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Tiffany Saathoff:

The meeting is now reconvened to open session. The board would like to remind the public that this meeting is being audio and video recorded. It's also available via live stream for the public through links found on the front page of the RUSD website. We would also remind everyone please enter and exit through the lobby. Trustee Counter, will you please report out action taking in closed session?

Dereck Counter:

In closed session, the board voted to approve a motion to release one certificate employee pursuant to education code 44-929.21. In closed session, the board voted to... Sorry, the vote was unanimous. [inaudible 00:20:02] In closed session, the board voted to approve the appointment of Maureen Duffy for the 0.5 position of assistant principal Granite Oaks Middle School. The vote was also unanimous.

Tiffany Saathoff:

Thank you, Trustee Counter. Tonight, we have Natalie Glad from Whitney High School as our student board rep. Natalie, will you please introduce the color guard and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Speaker 2:

Ladies and gentlemen, please stand for the presentation of the colors by the Rocklin Unified School District's Junior ROTC Color Guard, and the Pledge of Allegiance. The commander and U.S flag bearer for this evening's color guard is Cadet Captain Ryan Manning. The state flag is carried by Cadet Master Sergeant Evan Lehman. The right guard is Cadet First Lieutenant Kevin Laguna Gonzalez. The left guard is Cadet Staff Sergeant Titan Owens. The alternatives for tonight are Cadet Captain Sophia Burkhalter, Cadet First Lieutenant Christopher Renner, Cadet Master Sergeant Madison Card.

Audience:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Tiffany Saathoff:

Thank you. We'll now move to our special recognition and presentations portion of the meeting. Chief Dosanjh, will you please introduce our family partners in education for the evening?

Sundeeep Dosanjh :

Thank you, President Saathoff, trustees and Superintendent Stock. The Family Partners in Education Program allows the Rocklin Unified School District to recognize family engagement and involvement to help our students achieve excellence during the school year. Rocklin High School principal Davis Stewart is introducing the Wardlaw family for tonight's Family Partners in Education recognition.

Davis Stewart:

Thank you. Board President Saathoff, trustees, Superintendent Stock. Thank you very much for the opportunity to recognize a family who has served Rocklin High School for over 25 years. You've heard me talk about before it takes three things to make great schools, and fortunately, Rocklin Unified has all three of those. It takes committed students, which we know we have, a dedicated staff, which we know and we just celebrated a couple of weeks ago. And then most importantly, it takes community members

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like the Wardlaws. And in specific, John Wardlaw. He is the epitome of a humble servant, not only with his generosity in sponsoring a lot of our athletic teams and ASB programs, but also with his service.

And then I know Craig Rouse also has hired him several times, his company ServPro. And I think back when we had a little biohazard in the old photo building, the next thing we know that they're down there in the yellow suits in the morning and they're sucking everything out. And by the time everybody got there, you never knew that anything had happened. He truly goes above and beyond in everything he does. His oldest daughter, Hallie? Middle daughter, Hallie Emmett, eighth grade, and then his lovely wife. We'd also like to thank them because we know when he's serving us that they're all taken care of too. So John, you want to come on up? And family?

Speaker 3:

This is an honor for me personally because I know and love this family. So on behalf of representing all of the Board of Trustees, we are so appreciative of all that you do. I know, Stephanie, you've worked for years at PTC at Rock Creek. And I think what Principal Stewart said about being humble and quiet is how you guys operate. And we see it, we recognize it and we really appreciate you. So thank you so much. We have this for you, and a treat. And then let's go get a photo. There you go.

Tiffany Saathoff:

Thank you. We couldn't do what we do without families like you. Chief Dosanjh, will you please introduce our employee recognition for the evening?

Sundee Dosanjh :

President Saathoff, trustees and Superintendent Stock, tonight for our employee recognition, Sierra Elementary School principal Amy Westberg will join us, introducing Josanna Hansen.

Amy Westberg:

Thank you so much for allowing me the honor to come talk about and brag on one of our other Sierra Unicorns like I love to do here. I'm presenting Josanna Hansen tonight, and I'm really excited that her family was able to come make it with her because they've also been alongside her through many of her roles and the things she does at Sierra Elementary. So they are absolutely some of our super volunteers. Josanna is an incredible staff member and goes above and beyond her role as library aide, noon supervisor, textbook coordinator, and after-school choir club director. In so many ways, she creates an engaging and welcoming space in the library that our Sharks can't wait to swim into each week. Wherever she is fulfilling her various roles, students feel so welcomed, loved, and included at all times. Josanna thoughtfully selects read aloud books and mini lessons for each class's weekly visit to the library, and always thoughtfully aligns those to our International Baccalaureate curriculum for each grade.

Our students are always eager for their library time because of her. She is also a trusted consultant to our grade level teams in assisting them in the selection of classroom books for their IB units. She knows every student and is great at using her knowledge about genres and books to help them find a book that is sure to get them excited about reading, which as we all know is priceless. She always has the best recommendations for each student who has certain interests.

Josanna also volunteers to mentor our sixth grade students with their IB exhibition project, supporting them to find material and relevant information to their work and also guiding them along while they have a little touch of senioritis at the end of the year. Beyond all this, she leads our after-school choir

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club, which is a huge hit and delivers two stunning evening performances throughout the year, and celebrates her singers with a party at the end of the year. There is just no one like Josanna. We as a staff are in constant awe of her. She exudes fun, warmth and care everywhere she goes and goes above and beyond in everything she does. We never know what she's going to do next. She's always surprising us. She is beyond amazing and we are so grateful that she's on our team. Come on up, Josanna.

Speaker 4:

Wow. It sounds like you run the school. Actually, we do all know that the librarian is the center of the school, especially at an IB school. And you do so much more than that. We are so grateful to have you. Thank you so much for all that you do. That's for you. And that's for you. Let's go take a picture.

Tiffany Saathoff:

Thank you again. And tonight, we actually have a second employee recognition. There is a pretty heroic event that happened recently. So Chief Dosanjh, could you please share with us our second employee recognition for the evening?

Sundeeep Dosanjh :

For our second employee recognition of the evening, we would like to welcome Lezley Holmes, director of Special Education to introduce Judy Kevin.

Lezley Holmes:

This is a little surprise for Judy. She thought she was coming to honor our teacher of the year, so this is a little surprise for Judy. We wanted to make it a little more special. So Judy, come on up. So yay. Nice surprise. So Judy Kevin is an extraordinary asset to our adult transition program at Rocklin Unified, bringing a wealth of experience. She has over 20 years at Roseville City as a math teacher. She has over 38 years of experience as a teacher, and she has now worked for over four years at the Adult Transition Program. So due to her nurturing demeanor, collaborative spirit, and expertise, she is highly valued as a member of the Adult Transition Program, and she contributes to an effective and cohesive team dynamic. Beyond the classroom, Judy's dedication extends to sourcing donations, preparing students for independence, facilitating job site placements at various establishments, and support students attending classes at Sierra College where her report with professors facilitates meaningful educational experiences. Her impact transcends her professional duties. She serves as an invaluable support system for her students and prioritizes their needs and fosters their success within the community. Her adeptness, as you mentioned earlier in handling crisis, was demonstrated by her quick thinking, courage, and leadership during a recent Walmart burglary, ensuring the safety of the adult students under her care. Her decisive actions and calm demeanor were key in swiftly guiding her students to safety, which further exemplifies her commitment to the students well-being both inside and outside the classroom. So the Adult Transition Program and Rocklin Unified are fortunate to have such an exceptional educator on its team. And with great privilege and gratitude, we commend Ms. Judy for her unwavering dedication and profound impact on the lives of those she serves.

Dereck Counter:

So we have this. I think... It doesn't tell the story. So as parents, as adults, we always entrust teachers to take care of the kids, to have their best interest, to watch over them when they're there and going all the

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way through. And the things you're doing with connecting at Sierra College are amazing. We all say we run into the burning building type thing, and this is that example of when something happened, it was immediate action, reaction, taking care of the kids. So thank you, thank you, thank you for that. Thank you. Let's get a giant picture. We've got the whole room. [inaudible 00:32:29]

Speaker 1:

1, 2, 3.

Audience:

Thank you.

Tiffany Saathoff:

Judy, thank you again. And apologies for the surprise, but we absolutely could not miss the opportunity to publicly thank you. Okay, Chief Dosanjh, will you continue on with our recognitions for the evening? Tonight we have a special group to recognize. Will you please officially introduce our recognition for the AFJROTC School Board Color Guard, and JROTC for the 2023-2024 school year?

Sundeep Dosanjh :

With tonight's board meeting being the last one while schools are in session, we would like to recognize the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps School Board Color Guard for their patriotic contributions to the RUSD board meetings and outstanding leadership during the-

PART 1 OF 6 ENDS [00:34:04]

Speaker 5:

... to the RUSD board meetings in outstanding leadership, during the 2023 - '24 school year. Cadet Captain Ryan Manning, Cadet Captain Sophia Burkhalter, Cadet First Lieutenant Kevin Laguna Gonzalez, Cadet First Lieutenant Christopher Renner, Cadet Master Sergeant Titan Owens, Cadet Master Sergeant Evan Lehmann, Cadet Master Sergeant Madison Cart.

Tiffany Sadoff:

I'd also like to welcome Major Pearl if she'd like to come forward, and are there any other commanders or leaders here in the room? Okay. And actually, so all of our friends online can see us. Can we line up right here and face this way? I'm sure you have family and friends. It is my honor to recognize you on behalf of the board. I have to say, not only have I been incredibly impressed with how you have upheld yourself, each of these board meetings, I have to say it was a beautiful honor to be able to come as the board president to your recent event, your gala. And I have to say, I was impressed that I didn't realize that entire night was really ran by many of you and many of the students in the program.

I was impressed with the way you conducted yourself, you spoke on stage, but also the way you served your community. Seeing the videos of the many different ways that many of you have served, not only in this room, but also out throughout the community on many of our campuses. And so I wanted to take a moment on behalf of the entire board, to say thank you for your service, thank you for reminding us there are incredible young men and women out there that are serving in a variety of ways. And so thank you again, and thank you Major Pearl for your leadership, the way you continue to just exude a love and

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care for our students and our community, and you instill heart and service in every single one of them.
Thank you.

Speaker X:

[inaudible 00:36:22].

Tiffany Sadoff:

Oh, [inaudible 00:36:24].

Speaker X:

[inaudible 00:36:24].

Microphone.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Oh, yeah.

Speaker X:

[inaudible 00:36:33].

Tiffany Sadoff:

And Steven, [inaudible 00:36:34].

Speaker X:

[inaudible 00:36:37].

Tiffany Sadoff:

Okay, Chief Dessange, one more. You got it in you? Chief Dessange, will you please introduce our student board representatives recognition for the 2023, 2024 school year?

Speaker 5:

President Sadoff, trustees, and Superintendent Stock, each year the three RUSD high schools designate a student who has exhibited excellent leadership skills to serve as a student board representative to the board of trustees for the school year. Student board representatives play an integral part in sharing a student perspective with district leadership and trustees, including participation at board meetings. The board of trustees tonight will be recognizing Nayala-

Speaker 6:

Nayeli Glode.

Speaker 5:

Nayeli Glode, Sarah Zumba, and Sophie Burns. Do you want to come down here?

Speaker 14:

Okay. So I have Nayelis. Nayeli stepped into the role as associated student body president with a lot of enthusiasm and focus. Early on in her role as president, she made the statement that she wanted to leave her mark on Whitney High School. Nayeli set out with the goal to grow the relationship between the leadership program and the minority groups on campus. In order to do this, Nayeli understood the value of building relationships with her classmates. She has been an outstanding leader on the Whitney High School campus during her four years. She's a three-year student government participant and wears many hats on campus. She was the women's soccer manager, played a big role in our nationally known WCTV19 broadcast program, and not to mention associated student body president. She's hardworking, holds her teammates accountable, loves to laugh and joke around, and also understands leadership. Over the last few years, Nayeli has elevated the work ethic of her classmates and also set the bar high for those to come in the future.

She served as junior class officer as a junior, and this year as President Nayeli has challenged her peers on the executive board to think outside the box in order to maintain a positive school culture on campus. She has been an active student trustee and always seeks feedback from the student body to ensure their voice is heard. A tremendous accomplishment for her was supporting clubs this spring in implementing a multicultural week, which concluded with an epic culture fest show in the theater. Nayeli is off to study at the University of California at Berkeley, to get a first class education. The leadership family wishes Nayeli the best in her future endeavors, and we are very thankful for the work she has done to positively influence those around her.

Speaker X:

[inaudible 00:40:38].

Tiffany Sadoff:

Sophie Burns. Sophie Burns is an outstanding young lady who will be sorely missed when she moves beyond her time here at Rockland High. She has spent her entire tenure at Rockland High School serving in ASB and supporting the students, staff, and overall community of our campus. She spent the first three years serving the members of her class directly as a class officer focusing on class spirit and culture. Wanting to serve in a larger role and support the campus as a whole, she set her sights on becoming the ASB president. This was an easy choice for the campus. Her impact this year has been phenomenal. Having so much to offer, Sophie did not limit her impact to student government. She spent four years on the RHS tennis team, which included being a varsity team captain this year. She helped to lead her team to an SFL League title, and two, yes, two SFL section championship titles as a singles player. Understanding the importance of the term student in student athlete, her focus on school was unwavering.

She was awarded the Scholar Athlete Award every season she played, along with the Coach's Award by her tennis coach. Branching out further, her involvement in clubs included CSF for all four years, the stock club as the club secretary, and Leo's Club. Her overall 4.4 GPA for all four years, and being a part of the honor roll every semester, simply re-emphasizes her commitment to her education. Sophie was also awarded the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by the college board for her high AP test scores. Not just a Rockland high school all-Star, her influence is evidenced in the Rockland community. Sophie serves her community by working with children who have special needs, by volunteering during church camps, tennis lessons, and the Special Olympics. Sophie will be furthering her education at the University of Alabama this fall in the Honors College, with a full tuition academic scholarship.

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They better feel lucky that we're giving her up to make the world a better place. She'll be majoring in engineering on the STEM to MBA pathway. Phenomenal, yet also humble. Sophie has expressed her gratitude for the many opportunities she got from Rockland High School, and even asked specifically that we thank the school board on her behalf for their kindness and the privilege of being a part of their meetings. Sophie, the honor goes from us to you. Thank you for the way that you have served, you have represented students, you have listened, and you have communicated so well. You have been a beautiful embodiment of the many things that we hope our students will carry with them as they go out to change the world. So I have no doubt that you will go and change the world, and I can't wait to see what you do in your future. Thank you Sophie.

