

Official Minutes of the February 7, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Tour PHS Science & Performing Arts buildings - 4PM;
District Office & Webex - 6:30PM Closed Session; 7:00PM Open Session
510 Keystone Blvd (seating for the public at 530 Keystone Blvd)
Patterson, CA 95363

Attendance Taken at 4:00 PM:

Present:

Michele Bays
Kieran Carter
Carlos Fierros
Heaven Goins
Amanda Lozano
Ryan Segoviano

Absent:

Deja Nair

Updated Attendance:

Deja Nair was updated to present at: 6:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL - 4:00PM

Note: The original Webex link to this meeting was set up incorrectly. Therefore, a new link was created, distributed, and posted just prior to Open Session. The original link was also monitored throughout the meeting and the public was redirected to the new link.

II. TOUR OF SCIENCE AND PERFORMING ARTS BUILDINGS AT PATTERSON HIGH - 4:00PM

Minutes:

Dr. Alfano introduced Council Member Farinha and later, Supervisor Condit that joined the tour. Assistant Superintendent, Jeff Menge, and project manager, Zane Schreder, lead the Board and guests on a tour of the new two-story Science building and the Performing Arts building.

III. RECONVENE/TAKE ATTENDANCE - 510 Keystone Blvd - 6:30PM

Minutes:

Trustee Nair joined the meeting via Webex when the Board reconvened at 510 Keystone Blvd.

IV. Public Comment Period Re: Closed Session Items

Minutes:

There were no public comments regarding Closed Session items.

V. CLOSED SESSION

Minutes:

President Lozano adjourned to closed session at **6:31PM**.

A. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release

Official Minutes of the February 7, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

B. Public Employee Leave Request(s)

VI. OPEN SESSION - 7:00 PM

Minutes:

President Lozano reconvened to Open Session at 7:13PM.

VII. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Minutes:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

VIII. Reporting Out of Action Taken in Closed Session

Minutes:

Employee Leave Requests:

In closed session, the Board took action to approve the request for Employee 4862 to take unpaid leave, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, effective March 10, 2022 to June 9, 2022.

Motion: Ryan Segoviano; Second: Carlos Fierros

Vote: Yes-Bays, Yes-Carter; Yes-Fierros; Yes-Goins; Yes-Lozano; Yes-Nair; Yes-Segoviano.

IX. Approval of Minutes - January 10, 2022

Motion Passed: Approval of Minutes - January 10, 2022,

Passed with a motion by Michele Bays and a second by Kieran Carter.

Yes Michele Bays
Yes Kieran Carter
Yes Carlos Fierros
Yes Heaven Goins
Yes Amanda Lozano
Yes Deja Nair
Yes Ryan Segoviano

X. Public Comment

Minutes:

Community Member, Yvonne Reynolds, reported that she's been a resident of Patterson for 30 years, homeschooled her children, and was a substitute teacher for PJUSD. She stated that she refuses to wear a mask or get vaccinated which now makes her ineligible to substitute teach.

George Crawford, math teacher at Patterson High, reported that the math department at Patterson High is in bad shape. He expressed his concern with the structure of math courses and the three-year requirement for graduation. He asked that administration and the Board listen to the math department.

Official Minutes of the February 7, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

XI. Presentation by Employee Organizations, Student Organizations, or Community

Minutes:

Mary Crawford, president of Patterson Association of Teachers, expressed her desire to have a seat at the table during the superintendent interviews.

Cristina Garcia (via Webex), president of CSEA #174, agreed that both PAT and CSEA presidents should participate in the hiring of the next superintendent.

Ms. Garcia also reported that staff recently received excellent active shooter training.

A. Moment of Silence in Memory of Frank Bettencourt

Minutes:

A Moment of Silence was held in memory of Frank Bettencourt.

B. Patterson Education Foundation - Presentation of Teacher Grant and Golf Tournament

Minutes:

Michael Saunders, president, and Christina Anders, clerk, of Patterson Education Foundation, announced the recipients of the Teacher Grants and information on their annual Golf Tournament.

XII. Presentation by Staff

A. A-G Completion Improvement Grant

Minutes:

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Veronica Miranda, presented a-g admission requirements, data from 2019, 2020, and 2021, and the proposed use of grant funds.

B. Growth Planning Update

Minutes:

Mr. Menge presented information on residential development in Patterson and concerns with the lack of communication and collaboration with the City and developers in providing funding for needed student housing. Dr. Alfano provided a written summary (attached with minutes).

