.	
		<p>Scott Mikal presents on the status of Home Study / Independent Study programming: interests, reasoning, and facts. There are no new non seat-based charters, some charters are grandfathered in. We need to sell in-person learning and improve our in-person facility, program etc.</p> <p>Discussion of potential for long term independent study. TRES D may operate an independent long term study program, the issue for us is currently financial. Independent study is a much better model for secondary school, not elementary school.</p> <p>Malik Goodman notes that long term independent study is worth looking into it, but perhaps not this year.</p> <p>Discussion on the needs of the community, good candidates for this program.</p> <p>Scott Mikal notes that local home study programs already exist. It currently makes most sense to direct interested families to these programs and invest time and finances into improving in-person programming.</p>	
<i>Discussion/Action</i>	C.	Shall the Board Approve TRES D's Response to the Grand Jury Report titled: <i>Nevada County School Boards: an Educational Opportunity</i>	
		<p>Scott Mikal presents letters and TRES D's response.</p> <p>Lorien Whitestone makes a motion to approve TRES D's Response to the Grand Jury Report titled: <i>Nevada County School Boards: an Educational Opportunity</i>, Mindi Morton seconds, motion carries as follows: (4/0/1/0)</p> <p>Malik Goodman - YES Aubrey Puetz - ABSENT Mindi Morton - YES Lorien Whitestone - YES Jonathan Farrell - YES</p>	
<i>Discussion</i>	D.	EAAP Appeal Summary Review findings, appeal considerations	
		<p>Scott Mikal presents letter and highlights the savings TRES D received, options for repayment.</p> <p>Discussion of next year's audit. This also puts into perspective the vaccine mandate.</p>	
<i>Discussion/Action</i>	E.	Personnel ELOP / Community School / Aide Position	
		Scott presents the Community School Coordinator Job Description, which encompasses the community schools and ELOP programs, both grant funded.	

		<p>This is a 2 year position. NCSOS is supporting the creation of this position.</p> <p>Mindi Morton makes a motion to approve the Community School Coordinator Job Description, Malik Goodman seconds, motion carries as follows: (4/0/1/0)</p> <p>Malik Goodman - YES Aubrey Puetz - ABSENT Mindi Morton - YES Lorien Whitestone - YES Jonathan Farrell - YES</p>	
<i>Discussion/Action</i>	F.	Shall the Board approve the CAL Solar quote - Sept 21/22	
		<p>Mindi Morton makes a motion to approve the Cal Solar Quote, Lorien Whitestone seconds, motion carries as follows: (4/0/1/0)</p> <p>Malik Goodman - YES Aubrey Puetz - ABSENT Mindi Morton - YES Lorien Whitestone - YES Jonathan Farrell - YES</p>	
<i>Discussion/Action</i>	G.	Shall the Board accept CSEA Sunshine reopeners?	 
		<p>Mindi Morton makes a motion to accept CSEA Sunshine Reopeners, Lorien Whitestone seconds, motion carries as follows: (4/0/1/0)</p> <p>Malik Goodman - YES Aubrey Puetz - ABSENT Mindi Morton - YES Lorien Whitestone - YES Jonathan Farrell - YES</p>	
<i>Discussion/Action</i>	H.	Shall the Board approve the Consolidated App?	
		<p>Sunshine Bender presents the Consolidated app.</p> <p>Mindi Morton makes a motion to approve the Consolidated App, Lorien Whitestone seconds, motion carries as follows: (4/0/1/0)</p> <p>Malik Goodman - YES Aubrey Puetz - ABSENT Mindi Morton - YES Lorien Whitestone - YES Jonathan Farrell - YES</p>	
<i>Discussion/Action</i>	I.	Shall the Board approve Unaudited Actuals?	
		Sunshine Bender presents the Unaudited Actuals, outlining highlights.	

