

***SOUTHSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES***  
***4991 Southside Rd. Hollister, CA 95023***  
***REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023***  
***In-Person Meeting***

**MINUTES**

**ITEM I – Call to Order: 5:30pm**

- a. Meeting called to order** at 5:30pm by Mr. Michael Ruth

**Roll Call:**

Board Members Present:

Board Members Absent:

- Michael Ruth
- Laura Forth
- Julie Corrigan
- Julia Otterlei
- Julio Salazar

- b. Comments from public –**  
**c. Recess to Closed Session**

**ITEM II – Closed Session 5:30pm**

Notice is hereby given that a closed session of the Board will be held under the general provisions listed as follows:

- a. Personnel – Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 & 54957.6(a)**
1. Conference with Labor Negotiator – Classified “Sunshine Letter”

**ITEM III**

- a. Roll Call – Closed Session ended at 5:50pm regular session started at 6:00pm**

**Present:**

**Absent:**

- Michael Ruth
- Laura Forth
- Julie Corrigan
- Julia Otterlei
- Julio Salazar

- b. The Board directed Mr. Schilling to continue negotiations with the Classified Staff.**  
**c. Pledge of Allegiance**  
**d. Approval of the Agenda – Laura Forth made the motion to approve the agenda with a revision on item VI letter b. change the school year to read 2023-2024 and was seconded by Julio Salazar and carried the following vote: Yes – 5; No/Absent/Abstain – 0**

- e. **Comments from the public** – Bill Sachau, Director of Special Services recognized the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, Mrs. Abercrombie and Mrs. Romiti for the support and help they provide the ECE Center year after year.
- Mrs. Abercrombie, the 8th grade teacher thanked the Board and Mr. Schilling for allowing the 8<sup>th</sup> grade to attend Camp. She also addressed the climate at Southside School. Her statement is attached to minutes.
  - Mrs. Gregory, the 6th grade teacher, commented on the Annual Spring Play. She was very pleased with all the visitors that came to see the evening show. Her cast consisted of 19 students on stage and 3 backstage helpers. She thanked the Board for the continued support to keep the program for those students that are not into sports.
  - Kyle Waterman shared that her time at Southside is slowly coming to an end. She shared some thoughts about her time at Southside. Her statement is attached to the minutes.
  - Mrs. Yamanishi, Cafeteria Manager spoke to the Board about the climate of the school and bullying on campus by adults. Her statement is attached to the minutes.
  - Janay Brown, a parent at Southside School for 12 years spoke to the Board about the climate of the school and bullying by adults. Her statement is attached to the minutes.
  - Bailey Rianda, a parent at Southside School spoke to the Board about the climate and bullying on campus by adults. She would like staff, students, and parents to work together to make this a better experience for all involved.
  - Paloma Cruz, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student spoke to the Board about the school student restrooms. She mentioned that students do not feel safe using the restrooms on campus for the following reasons-  
Sinks are not stable  
Sinks are clogged and leak.  
Stalls do not lock properly.  
Students can see through the cracks of the stalls causing privacy issues.  
There needs to be menstruation products for the girls in the restroom.  
The boys' stalls are too small for the older students.  
The floor is always wet from the leaks that come from the sinks and toilets.
  - Juan Becerra, a parent at Southside School spoke to the Board about the divisiveness and bullying at Southside School. He suggested building healthy relationships with peers and parents. Building healthy relationships with neighboring schools when playing sports to show our students what healthy rivalry looks like. He mentioned this would be positive for healthy mental and physical health.

