



**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
GOVERNING BOARD OF THE  
SOLEDAD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT OFFICE BOARD ROOM  
1261 METZ ROAD, SOLEDAD, CA 93960  
THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016**

2016  
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I. **OPENED BUSINESS – 5:00 PM**

A. Called Public Session to Order

B. Roll Called

Mrs. Marie Berlanga, President

Mrs. Jodi Massa, Vice-President

Mrs. Josie Perez-Aguilera, Clerk

Mr. Jaime Fernandez, Trustee

Mr. Javier Galvan, Trustee

Dr. Rupi Boyd, Secretary to the Board - Absent

C. Approved the Closed Session Agenda

**MOTION TO APPROVE CLOSED SESSION AGENDA BY: Javier Galvan SECONDED BY: Josie Perez-Aguilera AYES: Mrs. Berlanga, Mr. Fernandez, Mr. Galvan, Mrs. Massa, and Mrs. Perez-Aguilera NAYS: None ABSENT: None**

D. Allowed for Public Comment on Closed Session Topics:

1. Andria Brinson, President of Chamber Commerce but tonight she was there as a community member and certified special education advocate. She spoke on behalf of her 85 parents who were scared of Dr. Rupi Boyd and being deported. They are appalled and embarrassed by school district and allegations what came out of audit findings. If you don't think they are listening, they are, if you don't place her on administrative leave, they are ready to act. She personally was appalled and she is very educated and knows what she read and knows how to perform audits. She said she was friends with each of the Board members. She told everyone one at a Gala how proud she was of each of them and Dr. Boyd before all this came out. She said she knew people in the district office that were shredding records and looking for information to prove that Dr. Boyd was innocent; records that they should not be looking for. She said she shared that information with the D.A.'s office. She was upset that student money was spent for her special education students that need an aide instead buying 52" television. She asked that the Board make the right decision and place Dr. Boyd on administrative leave or fire her.

2. Maria E. Vidal, citizen of Soledad. She had countless citizens of Soledad and asked her who hired these people to put them in charge of our students and she responds that it was the Board of Trustees that they elected. The school district has let the community down and caused a lot of pain and frustration. They are suffering. They accept and acknowledge no district if perfect. But this cannot take place in their child's education. Words cannot express how they feel on this entire situation. They have lost trust in this current administration and cannot tolerate it. They are putting their feet down, will not tolerate being under investigation. She asked that the Board try to correct this situation. She presented the Board with signatures of parents in Camphora who said are suffering and asked the Board to do the right thing.

3. Ellen Brusa, Retiree, also addressed the Board on the FCMAT results and Retired former administrator in Soledad USD and was speaking from her heart. She was very proud of working in this district as a long time teacher and administrator doing what is best for kids and cared about teachers and students. Even when times were hard, she felt that way. She was very upset, frustrated and embarrassed in reading the report. She heard things that would not tell other people as an administrator and H.R. Director under Mr. Guzman and Mrs. Guss' administration. Things were not perfect but there was not a climate of distrust. Implored the current board at the time she retired and did talk to a couple of board members. She was there to ask the Board to do the right thing. Kids and employees matter. She said that 2/3 of administrator have left the district because of climate of distrust and fear. Do what is right the kids. If it means firing Dr. Boyd, then she asked they do that.
4. Steve Brusa, he is a lifelong resident of Monterey County and Salinas Valley. Opinions are his and only his. This is the FCMAT audit for Soledad USD, May 24, 2016. Conclusions and recommendations are clear, fraud, misappropriation of fund perpetrated are inexcusable and criminal. He read some of the findings of outlined in the audit. If you read the audit, it is clear that the misuses are contrary to Board Policy, proving that policies were placed long time in the district. The Superintendent, Governing Board and senior management are mentioned in the audit and should be held responsible for those controls under their supervision and should be expected to follow and people should be prosecuted to full extent of the law.
5. Chris Bourke, Dr. Boyd should be placed on paid administrative leave. The Soledad Bee had an interesting letter to the editor outlining this. It would probably best that she resigns. That being said, the community expects and expects the upmost integrity and behavior from their top administrators. They set the tone for administrators and teachers. It all starts with the Superintendent. They seek trust and cooperation from the Board until the investigation is complete and asked that she be placed on administrative leave.
6. Fernando Ansaldo – Sanchez, current works as a substitute teacher and prior was a graduate from Soledad USD. Expressed his frustration to the Board. It is appalling and spending money that could better the education for students. Those funds could be used elsewhere. Well known teachers use their money for students. He asked for the resignation of Dr. Boyd and termination of those employees in question.
7. Josefina Trujillo, read a letter that was provided to parents in Spanish and said she asked her friend to read: To the Soledad Board of Trustees, Elected Officials of Monterey County, and to all community members of the City of Soledad. The letter stated: We, the parents of students of the Soledad USD are devastated in learning that not only is the district is under investigation by the D.A.'s office for fraud and misappropriation of funds but the people under investigation have not been placed on administration leave and this was unacceptable. They believe that Superintendent Boyd and Lisa Kleinhofer should be placed on leave until the D.A. can complete their investigation. They should be not allowed to work until the investigation is complete. Their children deserve and they demand more from the elected officials. There is overwhelming evidence to substantiate their concerns with approximately 2% of the receipts audited. Can you imagine if all receipts were audited? An independent fraud audit called aAB139 extraordinary audit was