Speaker 8:

I am going to be reading about Sarah Zumba, who is Victory's ASB president, and she's not here tonight, because she graduated early, and so she is watching from Idaho. So we are grateful, Sarah, for your service. Sarah Zumba has been an exceptional Victory High Panther during her tenure here. In addition to serving as student representative to the board of trustees, she served as ASB president, was a member of the RUSD Equity Committee, and led Victory High School's Interact Club. Over the past two years, Sarah has received multiple academic and social awards and accolades.

She was the lead of the Victory High School daily broadcast team, editor of the 2023 - '24 yearbook, and an active member of the Interact Club. Sarah helped promote school spirit by planning and directing a number of school events with the ASB Club. Sarah graduated early her senior year, and took early admissions to BYU-Idaho. She's studying history and education, hoping to become a Victory High School teacher, or a high school history teacher one day, and hopefully return to teach at Victory High School. So we're so grateful to Sarah and to each of you, and we are so excited for your future. Thank you so much for your service.

Speaker X:

[inaudible 00:44:52].

Yeah, come here.

[inaudible 00:44:55].

No? Not at all?

Tiffany Sadoff:

We want to take a second to thank all of the families that joined us this evening. While you are more than welcome to stay, it does look like most of the room for the recognitions portion has cleared out. But this is a fully appropriate time to sneak out before we head on to our business for the evening. Thank you again for being here. We'll now move to item 6.1. I'd like to welcome RTPA President Travis Majet, to present the RTPA report.

Speaker 9:

Good evening. Again, I'm going to say thanks for always making me follow all of our amazing students and staff. Appreciate that. I'm going to steal a shout out. I apologize to any board members or student trustees that were going to give this shout out, but as a former teacher of this person, I couldn't not say it publicly, but some of you guys might be aware that this last weekend, Jada Duncan swimmer at Whitney High School became a two-time state champion in the 100 free and the... Or sorry, the 50 free

and the 100 butterfly. Which if you don't know swimming, that's like the 100 meter dash on the track. Those are the events that everybody watches.

And the best part is she's a junior. So we get her for another season in the district and on the Whitney team. Along with her, we had Landry Gold, also placed in the top 20 in her event, which is the 500, which is the other end of that spectrum. Those are those 3,200 events on the track. So incredible stuff, great work, just always awesome to hear all of the wonderful things going on in the community on our campuses, things like that. So again, Jada Landry, great job, coach Yu, great job. But good DNA helps.

So as we come tonight, it's kind of crazy that we're already here at the end of the year, we're at our last in-school board meeting. Some things to just kind of bring to the attention of everyone and just kind of share with you guys. We've been in a year of reduction, right? Budget's not great. It got a little tiny fraction better, but still it's not great. And we don't know the full impact of that, but as we've gone through the year, there's been a lot of collaborative conversations, there's been a lot of ideas shared. There's been a lot of work, jointly working to find ways, how we can reduce things in fiscal areas and resource areas, those kinds of things, to put Rockland in the best position moving forward for next year, for whatever unforeseeable future, whatever budget, outcomes, or realities might be in front of us.

And I would just, huge shout out to all of the parties that have been involved in that. The board I know has been involved in that as kind of the authority that you guys have over those things and recommendations and approvals. The labor management team's been involved in that. Bargaining teams have been involved in that. And again, there's probably all 1,000 plus employees in our district. And then also our students, right? There's been ways that they've given back and they've seen resources and things limited or reduced, and it's just kind of the reality of where things are in the world right now when it comes to fiscal and state budget related things. The reason I bring that up, is that while we're in this umbrella of reduction and everybody's working together, I have an ask of our board. So while we're reducing things that take away potential resources or protect potential resources, there's an area where the board has complete autonomy and authority to help reduce for Rockland Unified.

And that's reduce the distractions that are created or have been created this year that have nothing to do with our classrooms, that have nothing to do with the work that we are all here to do in teaching and learning. So like I've shared with you before, and I know some of my other RTPA leaders, my offer is let's reduce together. And by reduction, I mean distractions, resources, and time wasted on things outside of the classroom. So, the big elephant in the room is our board outing policy. My offer of reduction, as I've told you before, and we can make happen tonight or tomorrow, or whenever, is that RTPA will continue to extend our offer to reduce distraction, or to reduce resources. And we'll pull our Perb case, right? We'll get rid of the legal issues, the things that are distracting our leadership teams, our community, from the classroom, and we'll pull our Perb case if the board joins us in pulling their policy. Right?

Let's work together to reduce distractions for Rockland students. And instead of bookending the year with two topics that have been a giant distraction, or the same topic twice, that's been a giant distraction, let's reduce distraction and end the year on a note where we can come into the fall, ready to go completely focused on teaching and learning. I know we're going to hear later tonight about a use of a different resource for the board to not use additional district resources. And I know we have community members that are going to speak to that, so I'm not going to dive too deeply in it.

But what I do know is that we can talk about how we're reducing district resources and going a different direction. But nothing's free. Pro bono is ever pro bono. We've all read the fine print. So I hope that, that comment from the community tonight, I hope that the willingness to listen to the people that are here to speak, and the willingness to reduce with me, is something that you guys can take seriously and we

can work together on now. Not in the fall, not later down the road, not after more time and more resources have been wasted.

The thing I want to leave you with, is we trust, and Derek, you actually said it tonight, and I appreciate you acknowledging it, because I think it's something that gets overlooked too often in education. But the trust, and I guess trust is the best word, but the trust that parents and families and students and teachers all have within each other are why the system works. Our kids come to school, our parents and our families send their kids to our schools because they feel safe. They know what to expect, right? They're going to get a good quality education, they're going to be surrounded with support systems. They're going to be surrounded with peers and social-emotional learning as well as their academic and their activity things. So my question around that topic, is as we're going to see on the agenda also tonight, we're trusting the professionals of redistricting our board, right?

Our demographer's done a great job, I think we can all recognize that. Had a few board meetings with great conversation around that topic. So we're going to trust the demographer and their practice and their process, to help guide the board into making a decision that will impact the community when it comes to board seats and elections. But we still are choosing not to trust professionals when it comes to education. The two professionals specifically here, as teachers in Rockland, community members in Rockland, but teachers as the professionals in the classroom have talked about how the distraction created by this board is not helping, is not somewhere where we're working together, and we're not trusting those professionals. The CDC, who is the state's professional body of education, has told us that this is not okay. And instead of trusting those two professional groups, one, you employ one that governs all things that we do, we're going to decide to continue this fight and continue this distraction.

So again, I'm going to leave you with my offer. Let's reduce together. We can draw up the paperwork, whatever we need to do, we'll make it formal and official right now tonight, if we can. I know that can't be the legal process, but that's my offer. And we'll pull our Perb case. Let's get rid of this policy that's been a distraction that started our year in a crazy place in a board meeting, and is likely going to bookend our year in a crazy place, or maybe not crazy, but a distracting place in the same school year. And let's put it behind us and move forward, just because that's what students need. Not because it's politically motivated, not because it's right and wrong, but it's because it's what's best for kids and what we all signed up and came here to do. Thank you.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Thank you, Travis. We will continue with the meeting or we will need to take a recess us. I'll ask one more time for us to continue with the meeting. Otherwise, we will take a recess. I am more than happy to listen to every person with their at the podium. Thank you Travis for your report. We'll now move on. Item 6.2, Bettina Heart is not available this evening, so we'll be moving to item 7.1. Comments and report from student board representative, Nayeli Glode.

Speaker 6:

Good evening trustees and Superintendent Stock. Sierra Elementary staff wants to thank their generous PTC who spoiled the staff throughout Staff Appreciation Week. The Sierra Sharks are nearing completion of state testing, and their sixth graders are hard at work on their IB exhibition projects. The PYP exhibition is an event where students are given the opportunity to share their understanding of a real life issue or topic they've covered. District leaders and the school board are all invited to attend this accumulating event for Sierra students. The Sunset Ranch staff was spoiled by their amazing PTC and families during Teacher Appreciation week. They're grateful to have such an involved community. The

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year is coming to a close so quickly, and their students are looking forward to all the end of year events coming up, especially the dance show dancing through the decades, which will take place May 21st through the 23rd. The students have been practicing and can't wait to show off their dance moves to their parents.

Twin Oaks had a week filled with appreciation for their staff by the Parent-teacher committee. Each day the staff was treated with delicious food and snacks. Their students and teachers also had a fantastic time dancing through the decades on Wednesday and Thursday. Looking ahead, their fifth and sixth grade students will be participating in the district music program scheduled for this Tuesday. Additionally, both students and staff are excited about the upcoming open house, where they will proudly showcase the hard work and achievements of this school year. During the following week, their second graders will be presenting character matters, showcasing the importance of character education in their curriculum. Their third graders will embark on an exciting journey back in time as they visit the Bernard Museum, exploring history in an engaging and interactive way. It's going to be a fun-filled end of the year. Cory Trail has been quite busy these past few weeks.

The fourth graders went to the Train Museum in Sacramento, the fifth graders went to the State Capitol, the kindergartners had a visit from their local Rockland Police Department, and to the Sacramento Zoo. The second graders went to the Hamburger farm at Bishop's, and the third graders are preparing for their field trip to Bernard Museum. Cory Trail is gearing up for an open house night, May 16th and sixth grade promotion on June 5th. Rock Creek has been busy with so many fun and meaningful events. This past month, last year's sixth graders came to dedicate their new peace pool at a school-wide assembly. This was a community service project they secured funds for, to leave a lasting legacy at their school, as they continued on in their educational career. The Peace Pool is one of over a 100,000 around the world, and is a symbol of promoting peace in their communities.

Their fourth graders enjoyed an immersive gold rush field trip to Coloma, their PTC hosted a family pizza bingo night enjoyed by all, and worked to paint new games on the blacktop. One of their student teachers, Tony Wipke, was recognized by Sac Republic and one of the Sac Republic coaches came to give soccer lessons to her first grade host class. They look forward to a family driven and funded landscaping project. Their open house tomorrow night, more enriching field trips to enhance history, and science education, their senior parade, and their sixth grade promotion, to round out the final month of this school. Third graders at Breen have started practicing for their spectacular Go and Buggy musical at the end of May. They have been learning songs, memorizing lines, choreographing dances, learning to project their voices, and much more. They're finishing up final book reports, completing open house projects as well.

Fun times in third grade. Kindergarten students are learning the life cycle of a chicken, butterfly, and plant. They have planted seeds and are watching them grow in class, and are raising baby caterpillars into butterflies. The chrysalis are about to hatch open. They're also doing a geometric shapes project for open house, and learning how different careers help their community. One of the first grade classes just finished making planet iMovies with their research team, showing information they have learned about the planet they were studying. Spring View Middle School is gearing up for the Color Run on May 24th. For April, Whitney High School had a successful associated student body election, recently celebrated the junior and senior classes with their formal dances, and the Whitney staff came out victorious against the Crosstown staff basketball game. The campus now gears up for AP testing, the end-of-the-year, spirit week, which has a theme of high school musical, and the rest of the school year. And that is all I have.

Tiffany Sadoff:

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Thank you, Nayeli. Trustees, any comments for the evening?

Speaker 10:

Great to hear about all the events. It's always amazing to hear all the different stuff that we're doing at all the different schools. So thank you, thank you for that. And we have multiple teams from both Rockland and Whitney, and different playoffs, and district, and state events. You've got musicals, you've got band events, different competitions and performances. So if you're bored and you want to go out and see some great events, we've got great things at the high schools and the junior highs through the rest of the year. And then all those graduation events, you want to sit in... Hopefully not too warm in the sun, but those will also be great events.

Speaker 11:

Okay, I'll go next. I just wanted to give a big shout out to the teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week. They are certainly appreciated, and it was wonderful to see all the gifts from parents, and all the support from families. Now, if you see a teacher, hug a teacher, because this is the toughest month of the year. They are gearing up for open houses and graduations, and all of the end-of-the-year activities. They won't sleep much, and they are greatly appreciated. And I just wanted to add a thank you to the appreciation for teachers, this month.

Speaker 7:

I don't really have much to report, because I will be honest. Most of my time has been spent with child-related activities, meaning my own children. Soccer tryouts and end-of-the-year plays and all of that. However, we do all have a fully booked schedule the next couple of weeks, with teacher recognitions and graduations. But I did just want to give a quick shout out. So my oldest daughter, Adair, had a showcase night performance at Rockland Elementary. She learned a Broadway song in the matter of a few days, because she didn't know any, and got up and performed. I was probably more nervous than her.

And at one point, the music just totally shut off, and I think I stopped breathing, and she just kept going and finished the song. And afterwards, Mrs. Spies, the choir teacher, came up and immediately just affirmed that she did the right thing, and just told her how amazing she did. And Mr. Vanderkamp who put on the whole performance, did the same. And I can tell her that, but I think coming from the teachers, and having them there and being so supportive, they never turn it off. They're always there, they're always ready to come in and give that reassurance. And it just, I don't know, I think made her feel a lot better. So I wanted to give them a shout out.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Thank you again Nayeli for your report. I always love hearing all the fun things happening throughout our district. I have to echo the kindergarten chicken exhibit is always one of my favorites. Going around as many campuses as possible for open houses, it's always fun to see the kindergarten rooms, and see them learning about the life cycle of a chicken, and then also getting to play with the chickens at open house night. Additionally, I just wanted to do a shout out. Teacher Appreciation Week, Valley View had some incredible doors that they decorated. There was a hot air balloon door, but I have to say the S'mores door was by far possibly my favorite. I just think the creativity, the ways that many parents, and other staff, and students themselves participated in appreciating their teachers, I thought was absolutely beautiful. So thank you for that. Superintendent Stock, do you have comments for the evening?

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Speaker 12:

Just a couple brief comments. I just want to acknowledge that we had one of our adult transition employees being honored for her quick thinking. But the Adult Transition Program has other just phenomenal folks. And if you didn't know, Holly Gotwals, one of our teachers there, received the ABC10 2024 Esquire IMAX Teacher of the Year Award, which meant that she got to go to a fancy banquet down at the IMAX, and receive a \$5,000 award for the program. And so that was pretty exciting, and just another example of the phenomenal people we have here with our kids. Whether you're in preschool or you're an adult transition.