## ITEM IV. – DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

### **a. Officers' Report**

#### **1. Superintendent/Principal –**

- a. Mr. Schilling shared with the Board the damage caused to the roof of the multipurpose room over winter break. He has contacted a contractor to check for mold or asbestos. He will receive the reports in a few days.
- b. Mr. Schilling shared with the Board that Open House was held on 4/13/23 and thanked the Parent Club for providing a taco bar and Ohana Ice for parents and students.
- c. Mr. Schilling invited the Board Members to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion which will be held at Swank Farms. He thanked the Kistler family for providing the location.
- d. Mr. Schilling informed the Board that CAASPP state testing started 5/1/2023.
- e. Mr. Schilling informed the Board that Southside is waiting to hear from the Migrant Region about funding the Migrant Summer Program.
- f. Mr. Schilling shared with the Board that he has received 1 bid for \$46,000.00 for the exterior fencing. He met with another contractor and is waiting for the bid. He will have 2 more bids soon.

2. Board Member comments – Board Member, Julio Salazar thanked Ms. Gregory and mentioned that he invited friends and family to the Spring Play and they all loved it.

Board Member, Laura Forth, Thanked Ms. Gregory for the Spring Play. She mentioned that her son loved and shined in the Play. He found something he is good at.

3. Board President comments – Board President, Michael Ruth thanked all the people that spoke. He asked the Board reconsider bringing back the discussions of the Board of Conduct and discuss the restroom repairs.
4. Parent Club –Mrs. Waterman shared with the Board that Open house was a success. The mother / son laser tag event was a success, and the students and moms had a great time. She mentioned that Staff Appreciation Day is on 5/4/23. The Parent Club will host a taco meal for the staff. Parent elections for the 2023-2024 are in process and this will be the last year for her.

## ITEM V – CONSENT ITEMS

These items are considered routine and may be enacted by the board in one motion. There is no discussion on these items prior to the motion unless a specific item is removed from the consent list.

- a. Regular Board Meeting Minutes April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as presented.
- b. Warrants report dated 4/1/23-4/30/23 through date range, as presented.

Julie Corrigan made the motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes dated 4.12.22 and was seconded by Laura Forth and carried the following vote: Yes –5; No/Absent/Abstain – 0

**ITEM VI – DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Board Policy – Bullying 5131 (DISCUSSION)**

**Rationale:** The board has asked Mr. Schilling to review the policies from surrounding districts and to make a recommendation to the board.

Summary of the Bulling Policies (5131.2) from 4/12/23

Comparison of policies from: Hollister School District  
North County Joint Union (Spring Grove) Hollister High School

-HSD and SG have the same policy in most areas. The order of the documents is different but contain mush of the same language. SG does not have a referral process like HSD to individuals who are not employed by the district. As an example, referral to a restorative justice program or to child welfare attendance personnel.

-All policies contain staff development and posting of procedural steps on the district website.

-The High school policy is different from the other two. It includes language about suicide prevention, title IX, student instruction, and much more about a referral to law enforcement.

**Recommendation:** To use the format and content of the Spring Grove policy.

**Recommended Motion:** For the Southside board to review and adopt a version of the North County Joint Union school board policy on Bullying prevention.

The Board asked that staff give their input. It will be brought as an action time in the next board meeting.

**b. 2023 - 2024 Southside School Instructional Calendar Revision (ACTION)  
2024 - 2025 Southside School Instructional Calendar Draf (DISCUSSION)**

**Rationale:** The approved 2023-2024 instructional calendar is currently different from the San Benito High School calendar. The high school adjusted the 2023-2024 academic calendar for students. For the Southside academic calendar to mirror the high school changes were required. Approval of this action would correct the differences and provide a similar calendar between Southside and San Benito High School. Additionally, the 2024-2025 calendar is currently being reviewed and this is the first opportunity for the board to review the 2024-2025 draft calendar.

**Recommended Motion:** Approve the revised 2023-2024 instructional calendar.

Laura Forth made the motion to approve the 2023-2024 revised instructional calendar and was seconded by Julio Salazar and carried the following vote: Yes – 5; No/Absent/Abstain – 0

**c. School Board Policy (DISCUSSION)**

**Rationale:** The board has requested to have the opportunity to discuss the policies for the district as an open discussion item. It has been requested to be an ongoing item moving forward.

