

Happy Valley School District  
Regular Board Meeting  
November 8, 2023  
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by the Board President at 3:30pm

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Freeman, Willet, Hodges, Trotter

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Frandle

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Stewart, Lynd, Doolan

STUDENTS PRESENT: Paige, Charlie

**A. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

MSC FREEMAN/HODGES to approve the Board Meeting agenda as written.

Unanimous.

**B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

MSC WILLET/FREEMAN to approve the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting October 11, 2023. Unanimous.

**C. COMMUNITY INPUT**

None.

**D. BOARD REPORT**

1. Cliff Hodges reminded the Board about the Redwood Gala this Saturday.

**E. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Michelle Stewart informed the Board of the following:

1. Over the weekend Parent Club sanded our picnic tables and Carly Trotter single handedly stained them with her kids. Cliff Hodges cut down a tree that fell over the bridge before school started Monday morning.
2. This last month we've had Halloween, College and Career Week, Career Day, end of the trimester assessments, and an assembly where students dressed up as a career. The teachers were interviewed about their college and careers. Our teachers work really hard to make wonderful memories for our students.
3. November 1st our teachers met with the other small school districts for a full day training. The morning was focused on Trauma Informed Care, and the afternoon we discussed incident command safety.

**F. STAFF REPORT**

Lindsey Doolan informed the Board of the following:

1. Every classroom has been busy with Halloween, report cards, and preparing for Parent/Teacher Conferences.
2. Some classes have been starting life sciences.
3. Writing celebrations are happening in many of the classrooms.

**G. STUDENT REPORT**

Paige and Charlie informed the Board of the following:

1. They met with Dr. Faris Sabbah to go over their roles and responsibilities as student board members.
1. On Halloween there was a parade and a lot of fun activities.
2. On Career Day there were visitors in every classroom.
3. At the student council meeting they talked about charities for the holidays.
4. Starting Monday there will be new toilet paper holders in the bathrooms.

**H. PUBLIC HEARING**

MSC FREEMAN/TROTTER to close the meeting for a Public Hearing at 3:36pm for the following. Unanimous.

**1. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING CALLING AN ELECTION TO RENEW EXISTING EDUCATION PARCEL TAX**

Allowing for comment on calling an election to renew existing education parcel tax.

**2. HAPPY VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATED SAFE SCHOOL PLAN, EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

Allowing for comment on the Happy Valley Elementary School Safe School Plan, Emergency Procedures. Unanimous.

MSC FREEMAN/TROTTER to reopen the meeting at 3:37pm there being no public comment. Unanimous.

**I. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1. ENROLLMENT UPDATE**

The Board received an update regarding enrollment: Special Education placements count in overall enrollment. With placements and new students moving into the district we could possibly be at 128 students by January. With the potential increase in students at the upper grade levels, we will need to continue to hold IDT's through the summer.

**2. MODERNIZATION UPDATE**

The Board received an update regarding modernization. The closeout project is almost finished. Costs have increased since the modernization project was first approved. Apportionment is scheduled for March. Demolition to start in the summer.

**3. CAASPP SCORES**

The Board received information regarding Happy Valley's CAASPP scores for the 2022-2023 school year. Happy Valley improved in both Math and ELA and the scores are the highest in the county.

**3. CERTIFICATION OF 2022-2023 UNAUDITED ACTUALS**

The Board received information regarding the certifying of Happy Valley's 2022-2023 Unaudited Actuals by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education.

**4. COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SANTA CRUZ**

The Board received an update regarding the Happy Valley School Foundation Fund through September 30, 2023.

J. ACTION ITEMS

1. BOARD RESOLUTION #23-24-04 ORDERING AN ELECTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT THE QUESTION OF LEVYING AN EDUCATION PARCEL TAX UPON EACH PARCEL IN THE DISTRICT FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES AND ESTABLISHING THE SPECIFICATIONS OF THE ELECTION ORDER.

**Background/Staff Report:**

The District parcel tax of \$99 per parcel per year which was approved in June 2018 is scheduled to expire in 2023-24. By submitting a renewal parcel tax measure to District voters, the District will continue to have a source of general fund revenues that can enable it to continue its quality programs and attract and retain qualified teachers.