Also just again, appreciation in advance for all the folks working to make the graduation promotion ceremonies extra special for all of our students and their families. And we appreciate that. And if you still need more to do, if you have not attended an elementary school mega concert, there are two more left. And literally this Tuesday night, we had the entire floor of the Whitney High School gym filled with elementary musicians... Rockland High school gym, sorry, with just from three or four of our schools in the stands filled with parents. And we have two more of those. And that's really a nice shout out to the board direction to implement more elementary music programs this year, that we're seeing four elementary concerts filling gyms with elementary musicians. So appreciate that. And like I said, there's two more next week.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Thank you Superintendent Stock. Okay, we will now move to item 8.1, the consent calendar. All matters listed to enter the consent calendar are to be considered routine and will be enacted by one motion, followed by a roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless the board of trustees requests specific items to be removed from the consent calendar for separate discussion and action. Any items removed will be voted upon, following the motion to approve the consent calendar. Before moving on with a vote on the consent calendar, we do have one public comment. Neil Grabito.

Speaker 13:

So I'll start this off with kind of a call for reduction that Travis mentioned earlier. The board has reduced the general fund legal services, between the month end of April... Or excuse me, month end of March and April of 2024 by \$831. This is impressive work and worthy of celebration. Maybe we don't need that pro bono legal services agreement after all. On May 1st, another public comment was made that stated that the legal services budget isn't even that large. Compared to the size of the budget as a whole, this is actually true. It is under 1%, but in recent years, and I emphasize since the current board majority was elected, many of those years have seen a legal services budget at or near a \$1 million each year. Notably higher than earlier boards, even when considering the growth of the district. Wouldn't you rather spend \$1 million per year to benefit students, rather than paying for legal services to legal offices based outside of our Rockland community?

Tiffany Sadoff:

Thank you, Neil. Do any trustees wish to remove an item from the consent calendar for separate discussion in action?

Speaker 8:

I need to remove item 8.2.

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Tiffany Sadoff:

Okay. Item 8.2 removed. Is there a motion to approve the remainder of the consent agenda items?

Speaker 11:

So moved.

Speaker 15:

Second.

Tiffany Sadoff:

First by Trustee Hupp, second by Trustee Keller. Georgia, will you please call the roll?

Speaker 16:

Julie Hupp?

Speaker 11:

Yes.

Speaker 16:

Michelle Price?

Speaker 17:

Yes.

Speaker 16:

Derek Counter?

Speaker 10:

Yes.

Speaker 16:

Michelle Sutherland?

Speaker 18:

Yes.

Speaker 16:

Tiffany Sadoff?

Tiffany Sadoff:

Yes. Motion passes. Okay, now to consent item 8.2, are USD board meeting minutes for separate action.

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Speaker 17:

I'll just abstain from that, because I was out of town for the meeting.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Perfect.

PART 2 OF 6 ENDS [01:08:04]

Michelle Sutherland:

From that because I was out of town for the meeting.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Perfect. Okay. Is there a motion to approve consent item 8.2.

Derek Counter:

So moved.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Second?

Michelle Sutherland:

Second.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Okay. First by Trustee Counter, second by Trustee Sutherland. Georgia, will you please call the roll?

Georgia:

Julie Hupp?

Julie Hupp:

Yes.

Georgia:

Michelle Price?

Michelle Price:

Abstain.

Georgia:

Derek Counter?

Derek Counter:

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Yes.

Georgia:

Michelle Sutherland?

Michelle Sutherland:

Yes.

Georgia:

Tiffany Saathoff?

Tiffany Saathoff:

Yes.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Motion passes.

Okay, we'll now move to item 9.1. Fortunately, our original demographer, Dr. Justin Levitt, is still out ill and unable to travel, so we have Kristen Parks from National Demographics Corporation to present on the transition to by-trustee-area elections. Welcome, Kristen.

Kristen Parks:

Hello, good evening. Happy to be here to represent National Demographics tonight. You are finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel of this process. Perhaps it's too soon for me to congratulate you, but hopefully later this evening I can.

We do always review all of the rules in case any members of the public are tuning into this for the first time. We'll review the timeline and process that the board has undertaken as well as the laws that govern this process.

Back in January, the district did receive a demand letter and acted to adopt an resolution of intent to transition to by-trustee-area elections. Of course, this is something that is affecting many school districts all around the state and continues to affect them. State law does require a certain number of public hearings to be conducted as part of this process, and your board has done so. You also have gone above and beyond by inviting members of the public to draft trustee area maps and submit those. It's always very edifying to see community-drawn maps on the table and as part of the process.

This evening is the time for the board to select and adopt their final trustee area map. After that, the next step is for the county committee to approve that map. As we review the focus maps and the revised maps this evening, any questions, I'm happy to answer about the process or the maps and, ultimately, I hope that we are able to achieve consensus around one choice.

Of course, this process of changing from at-large to district or by-trustee-area elections is governed both by federal law and by state law. Federal law first tells us that each trustee area, much like each other election district, should be relatively equal in population size. We use the most recent federal census population count, so the 2020 census is the baseline numbers that we are required to use to determine total population to ensure that each trustee area is within a certain range of permissible deviation. These trustee areas don't have to be exactly equal in population size.

We also take care to comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act, and while we do look at race and ethnicity of our citizens of voting age, we do not draw any trustee areas based solely or predominantly on race or ethnicity. As you know, as you've been through this process, there's a number of other factors that are considered, and under California state law, for the first time being applied to school districts, we actually have a prioritized list of criteria that must be considered.

First that is that each trustee area is geographically contiguous. What that means is that each area is one complete piece. There are no disconnected parts, so that is the easiest one.

Second, and this is what a lot of the discussion I know has been before this board, is to try to minimize dividing our neighborhoods and communities of interest within the district. Doing our best, while it's not possible to always keep each neighborhood in each community unified within a single trustee area, inevitably, some will be divided. The difficult choice comes up of which divisions to make and which areas should be unified.

Third, we are mandated to minimize the division of cities and census-designated places. That's not really a challenge within your district as the majority of your district is in the city of Rockland.

Four is to have easily identifiable boundaries. The way that's usually achieved is by trying to ensure that your trustee area boundaries are going to follow major roads, railroad tracks, creeks, waterways, things that residents and members of the community recognize.

And finally, last on the list of priority, is to try to draw compact trustee areas, meaning that we're not going to bypass one area of population in order to include a more farther or distant area of population. We try not to draw those snaking around trustee areas.

There's also a prohibition in California state law that says we cannot create trustee area boundaries that would favor or discriminate against an incumbent, a political candidate, or a political party. While we don't even look at that information, so at no point in this process have we looked at voter identity. We have not looked at where current members of the board reside or potential candidates. So that's how we avoid that.

And finally, to some extent, but really it's not a major consideration is future population growth. We understand that there historically has been areas of your district that have grown and increased in population and will into the future. Looking at all of the maps before you, I don't see any concerns with the population of those areas, primarily in the western part of the district. All of those trustee areas are either slightly underpopulated or slightly overpopulated, but there's no significant concern from my perspective.

All of the maps that you've considered throughout this process, and as of today that is 15 maps, so wow, congratulations. That's a lot. But once you look at 15 maps, you realize there's only so many ways that you can draw these lines. And these all look like very delicious, layered cakes of many flavors to me. They are available online, and they have been available in an interactive web map in addition to the PDFs so that members of the public can look at the maps, type in their address, and see what potential trustee area they reside within.

As I was studying the progression of these maps, you've had quite a lot of revisions as well. At some point in this process, you identified focus maps. What that is is the narrowing down of all of the things on the table to what you think are probably the best choices. And then, these focus maps were also revised one or two times. In the case of Focus Map 103, which originally was submitted by a member of the community, we looked more closely at this map, and as you can see - I don't know if I have a pointer here. No? Oh, okay. No. - so looking really at Park here and the boundary between Area 3 and 2, this was

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a concern on Map 103. So just looking at that area in particular, as well as the area around Twin Oaks Elementary, as we look at the revised version of this map, those are the two areas to look at.

I'm actually going to skip ahead to the revision of it, which is 111. There we go. The revision of Map 103 is Map 111, and what it does is it does a much better job of unifying Whitney Oaks within Area 3 and unifying that area around Twin Oaks Elementary as well into... That's the same also in Area 3. That is just what's worth highlighting on Map 111, which is your revised Map 103. We're really going to focus in on, I guess, three maps tonight, and 111 is one of those three we'll focus in on.

Map 104, revised to Map 112, which was then revised to Map 115. Following that, Map 104 to 112 to 115, there are a few changes that I do want to highlight there. Again, this is also looking at that Whitney Oaks area. You can see this. This is the Area 3 that's in green.

There's a little bit of movement happening there. Quarry Trail Elementary? Is that what I'm looking at? In Map 104, it's an Area 1. In Map 112 here, it's moved into Area 3 to unify that community and that neighborhood. But then when we get to Map 115 here, then it's getting pulled out again. So I just want to make sure everyone sees that change.

As I'm coming in at the end of your process, I spent a lot of time looking at these maps to figure out, "Okay, what's going on?" And I just want to make sure that everyone is well aware of revisions that have been made.

In Map 115 here that we're looking at, we do have some movement as well of Area 2, which is blue here. This is along Stanford Ranch. That is something that has also moved, primarily that portion between West Oaks Boulevard and Stanford Ranch Road. There it is. That is something that has changed from 112 and 104, and then again the area around Quarry Trail Elementary getting pulled back out to look a little bit more like Map 104. Map 115 then is the second map we're focusing on tonight, after 111.

There was an additional map submitted by a member of the public. That was new Map 113. This map was originally not population-balanced. So keeping in mind that to comply with what federal courts have deemed as permissible, that's a 10% total deviation, meaning that the difference between the largest population area and the smallest should be under 10%. This map exceeded that, which means that usually they're not on the table for consideration.

But what Dr. Levitt took the time to do here was to try to bring this map into population balance so that the member of the public that submitted this map did get their ideas to be considered. That is how we get Map 114 here, which is the third map we'll focus on this evening. Bringing Areas 4 and 5 here into balance, we still have a relatively high total deviation at 9%. NDC usually recommends that our clients don't just go under the 10% but go a little bit lower. So it's still a little bit high, but I do think it's wonderful that this map was able to be modified in minor ways so that you could consider it.

This is really, of the maps, this is the real layer cake, where each area spans north to south. As opposed to just comparing that with 115, this map is very different in the sense that you do have an Area 2 and an Area 3 that are not - I don't know - long and skinny from north to south. But there's a different shape there, and that's important to point out as you're comparing these maps.

Thank you for bearing with me as I explained to you my understanding of the options on the table. I also hope that if you have any questions about the process or the maps that I am able to answer them for you. I put up the potential election sequences because, of course, when you choose a map, there will be a sequence of elections that go along with it. And legal counsel is here to answer any questions that you may have about the election sequencing.

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Tiffany Sadoff:

Thank you for the presentation of the maps and the thorough explanation of each for those that might just be tuning in for the first time tonight. So thank you for that. And we appreciate you being here to help us through this process.

Trustees, at this point before we open up the hearing for public comment, are there any questions on the presentation of the maps?

Derek Counter:

Just real quick on the numbers. All the maps that we have here, whether it be those three that we're focusing on or all the other ones, do they all meet the number criteria, tolerances, etc. It's not like... I know there's some deviation or variation, but they all meet that requirement, correct?

Kristen Parks:

Yes. In terms of the legal requirements on deviation, all of the maps that I showed you, with the exception of 113, meet that legal requirement.

Derek Counter:

Okay, and then that geographically contiguous, they all follow that same, there's no bumps and pieces.

Kristen Parks:

You probably have had this conversation before, but one of the limiting factors we have when drawing these boundaries are what are called census blocks. You know in your district there's some rather unusual shapes of census blocks. Sometimes that may create a contiguity issue, but that is often something that cannot be helped because we must follow those census blocks. That's my understanding of your maps, is that they're as contiguous as possible, given that constraint in a few areas.

Julie Hupp:

I understand this will be redone when the next census, 2030. And do those blocks change or do they always stay the same?

Kristen Parks:

Those blocks may change. They may not. One of the things our clients always ask is, "Well, how can we change them if they don't work for us?" And that is something that we can give you some more information about. I don't know off the top of my head what it is now. I do know that previously, jurisdictions were supposed to request that the state of California submit a list of recommended changes to the Census Bureau, and the state declined to do so.

As I understand, there may be another opportunity to make any changes if there's anything just really glaring, like two completely different neighborhoods or housing types that are within one block, or there's a major road dividing a block, or something like that. We see this in many places that there's a desire to update those blocks.

Tiffany Sadoff:

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Okay, thank you for the presentation. Having asked all questions at the moment, we will now move to item 9.2, a public hearing to gather community input.

I now open the public hearing to gather community input regarding proposed trustee area maps and election sequencing, pursuant to Elections Code section 10010 A2.

Okay. Seeing we have three comments, first up will be Thomas Garing, and on deck will be Bruce Yandell.

Thomas Garing:

Good evening. My name is Thomas Garing, and I reside in Rockland with my wife, Linda, at 2824 Springfield Drive. Four of our grandchildren attend four different schools in the Rockland Unified School District, and that is why I have a focus interest in this 2024 redistricting process.

I've reviewed all of the 15 proposed redistricting maps and their respective data sheets that document each map's compliance with Election Code Section 21130, Subdivision B1 requirements. The largest range of deviation I noted in the 15 proposed redistricting maps were the top two data sheet lines that quantified each of the five district variations above or below the ideal average student population of 13,928.

However, this particular metric does not appear to have a negative impact on the NDC's April 10th, 2024 disclosure report. Actually, I found no other such significant variations or surprises in the remaining 56 data lines for the five districts in each of the 15 proposed maps.

Based on my review of each of the 15 proposed maps and their respective data sheets, I feel that proposed map 111 was the best map as it one, keeps most of the elementary schools together; two, conveniently uses more than several major streets as district boundaries; three, utilizes existing school boundaries for a majority of the map; four, does not divide HOAs, such as Whitney Ranch, Whitney Oaks, and Springfield, into more than one district; five, is geographically contiguous; and six, has a 5.86 deviation from ideal population of 13,928.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Thank you, Thomas. Next up is Bruce Yandell, and on deck will be Neal Garbido.

