



## MEETING MINUTES

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### Attendees

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#### Voting Board Members

Paul F. Diffley III, Board President  
Linda Lunn, Trustee  
Nicolas Pardue, Trustee  
Julie Vandegrift, Trustee  
Nancy Young, Clerk of the Board

#### Staff Members

Dr. Ward Andrus, Superintendent  
Darren Daniel, Deputy Superintendent  
Richard Rideout, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
Faythe Mutchnick-Jayx, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services  
Julie Diaz, Executive Assistant

#### Student Representatives

Gavin Larson, Murrieta Canyon Academy  
Caitlin Coleman, Murrieta Mesa High School  
Meghan Lewis, Murrieta Valley High School  
Isabella Acosta, Vista Murrieta High School

#### Employee Organization Representatives

Lisa Murray, President Murrieta Educators Association

#### Legal Counsel

Jonathan A. Pearl, Managing Shareholder, Dannis Woliver Kelley

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### A. OPENING BUSINESS

#### 1. Call to Order

President Diffley called the Board of Education regular meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. at the Murrieta Valley Unified School District Office, 41870 McAlby Court, Murrieta, California.

#### 2. Establishment of Quorum

A quorum was established with Trustees Paul Diffley, Linda Lunn, Nicolas Pardue, Julie Vandegrift and Nancy Young in attendance.

### B. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEM(S)

None

**C. CLOSED SESSION**

President Diffley called for a motion to adjourn to Closed Session at 4:31 p.m.

Motion made by: Nicolas Pardue. Motion seconded by: Julie Vandegrift

Voting:

Paul Diffley III - Yes

Linda Lunn - Yes

Nicolas Pardue - Yes

Julie Vandegrift - Yes

Nancy Young - Yes

**1. Public Employee Performance Evaluation - District Superintendent**

Pursuant to Government Code 54957, the Governing Board met in Closed Session to discuss the evaluation of the District Superintendent.

**D. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

President Diffley reconvened the meeting in open session at 5:02 p.m. He announced the meeting was being recorded and livestreamed for public viewing. Mr. Diffley introduced and welcomed the 2024/25 Student Board Member, Sophia Shoemaker.

**1. Report Action Taken in Closed Session**

President Diffley reported that no action was taken during the closed session.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Student Board Member Sophia Shoemaker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by: Julie Vandegrift. Motion seconded by: Nicolas Pardue

Voting:

Paul Diffley III - Yes

Linda Lunn - Yes

Nicolas Pardue - Yes

Julie Vandegrift - Yes

Nancy Young – Yes

Student Preferential Vote - Yes

**E. COMMUNICATIONS**

**1. Board President's Welcome Message**

President Diffley shared his appreciation for school board meeting venues that allow members of the public to discuss their interests pertaining to the education of their children.

**2. Student Representative Reports**

Murrieta Mesa High School Principal Scott Richards introduced their 2024/25 student representative Caitlin Coleman, who reported on academics, athletics, activities and upcoming events.

Murrieta Canyon Academy Principal, Matt Bean introduced their 2024/25 student representative, Gavin Larson, who reported on the start of the school year, academics, Phoenix activities, guidance and leadership, and culture and climate.

**E. COMMUNICATIONS** (continued)

**2. Student Representative Reports** (continued)

Vista Murrieta High School Principal Celeste Scallion introduced their 2024/25 student representative, Isabella Acosta, who reported on academics, athletics, activities and upcoming events.

Murrieta Valley High School Principal Stephen Diephouse introduced their 2024/25 student representative Meghan Lewis, who reported on academics, athletics, activities and upcoming events.

**3. Public Comment**

Stephanie Delfosse shared information about childhood cancer with the Board and reminded them that September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Steve Campos spoke about political activities of employees and union leaders being inclusive to all candidates.

Lucky Harutunian spoke about the decline in public school enrollment.

Frances Burns spoke about disrespectful student behavior on middle school campuses.

