

SULPHUR SPRINGS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Governing Board

April 30, 2025

MINUTES

Meeting Location:

Canyon Springs Community School
19059 Vicci Street
Canyon Country, CA 91387

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Mr. Denis DeFigueiredo, President
Mrs. Shelley Weinstein, Clerk
Mr. Ken Chase, Member
Mrs. Lori MacDonald, Member
Mrs. Paola Jellings, Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Catherine Kawaguchi, Superintendent
Dr. Joshua Randall, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services
Mrs. Julie McBride, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Ms. Nancy Raygoza, District Executive Secretary

STAFF ABSENT:

Dr. Jay Greenlinger, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel/Pupil Services

Call to Order, Roll Call

Mr. DeFigueiredo called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:08 PM and noted the roll. Mr. DeFigueiredo established that there is a quorum.

Pledge of Allegiance

Amy Gonzalez, a sixth-grade student at Canyon Springs Community School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda,

*DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye*

The motion was made by Mr. Chase seconded by Mrs. Weinstein, and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to approve the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the April 16, 2025, REGULAR MEETING

*DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Abstain*

The motion was made by Mrs. Weinstein, seconded by, Mr. Chase and passed 4-0-1 by voice vote, with one abstention by Mrs. Jellings, to approve the Minutes of the April 16, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

Hearing Session, Site Presentation - Canyon Springs Community School

Mr. Matt Gilpin, Principal of Canyon Springs Community School, welcomed the Board of Trustees and attendees. He presented highlights of the school's students, staff, and activities.

During the meeting, the Board of Trustees and Mr. Gilpin, presented certificates of recognition to the following individuals:

- Elizabeth Gutierrez, Certificated Employee
- Lynette Vermeulen, Certificated Employee
- Lesny Duarte, Classified Employee
- Cheryl Ojena, Classified Employee

Hearing Session,
*2025 Teacher
Tribute Honorees*

The Board of Trustees recognized 2025 Teacher Tribute Honorees for the Sulphur Springs Union School District. Dr. Kawaguchi, Deputy Superintendent, and Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services read comments to celebrate the honorees.

The following 2025 Sulphur Springs Union School District Teacher Tribute Honorees were as follows:

- Canyon Springs Community School - Mallory Langley
- Fair Oaks Ranch Community School - Michael Sifferman
- Golden Oak Community School - Amanda Jones
- Leona Cox Community School - Nicole Acquaviva
- Mint Canyon Community School - Stacy Crowther
- Mitchell Community School - Janay Callahan
- Pinetree Community School - Tiffany Storch
- Sulphur Springs Community School - Malissa Monroe
- Valley View Community School - Matthew Razeovich

Dr. Kawaguchi expressed heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Executive Cabinet, and herself for the dedication and hard work that our staff exhibit every day for our students. Their passion and unwavering commitment are the very foundation of our District. She emphasized that this commitment is the essence of what makes our District thrive.

Dr. Kawaguchi shared that during her Learning Walk visits to all schools, she has witnessed the extraordinary efforts of the staff in creating engaging lessons, offering individualized support, fostering positive classroom environments, and nurturing each child's unique potential. She acknowledged that they are not merely instructors but also mentors and role models, playing a critical role in shaping the future.

She specifically thanked staff for their creativity in making learning engaging, their patience and understanding in supporting students through challenges, and the extra hours spent planning, grading, and connecting with families.

Dr. Kawaguchi concluded by highlighting that the evening was dedicated to celebrating the invaluable contributions of the staff in creating a brighter future for students.

Mr. DeFigueiredo announced a recess at 8:10 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 8:18 PM.

Hearing Session,
*Advance Request(s)
to Address the
Board*

Mr. DeFigueiredo asked if any advanced requests to address the Board had been received. There was one request to address the Board.

Hearing Session,
*Comments and/or
Questions Regarding
Agenda Items*

Mr. DeFigueiredo asked if there were any comments or questions regarding agenda items. There were no comments or questions regarding agenda items.