**Recommendation:** That the board discuss the topic of the school board policies for Southside school.

**d. Quarterly Investment of Funds report ending March 31st, 2023(ACTION)**

**Rationale:** The report and subsequent quarterly reports are required to go to the board for review and acceptance and should be documented as an action item in the board minutes

**Recommended Motion:** That the Board of Education review and accept the Quarterly Investment of Funds Report ending March 31st, 2023.

Julie Corrigan made the motion to approve the Quarterly Investment of Funds Report ending March 31, 2023, and was seconded by Laura Forth and carried the following vote: Yes – 5; No/Absent/Abstain – 0

- e. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) San Benito County office of Education (SBCOE) and Southside School District for the 2023-2024 school year for the following services: Fiscal Services, Student Transfers, Teacher Induction Services, Special Education Transportation, Year End Budget Transfers, Resolution to Transport Warrants, and Authorized Signatures**

**Rationale:** The purpose of the MOU's is to define the scope and cost of the Partnership between the SBCOE and the district as it relates to Fiscal Services, Student Transfers, Teacher Induction Services, Special Education Transportation, Year End Budget Transfers, Resolution to Transport Warrants, Authorized Signatures, Educational Services and Human Resources Services. The SBCOE will act as the service provider for the district and the specified programs identified in the resolutions and agreements. The terms of the MOU's will be valid based upon the terms of the agreements.

**Recommended Motion:** Approve the 2023-2024 MOUs as stated.

- Fiscal Services
- Student Transfers
- Teacher Induction Services
- Special Education Transportation
- Resolution to Transport Warrants
- Authorized Signatures
- Year End Budget Transfers
- Educational and Human Resources Services

Laura Forth made the motion to approve the 2023-2024 MOUs stated above and was seconded by Julie Corrigan and carried the following vote: Yes – 5; No/Absent/Abstain – 0

**f. School Resource Officer (DISCUSSION)**

**Rationale:** School safety is a concern across our nation and the board will discuss the position of school resource officer and the viability of having an officer on campus.

**Recommendation:** That the board discuss the topic of a school resource office for Southside school.

Board Member Julia Otterlei met with Mr. Presser and will be getting more information. She mentioned we need to form a subcommittee with staff and parents to discuss a safe campus.

**VII. Closing Items**

- a. The next Regular Meeting of the Board is Wednesday May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:00 pm.
- b. Adjournment

Laura forth made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:14pm and was seconded by Julio Salazar and carried the following vote: Yes –5; No/Absent/Abstain – 0

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John Schilling, Superintendent/Principal  
Southside School District

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Michael Ruth, Board President  
Southside School District, Board of Trustee

**Sylvia Rocha**

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**From:** Janay Brown <jbrownloans4u@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 3, 2023 7:30 PM  
**To:** Sylvia Rocha  
**Subject:** Board meeting 5/3

**For those of you who don't know me, my name is Janay Brown. I have been a parent at Southside for 12 years.**

**This year bullying has become a very big problem but it is not just amongst students. It has grown like a cancer and we now have parents bullying parents, a board member bullying children, parents, staff, and administrators. While there are genuine bullying situations amongst students there is also a huge misuse of the word and unfortunately has in some cases inadvertently created bullying where it wasn't before. You have a board member, who has been using her perceived power as a board member to intimidate and bully students, parents, staff members, and administrators alike. Twice in the past few months adults that are not staff members, one being that board member, have been allowed on campus to yell at and intimidate young children with no repercussions. 3 weeks ago, a woman yelled at my 9 year old daughter in the office hallway she did this after I had left her side to speak to the principal. My daughter came running into where I was, she was crying and shaking. When I walked out to leave I told the woman not to speak to my**

