

# Galt Joint Union Elementary School District Board of Education Minutes

**Regular Meeting  
March 20, 2024**

**Galt City Hall Chamber  
380 Civic Drive, Galt, CA 95632**

**Zoom Webinar ID:  
86407492532**

## **Board Members**

Traci Skinner  
Casey Raboy  
Katherine Harper  
Annette Kunze  
Wesley Cagle-absent

Lois Yount  
Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano  
Kuljeet Nijjar  
Alejandra Garibay

## **Administrators Present**

Stephanie Simonich  
Elaine Trull  
David Nelson  
Laura Papineau  
Laura Marquez (Zoom participant)

- A. 6:00 p.m. – Closed Session Location:** Galt City Hall Conference Room  
Present for closed session: Traci Skinner, Casey Raboy, Katherine Harper, Lois Yount, Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano, Kuljeet Nijjar, Alejandra Garibay
- B. Traci Skinner called the Closed Session to order at 6:05 p.m. to discuss the following items:**
1. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR, Government Code §54957.6  
Agency Negotiator: Lois Yount, Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano, Kuljeet Nijjar, Alejandra Garibay
    - Employee Agency: (GEFA) Galt Elementary Faculty Association
    - Employee Agency: (CSEA) California School Employee Association
    - Unrepresented Employees
- C. Closed Session adjourned at 6:52 p.m.,** Open session began at 7:00 p.m., followed by the flag salute. Traci Skinner announced no action was taken in closed session.
- D.** Lois Yount shared the **Board Meeting Protocol.**
- E. Public Comments for topics not on the agenda**
- Gayleen Gomez and Kristin Szyper addressed the Board regarding GEFA negotiations.
  - Ryan Montgomery addressed the Board regarding McCaffrey Middle School safety.
- F. Reports**

### LCAP GOAL 1

*Engaging learners in PreK-8 through a focus on equity, access, and academic rigor with inclusive practices in various learning environments.*

#### 1. **District Reading Assessments (DRA)**

Claudia Del Toro Anguiano, Curriculum Director, reported. She reviewed the complexity of learning how to read and the enormous amount of collaboration, planning, academic conferences, etc., that takes place to help children learn to read. She indicated the results assist with the identification of specific reading skills mastered as well as reading skills that may require

additional analysis.

Ms. Del Toro-Anguiano noted a correction to the Lake Canyon first-grade results that also affected the district-wide progress results included in the Board packet.

Ms. Del Toro-Anguiano shared the percentage of students in grades K-3 who met/exceeded all end of second-trimester reading benchmarks. She also shared the percentage of students (cohorts) who met/exceeded all end of the trimester reading benchmarks in the spring of 2023, the current winter 2024 progress, and the projected 2024 spring target. The LCAP Goal 1 is to increase DRA results by 10% annually. (spring to spring for Grades 1-3) (fall to spring for Kindergarten)

**2. Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)**

Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano reported. She said the MAP Growth assessment is administered to all Grades 1 - 8 students in reading and mathematics. The results are used to measure both achievement and growth. These results provide staff with actionable data to help target instruction and provide appropriate intervention. The results are reviewed for individual students and student groups. Ms. Del Toro-Anguiano said the data reflects the percentage of students who reached the target of scoring at/above the 60th percentile. Students who achieve the target percentile have a greater probability of meeting/exceeding the expected achievement levels on state assessments. The LCAP Goal 1 is to increase MAP results by 5% each year (winter to winter).

Ms. Del Toro-Anguiano said the District is progressing in math and catching up in reading.

**3. Acceleration Blocks [small-group, targeted instruction focused on a specific skill(s)]**

Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano reported. She indicated Acceleration Blocks provide targeted support to students at all schools. Students receive small-group instruction focused on a specific skill through an eight-session rotation. The sessions run twice a week for an hour after school. Ms. Del Toro-Anguiano said most children made growth, but they may not have met the 5 percent target. She shared the number of participating students per school site and the percentage of students that met the target.

School Administrators highlighted learning trends and observations they saw at their schools.

Ms. Del Toro-Anguiano said there is so much that teachers, parents, and students do that is not reflected in the data.

Annette Kunze, Board Member, said that she appreciates the holistic view of the data.

Traci Skinner, Board President, said she appreciates the small group, focused instruction.

Lois Yount thanked Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano, teachers, classified staff and administrators. She said the Healthy Kids survey data will be presented at the regular Board meeting on April 17, 2024.