**Consent
Calendar,**
*DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye*

The motion was made by Mrs. Weinstein, seconded by Mr. Chase, and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to approve the Consent Calendar, as follows:

- Conference Action Report #25-07
- Field Trip Action Report #25-07
- Gift Action Report N/A
- Retainer Agreement with the Law Offices of Margaret A. Chidester & Associates
- Memorandum of Understanding Between Sulphur Springs Union School District and Western Governors

University

- Consultant Agreement - Mobile Ed Productions, Inc. - Mitchell Community School
- Consultant Agreement - Mobile Ed Productions, Inc. - Pinetree Community School
- Consideration of Approval of the Purchase Agreement with Solution Tree, Inc.
- Executive Director of Personnel/Pupil Services Job Description
- Management Salary Schedule

Conference Calendar, *Luminance Solar Update*

Dr. Joshua Randall, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services, introduced Alex Smith, Senior Originator at Luminance Solar. Mr. Smith provided an update to the Board of Trustees on Year 8 of the solar project. The presentation summarized the systems that have been installed, compared solar usage to total electricity consumption, explained how solar savings work, reviewed utility tariffs, and outlined Luminance's commitment to the District regarding solar energy.

Conference Calendar, *Preschool-6th Valley View Regional Program Curriculum Adoption Update*

Mrs. Julie McBride, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, and Mr. Paul Frisina, Executive Director of Special Education Services/Student Support Services, provided an update to the Board of Trustees on the adoption of the Preschool to 6th Grade Valley View Regional Program Curriculum. The Sulphur Springs Union School District has been reviewing, piloting, and recommending a research-based and developmentally appropriate curriculum for the Preschool to 6th grade students in the Valley View Regional Program.

Action Calendar, *Resolution R-25-08 School Lunch Hero Day - May 2, 2025 DeFigueiredo-Aye Weinstein-Aye Chase-Aye MacDonald-Aye Jellings-Aye*

The Board of Trustees recognized Ms. Alecia Woods, Chief Executive Officer of Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency. The Board recognized the vital role of the Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency in feeding the District's students. Ms. Alecia Woods gratefully accepted the recognition on behalf of the Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency.

The motion was made by Mr. Chase, seconded by Mrs. Weinstein, and passed 5-0 by voice vote to approve, Resolution R-25-08 School Lunch Hero Day - May 2, 2025.

Action Calendar, *Resolution R-25-09 Declaring May 14, 2025, "California Day of the Teacher" DeFigueiredo-Aye Weinstein-Aye Chase-Aye MacDonald-Aye Jellings-Aye*

The Board of Trustees emphasized the importance of recognizing our teachers and praised them for their dedication, perseverance, and flexibility. Dr. Kawaguchi and the Board invited SSDTA President Ms. Rikki Fayne to accept the recognition on behalf of all District teachers. Ms. Fayne gratefully accepted the acknowledgment.

Dr. Kawaguchi highlighted that California Day of the Teacher, observed on May 14, 2025, is a special occasion to formally recognize and celebrate the outstanding contributions of teachers in the Sulphur Springs Union School District. These dedicated professionals are crucial in shaping students' lives, supporting their academic growth, and nurturing their social and emotional well-being. Acknowledging their hard work and commitment is essential to demonstrate the value the District places on their expertise and their positive impact on our entire school community.

The motion was made by Mrs. Jellings, seconded by Mrs. MacDonald, and passed 5-0 by voice vote to approve, Resolution R-25-09 Declaring May 14, 2025, "California Day of the Teacher."

