

B ard Briefs

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE **JANUARY 12, 2023** BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The Board Agenda for the January 12, 2023 Board of Education Meeting can be found here:
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/Attachment.aspx?S=36030791&AID=412728&MID=17663>

► **Moment of Silence**

The meeting started with a moment of silence for Kole Pearson, a student from Abraxas High School. Kole Pearson was a proud December 2022 graduate of Abraxas High School and had been a student in PUSD since his days at Midland Elementary. Those who knew Kole remember him for his effervescent personality and his big heart. Kole treated everyone, friends and strangers alike, with kindness and love. He was a proud Abraxas Eagle and his loss will certainly be felt throughout the community. Our thoughts are with the Abraxas family as well as the Pearson family.

► **Superintendent and Board Recognition**

Superintendent Phelps and the Board recognized student and staff accomplishments at school sites and the District:

- **Mt. Carmel High School Senior Jaehee Kim** was named the Congressional App Challenge (CAC) Winner by Representative Scott Peters. Jaehee developed an app called ‘Helping Hands’, a platform aiming to connect students who need subject-specific help to other students who better understand the subject matter. Jaehee is eligible to have his app displayed in the US Capitol Building and featured on the House of Representatives’ website, and has been invited to the #HouseofCode Reception in D.C.
- **Joyce Orishaba, a Junior at Poway to Palomar Middle College**, was selected as one of 13 winners of the New York Times 100-word Personal Narrative Contest. Her essay on growing up as an orphan in Uganda introduced readers to her indigenous Batwa tribe, which was removed from its homeland in the rainforest to create a preserve for mountain gorillas. Joyce’s essay was selected from more than 12,000 submissions. Her essay “A River Runs Through Me” can be read [here](#).

► **Student Board Representatives**

The Board heard reports from student representatives at five schools:

- **Emma Hong, Del Norte High School:** Emma is the outgoing ASB President; it is currently a very exciting ASB election week; seniors are excited to be finishing the last of their last college applications and receiving acceptances; peer counseling and clubs helping students to succeed academically; Theater upcoming musical Big Fish; equity task force held multicultural holiday celebration and will be presenting at the SDCOE Equity Conference this month; held Giving Tree gift drive and Toys for Tots
- **Kiara Bowser, Poway High School:** Kiara is the outgoing ASB President; hosted successful No Place for Hate week emphasizing THINK-ing before they speaking; Titan theatre put on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and the Addams Family is next; Poway football advanced to CIF Open Division; Emerald Brigade preparing for February festival; Robotics FRC kick off to compete in 6 regional tournaments; first-ever Poway spike ball tournament; 2nd annual Powder Puff Game on January 21st and winner will take on RBHS; Sophomore assembly planning; Peer Counseling retreat; Titan Ambassadors helped with Holiday with Heroes and visiting local elementary school; Winter Formal coming up at Paparazzi themed dance; Congratulations to Tessa Buswell who was crowned Division 1 Cross Country state champion and competed at Nike Cross Country Nationals
- **Landon Wightlin and Abbi Francis, Oak Valley Middle School:** Over 500 new 6th grade Falcons were welcomed by the “We Belong” crew; for the Fall Carnival in October, students created games out

of recycled materials; Make a Change week to collect donations; ASB is planning throwback 80's dance on January 26; daily connections class similar to homeroom which includes "Fun Family Friday" designed by student ambassadors

- **Elizabeth Goldfeld, Ella Maynard, and Sebastian Saputro, Morning Creek Elementary School:** Morning Creek offers students many leadership opportunities including safety patrol, student council, newsletter, No Place for Hate, welcoming and school decorators committees; students enjoy after school clubs including choir, theater, and chess; parent volunteers essential to school's success; their Wheel model includes - library time, art classes, STEAM lab, and 2nd step lessons with counselor; school encourages positive behavior system with Colt Cards and Colt Kudos; classes have morning meetings to check in with each other; diverse student cultures are highlighted at multicultural night.
- **Brad Brady, Westview High School:** Brad is the outgoing ASB president; he would sum up his Wolverine community in one word: enthusiasm; ASB hosted a very successful homecoming and has upcoming winter formal; supported nearly 100 clubs for club rush – there is a niche for everyone on campus and every student has a place to belong; Josh Yang will succeed Brad as ASB President.

► Public Comments

- Christine Paik and Teacher Ross Kallen highlighted the work of the Studio 701 Digital Media Interns



The Board also heard comments regarding:

- Want PUSD to adhere to Martin Luther King, Jr. dream of being judged by character not color of skin
- Want schools to teach students to be proud to be American; ensure Pledge of Allegiance is being said in all classrooms
- Student feeling shunned and not supported for expressing her pro-life beliefs
- Concern from student being in class receiving instruction with biased viewpoints
- Request to ban gay flags in classrooms because they are sexual symbols
- Concern over books containing inappropriate sexual material in school libraries
- Concern over lack of resources and materials for IMSE literacy curriculum
- VAPA update: upcoming school musicals and All-Southern and All-State musician honors
 - Last weekend of Jan and 1st weekend of Feb; Addams Family (PHS) and Big Fish (DNHS)
 - 1st weekend of Feb: Mathilda Jr. (BHMS)
 - Last 2 weekends of March: Little Women (MCHS) and Beauty and the Beast (Westview)

The Consent Calendar was approved in its entirety. Items to note:

► **Adoption of New High School Courses: “Link Crew Leadership 1-2,” “Mobile App Development 1-2,” and “Spanish Language Development 1-2”**

► **Approval of National School Counseling Week 2023, February 6-10**

Poway Unified will honor the unique contribution of professional school counselors within the district during National School Counseling Week, February 6-10, 2023. The comprehensive counseling program promotes and enhances the learning process in three broad areas: academic development, personal/social development, and career development. This year's theme is "Helping Students Dream Big" and this special week provides recognition for our school counselors who are helping students achieve their dreams by implementing these counseling programs.

► **First Reading of Contract Negotiations from the Board of Education to the Poway Federation of Teachers (PFT) 2023-2024**

Tonight, the Board shared its initial proposal to the Poway Federation of Teachers (PFT). The District submits this Initial Proposal per the terms of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement with PFT for successor negotiations to the current Collective Bargaining Agreement, which expires on June 30, 2023.

► **February 11, 2023 Designated as Women in STEM Day and Robotics Day**

The Poway Unified School District recognizes the many contributions, throughout history, that women have made in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The District further acknowledges the importance of piquing the academic interests of girls in the areas of STEM. Tonight, February 11, 2023, was designated as Poway Unified School District Women in STEM Day 2023.

In recognition of the growth of Robotics Teams throughout the Poway Unified School District and the achievements they have garnered, February 11, 2023, was designated as Poway Unified School District Robotics Day 2023. Our high school Robotics Teams continue to be recognized across the state and nation through competitions and collaboration with the development of teams in other countries.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 9, 2023

Future Meetings:

The following regular meeting dates for 2023 were approved by the Board of Education:

Thursday, March 9	Thursday, April 6
Thursday, May 11	Thursday, June 1
Thursday, June 15 or June 22	Thursday, August 17
Thursday, September 7	Thursday, October 12
Thursday, November 9	Thursday, December 14 – Organizational Meeting

*Published by the Poway Unified School District Communications Office
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