Bruce Yandell:

Good evening. I want to second what he said. Really, when I looked at this mapping process, I was really encouraged to see that we weren't going to split up communities and that we weren't going to take into consideration current seats or current board member seats in this mapping process.

When I looked at those maps, 111 was the only one that kept my neighborhood, Whitney Ranch, together. It was the only one that made a community, and we're working really hard, everyone's transplants, and we're working really hard with the HOA to make it so that we are one community and trying to be united.

Every other one of those maps split us all up into different sections. I know we have topographical maps, and we have census maps and everything else, but we have to preserve our neighborhood and trying to build communities, and that seems to be the only map, from my standpoint, that actually preserves that. So thank you.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Thank you, Bruce. Next up, Neal, and on deck, Kevin Cooper.

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Neal Garbido:

Good evening again. First, I'm asking that Maps 114 and 115 be stricken from consideration as any maps posted after May 1st were not posted in the notice of public hearing for tonight. Quoting from that posting on April 10th, the district published draft trustee maps for the board and public consideration. On April 24th, 2024, the district published additional draft trustee area maps for the board and public consideration. I have a copy of it here, if you want to take a look.

There is no mention of any map posted after April 24th. These should not be considered. Furthermore, Map 114 should be eliminated for other reasons as well. It is derivative of Map 113, which is a shameless gerrymander, designed to protect favored incumbents. This, as was shown a few moments ago, is a California prohibition. It splits communities of interest, such as Whitney Ranch, where two trustees reside on either side of the dividing line.

How curious. It does this while strangely connecting relatively distant communities. It also fails to adhere to any semblance of compactness. That's criteria five.

To choose Map 114 will be a dereliction of this board's duty. While no map could ever be perfect, Map 111 is the best representation of available in May of 2024 for Rockland Unified School District and its constituents. I urge you to choose Map 111.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Thank you, Neal. Next up, Kevin Cooper.

Kevin Cooper:

Good evening, trustees. The last gentleman's terms and concepts were pretty bombastic.

Yoso or someone left their glasses up here.

I've raised this issue with the statisticians, reminding them that that's what I do for a living for a Fortune 10 company. The thing that has never been brought up in any of the maps is the need for us to understand where the growth areas are in Rockland. The prior folks at the lectern, who are unhappy with the other maps, do not give any credence to the idea that the green spaces, the open field places where new development can happen, on that side of town. And if we end up having a significant amount of...

If all the districts are equal, when we go into this next round over the next year or two of growth, then you're going to have a big unequal district on the north side of town, where frankly, most of the wealthy people live. And as a guy who lives on this side of town, other side of the railroad tracks, so to speak, we're going to be kind of outgunned. So I would demand, ask that that's taken into consideration as this debate goes on, that the demographers at least talk to that point because it's clear in the data that they shared that that was supposed to be something that was included in the process.

Lastly, as I talked to the Hispanic members of the community, the initial date when all of the initial notes were put up on the website, as I pointed out to the trustees, the initial notes that were shared didn't make any sense. It was clearly collected by AI. You couldn't read them. Not only that, the ability for us to reach out to the Ukrainian group and the large Hispanic church in town and put this in their languages and have them be a part of this, what outreach has been done? We're sitting here hearing everybody yell and scream and use big bombastic words about what map is good and what map's not good. Let's talk about the process. That's what I'm here about, guys. Thank you very much for your time.

Tiffany Sadoff:

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Okay, thank you, Kevin. Seeing no other comments, I will now close the public hearing to gather community input.

And trustees, we will now move to item 10.1, board selection of trustee area map and election sequencing schedule identified therein.

Oh. This is the time, trustees, where we will discuss, we will talk, and hopefully, come to a conclusion on a map and election sequencing. I do know there was a question that was brought up about meeting a legal requirement for posting. I just wanted to get clarification on that. I'm looking at the slide that says, in order for maps to be considered this evening, slide 4, that maps needed to be submitted by May 3rd and posted May 8th. Could you clarify for me? Were those dates met?

Georgia:

Yes. The law requires that the maps be posted seven days in advance of tonight's hearing, and the new maps that arose out of your last board meeting on May 1st were posted seven days in advance of tonight.

Tiffany Sadoff:

So all maps, with the exception of 113, that doesn't meet the population data, are legally compliant, is what I'm hearing.

Georgia:

That's right.

Michelle Sutherland:

Just want to make sure before we start deliberation. Thank you for that clarification.

Okay, trustees, thoughts on any of the maps?

Well, I have to... It's not a shift from, I think, what we've talked about. I feel like we've looked at some of these a lot at this point, but I am in agreement with some of the feedback that we heard on 111 as far as the criteria that we are obligated to consider. It helps to keep the HOAs together, which President Saathoff, that is something that you have brought up. It is one of the things that we talked about in getting this revision 115, which I absolutely agreed with. It also keeps Ruhkala Elementary together as a community of interest, given that they have maybe some unique kind of things that happen in their community with sharing a campus.

I actually had spoken with one of our former mayors, Mr. Peter Hill. He was talking to me about these maps, and in addition to the HOA piece, and also being most closely following the elementary school communities, not perfectly, but that was something I know, Trustee Counter, you had talked about quite a bit early on. He also had noticed, being that he's been around here for a long time, that the districts in 111 most closely match the way that Rockland has grown as a city as far as development. It was the map that we didn't have any revisions for last time. I think we all were pretty satisfied with how it looked, as far as just in and of itself as a map.

To speak a little bit to the piece about growth, from what I understand, we are to follow the 2020 Census numbers in doing this. But I will mention that while we do have some proposed and planned growth in Rockland, it's not massive. Like what we've seen with Whitney Oaks, Whitney Ranch, Stanford Ranch, way back when. We have those numbers and those projections in our facilities master plan. Each little

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community of growth is in the couple hundreds. It's not in the thousands, the 10 thousands. It's why we don't get a lot of developer money anymore as a district. We're almost at build-out is what we keep hearing.

We aren't committed to this for another 10 years. We're committed to this for 6 years. I feel like, being that we were thrown into this process with a very short timeline, I think we've all done our due diligence and really embraced the process.

So that's my thought. Map 115, I do think it resolved that concern that a couple of us had had about that area of Whitney Ranch being split up. But this district one, it's still, you have people up here in Whitney Ranch and then down here, all the way this southwest corner, it doesn't seem like the community of interest that makes the most sense.

I guess that's what I have.

Julie Hupp:

I agree with you about Map 111. I really feel strongly that Sunset Ranch and Quarry Trails need to be together. I think that is number one or two on our list of communities of interest.

I also feel like Ruhkala families and Rock Creek families, that's an area that I also like seeing together. I don't think any of these are perfect. I think this one has maybe even a few changes I would make. But for the most part, we follow high school. I mean we follow elementary school boundaries, keep communities of interest together. It's compact, has easy identifiable boundaries and pretty close on the HOAs. We're a little bit off, but pretty close. Those are the advantages I definitely see to 111.

PART 3 OF 6 ENDS [01:42:04]

Tiffany Sadoff:

I'll jump in. Yeah, I was looking through them. I made a, like I do with my kids often, a positive column and a negative column for each of the maps, and some of our speakers this evening, our public comment, and some of my colleagues, have hit on some of the things in the positive column I had for 111. For the most part, HOAs are mostly together. Elementary school boundaries, I've heard both of those in the community as pretty important topics, and I think it checks the box for both of those, except a little bit in the middle of the city, it gets a little messy there, but I think for the most part it does the best job of all of the maps to do that. I do like that it is compact and has clean lines. I think the deviation at 5.8% is an appropriate deviation.

Also, what had originally drawn me to Map 104, which was not a part of the creation of this map, was some of those higher minority population groups, and actually, in looking at this revision, once 103 was revised to 111, I actually found we do still have some of those. For example, Zone 5, we still have a centric group of about 22.81% Asian population, and in Area 4 we still have a 20.14%.

So seeing that we can still accomplish keeping some of those communities together, I do see that as a community of interest, I've heard from our community. I'm comfortable with that one. I do have a few areas that I have a few questions and thoughts about. I do like the low deviation of 115, but I think a 5.8% is well under the 10% in an appropriate deviation, and I also think 114, although it does have some positives, I get very concerned about boundaries that are drawn quite long throughout the district. We lose that compactness, and then we are still seeing some of those communities of interest that I've heard from like Whitney Ranch, being broken up. So with that, I do think I'm leaning towards 111 at the moment. I'd love to hear from my colleagues if there are major concerns with 111. I do have a few small

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concerns I do want to talk about on that, but I am hearing a little bit of a consensus of 111. Are there any major concerns with 111?

Speaker 19:

No major concerns. I think 111 and 114, from a standpoint of general separation or deviation from the elementary schools, I think it's the 12 things we have that are somewhat ... that separate the city pretty well, so I like both of those.

I understand there's pros and cons with each. Given the way the city is set up, I can appreciate where the growth is on that western corridor. Understand that you got to use the railroad tracks or major roads or somewhat a landmass. I think that separation between whether it's three and four on 111 or two and three on three, there's no easy way to chop the middle of the city up. I don't ... every time you draw it, you lose A and you get B or whatever. So, a challenge.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Okay. Am I really hearing a consensus around 111 already? Okay. I do want to take a few minutes though to highlight a few just concerns I have because-

Superintendent Stock:

Would you like that map pulled up?

Tiffany Sadoff:

Sure, that would be great. Thank you. Superintendent Stock, could we pull up Map 111? Sorry, I have it on my tablet here, but that doesn't help those watching.

So I do want to talk about Map 111 because the reality is we are having this map for the next six years, and so I do think it's important to really look at what that does for our community. Again, I've highlighted many of the positives in talking to those that have reached out to me and some that I have reached out to. I will say a couple concerns that I'm wondering if we have any option with, if we are able to say tonight, hey, we have a consensus on 111. I am noticing that Stirling up at the top, that section of ... thank you, Whitney Oaks, is somehow lumped into Whitney Ranch when that's actually not Whitney Ranch. So that northern section, it's lumped into Section 5 and it really should be ... it's really the only component of Whitney Oaks that's not listed in Whitney Oaks.

Trustee Sutherland:

Actually, I think the other side of [inaudible 01:46:52] is also considered Whitney Oaks, Pebble Beach. Sorry. Thank you. Not Pebble Creek.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Yes. Okay, sorry. So I had that. Oh, okay. So I had that also written down that ... so first is this Stirling section. Do you see that right there at the top? That community, I found it odd that it kind of jetted out there. I was surprised it didn't just follow the Whitney Oaks drive line right there to include it, and it's such a small population group that I don't think that would've majorly changed the population centers. But if you follow that line down like Trustee Price, I think you're probably getting at what ... Pebble Beach Road, I am concerned that it looks like on there that you have neighbors across the street from each other that are going to be in different trustee areas, and that seems odd to me because I don't notice

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that anywhere else really on the map. So for example, when the line was drawn between Area 3 and 2, it's drawn behind neighborhoods, not on a street that has a house on either side of the street being in different neighborhoods. Could you speak to that?

Kristen Parks:

Yes. So to some extent that depends on the census blocks, which I can pull up here, but I will say it is very common for us to have different sides of the street be in different areas, if that's considered a major street. Obviously those people may think of themselves as the same neighborhood and that would be a case where we try to avoid doing that.

Trustee Sutherland:

Can you click on it for us and see, is it a big number?

Kristen Parks:

Yeah, let's look at that, and legal counsel can comment on this, but usually your resolution to adopt includes a clause that allows for technical adjustments, as long as they do not change the overall population numbers.

Trustee Sutherland:

I would be a little ... I think if the other side of Pebble Beach, that works, I would be concerned that if we also pulled in that neighborhood at the top, that that's going to start to change things too much, and I would say at the least, that Stirling neighborhood, it looks like its own little tract of homes, if I'm right. When she zooms in, it looks like they're ... what is the number on that? Because really, because really then, if you look at Pebble Beach and there are a couple streets on the other side, like that Cali and some other ones down there like Hanover, that technically are not Whitney Ranch but are included in district ... I feel like, at what point do we go too far?

Tiffany Sadoff:

That was going to be my suggestion, if I can throw out my suggestion. So my suggestion was going to be, if you look at the population numbers right now, the first zone or District 5 is actually at 14,219, and the population of 3 is only 13,819, so there's actually quite a bit of wiggle room there. And so my suggestion was going to be, just like we're seeing really almost every other spot on the map where we draw a line, that you draw the line right behind the neighborhoods there on Wickford Boulevard, so that which is Whitney Oaks stays together, and that which is Whitney Ranch stays together.

I am wondering if someone drew these changes that didn't live in the community, they might've thought Pebble Beach Road is a main road. If you drive the community, that's not a main road like Stanford Ranch is or like Park is or even like Whitney Oaks is. It's a residential road that has houses on both sides.

Kristen Parks:

So now that we can see the black lines here, the census blocks, so I think you can see now why, there's this huge census block here.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Oh, so you can't take a chunk out of that?

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Kristen Parks:

You can't just take a out of that. However, the Stirling Drive area, those are two unique blocks and that, I believe, is a total of 188 people, so that may be possible to do.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Okay, so the Pebble Beach, because I thought it was so odd that that line was drawn there. So you're saying it's because of a census block. So I do understand-

Kristen Parks:

The census block actually goes all the way up to Whitney Ranch Parkway.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Okay, but the Stirling is an option. Could we ...

Kristen Parks:

That whole area.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Yeah, I don't think we want to do that because then you break apart Whitney Ranch. But if we could maybe table this Stirling for one second and I just had two others . maybe now that you have the census blocks, could you show us? I also found I was a little surprised, if you go down to Twin Oaks, so if you follow Park down, the Twin Oaks school and neighborhood is broken up ... a major road would've been Park Drive, and so it was broken ... oh, and it could work with census blocks, I believe, if I'm seeing this correctly.

My suggestion is going to be, there was two concerns where Area 3 is drawn down, a chunk of Twin oaks was taken into 3 and then a chunk of Cobblestone was kicked out into 2, and my suggestion was going to be just swap those two. So keep all of Twin Oaks together, and it could go in 4 or wherever, and then keep all of Cobblestone together in 3, which sounds like a big change, but it's actually not because they're very similar numbers. And then what that also changes is, right now all of the areas have only two elementary schools in it, except Area 3 has four. So really the easiest way for me to explain it would be, if Area 4 took Twin Oaks and that little hub there, then Area 4 would have three schools, Area 3 would have three schools, and the rest would have two. Instead of all of the areas having two schools and then one having four. I felt that was quite odd.

