

TWIN RIDGES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

16661 Old Mill Rd., Nevada City, California

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES** THURSDAY, August 28th, 2025 9:00 AM Grizzly Hill School-Room 4

	1.	CALL TO ORDER:9:16 AM			
	2.	ROLL CALL			
		Aubrey Puetz Jonathan Farrell Jennifer Jensen Lorien Whitestone Malik Goodman	President Clerk Member Member Member	Present Present Present Present absent	
	3.	ATTENDEES: Sunshine Bender CBO, Dr. Erik Crawford Superintendent Principal, Marisol Estrada E.A., Charity, Sandi Amell, Darlene Waddle			
Action	4.	APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 28TH 2025 AGENDA – Aubrey Puetz			
		Aubrey Seeks a motion to approve the August 28th Special Board Workshop agenda, Trustee Whitestone makes a motion to approve, Trustee Farrell seconds the motion. The vote carries as follows: (4/0/1/0) Trustee Farrell-Yes Trustee Jensen-Yes Trustee Puetz-Yes Trustee Whitestone-Yes Trustee Goodman-Absent			
	5.	PUBLIC COMMENT The Board of Trustees welcomes comments from the public regarding matters on the special meeting agenda. Due to time considerations, the chair may request that comments by an individual be limited to two 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)			
		Aubrey Calls for Public Comment, there is no one to speak for public comment			

	6. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS	
<i>Discussion/Action</i>	A.	Budget Workshop-
		Dr. Crawford- Introduces Darlene as our guest. He gives an overview of the purpose of this meeting and the information that will be discussed. Sunshine Begins the Budget presentation with enrollment. She shares current enrollment as well as the projected numbers through the next few years. There is discussion around enrollment projections as well as students currently enrolled at the county. Next Sunshine moves into Revenue- We currently hold a basic aide status. When we are in basic aid we are required to pay in Lieu taxes to the charter schools. Sunshine breaks down how the Local Control Funding Formula allows us to see the breakdown in actual revenue we are receiving from property taxes. Sunshine then goes through grants and title funds that also produce revenue for the district. Sunshine explains some of the programs on campus that benefit from the After School Program Grant and the Expanded Learning funding. Sunshine wants to point out that the Nutrition services expenditure is costly in that we have to use an additional \$75K of the Supplemental and Concentration fund. There is a question from Trustee Farrell if there is any benefit to joining the JPA. We do not have the need to join now as it would not be a cost savings to the district however we can join at any time. There is a question with Child Development- This item has to do with the revenue generated from the pre-school. Sunshine gives some background on the issue regarding student funding at the pre-school and steps needed to receive funding for the students that are enrolled in the program. The conversation shifts to the General Fund expenditures. Sunshine gives recommendations of things that may need to be looked at to reduce expenditures. There is some discussion around maintenance and custodial. The group continues to go through expenditures, next looking at expenditures by specific site and program. There is further discussion around the pre-school program. The necessary permitting, guidelines and steps that are needed to generate revenue from filing the appropriate paperwork. Darlene is taking steps to research why there was a mistake in the funding. Darlene will update the district with any findings that may come up. Supplemental and Concentration- using this for 1 additional teacher. This fund is used for anything additional outside of instructional and base school expenses.

Must prove that we are increasing and expanding services when money from this fund is spent.

Sunshine moves through the document highlighting expenses in each funding group. She gives examples of how costs can be offset and which programs can benefit from each fund. She also highlights which funds help pay for teachers. There is then discussion regarding Title funding. They can all sit under the umbrella of title one.

Title 5 is the only one that must live on its own. We are currently using this fund towards our counseling services.

Educator Effectiveness grant expires 6/30/26. Some discussion of where those funds are being spent- Teacher mentors for intern teachers, support in our TK/K classroom.

Community Schools Grant- will expire on 6/30/29- Sunshines explains the different staffing positions that are paid for through this grant fund.

The next line is Special education- There is explanation on the line items and what this fund encompasses. There is discussion around the ability of the district to bring students back from the county program to lessen the expense to the district.

There are a lot of unknowns here and it may or not be a cost savings. If we did bring students back it would depend on the depth of services and impact of the disability to determine the overall cost of that student. The cost would be absorbed by the district, cost of teachers, services, facilities, supplies etc.

There are still assessments out so we do not currently know the needs of students within our district. This will be a continued discussion and the district will keep it in mind with programs and facilities decisions.

Dr. Crawford gives an update on the DIS (Direct Instructional Supports) services we have in place on our campus. There is discussion around different models and staffing needs that are considered in our district's budget.

Learning Recovery and Block Grant expires 6/30/26- this is currently housing our counselor services. There is a question of what happens when this grant expires. Dr. Crawford says there will have to be a change in the model as far as a reduction in services.