XIII. Information Items

A. Acknowledgment of Presidents Day - February 21, 2022

B. Initial Contract Proposal (Sunshine) for the 2022-2023 School Year from the Patterson Association of Teachers to the Patterson Joint Unified School District

XIV. Superintendent's Report

A. School Operations Update

Minutes:

Taniri Palomino, Kandace Weyhrauch, Aaron Noriega, Nathan Vannatte, Yesenia Beltran, and Timothy Benefield expressed their objections to student masking and vaccination requirements.

Dr. Alfano reviewed history of the pandemic since 2020, frustration of conflicting information from policymakers, current decline of case rates, and the transition from pandemic to endemic. Statewide indoor masking requirements expire on February 15, 2022. However, indoor masking for schools is subject to CDPH health orders and Cal-OSHA regulations.

Dr. Alfano stated that he would be available to take calls from parents on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 8am-11am. Dr. Alfano will meet with County Health on Friday, February 11, 2022. A WebEx meeting for parents will be scheduled to share information from that meeting.

XV. Consent Calendar

A. Pupil Personnel: Stipulated Expulsion 02909

B. Personnel Items

C. Warrants - January 2022

Motion Passed: Consent Calendar

Passed with a motion by Michele Bays and a second by Ryan Segoviano.

Yes Michele Bays
Yes Kieran Carter
Yes Carlos Fierros
Yes Heaven Goins
Yes Amanda Lozano
Yes Deja Nair
Yes Ryan Segoviano

XVI. Public Hearing

A. 2021-2022 School Safety Plans (available at the D/O)

Minutes:

President Lozano opened the Public Hearing at 9:13PM.

There were no comments.

President Lozano closed the Public Hearing at 9:14PM.

B. PROPOSED TRUSTEE AREA REDISTRICTING MAPS

Minutes:

President Lozano opened the Public Hearing at 9:14PM.

Official Minutes of the February 7, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Nicole Tucker of Atkinson, Andelson, Lloyd, Ruud & Romo reviewed the population data and four possible boundary maps.

There were no public comments.

President Lozano closed the Public Hearing at 9:25PM

XVII. Action Item(s)

A. Approval of Resolution No. 02072022-A, A Resolution Celebrating National African-American History Month

Motion Passed: Approval of Resolution No. 02072022-A, A Resolution Celebrating National African-American History Month

Passed with a motion by Carlos Fierros and a second by Heaven Goins.

Yes Michele Bays
Yes Kieran Carter
Yes Carlos Fierros
Yes Heaven Goins
Yes Amanda Lozano
Yes Deja Nair
Yes Ryan Segoviano

B. Approval of Resolution No. 02072022-B, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE PATTERSON JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROVING ADJUSTED TRUSTEE AREA BOUNDARIES

Minutes: The Trustees briefly discussed the four maps presented. Maps 1 and 2 are most like the current trustee areas. Trustee Fierros stated his preference for Map 2.

Motion Passed: Approval of Resolution No. 02072022-B, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE PATTERSON JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROVING ADJUSTED TRUSTEE AREA BOUNDARIES (SELECTING MAP #2)

Passed with a motion by Carlos Fierros and a second by Deja Nair.

Yes Michele Bays
Yes Kieran Carter
Yes Carlos Fierros
No Heaven Goins
Yes Amanda Lozano
Yes Deja Nair
Yes Ryan Segoviano

C. Approval of the 2022-2023 Instructional Calendar

Motion Passed: Approval of the 2022-2023 Instructional Calendar with correction of Creekside's Parent/Teacher Conference date

Passed with a motion by Michele Bays and a second by Ryan Segoviano.

Official Minutes of the February 7, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Yes Michele Bays
Yes Kieran Carter
Yes Carlos Fierros
Yes Heaven Goins
Yes Amanda Lozano
Yes Deja Nair
Yes Ryan Segoviano

D. Approval of the 2021 School Accountability Report Card (SARC)

Motion Passed: Approval of the 2021 School Accountability Report Card (SARC)

Passed with a motion by Michele Bays and a second by Kieran Carter.