Kristen Parks:

Is this the area you would put into ... this entire area, into 3?

Tiffany Sadoff:

Oh no, sorry. Okay, so if you go up, so Park Drive, that street right there, the part where it says Twin Oaks Park.

Kristen Parks:

Oh yeah, no, I understand this part. You're saying from basically-

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Tiffany Sadoff:

Down that neighborhood-

Kristen Parks:

All the way down-

Tiffany Sadoff:

Put that in the purple.

Kristen Parks:

Put that in purple, but then what's the trade-off?

Tiffany Sadoff:

The blue part right there? Right behind those neighborhoods. So if you lived in that area, there's a giant kind of cliff right behind Bluff's Drive, so your natural ... let's see, Story Road, like Stanford Ranch to the fire station, that's actually all one kind of neighborhood, and then there's like a cliff that drops down and you actually have to drive down, I believe that's Whitney there. So I felt that kind of odd that got jetted out. So my suggestion was essentially-

Trustee Sutherland:

My concern though then, it's not as easy as what we did up with Stirling because it's not 3 to 5, 5 to 3, it's then you're taking from 4 and then ... or adding to 4, taking from 2, rather than say [inaudible 01:54:16] is that-

Tiffany Sadoff:

I mean, if you could double check the numbers for me, I was only going off of what I can look at.

Kristen Parks:

What I can say is 2 is currently the largest of all of the areas, so depending on how many people would be taken out, it could work, and 3 is slightly underpopulated, so it could work, but unfortunately, we don't ever ... it's our practice to never try to look at these numbers and make these adjustments live, simply because we don't want to make any mistakes. We don't want you making decisions on something that we haven't been very thorough about. However, if you wished to adopt Map 111 with these three possible changes, if they're possible, understanding that if for some reason they're not possible and they throw the deviation off, that you would have to be comfortable with Map 111 as is.

Tiffany Sadoff:

But trustees, do you understand what I'm ... I think it just makes more sense than one zone having four schools in it.

Trustee Sutherland:

I think, if it works and it doesn't extend, like if we can still vote to approve a map and we have that kind of contingency plan in place, that seems reasonable.

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Tiffany Sadoff:

Yeah.

Trustee Sutherland:

So it would be the-

Kristen Parks:

I just want to understand the Cobblestone one again so I understand the Twin Oaks and the Stirling bit.

Speaker 20:

Yeah, it's these like Parker ... the little, am I correct that it's the Leland, Cobblestone, Parker, Cook, Milburn, this little, yeah, what she's circling right there.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Yep. That section right there, and then it would just be ... I think it's Bluffs, right?

Speaker 21:

Bluff and Story.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Yeah, right. Obviously behind the houses' neighborhoods, I'm trying to keep the neighborhood together.

Trustee Sutherland:

Yeah, it seems with the census blocks, that you would take from 4, so the outer boundary would be go down a little bit to the next one. Yes, and go all the way down. Follow that one and kind of close, I know now it's off the screen, but kind of go down to the end of that one, right? Yeah. Can you zoom out a little?

Tiffany Sadoff:

Yeah, if you're able, down Ford Road, because if you drive it, Ford Road is still up above, and then as soon as you drop down then everything drops down kind of like the Midas area.

Trustee Sutherland:

Yeah, so even where your cursor is, that little, that would be the end of it. Yes.

Speaker 21:

[inaudible 01:57:05].

Trustee Sutherland:

Yeah, if that adds up, then yeah, that would make sense.

Speaker 20:

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The thing I like about that also is it is one of our factors, it's an easy identifiable boundary, and it's part of 95765, where that line then from that point over, it's 95677.

Speaker 19:

So we talked about one general map, we talk about those little edits. When we're making those small edits, if one of them worked and one of them didn't we're okay, right, they're all independent, so it's not like you got to go,-

Speaker 20:

That's up to you. Yeah.

Speaker 19:

Okay. I just want to make sure.

Trustee Sutherland:

I don't feel like any of them are, but I do think it would be, yeah, that would be a good positive change.

Tiffany Sadoff:

I think it just evens it out a little bit. So I guess if I'm not hearing major concern, can I try the motion? How do we ... oh wait, I have [inaudible 01:58:01]. Yes, please do. Go ahead.

Speaker 21:

So the law allows very minor changes, almost like corrections to typos and errors to be made. If you are revising a map and moving certain neighborhoods into different maps, that's a new revised map that will require that it get a 7-day public notice so that the public can weigh in on the new revised map before you can take action on it. And I'm not as familiar with these areas. I mean, you all know I live out here in Placer County, I'm not as familiar with these areas as you are, but from what I'm looking at, these don't look like the sort of very minor sort of typo type revisions. You're talking about moving certain neighborhoods into other trustee areas that haven't been included on the map, unless you're seeing something that I'm not seeing.

Kristen Parks:

What about that just first initial one because it's so small, it almost looks like it is correcting an error here. That's where I start from this, but you're right. As we add the others [inaudible 01:59:03].

Tiffany Sadoff:

If we know we like it and we're just concerned about like, one is having four schools in it and the rest all have two, I mean, you're saying we have to post it, but it's not like you have to do a full other meeting. You can say tonight, hey, we like 111. Can you make that change? Then you have to post it and then we have to do a special meeting to actually vote on it? We can't vote tonight?

Speaker 21:

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Right. We would want the demographer to actually create the map and like she said, not on the spot here, because they need to do all their fact checking to make sure it's completely accurate. Then post this new map, it'd be map 116, and then that would need to be posted at least seven days, and then you could have a special meeting though to do a final adoption, if you don't feel you're prepared to do that tonight.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Well, I think we're prepared and we all like the changes. I'm hesitant to vote on a map, this map with four schools all in one district. I don't think, and we're going to be stuck with that for six years.

Trustee Sutherland:

So we could ... we give some of our recommendations for changes. We do a seven-day notice once ... so the map gets created and it's posted for seven days?

Speaker 21:

Yes, they would need time to actually create the map and do their statistical analysis on the population and all the things, and then once that's done, then that would go out for the posting like all of your other draft maps have.

Trustee Sutherland:

And then we would from that point out have to schedule ... because we have to give a certain amount of days' notice for another hearing, right?

Speaker 21:

Yeah. A special meeting only requires 24 hours notice, but the maps have to be posted seven days, so you'd have to schedule a special meeting at least seven days after a new draft map was prepared.

Speaker 19:

So seven days from today is May 22nd. How long would it take our demographer to provide a new map that could be posted?

Kristen Parks:

What is today? Wednesday?

Speaker 19:

Yes.

Kristen Parks:

By Monday morning we could have a map to your staff to be posted.

Speaker 19:

Could you have it Friday?

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Kristen Parks:

Could we have it Friday? I mean, probably, if it's just what we've discussed.

Speaker 19:

If it's just what we discussed, could you do it tomorrow?

Kristen Parks:

Well, I can't do it tomorrow because tomorrow I'm at Tracy Unified, but we could aim for Friday morning so that you could get it posted by end of day Friday. Does that make sense?

Speaker 19:

Well, I was looking at the earliest is, you know, seven days from today would be the 22nd and to provide a possible option for the 23rd to hold a meeting, but that would require us posting the map by tomorrow, and if not, then we could either hold a ... the board could hold a Friday, May 24th meeting or it could go into May 28th, which is the day after Memorial Day. But-

Trustee Sutherland:

Is that within our legal obligation?

Speaker 19:

It is. The County Committee is scheduled for June 10th, so that would still be within the timeframe allowed to meet all the requirements the board needs.

Tiffany Sadoff:

And then literally it's just a fast, "Okay, yay. It looks like it works, great," or "Oh, bummer, it didn't work. Okay, we like 111."

Speaker 19:

Right. So the recommendation would be if the board chooses to want to look at a new map of 116 and to consider that, then it sounds like then potentially, if we have a quorum, Tuesday, May 28th to hold a meeting may may work, and then we would work to have everything posted for that. Okay. So then following our practice-

Speaker 21:

And I was going to say just to confirm, you would still be within your timeline, the 90-day timeline, based on your demand letter and your intent resolution as well.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Does there have to be a gap before it goes to the county?

Speaker 19:

The county committee needs time to post their agenda, but if you acted on May 28th, that would give them plenty of time to have the materials posted for their hearing. I consulted with the county on when

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they needed to have things posted, and we would be right within that, just barely. So trustees, then we would not request action tonight on items 10.1 or 10.2, but directions would be given to the demographer to come up with 116, based on the direction given, and then direction would be given to me to work to schedule and agendize a special meeting for May 28th at, I assume, 6:30 P.M. to-

Tiffany Sadoff:

It would just be that one agenda item.

Speaker 19:

It would just be that one agenda item which would include a presentation, a public hearing, and then the two action items that were listed for tonight.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Okay. And then do we have to have any conversation now about sequencing or do we do that at that time? Or I think was the recommendation already made for the sequencing?

Speaker 21:

You have sequencing and recommendations for each of the draft maps, and there would be a new one for 111 as well, because we have to look at the numbers that come in with 111. The demographer doesn't deal with sequencing at all. That's something we put together for you.

Speaker 19:

That would be actually Map 116.

Speaker 21:

Yes.

Tiffany Sadoff:

And that would be able to be done for that night so we can be officially done that night?

Speaker 21:

Yes.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Okay. Sounds like we have a plan.

Speaker 19:

Okay, we have a plan.

Kristen Parks:

I have your direction, three proposed changes, and I will ask Dr. Levitt to consider any of them or all of them as balances the map.

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Tiffany Sadoff:

Thank you so much. Thank you both for being here.

Speaker 19:

So yeah, 10.1 and 10.2 Would be carried over to the special meeting.

Tiffany Sadoff:

No action will be taken on item 10.2 tonight since that'll move on. Okay, so then we will move to item 10.3. Jennifer Stollerber, our Deputy Superintendent Of Business and Operations, and Craig Rouse, our Senior Director of Facilities, Maintenance and Operations, will now present our Facilities Master Plan for 2024.

Jennifer Stollerber:

Good evening, President Zotoff, Board of Trustees Superintendent Stock. So we're here tonight with an for that Facilities Master Plan that we brought to you at our last board meeting. I'm going to move to the next slide. So we're going to do a little timeline recap and then we're going to talk about the purpose of the Facilities Master Plan, the process to develop that plan, and some of our accomplishments from developing the Master Plan, and then what our next steps are.

So we've seen you several times to discuss this and it started back in June of 2022, where the board approved a contract with Capital PFG for facilities master planning advisory services. Then we moved into some facilities planning review, where principals were involved, and that was in April 2023. The Board Facilities Subcommittee had some meetings, and then we had a Facilities Master Plan Board Study Session in September 13, 2023.

We came back in November where there was another board meeting discussion on the Capital Facilities Update, and then we had a January, 2024 board study session, and during that study session, we had some additional questions around portables, some delivery methods, and the board wanted us to bring back some additional information, so we came back in March with that information. After Craig and his team did some analysis, we reached out to our portable manufacturers to see what some options were, and our trustees went out and visited some portables to see some of the options that were available.

Then we came back also on the 17th, after we compiled all that information, put together what those costs would be, and then sought some direction from you on what you would like to see in that delivery method. And then our last meeting, we brought back this plan to share it again. I'm hoping to get some direction as we move forward with this, and I'm going to hand it off to my colleague.

Craig Rouse:

Good evening. Okay, so the purpose of the Facility Master Plan is we gather information and data that provides the basis for the planning of facility improvements. It's a tool to identify the capital needs of all of our capital assets and other assets of the district. It describes a plan for modernizing and improving facilities to meet the standards that the district has set forth. It's a plan that would typically identify the needs well in excess of funding that's available, and then really helps us gather our long-term planning.

The California Department of Education, CDE, recommends that school districts update their plan every five years, and it's really a long shot look of 10 to 15 years of what those capital needs and future improvements will be. And then our Facility Master Plan, it's a fluid document, what we call a live

document. So as the district has changed demographically and things have shifted in the district, we make adjustments to the Master Plan, and it's really, it's a facilities vision as we follow the education folks and instruction to achieve educational excellence.

So the process, how do we develop the Master Plan? So we started back in the spring of 2017 and we walked all the sites with a group of engineers and architects, and we looked at every building within the district, and we came up with what are those needs for our facilities. The needs were identified through visual inspections and conversations when we met with school administrators, maintenance staff and the community. Then we further engaged board members, school site, educational partners and parents to determine what those projects' needs are and what the priorities were. We listed tier one, two and three projects as we went through that, and we received board input, and site assessment results were memorialized into an FMP that was adopted back in April of 2018.

This document is an update to the 2018 Facility Master Plan. So that 2018 plan is kind of our foundation, and as things have shifted in the district and we went through Covid and we've kind of leveled out in our growth, we've made those adjustments to this plan that we're bringing forward tonight for approval.

So what have we accomplished since 2018? Well, we've accomplished just under \$88 million worth of improvements, so capital improvements within the district. \$58 million of additional funding was identified. We brought that back in November, and we came up with a list of projects for capital facility needs that included replacement of portables, HVAC replacement, energy management system upgrades, possible LED lighting upgrades, and we're going to do a solar assessment this summer for the whole district.

So what are our next steps? Well, we're going to start the process to hire architects, solicit bids, as these projects start to come together and we start the programming process. We're going to review our staffing level and perform a needs analysis in anticipation of how we're going to deliver these projects, and then we're going to bring items to the board for approval as we start to roll out these projects in 2024. Any questions?

Speaker 19:

Just looking forward to seeing all the progress and all the great things you guys do, so thank you, Craig.

Tiffany Sadoff:

FMPs aren't easy. We've spent a lot of time painstakingly looking at this, right, and I think it's good for the community to know, and it's written really well in here, I believe, that an FMP doesn't mean every one of these things is going to happen right away or that it can happen right away or even that it should happen right away. It's an identification that, hey, there's a need, and to provide the best, most excellent model we can. These are the needs we've heard from the community, from all of our stakeholders, so I appreciate you bringing that all together, but then also chunking out, okay, here's the 58 million that we are doing right now, and here's the projects that we are doing. And then also a reminder to the community that anything and everything in that Facilities Master Plan, right, these are living, breathing documents that are going to change over time as our needs of our district change.