daughter that that was the principals job. I then walked out to my car to leave. I was with in feet of my car when she flew through the office doors hands in the air screaming and yelling at me that my daughter was a bully and I needed to teach her to keep her hands and feet to herself. I turned around and engaged in an argument with her. I wasn't going to let her intimidate me like she had my young daughter. I basically told her that her granddaughter wasn't innocent that she plays just as much a part in this situation as my daughter does. It was very heated and I did you some profanity, but let me be clear I did not go to the school looking for a fight and I tried to be the bigger person and leave. I had actually come to campus to pick my daughter up for her special birthday afternoon. In the end as usual we had an administrator that did nothing to stop these women from accosting our children and when I stood up and told her it wasn't her place to speak to my child I ended up banned from the school and have been treated like an evil monster for standing up to grown women who think they have a right to intimidate and bully children. How can we fix bullying amongst our children when adults in positions of power are bullying others themselves and they aren't being held accountable. In closing I thought this board meeting was going to be next week and being I had to pull my daughters out of school and place them on independent studies I've been extremely busy. That being said while



**I have no intention of bringing my girls back to Southside in the fall something needs to change so that another family doesn't become her next target. This weekend I will be writing a detailed account of everything we have experienced that relates to this particular situation. I will then email all board members a copy. I will also be filling a formal complaint with Crystal Lamonto and the California State Board of Education. I have tried numerous times to come to a resolution with the head of our school to no avail. As with so many situations he will say what he needs to in order to appease me but will actually do nothing to resolve the problem. We need a strong leader.**

FR: KYLEE WATERMAN

My time at Southside is slowly coming to an end. My youngest is in 5th grade, my son is graduating in about a month, and my oldest daughter graduated in 2021- COVID year. A year or era that brought division to our school. It was a time when many of us were very passionate about what was good for our own children and the school community.

Prior to COVID, I remember visiting with other parents or grandparents between student pick ups; I remember making great friends with the adults around me; I remember having conversations with staff members about daily happenings at the school; I remember Isis Bailey inviting other adults to join us; I remember our meetings being attended by staff and parents, all willing to put in time and effort to make our kids' experience at Southside the best it could be; I remember us BUILDING EACH OTHER UP.

It saddens me to think of how much our school has changed. There is a division here now that, like a black mold, has been slowly creeping in to ruin and destroy. I see and I hear, adults working to tear each other down. I see a division that makes staff not want to be around parents, parents not want to be around the campus, and the students that suffer because of it.

We love this school. We love the teachers and the families that make up our little learning community, but it is going to take a lot of work from the board and the school leadership to turn things around. Parents need to be invested; staff need to be invested; students need to rise to the expectations and standards we set, AND the *example* that we set. We cannot continue to think things will just work out because the inaction, like black mold, will become a slow and silent killer for our school community.

What is the example you will set as board members to BUILD this school back up? What plan can you put into action?

FR:  
S. Yamashiki

A good portion of this year, parents have been focusing on bullying and our bullying policy. As the school year has progressed and I have been spoken to and spoken about, my heart has been broken. Southside School is my second family, and I feel like my family is being attacked. Teachers are being attacked for the way they teach, or the way they handle a situation, or the way a child is disciplined or not disciplined. Administration is under attack for the way situations or discipline has been handled, and it feels like Administration is being micromanaged on where they are and what they are doing, and now Support staff is under attack from rumors. The morale among the entire staff is so low.

School staff, including administration, teachers, and support staff, have been discussed in so many negative ways. So much so, that parents have told other parents to secretly record conversations that they have with school staff. Maybe the way we, as staff, handle situations and conflicts, is different from the way parents would like things handled. That is fine, but in life, we cannot always get our way.

I am saddened by the fact that we have parents and grandparents coming onto campus, and yelling at students who are not their own. Why is it, because that child did not want to play with their child the day before, or that child plays a little rough, or I do not know. When is it ever appropriate for a parent or grandparent to do this? When is it ever appropriate for a grandparent to call students over to a fence during class time to tell them to behave? Is that not the teacher or school staff's responsibility? Turn it around, what if it were the other parent doing that, would you as the parent not get angry? Also, these parents are pushing longtime Southside families away. These parents are bullies because they are going around telling other parents not to talk to or associate with those families. What kind of behavior is that? That is Bullying at it's finest! How sad is it that because of this behavior, long-time families are avoiding Open house and Parent Club activities that they normally would have loved to go to, but they do not care for the atmosphere that these newer families are creating. These long-time families have been volunteering at our school for almost a decade!

