

BIG OAK FLAT-GROVELAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Governing Board

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Don Pedro High School Gymnasium

3090 Merced Falls Rd., La Grange, CA 95329

5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum at 4:58 p.m.

C. Hochhaus M. Coppock, J. Ahlswede, D. Dougherty and L. Reynolds in attendance

2. Approval of Presented Agenda

Add to Closed Session Personnel Item #2025-2026-26

Motion to approve agenda as amended by M. Coppock, 2nd by J. Ahlswede

Vote: Yes 5/No 0/Absent 0

3. Adjournment to Closed Session at 4:56 p.m.

a. Personnel

- 2025-2026-14- employ
- 2025-2026-15- employ
- 2025-2026-16- employ
- 2025-2026-17- employ
- 2025-2026-18- resignation
- 2025-2026-19- site transfer
- 2025-2026-20—change of classification
- 2025-2026-21—additional time & classification
- 2025-2026-22 —resignation
- 2025-2026-23 —resignation of time
- 2025-2026-24 —change in classification
- 2025-2026-25 – additional time
- 2025-2026-26 - employ

b. Conference with Chief Negotiator J. McFarland pursuant to Section 54957.6:

- Classified
- Certificated

c. Public Employment Government Code 54957

Title: Superintendent

4. Reconvene to Open Session at 6:17 p.m.

Motion to approve 25.26.14 thru 26 –by L. Reynolds, 2nd by C. Hochhaus

Vote: Yes 5/No 0/Absent 0

5. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by member of DPHS FFA

6. Presentation(s): Members of the DPHS FFA, J. Alcantara, K. Cole, J. Neves, A. Gilson, R. Thomas, B. Ellis, A. Whitoff, all spoke to past, present and future events revolving around DPHS FFA activities. They also thanked the Board for their support involving activities.

7. Public Comment and Communication

At this time, the public may comment on any item of interest that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Though the Board generally will not respond, we want you to understand that we are listening carefully. However, in compliance with board policy and the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Board is not permitted to take action on non-agenda items. If appropriate, consistent with board policy, the board may direct the Superintendent to schedule an item for a future board agenda.

•M. Darrow read a statement, herewith attached.

•Mrs. Thomas, parent of student at DPHS, reacted to the statement with questions to the Board

8. Information Items (Please limit report to 10 minutes)

- Tenaya Elementary Report by A. Schmid, principal –report submitted
- Tioga High School Report by J. McFarland, principal/Supt – report submitted
- Don Pedro High Report by N. Lamm, Principal – report submitted
- Union Communication – no report
- District Report by J. McFarland - update on current District projects (report submitted), completion of items brought up in September via a complaint form.
- Board Communication –
 - L.Reynolds – appreciation to audience/student members for coming out, showing up.
 - M. Coppock – I concur and added her thanks again

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C. Hochhaus – Visited Tenaya classrooms

D. Dougherty – Agree with L. Reynolds; shout out to the staff who show up everyday for their hard work & dedication

9. Public Hearing

10. Action Item

a. Set Time & Date for the Organizational Meeting

Motion to set time & date as December 12, 2025 @ 5:00 for the Organizational Meeting by L.Reynolds, M. Coppock

Vote: Yes 5/No 0/Absent 0

b. Approval of Mission Statements:

- *District – Tabled until December*
- *High Schools*

Motion to approved the high school mission/vision statement with the “high schools of the BOFGUSD” line by L. Reynolds, 2nd by J. Ahlswede

Vote: Yes 5/No 0/Absent 0

c. Approval of Variable Term Waiver for Preliminary Services Credential for Ashley Schmid at Tenaya Elementary School, serving grades TK-8 beginning August 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Motion to approved by C. Hochhaus, 2nd by L. Reynolds.

Vote: Yes 5/No 0/Absent 0

d. Approval of Participation of Tech Recycle Program

Motion to approve with caveat of vendor disclosure and advise from auditor is received and verified/approved by M. Coppock, 2nd by C. Hochhaus

11. Discussion/Action Items

a. Teacher Assignment Monitoring Outcome (TAMO)

b. Ethnic Studies Curriculum

Motion to approve pilot of curriculum, bringing back for review in March by C. Hochhaus, 2nd by L. Reynolds

Vote: Yes 5/No 0/Absent 0

c. Site Communications regarding distribution of Opt-Out Information to parents

Per Supt. McFarland all opt out info is sent in paper, email and via parent square to parents.

d. Cell Phone Policies - discussion

Both high schools are still working well with student voluntary participation in cell phone use reduction. Board would like to have a universal policy covering all grades with bullet points as to consequences. Continue to agendize.

12 Policy/Regulations

a. First Reading or CSBA Update – Approval & Adoption:

b. Second Reading (action required)

13 Curriculum

a. Curriculum (1st Reading)

- **McGraw Hill: Inspire Earth Science**

b. Curriculum –2nd Reading & adoption.

14 Consent Agenda

a. Minutes for the Regular Meeting October 8, 2025

b. Payroll Warrants for October 2025

c. Commercial Warrants for October 2025

Motion to approve by J. Ahlswede, 2nd by M. Coppock

Vote: Yes 5/No 0/Absent 0

15 Adjournment to Closed Session at 7:52 p.m./Reconvene to Closed Session @ 8:03 p.m.

a. Personnel

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- 2025-2026-15- employ

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Title: Superintendent

16 Reconvene to Open Session and Adjournment at 9:02 p.m.

No Report out from this session of closed

With no further business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Approved and Ordered into the proceedings of the Big Oak Flat-Groveland Unified School District

Secretary of the Governing Board

Clerk of the Governing Board

To the Board of Trustees,

On behalf of Tioga students, we would like to express our concerns for our safety. Since August of 2024, we have noticed major safety concerns with our current superintendent. Last school year, we mostly viewed these issues as “settling in”, but as the actions increase, we feel our safety decrease. We now feel the need to bring these issues to your attention.

There have been multiple instances in which a student, staff member, video camera, or vape detectors have made Mr. McFarland aware that vaping was actively happening at school, and there was frequently no investigation or consequences thereafter. This is also an ongoing issue with fighting and threats. We have harsher consequences for having our phones out in class than when people are fist fighting or threatening each other with violence and aggression. One physical fight resulted in a 5 minute conversation, but no other consequences.

We have also noticed extreme absence of Mr. McFarland this school year as he is often nowhere to be found and unresponsive to calls and texts, sometimes for the entire day even when something is urgent. He disappears for hours at a time from any of the sites and is unreachable.

When he is randomly walking around campus, we feel extremely uncomfortable by his touching and whispering in female students’ ears. Coming up behind them and rubbing their shoulders or backs is unacceptable. He also has inappropriate conversations about snorting Altoids, playing basketball commando, and informing us that his whole family “F”s like rabbits. These inappropriate comments made students uncomfortable whether they were actively participating in the conversation or not.

As the Superintendent, he should be leading by example and keeping student safety as the most important part of his job. We feel ignored and that this environment is not safe for us.

Sincerely,

Tioga Students