Action Calendar, *Resolution R-25-10 Declaring May 19-23, 2025, as "Classified School Employee Week" DeFigueiredo-Aye Weinstein-Aye Chase-Aye MacDonald-Aye*

The Board of Trustees recognized Classified Staff with Resolution R-25-10, declaring May 19-23, 2025, as "Classified School Employee Week." The Board emphasized the significance of these positions within the District. Dr. Kawaguchi and the Board invited Kristi Simpronio, the President of the California School Employees Association (CSEA), along with Janella Wigdor, Chapter Treasurer, to accept the recognition on behalf of all Classified Employees. Both Kristi Simpronio and Janella Wigdor gratefully accepted this recognition.

Jellings-Aye

Dr. Kawaguchi emphasized that classified employees are the backbone of the Sulphur Springs Union School District, providing essential support that has a direct impact on the learning environment and the well-being of students and staff. Their dedication in various areas, such as administrative support, technology, transportation, food services, maintenance, and paraprofessional roles, ensures the smooth and efficient operation of all nine schools and the District Office. Celebrating Classified Employee Week offers a special opportunity to formally acknowledge and express our heartfelt gratitude for their invaluable contributions, which are vital to the District's success.

The motion was made by Mrs. Weinstein, seconded by Mr. Chase, and passed 5-0 by voice vote to approve, Resolution R-25-10 Declaring May 19-23, 2025, as "Classified School Employee Week."

Action Calendar,
*Personnel Action
Report #25-07
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye*

The motion was made by Mrs. Weinstein, seconded by Mrs. Jellings, and passed 5-0 by voice vote to approve the Personnel Action Report #25-07 as presented.

Dr. Kawaguchi introduced Mrs. Veronica Mullen as the new Principal of Leona Cox Community School, effective July 1st. She highlighted Mrs. Mullen's extensive 22 years of experience in education, including her previous role as Assistant Principal at Sulphur Springs and Pinetree Community Schools, as well as her tenure in LAUSD. Dr. Kawaguchi noted Mrs. Mullen's expertise in special education, her role as a TK-12 Instruction Specialist, and her certifications, including being a LETRS facilitator. She emphasized Mrs. Mullen's commitment to inclusive practices and compliance with special education obligations. Dr. Kawaguchi invited everyone to welcome and congratulate Mrs. Mullen, who then addressed the Board.

Mrs. Veronica Mullen thanked the Board of Trustees and Dr. Kawaguchi for the opportunity. She expressed her eagerness to serve as Principal and help students and staff achieve at high levels.

Action Calendar,
*Recommendation for
K-6th grade English
Language Arts
Curriculum Adoption
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye*

Mrs. McBride presented the recommendation for the adoption of the K-6th-grade English Language Arts curriculum to the Board of Trustees. She explained that Educational Services Administrators collaborated multiple times with teachers to review and pilot a research-based K-6th English Language Arts curriculum during the 2024-2025 school year. The teachers tested the following programs as part of the adoption process: Amplify, Benchmark Advanced, and Wonders.

Mrs. McBride shared that the pilot teachers and administration thoroughly reviewed all the programs, and identified the most effective state-approved English Language Arts curriculum. The goal was to ensure that K-6th-grade teachers have access to high-quality, standards-aligned instructional materials that support effective foundational skills teaching while engaging students with rich, complex texts and academic language.

Dr. Kawaguchi expressed her gratitude to the pilot teachers and the committee, acknowledging that piloting the curriculum is a significant undertaking.

The motion was made by Mrs. Jellings, seconded by Mrs. MacDonald, and passed 5-0 by voice vote to approve Amplify CKLA, K-5th grade/Amplify, 6th grade, starting in the 2025-2026 school year.

Action Calendar,
*Arts Advancement
Grant Application:
Los Angeles County
Arts Ed Collective
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye*

Mrs. McBride presented the Arts Advancement Grant Application from the Los Angeles County Arts Ed Collective to the Board of Trustees. She explained that each year, the Sulphur Springs Union School District applies for this grant to support the implementation of visual and performing arts for all TK-6th-grade students. Districts can be awarded up to \$25,000 for use during the 2025-2026 school year.

Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye

The motion was made by Mrs. Weinstein, seconded by Mrs. MacDonald, and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to approve the petition for the Arts Advancement Grant through the Los Angeles County Arts Ed Collective to support the implementation of visual and performing arts for students in TK - 6th grade.

Action Calendar,
*Approval of
California Multiple
Award Schedule
(CMAS) Proposal for
Material Purchase of
Tremco Roofing
Products for the
Pinetree Community
School Retrofit
Project
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye*

Dr. Randall presented the California Multiple Award Schedule (CMAS) proposal regarding the purchase of Tremco roofing products for the Pinetree Community School Retrofit Project to the Board of Trustees. He explained that this proposal would allow Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc., a subsidiary of Tremco, to supply the roofing materials needed for the upcoming retrofit project at Pinetree Community School.

The motion was made by Mr. Chase, seconded by Mrs. Jellings, and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to approve the CMAS proposal from Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. (Tremco) to provide materials for the upcoming retrofit roofing project at Pinetree Community School.

Action Calendar,
*Resolution R-25-13
of the Board of
Trustees of the
Sulphur Springs
Union School District
to Participate in the
South Coast AQMD's
Lower Emission
School Bus Program
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye*

Dr. Randall presented Resolution R-25-13 from the Board of Trustees of the Sulphur Springs Union School District, which addresses participation in the South Coast AQMD's Lower Emission School Bus Program. He informed the Board that the District has the opportunity to apply for a grant through this program to purchase zero-emission school buses. Dr. Randall explained that the District plans to request funding for three Type A zero-emission buses to replace three aging diesel buses. He also noted that the District has previously participated in various grant programs to modernize its fleet and reduce the financial burden of operating school buses.

The motion was made by Mrs. Weinstein, seconded by Mrs. MacDonald, and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to approve the District staff's application for the District to participate in the Lower Emission School Bus Program as presented.

Action Calendar,
*Resolution R-25-11
Board Member
Paola Jellings,
Compensation
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Abstain*

The motion was made by Mr. Chase, seconded by Mrs. Weinstein, and passed 4-0-1 by voice vote, with one abstention by Mrs. Jellings, to approve Resolution R-25-11 Board Member Paola Jellings, Compensation.

Action Calendar,
*Resolution R-25-12
Board Member Lori
MacDonald,
Compensation
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Abstain
Jellings-Aye*

The motion was made by Mrs. Weinstein, seconded by Mr. Chase, and passed 4-0-1 by voice vote, with one abstention by Mrs. MacDonald, to approve Resolution R-25-12 Board Member Lori MacDonald, Compensation.

Action Calendar,
*Business Services
Report #25-07*

The motion was made by Mr. Chase, seconded by Mrs. Jellings, and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to approve Business Services Report #25-07.

*DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye*

**Correspondence
and Board
Information**

Mrs. Jellings shared that she had the opportunity to attend Open House at Golden Oak Community School, where she took a picture with Ms. Stephanie Cruz, District Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Principal Jenna Oikawa. She expressed that it feels like coming home to be there. She missed the School Day Cafe at the event, which she loves, and described the Open House as wonderful. Additionally, she had the chance to attend the Teacher Tribute event with Mr. DeFigueiredo.

Mrs. MacDonald shared that Open House is always a fun time of year, where students showcase their work to prospective students and their parents. It serves as a celebration of the students' accomplishments throughout the year. She mentioned that she always enjoys Open House as it's a wonderful occasion to come together, appreciate the great teachers, and showcase students' work.

Mrs. MacDonald expressed her admiration for how our District selects teachers for the Teacher Tribute. She appreciates that everyone contributes to celebrating the stars of the school, and believes it's a wonderful practice that all Districts should emulate.