But it's nice to just be able to identify needs and then say, hey, as we're able to, let's chunk out some pieces. And so I appreciate you for doing the work, bringing that together, updating it to make sure we have an updated plan, but then also bringing back to the board, as we get bids and as we do scopes of projects, bringing those back so the community knows what's happening and when.

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So thank you for your work on that. We are looking for an action to be taken on this tonight. Is there a motion to approve the Facilities Master Plan update?

Trustee Sutherland:

So moved.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Is there a second?

Trustee Hubb:

Second.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Okay. First by Trustee Sutherland, second by Trustee Hubb. Georgia, will you please call the roll?

Georgia:

Julie Hupp?

Trustee Hubb:

Yes.

Georgia:

Rochelle Price?

Rochlle PRice:

Yes.

Georgia:

Derek Counter.

Speaker 19:

Yes.

Georgia:

Michelle Sutherland?

Trustee Sutherland:

Yes.

Georgia:

Tiffany Sadoff.

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Tiffany Sadoff:

Yes. Motion passes. Thank you. Okay, we will now move to item 10.4, Action on Legal Services Agreement with Liberty Justice Center. Superintendent Stock, will you please present the item?

Superintendent Stock:

Yes. On April 23rd, 2024, the California Department of Education took legal action against Rocklin Unified School District. On May 1st, 2024, a majority of the board gave direction to me to pursue a pro bono legal services agreement related to this litigation by CDE for consideration by the board at the May 15th board meeting. The legal services agreement before the board tonight with the Liberty Justice Center is to provide pro bono legal services to the Rocklin Unified School District in this matter. The legal services agreement with Liberty Justice Center has been reviewed by the district's legal counsel.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Okay. Thank you for presenting the item. Trustees, any questions or comments before we hear public comment on this item?

Speaker 20:

I do have some comments. I know maybe not well received by the rest of you all up here, but I do have some concerns and I think that the ability for us up here to share varied perspectives is important. I think we all agree on that. So I'm sure, no surprise I have a lot of concerns related to this legal services agreement. The lack of transparency that comes with making this decision is a major concern of mine. I really want the public to understand that once this board approves the legal services agreement tonight, we as a board will not really have any obligation to keep the community informed of decisions that are being made, depending on what course of action is taken. This dispute with California Department of Education is considered pending litigation and can be handled just in closed session.

The board could choose to bring certain topics to the public. I've seen other school boards bring their legal counsel to talk about these things, so I know it can be done, but in the time we've been dealing with this issue, you all have not chosen to bring legal counsel in to discuss the options publicly to talk about what are the legally sound paths forward, what are the real potential outcomes here?

Assuming that we won't end up deciding to do that, that means that moving forward from tonight, this board will really have no accountability to the public related to where this lawsuit leads us from here. Yes, you all can use Google, you all can file public records requests, you can come speak as a non-agenda item, but we won't necessarily have to discuss it in front of you all again.

Because I don't know where Liberty Justice Center is going to lead us, and I don't know what the public will have access to moving forward, I just want to make it clear that we have had opportunities to address the education code violations. Our inaction, or as the CDE stated, the unlawful refusal and failure to carry out the corrective actions, was answered with the lawsuit we're dealing with right now. We could-

PART 4 OF 6 ENDS [02:16:04]

Michelle:

... answered with the lawsuit we're dealing with right now. We could just notify teachers and students that we are not implementing the policy as Dry Creek did via Parents Square just on May 3rd. It's a true

statement. We're not implementing the policy. We haven't implemented the policy. That wouldn't require us to rescind it. It would allow the courts time to decide on the cases that are already working through the system. Our board statement that was read at the last meeting said basically just that, it said, "Since there are some inconsistencies in state and federal law, we as the board will focus on student achievement in RUSD while the courts handle this matter." So I wish we could just do that. Let the courts handle the matter. We don't need to drag our community through this again, it's already in the courts and people are just really tired of this. People are tired.

Responding through litigation will only benefit your political clout. It doesn't benefit students and it won't put your policy in place any faster. Nothing is free. The Legal Services Agreement is not an exception. Pro bono or not. You've cherry picked an out-of-state firm that's going to tell you exactly what you want to hear. It's going to proceed however far you want to take this thing. This is not going to be an exercise in moderation. I think that's pretty clear. Liberty Justice Center, as evidenced by their internet presence, is a firm that views all aspects of this matter through a political lens that aligns with the board majority. Are you really so confident that Rocklin residents, by and large, are okay with letting Liberty Justice Center characterize Rocklin students, parents and teachers however it so chooses? It is a certainty that Liberty Justice Center will use our community and our district's name to fundraise for their cause. It's in the contract.

They're not providing these services pro bono, out of the goodness of their hearts, they're doing it to advance this political agenda and add to their bottom line. And what happens if we don't prevail? The CDE letter plainly states that they can take away our funding and/or withhold future funding if we do not correct our actions that have violated the law. The contract states that there is some limit to Liberty Justice Center's generosity. If CDE wins, we may be on the hook for damages, attorney's fees and costs for bringing the litigation. What if we end up with individual teachers suing us like what happened in Escondido? I see a situation where the courts could easily find in favor of teachers who don't want to follow our policy on the same grounds. Would Liberty Justice also represent as pro bono then or with any other suits that may arise as a result of our actions?

You know I'm not in support of fighting CDE. However, if you must do it, wouldn't it be preferable to pay our own legal counsel to represent us on this? Why wouldn't we want impartial guidance by someone who doesn't have a vested interest in a certain political outcome? We have a responsibility as an entity that's funded primarily by taxpayer dollars to make sure that our actions are legally sound, do not discriminate against any protected class and do not risk us losing the funding that our students depend on. I want to circle back to the main point I made back in September when you all made this decision in the first place. It's unwise to take up divisive issues like this one when there are so many shared interests that we have. Interests that directly relate to student education and rise above political leanings.

We had a perfect example of this just last board meeting. In fact, both parties are here tonight. We had two parents here last time who could not possibly be further from each other on the political spectrum. And imagine how shocked I was that they both got up here, they praised the district progress on literacy and addressing the needs of students with dyslexia. They both openly wished that these changes had come sooner so that their older children could have benefited. We have more educational areas that could be improved by our leadership and sooner if we decided to spend our time in that way. Our responsibility and duty in this role as I and also as many Rocklin voters see it is not to focus on a fringe political cause that only six school districts out of 977 California districts chose to hop onto last fall. We have a commitment to prioritize our students' education here in Rocklin above anything else and entering into this agreement jeopardizes our ability to do that.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Thank you, Michelle. We will continue at the meeting or we will need to pause for a recess. Thank you. Thank you, Michelle, for your comments that were made this evening. Are there any other trustee comments before we hear a public comment? Okay. I do have a few comments but I'm really interested in hearing because I do see a stack of public comments, so I want to make sure that everybody has the opportunity to share where they're at on this issue so I can fully hear before I make my comments. So we will go ahead and start with our public comment on this agenda item.

Just a reminder you'll see on the screen on the side to please state your full name, the city you live in and the school your children attend. We do ask that all your comments are addressed to the board. Individual speakers will be allowed two minutes to address the board. Time cannot be yielded to anyone else. And the board respects each individual's right to express their ideas and expect speakers to refrain from personal attacks based on protected categories under state and federal law including race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, et cetera. Please remember that children may be watching, please no profanity. Okay, first up will be Irene Buck and on deck will be Sabrina Naves.

Irene Buck:

Hi, thanks for having me. I'm Irene Buck. I'm a Rocklin resident and I have two little boys at Quarry Trail Elementary. I'm in Whitney Ranch. And I have two points I'd like to talk about tonight. The first is two years ago after the Uvalde Elementary School shooting, I emailed documentation that the state superintendent had sent all school boards in California in 2019 advising an urgent need to provide safe gun storage notices to families. Storing guns and ammunition separately and in a safe is recommended by police organizations, the NRA and is the law in our state. The notice I emailed you all, except for Sutherland who was not on the board at the time, it included the state law that references safe storage and also I sent some sample letters in that were sent from the state superintendent. It's been five years since this direction from the state superintendent and the notices are still not included in our annual notices. I am asking that you please include it in next year's annual notice.

My next point is specific to 10.4. I am really upset to hear that you're sticking on this and trying to defend this lawsuit. Just while sitting here, I was looking up this Liberty Justice Center organization and they're notorious for defending cases against LGBTQ folks and I find them to be discriminatory. I am not of the queer community, no one in my immediate family is in the queer community and I do think that my views very much reflect the people that live in our community. Which is that we should leave them alone and this is not the school's business to be involved in. I think you put teachers in a legal bind really. I think they could get sued by the parents if something like this happens. And the parents are not of your leanings. And I think it's absolutely awful to put children through this experience. It's demoralizing. It's a lack of privacy. I am sorry I'm flustered by it. It really upsets me that you would even consider doing this. And I've [inaudible 02:24:20].

Tiffany Sadoff:

Next up we have Sabrina Naves. On deck, Alexandra Edith.

Sabrina Naves:

Rocklin School Board, my name is Sabrina Naves. I'm here by request of Rocklin parents and on behalf of PFLAG Sacramento. It is no secret that the ongoing litigation surrounding the force outing policy of trans and gender non-conforming children is not only harmful to parents, children and faculty of the school

district, but also an unnecessary drain in district resources. Public schools are a vital part of American society that gave each child a chance to learn and grow and become educated, healthy and productive members of society. I'm here tonight on behalf of an organization that supports parents. Our goal is to bring families together to work for a more caring, just and affirming world. When a teacher or staff member is forced to disclose a very personal detail about a student to parents, that child is put in danger, shattering their trust and scarring them for a lifetime. Even affirming parents do not want to subject their children to this type of humiliation.

Parents' rights do not include the right to abuse children. We would rather see families brought together with love and kindness. Through our work, we educate parents on how to support their children, provide them with resources and a community that serves families. Should anyone here be worried that their child will express a gender identity that doesn't match their sex assigned at birth, let me provide some reassurance. It is impossible to force a trans child to be cisgender. It's equally impossible to force a cisgender child to be trans. Should any child begin to question their identity, we at PFLAG are here to provide parents support and education. We ask that rather than continuing to drag the school through litigation that will consume time and money despite claims of pro bono legal services and expose the student, staff and parents to national scrutiny that a bold, compassionate decision be made to rescind this harmful policy before it does any more damage. There's an opportunity tonight to remove a deeply unpopular policy that parents and students begged this board not to adopt months ago. Thank you.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Next up we have Alexandra Edith. On deck, Patricia Harding.

Alexandra Edith:

My name's Alexandra Edith. I'm a Rocklin community member. And Rocklin School Board members, I'm here again speaking against your illegal and murderous forced outing policy because you take the maxim don't back down more seriously than you take your jobs as educators. I could appeal to the fiscal liability you're placing the school district under, your failures as representatives of parents that do not support these policies or the clearly lacking legal aid you have called upon. But others have already voiced their concerns and run against your deafened ears. Instead, I will attempt to appeal to your humanity. Though he never hit me, the first time I tried to come out to my father, I was met with the support of being forced to watch anti-trans propaganda and videos of queer people being beaten and killed.

"This is what they do to people who are different. You're not trans, you're just the victim of a broken society. I'm sorry you feel that way, but I raised you, I know you're not trans." All quotes from my father. If it isn't clear, my father knew absolutely nothing about me or what was best for me. The only shelter I ever found from him was school. I can recall many a lunch spent choking back panic attacks and a myriad of conversations held in the offices of fantastic teachers who used their precious little free time to make sure I received the support I was never going to receive at home. If they had been required to do as you are forcing Rocklin teachers to do, I would not be standing here today. I would've taken my own life, as so many others have, rather than continue living through the torture imposed on me by my father. Board Policy 21 will do nothing but burden this amazing community and put children's lives at risk. Please break from your madness and rescind Board Policy 21.

Patricia Harding:

Pat Harding, Rocklin resident. I do not have any kids or grandkids in the district, but I do donate yearly to our two high schools in Rocklin for scholarships. That's how much I care about education. We all know

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about the two lawsuits filed against the Rocklin Unified School District concerning a policy they passed last September. One lawsuit by the Rocklin Teachers Professional Association, the other by the California Department of Education. Old but unhappy news. But not to be deterred, the Rocklin Unified School Board is considering the following contract titled, Engagement Agreement for Litigation Services between Rocklin Unified School District and Liberty Justice Center way back in Chicago.

This is a contract, item one. This is all going to be summarized quickly. Scope of services. Well this is basically to challenge the state of California for their opposition to the board's parental notification policies, passed by four of the five board members. And now we'll go down to item five. Costs of litigation. In the event the opposing party, which is the state of California, is the prevailing party in the litigation, the state of California may be awarded damages, their attorney's fees and costs for bringing this litigation. Liberty Justice Center and any other co-counsel will not be liable to the Rocklin Unified School [inaudible 02:30:44].

Tiffany Sadoff:

Thank you, Pat. Unfortunately the time is up. But thank you, Pat. Next up is Jessie Nibley and on deck will be Rex Carpenter.

Jessie Nibley:

Jessie Nibley. I have kids at Parker Whitney. I am deeply concerned about the contents of the Legal Services Agreement. From the extremely inadvisable waiver of conflicts to handing over complete control of media coverage to a special interest law firm. As an attorney myself, I would tell any client to run, not walk away, from a firm offering something like this. But the concern I want to discuss tonight is cost. This is being presented as a cost-free way to continue pursuing an illegal forced outing policy. Well, I don't know if you've heard, but there's no such thing as a free lunch. Liberty Justice Center lawyers don't just give their services away out of the goodness of their hearts. They have their own agenda and they serve that agenda as stated clearly on their website, "Through cutting-edge strategic precedent setting litigation." Their business model relies on test cases and every case needs a client.