contracted by MCOE with FCMAT. They distributed the letter in Spanish and English. Legal Counsel, Mr. Breese said it would be enough to have the letters available for the audience.

Ms. Brinson felt that they should have let the person finish reading the statement. President Berlanga thanked Ms. Brinson for her comment.

8. Julie Carrillo, Parent and was here to read English version of the letter regarding the concerns about the Superintendent. The letter continued as follows: Four financial state experts concluded that both information obtained during interviews and a review of transactions support assertions that the district's administration use of occupations and influence over business transactions to deliberately misuse or misapply the district's resources and assets for personal benefit. Based on the findings of this report, there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that fraud, misappropriation of funds and/or assets, or other illegal activities may have occurred in the specific areas reviewed. These findings should be of great concern to Soledad USD and the Monterey County Office of Education and require immediate intervention to limit the risk of fraud, mismanagement and/or misappropriation of assets or other illegal activities in the future. These comments were all from the report. Our children have one opportunity to receive an education and they have been denied our children to a quality education they so deserve. Every dollar stolen or used inappropriately has been taken from the students. Their future depends on the adults in charge and we feel they have failed miserably. We are now looking to you to rectify the situation before it is too late. They respectfully asked the school board to place Superintendent Boyd and Lisa Kleinhofer on administrative leave and find an interim superintendent to run the daily operations until all investigations are complete. They have lost faith and trust in them and how they are spending district money.
9. Rosie Lopez, she taught in district for many years and was also a Board member from Gonzales 8 years. As a board member, she knew she had a great responsibility. When she got those packets, it would take her hours to read them and went prepared to the meeting. Cannot understand that these moneys were spent and the board did not know. Do a better job at monitoring and do what you were elected to do.
10. Maria Sanchez, leader of students with special needs. She addressed the Board in Spanish and Ms. Brinson was next to her as her case manager and was asked if she was translating for her. Ms. Brinson said again that she was there because Ms. Sanchez felt intimidated. Ms. Sanchez continued to read her statement in Spanish. Ms. Brinson read her statement in English. Mrs. Sanchez and said she was horrified and disgusted of the audit findings and the fraudulent ways the money was spent by the board, staff and superintendent. You think that Migrant parents and Spanish parents do not understand the audit but they do. In the name of the parents and students, she asked that the board do the right thing and place Dr. Boyd on administrative leave.

E. Immediately Adjourned to Closed Session

II. **CLOSED SESSION**

A. Personnel

1. Public Employee Evaluation
  - a. Superintendent

2. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release (Govt. Code 54957)

III. **RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION – 6:35 p.m.**

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Report of action taken in closed session

By a vote of 5-0, with 0 abstentions and 0 absences, the Board took action to place the Superintendent on administrative leave pending the outcome of an on-going investigation.

IV. **NEW ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

There were no new items of business.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

**Board approved: July 27, 2016**