Sunshine explains there is room to be more cost effective in our food expenditures and we need to be mindful of food selection and waste. Sunshine will partner with Kitchen management to build some best practices around cost saving measures.

Sunshine offers her perspective that we need to take a look at what expenditures

can be cut... Is it viable to continue programs, property ownership etc if it creates a rate of spend that eventually makes the district insolvent.

If a program is not self-sustaining and pulls from our general fund it needs to be considered as a means to cut costs. Anything coming out of our general fund is a detriment to the district.

Discussion on Property taxes- We only receive funds on a cash basis. When taxes are due. We do not collect any funds for penalties or late taxes collected. Darlene gives examples of the different tax buckets and how they ebb and flow through time.

We generally receive about 60% from property taxes.

The final portion of the meeting is discussion around our Revenue Less Expenditures and the deficit spending that is currently happening, as well as the increase to the deficit over the next 5 years if nothing were to change.

Lorien asks Darlene what her recommendation is to start cutting costs. Is it by bringing all of the students to the Grizzly Hill School Campus. Building the classrooms can be a double edged sword. It can help bring capacity for kids on campus but some other costs may go up with a more modern building.

BREAK—Reconvene at 11:15 AM

Aubrey asks what next steps- Dr. Crawford expresses he'd like to meet with board members individually. Explains his intent with these meetings.

Dr. Crawford says there is no more action that needs to take place now. He asks the board to review the packet of information. Jonathan asks if increasing enrollment is the priority in order to generate revenue. Asks for a consensus from the board if that should be the overall goal. There is discussion around the benefits vs. cons of being in basic aide.

Then asks if the intention of building the classroom's purpose is to bring students here or if it is intended to increase enrollment. Asks what is the best use of our current Measure A funding and what is the most cost effective decision as far as spending that money.

Sunshine feels that we are spreading ourselves too thin by having 3 campuses. Dr. Crawford expresses his intention is to build enrollment.

Jonathan expresses concern about building a new classroom before addressing the modernization and deferred maintenance that currently exists.

		Lorien expresses “worst case scenario” is we build and then we are forced to close due to lack of funding, and the taxpayers continue to pay on a building that is no longer in use. Sunshine asks what the purpose is to hold on to our other two campuses. Why invest in buildings that are not currently being utilized. Dr. Crawford offers some insight on his recommendation to bring the pre-school here in order to cut costs. Therefore it is the intention to build the TK/K class to accommodate that recommendation. Darlene- Look into a feasibility study in terms of using Oaktree as an event space. Aubrey asks the board and staff- what is the intention of and purpose of building the new TK/K building? Asks the board to give their wants/expectations Jonathan would like a clear consensus from the board members- Do we intend to be here in 3 years and what steps do we need to take to get there?What is the intent on building enrollment? He would put a million on each campus and move On, he feels that although there is additional funding there are a lot of strings attached to using it. Asks the question that if we use bond money on our other campuses are we allowed to sell them. Dr. Crawford answers that it is not the intention of the board to sell properties at this time so we can therefore use those funds. Jonathan asks for legal counsel to way in on the realities of what we are allowed to spend bond money on. Dr. Crawford will set up a meeting with legal and Jordan to get clarification on the options available to the district.	
	7.	FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSION: Answer from the attorney Measure “A” funds on all 3 campuses and what that holds us too if we do spend. The board requests something in writing to be brought back to them. Open session ends at 12:30	
	8.	UPCOMING MEETINGS: September 9th,2025	
	9.	PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS	
		No one for public comment	
	10.	CLOSED SESSION- The board members decided to forego closed session as there were no items to discuss.	

		A.	Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release (Government Code § 54957)	
		B.	Conference with Labor Negotiator (Government Code § 54957.6). Employee Organizations: Twin Ridges Teachers Association, California School Employees Association, SJR Chapter, Non-Represented Classified; Agency Negotiator: Superintendent Dr. Erik Crawford	
		C.	Conference With Legal Counsel – Anticipated/Existing Litigation (Government Code § 54956.9(d)(1) (Government Code § 54956.9(d)(2) or (3).	
	11.	RECESS /RECONVENE - Report Out on Closed Session		
		A.	Reportable Action Taken Regarding Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release (Government Code § 54957(b))	
		B.	Reportable Action Taken Regarding Conference with Labor Negotiator (Government Code § 54957.6). Employee Organizations: Non-Represented Classified. Agency Negotiator: Dr. Erik Crawford	
		C.	Reportable Action Taken Regarding Conference With Legal Counsel – Anticipated/Existing Litigation (Government Code § 54956.9(d)(1) (Government Code § 54956.9(d)(2) or (3).	
	12.	ADJOURNMENT: 12:30PM		

This agenda was posted at least 24 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)}

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8/28/2025

Aubrey Puetz, Board President

Date

Dr. Erik Crawford, Superintendent/Principal

Date

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