**4. Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) Evidence-based Practices and Community-Defined Evidence Practices Grant Program**

Kuljeet Nijjar, Educational Services Director, reported. She indicated Governor Newsom announced a Master Plan for Kids Mental Health on August 18, 2022. The plan includes:

- 4.7B so every Californian aged 0-25 has greater access to mental health and substance use support
- Whole Child, “All of the Above” Approach
- Multi-year, fundamental overhaul to invest in and build needed system infrastructure
- CYBHI, at its core

Ms. Nijjar said it is officially called the Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs) and Community-Defined Evidence Practices Grant Award. It promotes mental and emotional behavioral health and well-being. She noted that many mini-grants are awarded to build capacity under this partnership. The District has been awarded some of these mini-grants in the past or is currently receiving one. The new statewide fee schedule for school-linked behavioral health services reimbursement from Medi-Cal has been expanded to include commercial health plans. Essentially, this will allow the District counselors and social workers to bill private insurance for services they provide at school.

Ms. Nijjar said the District has participated in the Cal Hope Student Services program at Greer Elementary for the last two years. This program trains Greer staff to develop and understand social-emotional competencies. The staff worked with the Sacramento County Office of Education for training, mentoring, and coaching.

The new mini-grant, Evidence-Based Practices and Community-Defined Evidence Practices Grant, provides trauma-informed care training to educators, school personnel and childcare providers. The District is awarded \$748,336 over two years. The grant aims to embed trauma-informed practices and approaches across the District, with all staff interacting with students. This training would encompass teachers, counselors, social workers, office staff, kitchen staff, and transportation staff. When applying for the grant, the District selected the integrated option to build in-house capacity to strengthen the Multi-Tiered System of Support so that students needing a higher level of care can get it through community resources. Some strategies include building infrastructure. This includes Wellness Coaches trained in trauma-informed practices and teaching others. One of the tools or strategies is developing calming corners. These are embedded into classrooms to provide opportunities for students who may need to take time for self-regulation.

Ms. Nijjar said that school District metrics include:

- Consolidation of Trauma-Informed Practices
- Reduction in Absenteeism
- Reduction in Expulsions and Suspensions
- Reduction in Classroom Behavioral Referrals and Use of Calming Corners
- Successful Restorative Justice Events
- Increased Staff Job Satisfaction with Trauma-Informed Practices
- Increase Staff Wellness

## LCAP GOAL 2

*Promoting PreK-8 whole learner development through social and emotional learning opportunities in a variety of safe and supportive environments.*

### **1. Community Bond Measure Survey**

Richard Bernard, Partner, FM3 Research, reported from January 9-21, 2024, FM3 Research conducted an online and telephone survey of 500 voters in the Galt Joint Union High School District likely to vote in November 2024, including 400 in the Galt Joint Union Elementary School District and 56 in the Arcohe Union School District. The survey was available in English and

Spanish. All three proposed measures tested in the survey require 55% voter support to succeed on the ballot; the survey findings indicate that:

- 58% of voters in the Galt Joint Union High School District are willing to support a potential 42 million dollar bond measure (+/-4.9% margin of error at the 95% confidence interval);
- 62% of voters in the Galt Joint Union Elementary School District are willing to support a potential 27 million dollar bond measure (+/-4.9% margin of error at the 95% confidence interval), and
- 51% of Arcohe Union Elementary School District voters are willing to support a 5.8 million dollar bond measure (+/-13% margin of error at the 95% confidence interval).

Mr. Bernard reported two-thirds of voters see a need for additional funding for GJUESD. He emphasized that a bond measure requires a 55% threshold for passage, and the ballot language has a 75 word limit. He indicated the priority is to reflect voter priorities in the language. Mr. Bernard shared the following elements of the measure:

- A high-quality education, clean and safe classrooms, safe drinking water, and retaining teachers are top priorities for voters
- Preventing gang violence and removing asbestos is highly important
- Messages focused on career education, preventing school shootings and basic repairs resonate the most
- Accountability, retaining teachers and preventing gangs are also strong messages
- The message on a community gathering space tests the weakest
- Support for the elementary school measure fluctuates with messaging and remains above 55%

In conclusion, Mr. Bernard reported:

- The proposed GJUESD measure appears viable for the November 2024 ballot.
- The proposed measure consistently receives support from three in five voters, above the 55% threshold.
- Voters prioritize a high-quality education, safe and clean classrooms, safe drinking water, and the retention and attraction of quality teachers.
- Messages focused on career pathways, preventing school shootings, and repairing old schools are the most convincing.
- The survey results indicate that the measure has a path to success on the ballot if accompanied by public education informing voters of the measure's goals.

