

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2015  
EDUCATION CENTER – BOARD ROOM

Vice President Hanacek called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee McNicholas.

Present: Vice President Hanacek, Trustees Alpay, Jones, McNicholas, Pritchard, and Reardon

Absent: President Hatton-Hodson

**A CD of the Board meeting discussion related to each of the items on the public agenda is on file in the Superintendent's Office as a matter of the permanent record. An audio recording of the meeting is available on the District website: [www.capousd.org](http://www.capousd.org)** **Permanent Record**

It was moved by Trustee Reardon, seconded by Trustee Jones, and motion carried by a 6-0 vote to adopt the Board agenda. **Adoption of the Board Agenda**

AYES: Trustees Alpay, Hanacek, Jones, McNicholas, Pritchard and Reardon

NOES: None

ABSENT: President Hatton-Hodson

There were no speakers for Oral Communication.

**Oral Communication**

Susan Holliday, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Education Services provided summary and background information prior to the discussion of retroactive Honors Classes. Ms. Holliday discussed the benefits of this decision along with potential unintended consequences relating to the approval of retroactive recognition of Honors English I, Honors English II and Honors Algebra 2-Trigonometry courses for current District students. Ms. Holliday stated these three high school courses were previously approved for the 2015-2016 course catalog in accordance with Board Policy 6143. The original Board item did not grant retroactive recognition of these courses as honors courses for current District students who completed these courses prior to the 2015-2016 school year. Ms. Holliday explained how the approval of this item will result in all transcripts with Accelerated English I, Accelerated English II and Accelerated Algebra 2-Trigonometry, including the specific specialized programs such as the Academy of Math, Technology, Math and Science (ATMS) and the Health and Medical Occupations (HMO) courses being retroactively changed to the new honors course equivalent. Ms. Holliday confirmed that this change will also reflect the additional weighted grade students receive for honors courses. **Retroactive Honors Recognition Agenda Item 1**

Ms. Holliday stated it is her recommendation to retroactively recognize all three courses as honors courses for the reasons explained tonight. Ms. Holliday suggested that unintended consequences could be addressed for the 78 students who took advanced classes during middle school by potentially grandfathering in the students from the classes of 2016 through 2019 who took Algebra II Trigonometry Accelerated. Ms. Holliday stated the course would be recognized as an official high school course on their transcripts and factored in their grade point average along with credits earned. Next steps would be to come back to the Board on October 14 and discuss the other honors classes.

Superintendent Vital announced that there is a quorum present in attendance tonight at this special Board meeting and clarified for the record that President Hatton-Hodson is not

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telecommunicating into this special Board meeting, and will be joining via telecommunication into the regular Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. tonight. The Superintendent emphasized this clarification point for the record in consideration of the special Board meeting agenda posted.

Due to the number of Blue Cards submitted, Vice President Hanacek asked Trustees if they wished to waive the Board policy maximum time limit of 20 minutes for speakers. It was moved by Trustee McNicholas, seconded by Trustee Reardon, and motion carried by a 6-0-1 vote to waive Board Policy 9323 and allow each speakers two minutes to address the Board.

AYES: Trustees Alpay, Hanacek, Jones, McNicholas, Pritchard and Reardon

NOES: None

ABSENT: President Hatton-Hodson

The following speakers addressed the Board:

- Maryanne Miller spoke in support of the retroactive grade boost and appealed to the Board to do right by the hard-working high achieving students.
- Stacy Garrison spoke in support of the retroactive grade boost do the right thing and help the students.
- Gretchen Mars spoke in support of the retroactive grade boost and appreciation of the timing of the issue coming to the Board as it relates to college transcripts and applications. Ms. Mars asked the Board to further consider adding the word 'honors' to the title of each class being approved for retroactive recognition.
- Robert Neil spoke in favor of the retroactive grade boost, collegiate peer competition, and reiterated the sentiment of equal credit for equal work.
- Shelly Rayland spoke in favor of the retroactive grade boost and explained to the Board how this grade boost could help to off-set the curve on the new SAT this year for juniors.
- Brandon Yi spoke in favor of the retroactive grade boost and request that the Board recognize students for their hard work by enacting the retroactive grade boost in order to be more competitive for college applications and scholarship opportunities.
- Jane Maxin spoke in favor of the retroactive grade boost but asked the Board to recognize a negative unintended consequence on students who took Algebra II Trigonometry Accelerated Class as eight graders. Ms. Maxim requested the Board approve a retroactive consideration to give the credit boost for the accelerated class taken in eighth grade or to find an alternative solution so their ranking and GPAs are not adversely affected.
- Oliver Amjadi spoke in favor of the retroactive grade boost and explained his personal situation of straight A's with a 4.4 GPA. Mr. Amjadi stated to the Board the retroactive grade boost would allow equal ranking and comparisons with students from neighboring Districts.

Trustee McNicholas asked questions of staff clarifying the current eighth grade course credit towards graduation. Marc Patterson, Executive Director, Secondary Education clarified the proposal was to give the actual grade boost as well as the credit to those eighth graders. Mr. Patterson confirmed this would be a once time occurrence because the District no longer offers Algebra II Trigonometry Accelerated in eighth grade. Mr. Patterson also clarified the course title can be change via Board direction.

Superintendent Vital recommended a substitute motion to include just those years, 2016 through 2019, if that is the Boards intention.

Trustee Hanacek asked questions of staff relating to timelines, University of California and California State University recognition, and documentation of students' transcripts.

Trustee Reardon clarified this does not change the underlying grading process in these classes, but rather recognizes accelerated work. Trustee Reardon further clarified if Trustees were to amend the retroactive credit for students who took this course in eighth grader that they would then receive the recognition and grade credit.

Trustee McNicholas made a motion to move staff recommendation and to grandfather in all students from the classes of 2016 through 2019 who took Algebra II Trigonometry Accelerated, while in middle school, by including that course as an official high school course on those transcripts and factored into their grade point average along with the credits earned, seconded by Trustee Reardon, and motion carried 6-0-1.

It was moved by Vice President Hanacek, seconded by Trustee Reardon, and motion **Adjournment** carried 6-0-1 to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: Trustees Alpay, Hanacek, Jones, McNicholas, Pritchard and Reardon

NOES: None

ABSENT: President Hatton-Hodson

Vice President Hanacek announced the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.



Board Clerk



Secretary, Board of Trustees

*Minutes submitted by Teresa Teichman, Manager, Board Office Operations*