

## MEETING MINUTES

Live stream link: <https://tinyurl.com/blsdlive>  
(<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com//SU/iG3CoqLUQW9E98Jm0fPuLg==>)

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### Attendees

#### Voting Members

Ronda Clarke, Board President  
Steven High, Board Vice President  
Ann Mangold, Board Clerk  
Bill Atwood, Representative to Executive Board  
Julie Greenwood, Trustee

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Oakhurst Elementary School California Cadet Corps presented colors and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President, Ronda Clarke.

### 2. ROLL CALL

Staff in attendance: Michelle Townsend, Tara Campanella, Robert Dias, Steffan John, Jeanne Ratchford, Dawn Smith, Andrew Messenger, Tim McGrew, and Heather Archer.

Others present: John Pero, Joseph Clarke, Nancy Harmelin, Elaine Brown

### 3. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion made by: Bill Atwood  
Motion seconded by: Ann Mangold  
Voting:  
Ronda Clarke - Yes  
Steven High - Yes  
Ann Mangold - Yes  
Bill Atwood - Yes  
Julie Greenwood - Yes

- a. Approval of agenda
- b. Approval of minutes of the Regular Meeting February 9, 2022.
- c. Approval of the Monthly Payroll \$596,016.78.
- d. Approval of Compensation for Additional Duties
- e. Approval of Board Governance Handbook (with corrected Board Member titles)
- f. Approval of Donations

**4. MONTHLY ITEMS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**a. Monthly Approval of Warrants (Action needed)**

Chief Business Officer, Tara Campanella answered a few questions about the warrants from board members.

Motion made by: Bill Atwood

Motion seconded by: Steven High

Voting:

Ronda Clarke - Yes

Steven High - Yes

Ann Mangold - Yes

Bill Atwood - Yes

Julie Greenwood - Yes

**5. HEARING OF PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

John Pero spoke about the myth of separation of church and state in regards to school choice. (Notes attached to this item on the agenda)

Nancy Harmelin spoke about Critical Race Theory being a social experiment. (Notes attached to this item on the agenda)

An email was read by Director of Special Programs and Projects, Michelle Townsend from Diane Flaherty regarding Critical Race Theory. (Email attached to this item on the agenda)

An email was read by Director of Special Programs and Projects, Michelle Townsend from Phil Robinson regarding the importance of adopting current law into our board policies to avoid lawsuits. (Email attached to this item on the agenda)

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. RESOLUTION 22-11 LEGAL HOLIDAYS and 2022-23 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Michelle Townsend explained the need for this resolution to adopt different dates for the President's holidays to facilitate the February break.

Motion made by: Julie Greenwood

Motion seconded by: Steven High

Voting:

Ronda Clarke - Yes

Steven High - Yes

Ann Mangold - Yes

Bill Atwood - Yes

Julie Greenwood - Yes

## **7. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **a. ENROLLMENT REPORT**

Chief Business Officer, Tara Campanella explained the changes on the report since the previous month's report.

### **b. INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER REPORT**

### **c. FIRST READING OF PROPOSED BOARD POLICY, ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION, EXHIBITS AND BYLAWS.**

The Board reviewed the various policies and got clarification from Director of Special Programs and Projects, Michelle Townsend.

## **8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

There was no report.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Bill Atwood got to spend some time in Mrs. Mills' classroom and expressed how impressed he is with our teachers. He complimented the teaching that goes on in the classrooms with engaging decor and that our school offices are neat and tidy. He thanked the Oakhurst Elementary California Cadet Corps for the wonderful job they did presenting the colors for tonight's meeting.

Ann Mangold has been volunteering and was very excited to attend Camp Green Meadows. She said it was well organized, the food was delicious and although it was an abbreviated version of the normal over-night camp, the students got a lot out of the event. She also volunteered at the Oakhurst Elementary book faire and said they did an amazing job decorating and running the event. Ms. Guynn came in with students who did not have money for books and they were all able to buy a book with money that had been donated by an anonymous parent. She said it was refreshing to see older students purchasing books for their younger siblings.

Steven High was grateful to the public who showed up at the meeting and mentioned that Superintendent Seals was missed.

Ronda Clarke thanked Michelle Townsend for filling in for Superintendent Seals. She appreciates it when students make presentations and hopefully we can get back to that happening at future board meetings.

The Board expressed their appreciation to Ms. Smith and Mr. Messinger for their leadership of the Cadet Corps. They were impressed with how well trained the students were who presented colors.

## **10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Board President, Ronda Clarke asked that we choose a date for Board Self Evaluation and Superintendent Evaluation on next month's agenda.

**11. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Unless otherwise announced, the next meeting will be the Regular Meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 6:00 p.m.** at the Oakhurst Elementary School Multi- Purpose Room.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

There were no comments.

**13. CLOSED SESSION**

Open session ended at 7:00 p.m.

Closed session began at 7:12 p.m.