Yes Michele Bays
Yes Kieran Carter
Yes Carlos Fierros
Yes Heaven Goins
Yes Amanda Lozano
Yes Deja Nair
Yes Ryan Segoviano

E. Approval of the Supplement to the 2021-22 LCAP Annual Update

Motion Passed: Approval of the Supplement to the 2021-22 LCAP Annual Update

Passed with a motion by Kieran Carter and a second by Carlos Fierros.

Yes Michele Bays
Yes Kieran Carter
Yes Carlos Fierros
Yes Heaven Goins
Yes Amanda Lozano
Yes Deja Nair
Yes Ryan Segoviano

F. Approval of Initial Contract Proposal (Sunshine) from the Patterson Joint Unified School District to the Patterson Association of Teachers for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Motion Passed: Approval of Initial Contract Proposal (Sunshine) from the Patterson Joint Unified School District to the Patterson Association of Teachers for the 2021-2022 School Year

Passed with a motion by Heaven Goins and a second by Kieran Carter.

Yes Michele Bays
Yes Kieran Carter
Yes Carlos Fierros
Yes Heaven Goins
Yes Amanda Lozano
Yes Deja Nair
Yes Ryan Segoviano

Official Minutes of the February 7, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

G. Approval of Provisional Internship Permit for Jeri Ledford, Transitional Kindergarten teacher for Northmead Elementary School.

Motion Passed: Approval of Provisional Internship Permit for Jeri Ledford, Transitional Kindergarten teacher for Northmead Elementary School

Passed with a motion by Michele Bays and a second by Heaven Goins.

Yes Michele Bays
Yes Kieran Carter
Yes Carlos Fierros
Yes Heaven Goins
Yes Amanda Lozano
Yes Deja Nair
Yes Ryan Segoviano

H. Approval of the 2021-2022 School Safety Plans (Available at D/O)

Motion Passed: Approval of the 2021-2022 School Safety Plans (Available at D/O)

Passed with a motion by Michele Bays and a second by Kieran Carter.

Yes Michele Bays
Yes Kieran Carter
Yes Carlos Fierros
Yes Heaven Goins
Yes Amanda Lozano
Yes Deja Nair
Yes Ryan Segoviano

I. Approval of District Contracts

Motion Passed: Approval of District Contracts

Passed with a motion by Kieran Carter and a second by Carlos Fierros.

Yes Michele Bays
Yes Kieran Carter
Yes Carlos Fierros
Yes Heaven Goins
Yes Amanda Lozano
Yes Deja Nair
Yes Ryan Segoviano

J. Approval of Interfund Transfers

Motion Passed: Approval of Interfund Transfers

Passed with a motion by Michele Bays and a second by Ryan Segoviano.

Yes Michele Bays
Yes Kieran Carter

Official Minutes of the February 7, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Yes Carlos Fierros
Yes Heaven Goins
Yes Amanda Lozano
Yes Deja Nair
Yes Ryan Segoviano

K. Approval of Proposal/Agreement with Jack Schreder and Associates, Inc. to prepare Facility Needs Assessment for Patterson Joint Unified School District

Motion Passed: Approval of Proposal/Agreement with Jack Schreder and Associates, Inc. to prepare Facility Needs Assessment for Patterson Joint Unified School District

Passed with a motion by Ryan Segoviano and a second by Michele Bays.

Yes Michele Bays
Yes Kieran Carter
Yes Carlos Fierros
Yes Heaven Goins
Yes Amanda Lozano
Yes Deja Nair
Yes Ryan Segoviano

L. Approval of the Annual and Five-Year Reportable Fees Report for Fiscal Year 2020-21, in compliance with Government Code Sections 66006 and 66001

Motion Passed: Approval of the Annual and Five-Year Reportable Fees Report for Fiscal Year 2020-21, in compliance with Government Code Sections 66006 and 66001

Passed with a motion by Michele Bays and a second by Kieran Carter.

Yes Michele Bays
Yes Kieran Carter
Yes Carlos Fierros
Yes Heaven Goins
Yes Amanda Lozano
Yes Deja Nair
Yes Ryan Segoviano

M. Approval to accept a Semi Truck donation from Bronco Wine to Patterson Joint Unified School District

Motion Passed: Approval to accept a Semi Truck donation from Bronco Wine to Patterson Joint Unified School District

Passed with a motion by Kieran Carter and a second by Heaven Goins.