		<p>Mindi Morton makes a motion to approve the Unaudited Actuals, Jonathan Farrell seconds, motion carries as follows: (4/0/1/0)</p> <p>Malik Goodman - YES Aubrey Puetz - ABSENT Mindi Morton - YES Lorien Whitestone - YES Jonathan Farrell - YES</p>	
<i>Discussion/Action</i>	J.	Shall the Board approve the Resolution for GANN Limit?	
		<p>Sunshine Bender presents the Resolution for GANN Limit.</p> <p>Mindi Morton makes a motion to approve the Gann Limit Resolution, Malik Goodman seconds, motion passes with a roll call as follows:</p> <p>Malik Goodman - YES Aubrey Puetz - ABSENT Mindi Morton - YES Lorien Whitestone - YES Jonathan Farrell - YES</p>	
<i>Discussion/Action</i>	K.	Shall the Board approve the Nurse Contract?	
		<p>Sunshine Bender presents the Nurse Contract.</p> <p>Lorien Whitestone makes a motion to approve the Nurse Contract, Mindi Morton seconds, motion carries as follows: (4/0/1/0)</p> <p>Malik Goodman - YES Aubrey Puetz - ABSENT Mindi Morton - YES Lorien Whitestone - YES Jonathan Farrell - YES</p>	
<i>Discussion/Action</i>	L.	Personnel interview / selection process / BP position control; job descriptions, location of assignment, work stations.	
		<p>Lorien Whitestone makes a motion to postpone the Discussion on Personnel Interview / Selection Process / BP , Malik Goodman seconds, motion carries as follows: (4/0/1/0)</p> <p>Malik Goodman - YES Aubrey Puetz - ABSENT Mindi Morton - YES Lorien Whitestone - YES Jonathan Farrell - YES</p>	
<i>Discussion/Action</i>	M.	Shall the Board approve New Board Evaluation options tools -Mindi Morton	

		<p>Lorien Whitestone makes a motion to postpone the Approval of New Board Evaluation Tools, Malik Goodman seconds, motion carries as follows: (4/0/1/0)</p> <p>Malik Goodman - YES Aubrey Puetz - ABSENT Mindi Morton - YES Lorien Whitestone - YES Jonathan Farrell - YES</p>	
<i>Discussion/Action</i>	N.	Biennial Review of BB 9270 - Conflict of Interest	
		<p>Lorien Whitestone makes a motion to postpone the Biennial Review of BB 9270 - Conflict of Interest, Mindi Morton seconds, motion carries as follows: (4/0/1/0)</p> <p>Malik Goodman - YES Aubrey Puetz - ABSENT Mindi Morton - YES Lorien Whitestone - YES Jonathan Farrell - YES</p>	
	O.	Shall the Board approve the Education Protection Account (EPA)?	
		<p>Sunshine Bender presents the Education Protection Account (EPA).</p> <p>Lorien Whitestone makes a motion to approve the Education Protection Account (EPA), Mindi Morton seconds, motion carries as follows: (4/0/1/0)</p> <p>Malik Goodman - YES Aubrey Puetz - ABSENT Mindi Morton - YES Lorien Whitestone - YES Jonathan Farrell - YES</p>	
	9.	PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS	
	10.	CLOSED SESSION	
	11.	RECESS /RECONVENE - Report Out on Closed Session – Malik Goodman	
		Nothing to report.	
<i>Discussion</i>	12.	FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSION	
		<p>Class size can be discussed as a future agenda item, including thresholds and actions.</p> <p>BP 3430 discussion, Financial mandate (potentially special meeting)</p> <p>Personnel interview / selection process / BP</p> <p>Shall the Board approve New Board Evaluation options tools</p>	

Biennial Review of BB 9270 - Conflict of Interest

State of the Library

Capital Facilities Funding (special meeting)

13. UPCOMING MEETINGS: October 10th, 2023

14. ADJOURNMENT: 8:30pm

This agenda was posted at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at 16661 Old Mill Rd. Nevada City, CA 95959 and on the website at TRES.D.ORG

NOTICE:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to access the Board meeting room or to otherwise participate at this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, contact the Twin Ridges Elementary School District office at 530.265-9052 ext. 201 at least 48 hours before the scheduled Board meeting so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate your needs. {G.C. §54953.2, §54954.2(a) (1); Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, §202 (42 U.S.C. §12132)}

9/12/2023

Malik Goodman, Board President

Date

9/12/2023

Scott Mikal-Heine, Superintendent/Principal

Date