Traci Skinner asked clarifying questions related to past and potential voter turnout at the November 2024 election.

Annette Kunze commented on the importance of integrity in messaging a general obligation bond.

Lois Yount described the accountability process from the 2016 bond measure. She indicated a lot of transparency throughout the process, including an oversight committee. Ms. Yount said the District schools are in great shape after the 2016 bond measure investment and additional facilities funds that the District applied for. However, the last Facilities Master Plan indicates a greater need.

Ms. Yount said if the Board provides direction to move forward, she will bring a contract for a marketing firm to the April meeting for action. She said the District is collaborating with Lori

Raineri, Chief Executive Officer Government Financial Services Joint Powers Authority to provide guidance. The approximate cost of pursuing a bond is \$40,000 plus marketing costs.

Lori Raineri addressed the Board. She said the GJUESD interests are paramount. A marketing firm can provide expertise in community engagement. Ms. Raineri said the GJUESD has more needs that can be funded from a local bond. There is a strategy for financing locally and determining what might be supported by the state. What has to be the priority? What is feasible? She indicated the Board is voting on a facility plan, not just a measure. She reflected on the successful 2016 bond measure process.

**OTHER REPORTS**

**1. School Calendars**

School administrators shared an event from their March 2024 calendars.

**G. Routine Matters/New Business**

**232.478** Lois Yount recognized Tammy Trinnaman’s retirement, donations,

**Consent  
Calendar**

Annette Kunze made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Casey Raboy. The motion carried by 4 Ayes.

- a. Approval of the Agenda
- b. Minutes
  - February 21, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
- c. Payment of Warrants
  - Vendor Warrants: 24466327-24466340; 24466960-24467005; 24467961-24468013; 24469537-24469597; 24471087-24471138
  - Payroll Warrants: 2/16/24, 2/29/24, 3/8/24
- d. Personnel

<b>Resignations/Retirees</b>			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Site
Trinnaman, Tammy (Retirement, 24 years)	Teacher	6/7/24	Lake Canyon

<b>Leave of Absence Requests</b>			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Site
Avila, Cynthia	Instructional Assistant	2/8/24	Fairsite
Celli, Sherri	Instructional Assistant	1/18/24	Vernon E. Greer
Frey, Debra	Instructional Assistant	4/24/24	Lake Canyon
Ibanez, Sofia	Bilingual Instructional Assistant	2/20/24	Valley Oaks
Margiott, Pamela	Teacher	3/5/24	River Oaks
Parra Fregoso, Minerva	Bilingual Instructional Assistant	2/22/24	Fairsite
Puentes, Janeya	Teacher	2/23/24	Fairsite

Torres, Maria	Yard Supervisor	2/20/24	Valley Oaks
Wilson, Melissa	Teacher	3/12/24	Vernon E. Greer

<b>New Hires/Reclassifications/Status Changes</b>		
Name	Position	Site
Abujen, Josephine	Classified Substitute	N/A
Cates, Lea	Certificated Substitute	N/A
Contreras Arias, Stephanie	Classified Substitute	N/A
Corona, Jamie	Classified Substitute	N/A
Crandell, Alayna	Teacher	Vernon E. Greer
Declusin, Makena	Short Term Instructional Assistant, Special Education	N/A
Gomez, Katie	Classified Substitute	N/A
Lopez Macias, Guadalupe	Instructional Assistant, Special Education	Fairsite
Lozano, Richard	Certificated Substitute	N/A
Mendez, Xavier	Classified Substitute	N/A
Ocegueda, Alexander	Yard Supervisor	Lake Canyon
Ortiz, Ester	Classified Substitute	N/A
Ramirez, Yoselin	Classified Substitute	N/A
Reuthinger, Shelby	Classified Substitute	N/A
Teixeira, Kandy	Classified Substitute	N/A
Torres Camacho, Joshelyn	Short Term Bilingual Instructional Assistant	Fairsite

<b>Job Share</b>			
Name	Position	Grade	Term
Danielle Ketner (50%) Jamie Lacayo (50%)	Teachers	Grade 2	2024-2025 Lake Canyon
Holly Rose-Dorward (50%) Alayna Crandell (50%)	Teachers	Grade 3	2024-2025 Vernon E. Greer

- e. Donations
- f. Catapult Emergency Management System Quote/Contract
- g. Aya Healthcare Master Contract for Non Public Schools and Agencies