**a. Employee Negotiations (Gov. Code 54957.6)**

**b. Personnel (Gov. Code 54957)**

**c. Student Discipline or other confidential Student matters (Ed. Code sections 35146, 48900 et seq., 48912(b) and 49060 et seq., and 20 U.S.C. section 1232g)**

**14. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION: ANNOUNCE CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS**

Closed session ended at 7:41 p.m. There were no announcements.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.



Superintendent



Clerk of the Board

John Perry

CHURCH

- VOTER

- CRT

- SUSTAINING PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Bass Lake School Board Presentation for 4-6-22

Title: The Myth of the Separation of Church and State. In relation to School Choice and how it does not violate the Constitution. Currently 34 states have school choice and California is NOT one of them.

Background, public comment speaker was mocking the California School Choice Petition (**Education Freedom Act (EFA)**) stating that it would take public education dollars and use them for private or religious schools and made the claim that this violated the Separation of Church and State in the first amendment of the US Constitution.

**The first amendment** to the Constitution states: **Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free excessive thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press or the right of the people to peaceably to assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.** It's freedom OF religion, NOT freedom FROM religion.

Nowhere does the first amendment or the Constitution or the Declaration of Independence mention the phrase "the Wall of Separation between Church of State"

This is a phrase was penned by our third President Tomas Jefferson when responding to a letter by the Baptist Elders from Danbury Connecticut where they brought up a concern about establishing a national church which would not include them which at the time was a small congregation.

Jefferson wrote a reply to the Danbury Baptist elders stating that the government couldn't force a particular national religion as there was a wall of separation between church and state., meaning that the government couldn't endorse a particular religion or denomination.

***President Jefferson had no intention of allowing the government to limit, restrict, regulate, or interfere with public religious practices. He believed, along with the other Founders, that the First Amendment had been enacted only to prevent the federal establishment of a national denomination***

**BTW: This was the Same Thomas Jefferson who held Christian Sunday services weekly in the US Capitol building in Washing D.C while president and had the Marine band play for the worship service.** He also supported the printing of Bibles and distributing them to the native Americans.

In summary, the "separation" phrase so frequently invoked today was rarely mentioned by any of the Founders; and even Jefferson's explanation of his phrase is diametrically opposed to the manner in which courts apply it today starting in 1947. "Separation of church and state" currently means almost exactly the opposite of what it originally meant.

In regard to using OUR taxpayer dollars for education, either Public, Charter, private (secular or religious or homeschool, it is OUR tax money NOT the public schools and parents should be able to this money for any school of their choice or zip code. I am a Vietnam Veteran and used the GI bill to pay for my college. I could go to any college, secular, private or religious or trade school and the money followed the student. That's what school Choice is all about.

**Note:** Many public schools already teach religion, the **religion of secularism** and scientific Atheism. Secularism like atheism are ideologies, have structure and have belief system – just like other religions such as Christianity, Judaism and Islam. So public schools are already teaching religion and violating the "alleged" separation of church and state"

x They also teach the religion scientism such as the theory of macro evolution vs intelligent design. Teaching that something came from nothing, and life came from non-life. This is political science not true science.

I believe that parents should have the choice of using their tax dollars they already paid into the system to attend the school of their choice (public, charter, private; secular or religious and homeschool), with money following the student.

# Dear Randy Seals and Bass Lake school board,

Linus carried a blanket for a security. I see Students in school carrying stuffed animals, I think for security.

Students have gone through two years of Covid trauma.

When I taught fifth and sixth grade back in the 60s teachers experimented with new math. The experiment failed because students could not pass computation tests.

Education experts in the 60s insisted on teaching Spanish in elementary school when some students could not even read English.

When my two children entered kindergarten in the 70s they knew how to read. But they got confused by the experimental Distar reading program. They were not taught phonics.

In recent years educational experts thought cursive handwriting should not be taught. Now we have students who can't sign their names on documents.

In 1963 I signed a loyalty oath promising to be loyal to the United States one nation under God. Teachers and students were allowed to pray in school.

Are you wondering what's my point? Critical Race Theory..

Critical race theory is a social experiment.

It should not be allowed to be taught in public schools. Respect should be taught by parents.

The solution to all the disrespect, hatred, division is turning back to God who teaches us to love everyone.

One nation under God! In God we trust!

Sincerely,

*Nancy Harmelin*

Nancy Harmelin

3-27-22



Glenn & Nancy Harmelin  
44490 Highway 49  
Ahwahnee, CA 93601

Researchers have found that cursive writing instruction builds pathways in the brain. Also, many documents such as our Constitution and letters of presidents such as Abraham Lincoln are written in cursive. When teaching at Le Grand, a high school student who was an honor roll type visited a teacher, and could not read her cursive note she had written. Children for a while now have been unable to read a card written from a grandmother.

This is handicapping our children.