Mr. Chase congratulated the teachers recognized at the Teacher Tribute event, and expressed his appreciation for all their hard work. Although he was unable to attend due to a longstanding commitment each year, he extended his congratulations to the honored teachers. He also acknowledged all teachers and classified staff, hoping they enjoy the upcoming days and weeks of recognition for everyone involved.

Mrs. Weinstein shared that she could not attend the Teacher Tribute event, but was happy to celebrate our teachers at the Board Meeting. She noted that it was a great meeting and a wonderful night filled with celebrations, emphasizing that these moments reflect why we are all here.

Mrs. Weinstein shared that she attended the District Spelling Bee at Canyon Springs the week before, which she found to be a lot of fun. Looking ahead, she would love to see the District aim for 100% participation from all schools. She reported that the event was well attended, and that the students and their families were fantastic. Mrs. Weinstein congratulated District Spelling Bee winners: Canyon Springs took first place, Golden Oak came in second, and Mitchell finished third. She also shared that she received a Bee Lapel Pin for serving as a judge at the Spelling Bee. Mrs. Weinstein encourages her fellow board members to consider judging the Spelling Bee next year, and she is looking forward to it.

Mr. DeFigueiredo shared that one of the most challenging things about this time of year is the many great things taking place, making it difficult to attend to everything. He expressed his regret for not being able to participate in the spring concerts, which saddened him. The important thing, he noted, is that those who can participate in these events gain enriching experiences that last a lifetime.

Mr. DeFigueiredo shared that, as Mrs. Jellings pointed out, that he had the opportunity to attend the Teacher Tribute event. He remarked that you can truly feel the spirit of our District by looking at the quality of the people who walked up on that stage. There is something special in their eyes when he shakes their hands; it conveys a sense of knowing that this is a significant moment for them.

Mr. DeFigueiredo emphasized that we have incredible classified and certified staff who positively impact children's lives, improve families, and accomplish remarkable things that he would categorize as miraculous. He expressed his belief that recognizing these individuals and appreciating the contributions of those who aren't on that stage is a rewarding experience. He added that celebrating the exceptional contributions of these individuals truly affirms our community.

Mr. DeFigueiredo congratulated everyone again and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to be part of that moment. He recognizes that we truly have something special in this District.

Dr. Kawaguchi announced that we will begin state testing for students in grades 3 through 6 next week. She encouraged the Board to remember our students and appreciate the efforts of their teachers and classified staff during this time. She wished our students the best, reminding everyone that although this is a testing period, the scores do not define the students. Dr. Kawaguchi stated, "It is important to remember that it is just one test in time."

**ITEMS FOR THE
May 14, 2025,
MEETING AT
Sulphur Springs
Union School
District
Administrative
Offices**

Dr. Kawaguchi announced that the Board of Trustees will recognize and sincerely congratulate the outstanding student winners of the District's Spelling Bee Contest. The students' dedication, hard work, and exceptional spelling skills are truly commendable. The Spelling Bee winners' achievements showcase the academic excellence fostered within our District, and the Board of Trustees is incredibly proud to celebrate their success.

Closed Session
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye

The motion was made by Mrs. Jellings, seconded by Mrs. MacDonald, and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to adjourn to Closed Session at 9:12 PM for discussion regarding:

With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to Section 54957 (i.e., Personnel).

- Personnel:
Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release: Government Code Section 54957

With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to Section 54957.8 (i.e., property negotiations).

- Property Negotiations

With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to Section 54956.9 (i.e., potential litigation).

- Potential Litigation

With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to Section 54957.6 (i.e., labor negotiations)

- Labor Negotiations

Adjournment
DeFigueiredo-Aye
Weinstein-Aye
Chase-Aye
MacDonald-Aye
Jellings-Aye

The motion was made by Mrs. Jellings, seconded by Mr. Chase, and passed 5-0 by voice vote, to adjourn the Board Meeting at 10:25 PM.

May 14, 2025


Mr. Denis DeFigueiredo, President


Mrs. Shelley Weinstein, Clerk