Jenn Baker spoke about a bulletin board in an AP language classroom promoting Banned Book Week. The board featured images and descriptions of books that contained sexually explicit and violent content.

Teresa Wells commented on the fractured and divided Board, emphasizing the need to heal it. She also spoke about the threat of firing the superintendent if the Board remains divided.

The following individuals provided comments regarding agenda item G.11 Discussion Item Pertaining to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 4119.25 Political Activities of Employees: Frances Burns, Emily Brooks, Josefina Hartley, Jose Carreno. The comments centered around the annual CSEA lunchtime meeting, which was attended by School Board members, candidates and the superintendent.

Lane McKeever shared her disappointment that three Board members chose not to join the Liberty Justice Center lawsuit regarding AB 1955.

Sue Stein shared her appreciation for Julie Vandegrift and Nicolas Pardue for their votes against placing a bond measure on the upcoming ballot.

Mitchell Furman, a Thompson Middle School parent, shared details of an altercation his children were involved in after school.

John Leonard read an internal memo sent to elementary school staff, which discussed using creative methods to line students up without referring to them as boys and girls.

**4. Employee Organization Reports**

Lisa Murray, president of Murrieta Educators Association, congratulated and welcomed two new members to the MEA executive board: Lisa Van Ryzen, returning as Treasurer, and Adriana Toon, as the new Elementary Director. Ms. Murray highlighted upcoming events, including a CTA leadership conference and a special education conference, which MEA members will attend. Ms. Murray spoke about the issue of student behavior management, praising the district's efforts to tackle aggressive behavior and emphasizing the need for continued support and resources for teachers.

**E. COMMUNICATIONS** (continued)

**5. Student Board Member Report**

Student Board Member Sophia Shoemaker reported on topics discussed at the August 29th Student Advisory Council meeting, which included Childhood Cancer Awareness and highlighting the various clubs available at schools. Additionally, the council spoke about culture building and strategies to strengthen relationships between students and the community.

**F. CONSENT CALENDAR**

President Diffley called for a motion to approve consent calendar items F. 1 - F.7 as presented.

Motion made by: Linda Lunn. Motion seconded by: Nancy Young

Voting:

Paul Diffley III - Yes

Linda Lunn - Yes

Nicolas Pardue - Yes

Julie Vandegrift - Yes

Nancy Young - Yes

Student preferential vote - Yes

**1. Ratification of Report of Purchases and Warrants Issued**

Report of Purchases from July 24, 2024, through August 27, 2024, and warrants issued on the claim numbers X218642 through X219735 in the amount of \$19,519,326.23, the Nutrition Services Warrants issued on check numbers 1130 through 1164 in the amount of \$6,664,340.39, and the Nutrition Services Purchase Order NS2425039 through NS2425043 in the amount of \$17,400.00.

**2. Acceptance of Donations**

Site	Donor	Est. Value
Alta Murrieta	Mementopix	\$6,021.66
E. Hale Curran	Kona Ice	\$143.60
	Handel's Homemade Ice Cream	\$233.85
	Mementopix	\$3,124.46
Lisa J. Mails	Henry and LouAnn Leso	\$250.00
	Curtis Karate	\$500.00
Murrieta Mesa	Michael Corner	\$2,819.55
Vista Murrieta	Raising Cane's	\$1,000.00
District Support Center	School's First Credit Union	\$350.00

**3. Approval to Dispose of Obsolete/Unusable Materials**

Quantity	Item
42 Pallets	Obsolete Textbooks and Workbooks
6 Boxes	E-Waste
40 Pallets	Expired COVID Tests
10 Pallets	Expired Masks
50	Staff Desk Chairs

**F. CONSENT CALENDAR** (continued)

**3. Approval to Dispose of Obsolete/Unusable Materials** (continued)

Quantity	Item
8	Physical Education Gym Machines
1	Television
104	Units of Kitchen Equipment that were replaced during the Kitchen Upgrade Project - Including: Ovens, Ice Machines, Serving Counters, Refrigerators, and other miscellaneous items.