**232.479** Consent Calendar (Continued) – Items Removed for Later Consideration  
No items were removed.

**CC Items  
Removed**

<b>232.480</b>	Katherine Harper made a motion to approve the Second Interim Budget Report For Fiscal Year 2023-24, seconded by Traci Skinner. A vote of 4 Ayes carried the motion.	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Budget</b>
<b>232.481</b>	Annette Kunze made a motion to approve the GJUESD 2023-24 Transportation Plan, seconded by Casey Raboy. A vote of 4 Ayes carried the motion.	<b>Trans Plan</b>
<b>232.482</b>	Traci Skinner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 15, Calling the Presidential General Election [Galt Joint Union Elementary School District Request to Consolidate the Regularly Scheduled Presidential Election on November 5, 2024, and Nomination of Candidates for the Governing Body], seconded by Casey Raboy. A vote of 4 Ayes carried the motion.	<b>Res 15 Calling Election</b>
<b>232.483</b>	<p>Katherine Harper made a motion to approve the Tentative Agreement Between the California School Employees Association and its Galt Chapter #362 (CSEA) and the Galt Joint Union Elementary School District Regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article IX: Leaves</li> <li>• Article XIII: Layoff &amp; Re-employment</li> <li>• Article XVIII: Professional Growth Program</li> <li>• Article XIX: Fringe Benefits</li> <li>• Article XX: Wages</li> </ul> <p>Annette Kunze seconded it. A vote of 4 Ayes carried the motion.</p>	<b>CSEA TA</b>
<b>232.484</b>	Annette Kunze made a motion to approve an Agreement Between the Galt Joint Union Elementary School District and Unrepresented Employees Regarding Compensation, seconded by Traci Skinner. A vote of 4 Ayes carried the motion.	<b>Unrep Agreement</b>
<b>232.485</b>	Katherine Harper made a motion to approve the 2023-24 Title 1 Notification Authorization of Schoolwide Program Waiver for Fairsite Elementary, seconded by Casey Raboy. A vote of 4 Ayes carried the motion.	<b>Title 1 SWP FS</b>
<b>232.486</b>	<p>A First Reading of the following Board Policies (BP) and Administrative Regulations (AR) was held. Annette Kunze and Katherine Harper shared their concerns about the potential adoption of BP 1313 Civility, which concerns individuals' First Amendment rights.</p> <p>Annette Kunze requested that the Board consider pulling BP 1313 Civility. Not because she doesn't believe people should be civil, as in politeness and courteousness, and model civil behavior; however, it is really up to the individual to do so. She referenced the policy language related to acceptance. She doesn't think acceptance is necessarily a requirement for civility. She would never ask someone to accept everything she believed for them to be considered civil. The same goes for effective communication. She said some people have communication challenges. Who is the final arbiter of this? Ms. Kunze said she strongly challenges the language as written.</p>	<b>FIRST READING</b>

Katherine Harper indicated that this policy reads differently to her than the other policies she has read in the past year and a half. She asked who would enforce this policy and said she had concerns similar to those of Ms. Kunze. Ms. Harper added that the District has adopted policies in the past that address disruptions and meeting conduct. She would hate for passionate or spirited debate to be limited.

Casey Raboy said she liked elements of the policy protecting staff from harassment.

Lois Yount said this is not a mandated policy. The Board can choose to give direction, make edits, or move forward.

Ms. Kunze said she does not feel this policy is necessary. She would hate for passionate or spirited debate to fall under civility. However, if a person's presence is disruptive, the District has a policy related to disruption.

Ms. Kunze requested the Board consider pulling BP 1313 Civility as pertinent aspects of the policy are included in BP/AR 3515.2 Disruptions. Additionally, Board Bylaw (BB) 9323 addresses meeting conduct. Board member Traci Skinner concurred.

The Board will consider action on the policy at the next regular meeting.

1. BP/AR 1250 Visitors/Outsiders
2. BP 1313 Civility
3. BP/AR 3515.2 Disruptions
4. BP/AR 4119.25 Political Activities Of Employees

**H. Public Comments** for topics not on the agenda

**I. Pending Agenda Items**

1. School Resource Officer (SRO) Report

At this time, Annette Kunze wanted to make everyone aware of education bills that are making their way through the state legislature related to special education, English learners, and social sciences curricula about Native Americans. She indicated that the hearings are available live and recorded if anyone is interested. She suggested it is easier to provide comments before legislation is adopted.

**J. Adjournment** 9:19 p.m.

Board Approved: April 17, 2024