They want to use Rocklin Unified School District, its resources, its reputation, its goodwill to advance their own interests and it will come at a cost to us. Taxpayer dollars will be used to pursue this unnecessary policy. RUSD employee hours will be spent gathering documents, responding to discovery requests, preparing for depositions. Other school districts who've engaged Liberty Justice Center in similar cases have ended up paying a second law firm to get involved because Liberty Justice Center doesn't specialize in education law and doesn't have any California law specialists. They want to pursue this case for their own ends and RUSD will be left holding the bag, including potentially paying the state's attorney fees and costs when we lose. The Legal Services Agreement also does not cover the unfair practice charge by RTPA or any other potential litigation. We'll be paying for that too. This is a waste of district funds, our taxpayer money and it will come directly out of our schools' already inadequate budgets. The fiscally responsible choice is to drop the policy.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Next up, we have Rex Carpenter. On deck will be Bruce Yandell.

Rex Carpenter:

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My name is Rex Carpenter. I've lived in Rocklin since '93. Liberty Justice Center is using you to promote their agenda, not your agenda. You're being sucked in. You're going to end up paying for it. Our children are going to end up paying for it because of your policies. Your policy is unconstitutional, un-American and un-Christian. I was raised a Methodist and raised my children in the United Church of Christ, a non-denominational church. I was a monitor, moderator for a couple of years and I'm a Stephen Minister. I was never taught or saw what this board is doing. I learned in life, do no harm. No matter how this turns out, you have and you will harm our children. I know you're not listening to me nor the other hundreds of other speakers or Michelle, but for me to remain silent is not an option. You are embarrassing yourselves, the school district, the city of Rocklin, Placer County and the state of California. Thank you.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Next up Bruce Yandell. On deck, Neil Gravito.

Bruce Yandell:

Hi, I am Bruce Yandell and I have a child at Quarry Trail Elementary. I can't repeat, we don't have two minutes, to repeat everything that everyone said here today. But the question that's really not being asked so far is you're engaging in legal services, which sounds like a heap of whatever, but what's the likelihood for success? What's changed? We've gone to the state, they've said we're violating the law, we've appealed that and they come back and refused our appeal. So what's going to happen? 90 days from now, 91 actually, 91 days from now we start school again and the state has said, "We're going to reduce our funding." Just because of that. Now we have budget cuts in addition. So now we're in a situation of, because of this policy, we're going to get less funds. Now we're going to have budget cuts. We're going to get even further less funds.

What are you going to tell the teachers? Our schools? You know what? They're asking us to buy school supplies already and I'm gladly doing it. But you're going to vote to get us further engaged in further liability? Our school board is enacted and it's empowered to run our schools, comply with the laws, not make laws. And right now you're trying to do something to change a law. That happens in Sacramento, not Rocklin. Let's pay attention to what we're supposed to be doing. We are supposed to be making our schools better and our community better. And right now this has nothing to do with that. This policy is only going to do one thing. We talk about us and them and everything else, but you know what? This school district, Rocklin, has a great reputation for schools. That's why people come and move here. You do this action, you move this way, all of our home prices are going to drop. [inaudible 02:37:37].

Tiffany Sadoff:

Next up, Neil. On deck, Millie Yan.

Neil Gravito:

Some more bombast for you. This pro bono agreement will not come without a cost. It has already cost Rocklin USD money when it was reviewed by our current counsel. And there will be ongoing need for current counsel to be involved in some capacity. Is current counsel also agreeing to pro bono legal services? What happens if Rocklin loses and is mandated to pay CDE's legal fees? What happens if Rocklin loses and is forced to pay fines or loses funding? Partial or in whole? And this isn't just conjecture. Here's the verbatim from section five of the agreement. "In the event the opposing party is the prevailing party in the litigation, the opposing party may be awarded damages, their attorney's fees

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and costs for bringing this litigation. Liberty Justice Center and any other co-counsel will not be liable to client or the opposing party for any such award of damages, attorney fees or costs."

Lastly, the financial risk of this legal action will be baked into any borrowing needs. Any lender would be negligent if they do not incorporate this risk into their lending rate. So this action will lead to higher borrowing expenses, right as we begin to navigate uncertain state budgets. The least costly way to resolve this legal matter is to rescind the board's discriminatory policy. I urge the board to reject this Legal Services Agreement, rescind the policy and to engage the parents, students, staff and greater community in a conversation of how to mutually agree on a path forward.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Next up, Millie Yan. On deck, Jerry Mitchell.

Millie Yan:

Millie Yan, Rocklin, two kids at Quarry Trail. I just want to note that when you said the goal of counter-suing CDE last week is to get clarification on the law, that was a lie. You always had the goal of going to court to grind a legal ax since you proposed this illegal policy in August. You lie when you say you are fiscally responsible, but try to hide the costs of your ill-begotten policy in district time and staff resources. We see the ballooning legal spending in your public budget documents. You lie when you say you are on the school board to protect children. No one partners with an extremist organization like Liberty Justice except to advance a political agenda.

You lie when you pretend you are not advancing the agenda of Destiny Church, also known as the Evangelical American Council. You lie through your partners as they claimed at the February 10 Destiny Sunday event that you are bringing the kingdom of heaven to Earth by pushing this forced outing policy. You lie when you claim you are the light on the hill representing all Christians and all Americans. You lie when you claim to love a God because your actions show you love power and politics more than any biblical deity. You're liars and you have no business governing public schools.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Next up, Jerry Mitchell. On deck, Ramona Reeves.

We'll move on to Ramona Reeves. On deck will be James Jenkins.

Ramona Reeves:

Hi, I'm Ramona Reeves. I live in Roseville. I raised my kids in the Eureka and Roseville School District and I have grandchildren in Auburn. I was here at that September meeting that lasted till midnight or 1:00 AM. It was a very intense meeting, as I'm sure you all remember. I left being pretty happy because I felt like we as a community came to an agreement that you as the Rocklin School Board are going to stand up for parental rights. I feel like all I heard tonight is rights for the queer community but not for other children. I believe that parents who do not have queer children are not being listened to. There are books in my granddaughter's library that will confuse her, saying, "Oh, were you born in a girl body or a boy body when you're a girl?" That kind of stuff cannot happen.

So the teacher's unions and I don't know who all is spending all this time trying to fight for the alphabet community but not for the rest of the community. We do not need any secrets and secrets are being held from us because you're listening to the louder people and not to the quieter people who have children who will be sucked into this, whatever you want to call it, secretly without their parents'

knowledge. So that's all I have to say. I feel like you need new counselors. The counselors that have advised all the school boards did nothing for our children during COVID. They just stood by and let mandates happen for vaccines and masks. They've done nothing for our [inaudible 02:43:54].

Tiffany Sadoff:

Next step, James Jenkins. On deck, Travis Majak.

James Jenkins:

I'll keep the streak going. First of all, I want to say thank you guys for being a light in California and in Rocklin here as far as school-wise and getting your own counsel. I think is the American way, not listening to anyone else and being a shiny... I'm in Roseville by the way, my daughters went through Roseville School District. So first of all, I want to say it's awesome you're making your own decisions in face of any kind of opposition. Number one. The next thing, and by the way, it's ironic that you're not trusted, but we can trust the teachers to do with this information with our children. So it sounds like a little bit of a disconnect as far as our inconsistency, I want to say. I mean, I'm not talking to you, I'm just talking about the public's trust.

And so teachers have a lot on their plate already and I think the role of the school district is to educate. It is not to keep secrets from parents, it is to educate. My wife, by the way, is a substitute teacher here for 11 years in the Roseville School District. So they don't need that. It's not the role of the government or the school district to deal with this subject, in my opinion. So the parents should know. I believe in parental rights. There's some one-offs sometimes where you have bad parents. Of course there is, but you don't make a rule and I agree with my previous speaker who said that basically, yes, there's kids with issues, but you don't make the rule to cover everyone. So I just want to applaud you guys. I think you should keep on doing what you're doing and moving in the direction that you're going. So thank you.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Okay, next up is Travis Majak. On deck is Meg Weiss.

Next up is Meg Weiss. On deck will be Casey Corliss.

Meg Weiss:

Hi there, board. I'm Meg Weiss. I'm a Placer County resident. I'm here tonight to discuss the recent consideration of contract with Liberty Justice Center. While on the surface, the pro bono work seems like a great deal for the district. After all, you're accepting work without a charge. But without charge is not the same as without cost. Financially speaking, here's what it could cost the community. We already know that if we lose in court, there's a strong possibility that we will lose, the Rocklin taxpayers will foot the bill for your stubborn pursuit of a policy that is both illegal and discriminatory. From the contract, Rocklin School Board may owe for damages, attorney fees, costs and the sanctions of the court. Is this going to come out of teacher salaries, student services budget? Maybe we can cancel the football program for a couple of years to pay off these costs.

How will you pay if you lose? That's a vital question and the community deserves an answer. Even if your discriminatory policy prevails in court, it'll cost us district resources who will gather data, compile reports, collect evidence and provide information to the firm. How many staff hours? How much taxpayer dollars will be wasted for your pet project? How will we pay these costs? Maybe higher class sizes, maybe cut librarian hours. Now let's discuss the non-monetary costs to this community. It'll cost us

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teachers and staff during a time of teacher shortages. When given a choice, teachers will prefer to work in a district with a fiscally responsible board, not one that is willing to put schools and students on the line for their pet policy project. It will cost our focus. Quit pursuing distractions. Rocklin Unified has a lot going for it. You should be laser focused on students and on academic excellence. [inaudible 02:48:30].

Tiffany Sadoff:

Thank you.

Meg Weiss:

There's several more costs [inaudible 02:48:41].

Tiffany Sadoff:

Thank you, Meg. Our last comment, it will be Casey Corliss.

Casey Corliss:

Rocklin resident, Whitney High School parent. I came up here to talk about the cost, but enough parents and Trustee Sutherland have already discussed that and you heard from an attorney in the audience as well. So I will save my comments on that and just say I second all those comments, these do not come without a cost. You already have litigation pending against you by the CDE and apparently some teachers and maybe some more, as Trustee Sutherland pointed out. So I do not think this is a wise thing for y'all to do tonight, and I request that you pass on that.

The other thing I'd like to ask, and Trustee Sutherland, thank you for pointing it out that there's not a lot of transparency once you vote on this, which I think you probably will, knowing how y'all go. But there's not a lot of transparency on what you're spending, what the recommendations are, how it's progressing. And the last time I recall this board hiring or retaining a pro bono law firm to fight the state on some mask mandates, I don't recall hearing anything from you all as that's progressed. On the outcome of that-

PART 5 OF 6 ENDS [02:50:04]

Speaker 22:

... From you all as that's progressed on the outcome of that, the success of that, or how much that has cost this district. So it would be great if you guys would provide that update at some point or now, if you are open to doing that. Thank you.

Tiffany Sadoff:

We got one more comment card in just before I closed it. I'll keep it open for Shannon Cantonella.

Speaker 23:

Hi, good evening, Rocklin parent. I've got somebody's notes up here and glasses. All right. I wanted to share and follow up a little bit on what's been covered, but I remember I have a really long memory here. We've been here long enough. I've been attending these meetings long enough. This room has become like a second home, how fun. I remember I first came here to support the Rocklin teacher's,

parent teacher, the RTPA, whatever that acronym is. I sat on the back of the room with my kids, I put them up on a table. We were all here, that meeting was super late and we were talking about a potential strike and we all rallied around and showed how much we supported and cared our teachers. I remember coming to the meetings or listening in, I guess, when Advocates for Faith and Freedom was hired as a non-profit council.

I don't remember hearing anything about that, but since that point, and probably just before, for the history and social studies, curriculum arguments, this community has continued to just pull apart from each other. I remember September 6th and that night where there were over 200 people outside, 100 made it in, 100 left. The 100 who came in were by and large against this force outing policy. The decision was made to go against the community. I think 20 people came in at the end of the night and were from out of town, and it seems like that's the same sort of percentage break out tonight. We've got a handful of people from out of town who are advocating for us to pursue this. I worry that Liberty Justice Center is using Rocklin and our good reputation to facilitate a program that they just want to take up to the Supreme Court. I remember Trustee Counter saying, "Let's go to the Supreme Court if it takes us." I don't think that's what any of our third, fourth graders want to see happen. I think they want teachers and [inaudible 02:52:53].

Tiffany Sadoff:

Thank you. Okay. Hearing all public comment, are there thoughts, comments, deliberation, discussion from trustees?

Dereck Counter:

I'll speak. I think anything that is presented through any kind of board, organization, city, some kind of council, school board, sports board, state legislature, assembly, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera, you're always going to see different sides that have an opinion either way. There's a lot of people that don't have any opinions, like hey, and I'm sure in this community there's people either live in Rocklin, live around that either kids are out or their kids are in the school and this isn't a high priority for them. I would say, from a school board standpoint, there's a handful of things that we're always focused on. You're focused on the budget, you're focused on the performance, you're focused on the metrics we're looking at, and I think, coming out of that Covid time, we prioritized math, we prioritized DLA, we went through those things, we got some great insights and the feedback from the teachers, the opportunities that people came together and we got the district really in a great place when you compare to some of the other school districts and areas in the state.

So I think we've done historically very well there. I agree when people say, people come to Rocklin because of the school district. Heard that from the realtors, heard that from people moving here, heard that most recently when we were one of the few districts that opened up relatively early, mass off, et cetera, people came here because, "Hey, I want that regular life experience for my children." So I think that anything, any policy, whether it be from a state or from CDE, from different organizations, that's going to impact or it's going to limit the communication between parents, kids, community, families, et cetera, is a challenge. I think, as Travis was saying earlier, the teachers are entrusted to take care of those kids, and I'm sure all of us have the stories of something happened at the school, something happened between friends, something happened in the community and maybe it's a coach, maybe it's a teacher, some kind of friends or family that get involved.

And again, the whole goal of education in any school district is to rise kids through it. I mean, if they go through the high school, to get them graduated, set them up to succeed in life. And I think the parents

and parental communication is core to that. Not everyone's going to know all the different parts. I know we all were kids at one point and we all had things that we maybe didn't tell our parents or didn't tell our friends or didn't tell our cousins or didn't tell the teachers, but we want to minimize that and the policy that we were looking to put together and the things that we're looking to do, we just want to reduce anything that's going to put any kind of impediment towards in between communication between parents, kids and teachers. So from a school district standpoint, that's what we're looking to do.

There's people from different sides that are going to say pros and cons, goods, bads. I would say, some of the feedback we got, people are going to use their side to support their side. We see that on any news channel and any publication that goes on. If you're for something, they're going to push that as, "Hey, they're supporting my cause."