**4. Approval of University Agreement**

Hope International University of Fullerton, California

- Teaching Fieldwork Agreement; Term upon approval until June 30, 2030

**5. Approval of Overnight and/or Out-of-State Field Trips**

**Murrieta Valley High School**

Boy's Water Polo Tournament	Ventura, CA	October 4-5, 2024
Cross Country Race	Clovis, CA	October 9-11, 2024
Boy's Water Polo Tournament	Sacramento, CA	October 10-12, 2024

**6. Approval of Out of State Travel**

Northwest Council for Computer Education Conference in Seattle, WA February 26-28, 2025

- Attendee: Alex Ruud, English Teacher, Shivela Middle School

**7. Approval of Minutes**

June 13, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

**G. ACTION/INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1. Approval of Personnel Report**

Motion to approve the attached personnel report dated September 12, 2024. This report lists newly hired and substitute classified personnel; substitute certificated personnel; certificated and classified resignations and releases; and athletic coaches.

Motion made by: Linda Lunn. Motion seconded by: Nancy Young

Voting:

Paul Diffley III - Yes

Linda Lunn - Yes

Nicolas Pardue - Yes

Julie Vandegrift - Yes

Nancy Young - Yes

**2. Approval of Revised Substitute Salary Schedule, effective September 12, 2024 & January 1, 2025**

The revised substitute salary schedule presented to the Board also included parent advisory committee lead and accompanist stipend positions.

**G. ACTION/INFORMATION ITEMS** (continued)

**2. Approval of Revised Substitute Salary Schedule, effective September 12, 2024 & January 1, 2025** (continued)

Motion made by: Julie Vandegrift. Motion seconded by: Nicolas Pardue

Voting:

Paul Diffley III - Yes

Linda Lunn - Yes

Nicolas Pardue - Yes

Julie Vandegrift - Yes

Nancy Young – Yes

Student Preferential Vote - Yes

**3. Adoption of Resolution No. 24/25-04 Recognizing October 13-19, 2024 as Week of the School Administrator**

Motion made by: Nancy Young. Motion seconded by: Julie Vandegrift

Voting:

Paul Diffley III - Yes

Linda Lunn - Yes

Nicolas Pardue - Yes

Julie Vandegrift - Yes

Nancy Young – Yes

Student Preferential Vote - Yes

**4. Adoption of Resolution No. 24/25-05 to Establish a District Gann Limit for Fiscal Year 2024/25**

Motion made by: Nancy Young. Motion seconded by: Julie Vandegrift

Voting:

Paul Diffley III - Yes

Linda Lunn - Yes

Nicolas Pardue - Yes

Julie Vandegrift - Yes

Nancy Young – Yes

Student Preferential Vote - Yes

**5. Approval of 2023/24 Unaudited Actuals Financial Statement**

Motion made by: Nancy Young. Motion seconded by: Linda Lunn

Voting:

Paul Diffley III - Yes

Linda Lunn - Yes

Nicolas Pardue - Yes

Julie Vandegrift - Yes

Nancy Young – Yes

Student Preferential Vote – Yes

**G. ACTION/INFORMATION ITEMS (continued)**

**6. Adoption of Resolution No. 24/25-06 Appropriations Due to the Reconciliation of the 2023/24 Estimated Ending Fund Balances to the 2023/24 Unaudited Actuals Ending Fund Balances**

Motion made by: Nancy Young. Motion seconded by: Linda Lunn

Voting:

Paul Diffley III - Yes

Linda Lunn - Yes

Nicolas Pardue - Yes

Julie Vandegrift - Yes

Nancy Young – Yes

Student Preferential Vote - Yes

**7. Public Hearing: Proposed Adoption of Resolution No. 24/25-07 Increasing the Statutory School Fees Imposed on New Residential and Commercial/Industrial Development Projects**

President Diffley opened the public hearing at 6:43 p.m. and asked for public comments or questions. Hearing none, President Diffley closed the public hearing at 6:43 p.m.