I am sad because parents think it is more appropriate to go straight to the principal instead of to teachers or staff to find out what happened that day at school. Or starting rumors, such as the one I heard last week. I heard that I deny

kids food? Really? I have never in my 12 plus years at Southside denied students food. Yes, I run out of food and must change stuff on the fly, but I have never denied a kid food. Yes, I do speak sternly to students who forget to tell their teacher that they are getting school lunch. Yes, ~~I do tell kids who have not ordered that they cannot get something until after I have finished serving the kids who ordered.~~ Yes, ~~there are rules to follow.~~

I am all for school safety, and I was leery of putting a fence up all the way around campus, thinking it is going to feel like a jail. But now, I am all for it... because it will mean these parents/grandparents, will need to wait in their cars instead of sitting and staring through the fence, or sitting at the table and gossiping and letting their younger children run wild and possible getting hit by a vehicle or banging on school windows while school is still in session.

We need to gather as a staff, school board, and have a team building workshop. I think we should relearn about bullying and conflict management so that we can work with the students on how they can resolve issues on their own and teach when it is appropriate to get help from an adult. We need a program to teach the virtues at our school. We need to have quarterly workshops for parents and staff (like a 2-hour session in the evening or on a Saturday) to teach them about virtues, bullying, conflict management, safety, social media, to name a few ideas. We need to come together as a community so that we feel comfortable as staff and parents and community members to support and teach our students. We need to be inclusive and not exclusive! We need to understand that we all have different life stories, and we all have diverse ways we deal with things... some headstrong and some heart strong.

Thank you.

## Sylvia Rocha

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**From:** Wendy Abercrombie  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:47 AM  
**To:** Sylvia Rocha  
**Subject:** Board Statement

Tonight I would like to take a minute to address the board and Mr. Schilling and thank you all on behalf of the 8th grade class for allowing us to take a chance on our crazy idea for 8th grade overnight camp. They toured the Paicines Ranch, Pinnacles, and the Historical Park. The students learned about sustainable agriculture, invasive species, endangered species, and learned about the geology, ecology, and history of San Benito County. Even more importantly, students got to enjoy time with their classmates taking night hikes, pranking each other, feeding farm animals, learning archery, enjoying time around the campfire, and eating good food. For me, spending these three days with students reminded me why I love to teach.

This leads me to my next topic...

I would also like to take a minute to address a concern that many of us have about the climate of the school environment here at Southside. About 8 years ago following the School shooting at Sandy Hook, Southside school implemented a closed campus policy. Gates were closed and locked and parents were no longer allowed to walk freely around campus. Then came another shooting and doors were locked and visitor badges were required. Then Covid hit and no visitors were allowed on campus, parent meetings went virtual, and school events were either canceled, or held virtually. All of these precautions, although necessary and important have led to a change in the climate and culture on our campus. This year the Parent club has taken on the challenge of bringing fun back to Southside. Slowly, but surely with events like the father/daughter dance, the Rabbit Run, Laser Tag, and all of the fun events and food at Open House, Southside is becoming a more welcoming place again. The work that the parent club does to put on these events does not go unnoticed by the staff here at Southside. It is important for teachers, students, and parents to have opportunities to interact positively with each other outside the classroom and academic setting and these events provide those opportunities. Unfortunately, at this time, as a staff member it is difficult to feel comfortable participating in these events due to fear of being confronted by parents in front of others. As a school community we need to work together with the support of teachers, administration, board members, and parents to fight for the climate and culture that we want to see here at Southside. I do not think the solution to the problem is a simple one, but I do know that it is going to take everyone working together to see Southside returned to the place it used to be. I believe that our school and the culture here is worth working towards and hope that you do too.