The Resolution presented for Board vote following a public hearing calls a March 5, 2024 parcel tax election in the District, on the same date as the statewide primary election. The Resolution contains all legally required elements to call a parcel tax election. It calls for continuing the same parcel tax of \$99 per parcel for a new term of 8 years. Revenues will be applied to maintaining art and music programs, providing classroom technology, attracting and retaining teachers and staff and supporting classroom instruction. The senior citizen exemption will continue to apply to the renewed tax as was approved in 2018 and property owners who have already been granted an exemption will not have to re-apply for an exemption. In order to call the parcel tax election, the Resolution must have a majority vote of the Board, and the signed resolution must be filed with the County Election official no later than December 8, 2023, for placement on the March 5, 2024 ballot.

MSC FREEMAN/TROTTER to approve Resolution #23-24-04 to order an election for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the District, levying an education parcel tax upon each parcel in the District for educational purposes and establish the specifications of the election order for the March 5, 2024 ballot. Unanimous.

2. HAPPY VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SAFE SCHOOL PLAN, EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

MSC WILLET/FREEMAN to approve the Happy Valley Elementary School Safe Plan, Emergency Procedures with the suggested updates: Assembly location to the blacktop, reunion site to the stage or lower parking lot if on site, the primary reunion gate to the stage or lower parking lot, the secondary reunion gate to the Happy Valley Conference Center (alternate is Delaveaga Park), and to update the new template and phone numbers. Unanimous.

3. BOARD POLICY

MSC FREEMAN/TROTTER to approve the policy updates with suggested changes. Unanimous.

4. CONTRACT WITH HARSHWAL AND COMPANY LLP

MSC FREEMAN/WILLET to approve the contract with Harshwal and Company LLP, Certified Public Accountants. Unanimous.

**5. FIELD TRIP FORMS**

MSC HODGES/TROTTER to approve the updated field trip forms. Unanimous.

**6. BOARD INVOLVEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

MSC TROTTER/HODGES to approve creating a resolution for Board involvement and professional development with total cost not to exceed \$2500 per year (to be brought back at a future Board meeting). Unanimous.

**K. CONSENT AGENDA**

MSC FREEMAN/WILLET to approve the vendor warrants paid since the last meeting. Unanimous.

**L. COMMUNICATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. November 10, 2023 - No School, Veterans Day
2. November 11, 2023 - Redwood Gala, 6:00pm, Bargetto Winery
3. November 13-17, 2023 - Parent Teacher Conferences, Grades K-6th released at 12:45pm
4. November 15, 2023 - Parent Club Meeting, 6:30pm, Via Zoom
5. November 20-24, 2023 - No School, Thanksgiving Break
6. December 1, 2023 - PeaceBuilders Assembly, 11:15am, Stage
7. December 13, 2023 - Board Meeting, 3:30pm, MPR
8. December 20, 2023 - Parent Club Meeting, 6:30pm, Via Zoom
9. December 21, 2023 - Winter Concert, 9:35am, MPR
10. December 22, 2023 - PeaceBuilder Assembly, 11:15am, Stage

**M. CLOSED SESSION**

The Board adjourned into closed session at 4:46pm to discuss negotiations.

**N. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

The Board reported out of closed session, at 5:11pm, nothing to report.

**O. ADJOURNMENT**

MSC WILLET/HODGES to adjourn the meeting, there being no further business, 5:12pm. Unanimous.

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# 2023 CAASPP Happy Valley scores

	2019 ELA	2019 Math	2022 ELA	2022 Math	2023 ELA	2023 Math
<b>3rd</b>	94%	94%	100%	95%	100%	87%
<b>4th</b>	76%	76%	82%	53%	85%	70%
<b>5th</b>	88%	75%	83%	50%	94%	63%
<b>6th</b>	90%	63%	79%	53%	80%	70%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>73%</b>

	2019 Science	2022 Science	2023 Science
<b>5th</b>	87%	66%	75%