**8. Adoption of Resolution No. 24/25-07 Increasing the Statutory School Fees imposed on New Residential and Commercial/Industrial Development Projects**

Motion made by: Nancy Young. Motion seconded by: Julie Vandegrift

Voting:

Paul Diffley III - Yes

Linda Lunn - Yes

Nicolas Pardue - Yes

Julie Vandegrift - Yes

Nancy Young – Yes

Student Preferential Vote – Yes

The following statutory school fees per assessable square foot will be effective November 12, 2024.

Single Family and Multifamily Residential Units: \$5.17

Restricted Senior Communities, Commercial Industrial and Office Buildings: \$0.84

Self-Storage: \$0.20

**9. Review of Investment Report for the Quarter Ending June 30, 2024**

The Board received this report for review.

**10. Review of Associated Student Body Financial Reports for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2024**

The Board received this report for review reflecting combined assets of ASB funds to be \$2,946,177.73 for the quarter ending June 30, 2024.

**11. Discussion Item Pertaining to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 4119.25 Political Activities of Employees**

The Board's legal counsel, Jonathan Pearl, recommended that the board table the item and consult with legal counsel in a closed session before discussing the policy further based on several public comments regarding legal facts and liability issues,

Trustee Nicolas Pardue said tabling this item insinuates that the Board and District are covering things up.

**G. ACTION/INFORMATION ITEMS** (continued)

**11. Discussion Item Pertaining to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 4119.25 Political Activities of Employees** (continued)

Mr. Pearl highlighted the need to address the issues in a closed session to provide a more informed update to the community.

President Diffley called for a motion to table this item.

Motion made by: Nancy Young. Motion seconded by: Paul Diffley III

Voting:

Paul Diffley III - Yes

Linda Lunn - Yes

Nicolas Pardue - No

Julie Vandegrift - Yes

Nancy Young - Yes

**H. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Superintendent, Dr. Ward Andrus discussed the challenges the district faces this week due to wildfires in the local area, poor air quality and falling ash. He said the air quality was monitored throughout the day, and the district works closely with law enforcement and fire officials to make informed decisions about school closures.

Dr. Andrus expressed his pleasure with the numerous activities school sites provide for families to take advantage of. He highlighted the 9/11 memorial events held at school sites and the community partnership involved with those events. He thanked the high school student representatives for their informative reports.

Dr. Andrus announced the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) recognition for the following schools:

- Gold: Monte Vista Elementary School
- Silver: Alta Murrieta Elementary, Rail Ranch Elementary, Thompson Middle, and Warm Springs Middle schools
- Bronze: E. Hale Curran Elementary School

**I. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Trustee Linda Lunn spoke about the many events she had attended over the last couple of weeks, including Vista Murrieta High School's Luau with amazing student performances, back-to-school nights, football games, the Employee of the Year celebration, the first Latino Parent Advisory Committee meeting of the year and the Vista Murrieta Air Force JROTC 9/11 Remembrance Day.

Trustee Nicolas Pardue spoke about discipline issues at school sites, emphasizing the importance of ensuring a safe and conducive learning environment by enforcing consistent and fair discipline practices. He stressed the importance of clear and consistent consequences for negative behavior and providing a safe working environment for all teachers. Mr. Pardue shared his positive experiences on his recent visits to Vista Murrieta High School, Murrieta Valley High School and Cole Canyon Elementary School. Mr. Pardue spoke about the funding inequities across different school districts and how the Local Control and Accountability Plan is meant to address the disparities and advocated for fair funding distribution regardless of the school's location or demographics.