There was pushback initially and there was a big concern about financial resources and financial spending and one of those opportunities, given that we are a very good district, we have roughly 85, 15 from a spending standpoint, I think we're in a really good position to handle the shortcomings of the state from a COLA standpoint. So again, I want to try to keep that faith going and keep those things moving, but it's a challenge. It's a challenge from a, I guess, local control standpoint. School boards and people are entrusted to make decisions for Rocklin and we take that feedback when we're going through the electoral process, you get feedback from various parties, they select a person and we're all up here because of that.

We'll work through it. We will go through it best possible. I think we've done a lot to minimize any impact to the school. It's obviously a point of contention or conversation or communication. We've seen that in multiple meetings. We've seen that with a handful of other things that we've gone through in this district, and I'm sure two years, four years, six years, however long from now, there'll be something else that'll come up that we'll argue upon, bring community together, we'll create policies, we'll work through it. And again, at the end of the day, some people are going to believe me or not, but I think all of us here from an educator standpoint, staff, teachers, et cetera, we're all here for the betterment of the kids in the Rocklin community.

So I know some people are going to hear that and be, "Oh, you're not listening to me." We hear you. We're listening and we're taking the feedback in. At the end of the day, there are some things that have come from the state that just don't make sense from a communication standpoint, and we're trying to remove those roadblocks out so that we're always talking with each other.

Rachelle Price:

I'll just add, I'm not going to address everything. I think I'm a little bit disheartened actually about the amount of misinformation, hate speech, there's just some sad things that were said. We work actually, even though there's not always a 5-0 consensus, I think, Michelle, we work really well together and I'm sad that you're concerned about a lack of transparency because as we've sat in closed session, we've talked so much about wanting to be transparent and I personally have only seen us be publicly accountable. And so I still stand by that as a board that we have that desire and that intent and we have executed on that. I spoke really clearly about why I feel this policy is important, why we want to trust our parents to make the best decision for their kids. So I'm not going to address that any further.

Michelle Sutherland:

I mean, to that point, I will just say that yes, we do. I mean, look at how we worked on, look at how we've worked on those district maps, that was some good work today. But it is different, we are in close

session, we hear what we hear, we get the information we do, but it wasn't that long ago that I was sitting out there and I was out there when you guys got into the last outside legal services agreement, and I remember what it felt like and it didn't feel transparent, and I don't see how this will end up being any different just by the nature of what we're doing. I heard similar concerns. It brought me back to what that felt like and it's frustrating as a community member, especially when you feel like you're not being heard.

And I'm actually surprised by how many people are out here today. I know I am so tired of this and I know a lot of people are too, and the people I know in my neighborhood and at my kids' schools and at sports and activities, they're not into this, but they're not going to show up here. They're not going to come make a public comment. They're not even going to email. But that is the climate, and I'm concerned. I'm just so concerned about this path, the uncertainty and the risk.

Rachelle Price:

I hear you. Thank you for sharing that. I just can renew our commitment that although there are some things we can't discuss about legal agreements, we'll continue to be transparent.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Yeah, I appreciate the conversation that's already being had. I try really hard to take notes and write down quotes I'm hearing so that way, I really do hear and understand concerns when they're brought up. I know how frustrating it can be to share something and not feel heard because a decision maybe went a different way or it wasn't explained. Oftentimes, I sometimes am teased for talking too much, but my hope is that by communicating my why, that it hopefully shows the community that I am listening. And although I may not agree, I do feel that our entire community has a right to know why decisions are made. And so I do think this process unfortunately has mimicked in some ways, some things we've seen in the past that if a decision is made that goes against or maybe is not exactly what somebody requests, the response sometimes is, "You didn't hear me."

And so I am really trying to hear, and I have a few things that I do actually want to speak to because I think there might be some misunderstandings that still exist out there, but in regards to transparency, the intent actually of this action item and the intent actually of what I read out loud at the last board meeting was to ensure that there was transparency in the community so that it wasn't under the guise of litigation that we have conversations without having our community know what action is next. And so the readout at the last meeting was not required. It actually was me coming and saying, if this is something that could be a possibility, I think it's important that the community knows and that we talk about it and we share about it. And so I am concerned about statements about lack of transparency.

I know it can feel difficult that we're not able to go into every component of litigation or legal strategy. That wouldn't be appropriate in a public setting for a variety of reasons, but part of the reason that I am here and I'm communicating and responding to some of the questions and maybe misconceptions or maybe just responses, is to make sure that people know where I'm at and why I make the decisions I make. And so I know there was a mention about a concern which I had about that the district will have no say in messaging and what was really important to me in this legal services agreement, that it actually spoke to that, and it does under section 19 say, "Client has the right to approve all written photographic audio or video communications prior to release and to control the content of all media communications." That is not always in legal services agreements and I made sure that that was in this legal service agreement.

Additionally, there was a question about current counsel costs and why aren't we using our current counsel? What actually sets this pro bono agreement apart from others that have reached out is that this council is actually asking to work with our current counsel, not to be an independent counsel for us, but to actually work with our current counsel and to cover all expenses of our current counsel. And I do think that that is an important thing. You don't see that often in pro bono cases. And so, for a legal services agreement to not only speak to the organization but also their work with our current counsel, I think that's an important item to bring up.

Additionally, when it comes to legal fees, listen, I don't want to spend a penny more on anything that we don't ever have to spend. I hear you and that is important. I do think it's important the community knows that this is a writ of mandate. This is not an injunction. This is a writ of mandate. So this is where CDE is saying that direction or guidance that they've given, they feel has not been followed. And so they're asking for a writ of mandate and the response would be up to the attorneys in question. But why this is important to me that I stand for moving forward with this is, is that it has not been made clear. Federal and state law still have contradictions, and for me, that is where I struggle. We are a unified district. We have five-year-olds, we have ten-year-olds. It is important that parents are involved and our federal law does make clear that parents have the right to direct the upbringing, the education of their children, and it is critical that they're allowed to be a part of those conversations.

That's all I'm asking for, that there's clarity on that because the state and federal law do conflict as we see it right now. So that's why I do feel it's important that we hear and that we have clarification because to not have this would be for me to tell parents that they do not have a right to conversations. And so for me, as a unified district, I think it's incredibly important that we leave this in the hands of the courts and we get back to focusing on what's important here, educating our students and bringing our community together. And that is my hope.

Michelle Sutherland:

But wait, but I take some issue with the implication-

Tiffany Sadoff:

Michelle, one second. I would love to hear what you have to say, but just a redirection for the room. I appreciate those that may have a difference of opinion. Public comment is closed on this item so I ask that you allow the board to deliberate. Thank you.

Michelle Sutherland:

I take a little bit of issue with the implication that I misunderstand at all and that somehow the concerns about transparency are unfounded. The reason that I brought it up is because we had to vote on this in public session. That's why I took the opportunity because beyond that, that's where things change. We were obligated to do this, this isn't like a gift to the community right now. And I know, I read the contract, I did, and I understand that we approve things, but as I said, there's a concern when you go on to the site, you look at what they're putting out, it's clearly politically skewed to what you guys, the board majority, agree with.

So it's not comforting to say, "Oh, it's going to run by the board, what you're going to put out to characterize Rocklin and Rocklin Unified." That doesn't give me comfort, and that is why I suggested, although I don't support it, why we would use our own legal counsel at a cost because they do not have an interest in anything other than representing us to the best of their abilities to be legally sound. That's

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why I brought it up, not because I had confusion on that as far as our costs associated with our own legal counsel. It's very frustrating, but just wanted to be clear that I do understand what was presented to us.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Any other comments? No. I'll close my comments by saying, it's never easy when there's not 100% consensus on a decision, and it is the responsibility of the board to hear from the community. And so I think, those that have come out this evening, those that I've met with, those that have called me, those that have emailed, I do think oftentimes there's characterizations made that others or may not communicating their concerns or their wishes in other forms, and they are. And so for me, I think this boils down to clarification needed specifically surrounding student privacy from parents. I fully support student privacy in our school systems. I think it's absolutely appropriate and necessary. I think for me, where this gets difficult is when we are suggesting that there is student privacy independent from a parent, specifically five-year-olds, six-year-olds and seven-year-olds and so for that reason, I do think it's important that we get clear legal clarification regarding this matter. Is there a motion for this item?

Dereck Counter:

So moved.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Is there a second?

Julie Hupp:

Second.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Georgia, will you please call a roll?

Georgia:

Julie Hupp?

Julie Hupp:

Yes.

Georgia:

Rachelle Price?

Rachelle Price:

Yes.

Georgia:

Dereck Counter.

Dereck Counter:

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Yes.

Georgia:

Michelle Sutherland.

Michelle Sutherland:

No.

Georgia:

Tiffany Saathoff?

Tiffany Sadoff:

Yes. Motion passes.

We'll now move on to public comment Item 11.1. A few important reminders about public comment. This agenda item is to give anyone an attendance and opportunity to address the board concerning any non-agenda items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the board. Please be mindful that students may be watching. Additionally, please state your full name, city you live in and school your children attend. The board respects each individual's right to express their ideas and expects speakers to refrain from personal attacks based on protected categories under state and federal law, including race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, et cetera. Please, no profanity. First up, we have Paul Knox and on deck, Kara Anzalone.

Paul Knox:

Good evening board members. My name is Paul Knox. My daughter attends Sierra Elementary. Before I say anything else, I'd like to thank Trustee Sutherland for her principled, eloquent, and ultimately quixotic attempt to bring light where there is currently darkness. John Lennon would be disappointed with me. I can't imagine a lot of things. I can't imagine anyone liking broccoli soup. I can't imagine why anyone would invent the necktie or really, how my iPhone works. I also can't imagine a parent who wouldn't accept and support their child in expressing their sexual identity. There's clearly a problem with my imagination and I wonder if some members of the board face a similar problem with their imagination.

I trust that you hope that your policy will help children in a world not yet ready to accept their LGBTQIA+ identity. I hope that you trust that all parents are ready to accept their children. But we know some of that trust is misplaced. Some parents aren't ready to accept their children's LGBTQIA+ identity. Some of these parents believe their children are mistaken or brainwashed or sick or influenced by a malevolent supernatural entity. Children do not need the anxiety of having their trust in their teachers eroded by a policy that requires betrayal. And most of all, they don't need their private identities made into political grist for a political agenda. Children do need people who can imagine a world that protects and celebrates [inaudible 03:14:32].

Tiffany Sadoff:

Thank you, Paul. We're at time.

Dereck Counter:

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Thank you, Paul.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Next up, Kara. On deck Travis Mojette.

Kara Anzalone:

I'm Kara Anzalone and I am a local business owner here in Rocklin, and I've been a business owner in this area for over 20 years. As a life and health coach, massage therapist and ordained minister. My job in this community is to support the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being of this community. I take it very seriously. Jeopardizing the health and safety of trans children is not your job, but is the consequence of your actions by continuing to push this unsafe outing policy. And as the mother of a transgender young adult who was continuously failed by his local school district and subsequently abandoned his education, but also other queer kids who have been abandoned by their families, I also take this very seriously. How is that a win for our kids? Asking teachers to be reporters while creating more classroom crises for them to handle, not their job.

How is that a win for our beloved teachers? Manipulating the emotions of an entire community and encouraging divisiveness and bullying with personal, religious and political agendas is not your job. Choosing extremist agendas, which clearly do not belong in the public school system ahead of real-life experiences of actual human beings, not your job, and also, quite reckless in my opinion. It's my understanding your interest should be in improving public education for our kids, families and community. That is your job. What might be helpful for you is to learn your district's mission. It's right there on your website for reference and please make better choices. Thank you.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Thank you. Next up, Travis Mojette. On deck, Kevin Cooper.

Travis Mojette:

Hello, Travis Mojette. I do live in this community and I do have kids that go to school at our schools. My public comment and the reason I switched to general public comment is I'm going to make a request to the board. I believe it's the second to last bullet on our board comments that comes up every time we have people come to the microphone, that talks about what we're not going to discriminate towards when people come up here to speak to you. Yet we have a policy that discriminates towards a targeted group of people. So let's at least be transparent with our public comment and not send contradictory messages to our students and our board policies, and then the ones that show up in our public meeting protocols.

Additionally, I want to extend that offer I made during my RTPA time, since we now have an additional board meeting on the books and we're going to have an opportunity when we wrap up public comment here to put pending agenda items for the next meeting. So I will come prepared to rescind my PIRB policy as I promised earlier, and I ask that the board considers putting an action item to rescind their policy since we have another opportunity before the school year ends. Thank you.

Tiffany Sadoff:

Thank you. Our final public comment, Kevin Cooper.

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Kevin Cooper:

So God bless everybody that's here. Thank you, all Trustees, you don't get paid for this. Thank you. I'm going to try and be brief and get done quick. First comment, transparency is not something that we're doing tonight. We're on TV, we're attacking each other, it's ambush politics. Scripted comments, written stuff. Let's be honest. Let's be adults. We're full court politicians tonight. Everybody's here. It's a football game. That being honest, I submitted my data about the map in time, had discussions with the demographers and then gave data to Trustee Sutherland that showed the city's plan by year with units. And that data's been kind of tossed out, I think, because some people are concerned about some of the board maps not fitting their goals. I don't know, but it's pretty transparent that there's a game afoot.

One of the things that I've been frustrated with since this whole thing started, I was here till two o'clock, five o'clock in the morning, how late we were, I've been watching this stuff in the news, is that nobody here is being honest about the relationship between the state government and the federal government. The idea that we live in a republic. At the end the day, the federal laws around parents' rights, about freedom of speech and all this stuff are settled. And one of the great things we have is an indictment around the situation that happened in the city of Escondido. I submitted a copy of this a while ago along with, and I'll bring it back up, the comments from the Thomas Moore Society that put it together.

It's very, very clear. There is no path for the California laws to get around federal courts. It just isn't going to happen. No matter what everyone tells you, no matter how much people yell. And the fact that I'm not going to be on TV for this to be heard frustrates me, but I would encourage everybody behind me to read the Escondido comments by the judge. It's pretty decent set up stuff and the Thomas Moore's condensed [inaudible 03:20:30].

Tiffany Sadoff:

Thank you. That concludes our public comment for the evening. We'll now move on to item 12.1 pending agenda items. Trustees, do you have any items to place on the pending agenda? Seeing none. The meeting is now adjourned.

PART 6 OF 6 ENDS [03:21:20]