Cursive is a big deal. 😊👍



Glenn & Nancy Harmelin  
44490 Highway 49  
Ahwahnee, CA 93601





Jeanne Ratchford <jratchford@basslakesd.org>

## Fwd: Comments for Bass Lake School District Board Meeting on April 6th

1 message

Randy Seals <rseals@basslakesd.org>  
To: Jeanne Ratchford <jratchford@basslakesd.org>

Mon, Apr 4, 2022 at 5:29 PM

*Randall M. Seals*

Superintendent  
Bass Lake Joint Union Elementary School District



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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Diane Flaherty <momsintchmtn@gmail.com>  
Date: Mon, Apr 4, 2022 at 5:17 PM  
Subject: Comments for Bass Lake School District Board Meeting on April 6th  
To: Randy Seals <rseals@basslakesd.org>

Dear Mr. Seals and the Bass Lake School Board,

I wish to comment concerning to subject of Critical Race Theory, also known as "CRT," or "critical theory." This indoctrinates children in an ideology that views everyone and everything through the lens of race.

**Critical race theory is destructive to children, their parents and to our society:**

1. CRT violates students' civil rights by treating them differently based on race.
2. CRT promotes race-based division and resentment, while disempowering all students by laying the collective guilt of racism at the feet of white students and their families and communicating to students of color that they are condemned to be oppressed and victimized throughout their lives.
3. CRT compels students to affirm and support ideas contrary to deeply held moral, philosophical, and religious values.
4. This curriculum punishes students who dissent, mislabelling any contrary opinion as "racist."
5. CRT disregards and violates parent's rights by indoctrinating their children, undermining their children's dignity, and denigrating their deeply held religious and/or moral beliefs. For example, as part of the program, students are told if they do not fight against "white dominant culture," they are themselves racists.
6. CRT teaches students to disrespect law enforcement. If someone is not breaking the law, then there's no reason to fear law enforcement. Cities throughout the U.S. are experiencing double and triple digit increases in violent crimes and violent crimes against law enforcement officers has increased exponentially. No matter where you look in society there will be those few who do not treat other human beings with dignity and respect; however, for the majority of law-enforcement, they are dedicated and hard-working. There is a reason why law enforcement officers are called "peace officers"— it is because their duty is to protect the public that we may enjoy peace in our cities and towns.

Discrimination based on race is prohibited by the United States Constitution as well as Bass Lake School District policy 0410:  
Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities

In closing, let us reflect on the words of Martin Luther King—"Judge a man NOT by the color of his skin, but by the content of his character."

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the destructive effects CRT would bring to students and our community and do not allow this to be taught in the schools.

Sincerely,  
Diane Flaherty



Jeanne Ratchford <jratchford@basslakesd.org>

## Public Comment For Next Board Meeting

1 message

Phil Robinson <phil.robinson2008@gmail.com>

Sat, Mar 19, 2022 at 9:51 AM

To: jratchford@basslakesd.org

### **If It's California Law, not adopting the law into board policy is an invitation to lawsuits.**

The Bass Lake School Board has had many votes in recent meetings where there is a California Education policy that needs to be adopted. These policies are usually already California law and in the past they have been easily and routinely adopted. As Trustee 2 Ann Manigold pointed out in the February meeting, "if a board member does not like a policy that is law, the best thing they can do is to advocate for change in Sacramento". As Superintendent Randy has explained numerous times, not voting to adopt a policy that is ALREADY California law is only opening up the school district to lawsuits.

Trustee 1 Bill Atwood's extreme ideologies have compelled him to vote against California Ed-Code and California law on multiple occasions. And as Superintendent Seals has pointed out, this is against his OATH OF OFFICE! School board members should not be using the school board to further their highly partisan political agenda. Not only is this a waste of taxpayer dollars, but it is also opening up the district to lawsuits and wasted money. The school board should be focused on what is good for the children. The motto is "Every Child A Promise". Right?

At almost every school board meeting, Bill Atwood brings up <sup>nazism</sup> nazism, fascism, socialism, wokeism, what-aboutism and whatever the latest crazy thing is that he heard on Fox News. One meeting he wore a mask with the words emblazoned "this mask is as useless as my governor." Why? Is this because Atwood lost his extreme right wing editorial in the Sierra Star advertiser? Board members are not supposed to be political. There is a reason the ballot doesn't list their party affiliation! He seems to put his own monotonous and pontificating ego and desires in front of the interests of the school district and kids. For example, he is more interested in getting a \$12,500 cash payout than focusing on the needs of the district. He brought it up twice! His proposed board policy would have cost the district an extra \$200,000 per year by giving the same \$12,500 pay-out to those employees who also have redundant insurance policies. But, that wasn't a problem for Bill, apparently. In response to Bill's latest attempt, board member Steve High said "I really wish Bill would stop bringing this up and put it to rest". I agree and you can tell from the faces in the room that everyone else wishes he would stop, as well.

In Bill's view, the school board's motto isn't "Every Child A Promise". To Bill, the motto is apparently "Sorry Kids. Bill Needs His Money and His Political Soapbox".

I want to thank the reasonable board members Ann Manigold, Steve High, Ronda Clarke and Juli Greenwood for understanding that if it's California law, these policies need to be adopted in order to avert avoidable litigation. That is putting the kids first. And if Bill doesn't like a law, he needs to do what everyone else does and that is to vote or write his government officials.

Thank you,

Phil Robinson