**I. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS (continued)**

Trustee Nancy Young highlighted the back-to-school events she attended, including the Vista Murrieta High School Luau, the Employee of the Year event, Murrieta Elementary School ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new classroom building, and the 9/11 ceremony at Vista Murrieta High School. Ms. Young reported volunteering at the Santa Rosa Plateau's Cowboy Jubilee, which raises funds for local educational programs. She also attended a meeting of the Higher Education Coalition, which is working to bring a four-year university to the area as an extension of Cal State San Marcos.

Trustee Julie Vandegrift reported attending back-to-school events and community events, the Employee of the Year celebration and the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Murrieta Elementary School. Mrs. Vandegrift shared concerns about bullying on campus. She also discussed the valuable insights she has gained from the Keenan Safe Schools training videos, particularly regarding various safety protocols and procedures.

Trustee Paul Diffley also reported attending the joyful Employee of the Year celebration, the Murrieta Elementary School new classroom ribbon-cutting ceremony. Mr. Diffley said he would like to hear more calming music played on school sites as well as the "on hold" music on our phone system. Additionally, he advocated for the implementation of more classical teachings, such as debate and Latin.

**J. CLOSED SESSION (Optional)**

None

**K. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION (Optional)**

**1. Report Action Taken in Closed Session**

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

President Diffley called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Motion made by: Nancy Young. Motion seconded by: Linda Lunn

Voting:

Paul Diffley III - Yes

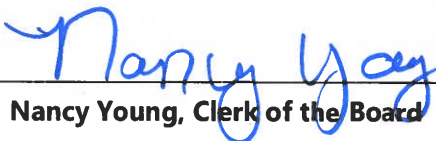
Linda Lunn - Yes

Nicolas Pardue - Yes

Julie Vandegrift - Yes

Nancy Young – Yes

*Approved by the Governing Board November 14, 2024*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Young, Clerk of the Board

R – Replacement  
 G - Growth  
 RS – Restructure  
 T - Transfer

MURRIETA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 PERSONNEL REPORT  
9/12/24

**A. CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL**

**NEW HIRE:**

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Type
Martin	Jodie	School Bus Aide	Transportation	8/27/2024	G
Martinez	Erika	DIS Aide	Antelope Hills Elementary	8/21/2024	R

**B. SUBSTITUTE PERSONNEL**

**CERTIFICATED:**

Name				
Marty, Jacqueline				

**CLASSIFIED:**

Name				
Nagel, Candice				

**C. RESIGNATIONS/ RELEASES (Certificated and Classified)**

Employee No. and Effective Date			
163852 – 9/30/2024	203565 – 5/31/2024	242572 – 9/03/2024	319679 – 8/19/2024
320047 – 8/19/2024			

**D. ATHLETIC COACHES**

Name	Sport	Site
Candaele, Coley	Football / Track & Field	Vista Murrieta High
Ching, Stephanie	Girls' Basketball	Vista Murrieta High
Cunningham, Daniel	Football	Murrieta Mesa High
Dominguez, Jose	Girls' Basketball	Vista Murrieta High
Files, John	Boys' Lacrosse / Football	Vista Murrieta High
Ford, Lonnie	Football / Track & Field	Vista Murrieta High
Harper, Ashley	Girls' Basketball	Vista Murrieta High
Leyba, Nathanyal	Boys' Wrestling	Vista Murrieta High

R – Replacement  
G - Growth  
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MURRIETA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PERSONNEL REPORT  
9/12/24

*Athletic Coaches Continued:*

Mercadal, Christopher	Football	Vista Murrieta High
Morales, Joseph	Boys' Lacrosse	Vista Murrieta High
Pina, Brandon	Cross Country / Track	Murrieta Mesa High
Sather, Vance	Girls' Basketball	Vista Murrieta High
Silberman, Steven	Football	Vista Murrieta High
Simmons, Jeffrey	Football	Vista Murrieta High
Trujillo, Brandon	Football / Track & Field	Vista Murrieta High