Yes Michele Bays
Yes Kieran Carter
Yes Carlos Fierros
Yes Heaven Goins

Official Minutes of the February 7, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Yes Amanda Lozano
Yes Deja Nair
Yes Ryan Segoviano

N. Approval of first reading of Board Policies: BP0470, BP4131, BP6120, BP6146.1, BP6164.4, BP6164.41, and BP6164.5

Motion Passed: Approval of first reading of Board Policies: BP0470, BP4131, BP6120, BP6146.1, BP6164.4, BP6164.41, and BP6164.5

Passed with a motion by Michele Bays and a second by Ryan Segoviano.

Yes Michele Bays
Yes Kieran Carter
Yes Carlos Fierros
Yes Heaven Goins
Yes Amanda Lozano
Yes Deja Nair
Yes Ryan Segoviano

Minutes:

Trustee Bays asked that administration take another look at BP0470 to see if it's required and relevant since it is specific to COVID-19.

Superintendent Alfano will look check with legal counsel and report prior to the second reading.

O. Approval of first reading of mandated Administrative Regulations, Board Bylaws, and Board Policies: AR1312.3, AR5145.3, AR5148, BB9320, BP0420.42, BP1312.3, BP5148, BP5148.2, BP5148.3, BP6112, BP6143, BP6158, and BP6170

Motion Passed: Approval of first reading of mandated Administrative Regulations, Board Bylaws, and Board Policies: AR1312.3, AR5145.3, AR5148, BB9320, BP0420.42, BP1312.3, BP5148, BP5148.2, BP5148.3, BP6112, BP6143, BP6158, and BP6170

Passed with a motion by Ryan Segoviano and a second by Carlos Fierros.

Yes Michele Bays
Yes Kieran Carter
Yes Carlos Fierros
Yes Heaven Goins
Yes Amanda Lozano
Yes Deja Nair
Yes Ryan Segoviano

XVIII. Presentation by Board Members

Minutes:

President Lozano reported that she enjoyed the tour of the Science and Performing Arts buildings.

Official Minutes of the February 7, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Trustee Bays suggested holding a tour for the public as soon as the buildings are completed.

XIX. Items for Future Consideration

Minutes:

Administration will bring forward a job description for a Theater Manager, a process for naming a new school, Late Start legislation and School Site Plans.

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Veronica Miranda, announced that ACSA Region VII is recognizing Tracy Manzoni as 2022 Student Services Administrator of the Year and Dr. Alfano as recipient of the ACSA Region VII 2022 Bill Ullom award.

Trustee Fierros requested the Board review the Board Bylaw regarding remuneration, reimbursement and other benefits.

XX. Future Board Meetings

A. Special Meeting, Closed Session, Monday, February 28, 2022

Minutes:

This meeting is designated for the Board to meet with Leadership Associates in Closed Session regarding the employment of the future superintendent.

XXI. Adjourn

Minutes:

President Lozano adjourned the meeting at 9:51PM

Board President

Superintendent

STATEMENT FOR THE PATTERSON JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON THE
SUBJECT OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
SUBMITTED BY DR. PHILIP M. ALFANO, SUPERINTENDENT
Presented February 7, 2022

As our board is aware, there hasn't been much residential development in Patterson during recent years. I joined the district in July 2008, just as the housing bubble burst and the Great Recession began. Recently, I've tried to educate myself on past residential development in Patterson. I've been reading extensively about previous general plans and community vision for Patterson's future. Unfortunately, after combing through old newspaper articles dating to the early 1980s, it is starting to look like history repeating itself.

As we move forward towards the future together as a community, make no mistake about it, a developer's primary interest is the profitability of his or her projects. Some developers will hold private meetings and groom intermediaries to do their bidding, while others will work collaboratively and transparently to engage public agencies in thoughtful dialogue and come up with constructive solutions to develop the best plan possible for all stakeholders, even if this means taking more time. In every region of the country, there are developers with proven track records who have earned the community's trust and others who have not.

Recently, erroneous statements about our district were submitted to The Irrigator by former Patterson Mayor Pat Maisetti. The basis for this letter was a conversation she'd had with an unnamed developer. I won't speculate on who the developer is, but he or she is more than welcome to come out of the shadows and speak before our board publicly and transparently about their concerns at any time.

I have only met Ms. Maisetti in passing at community events and I don't know her personally. When she was first elected Patterson mayor in 1978, I was a 13-year-old middle school student living in Orange County. I moved to the Central Valley in 1989, to Stanislaus County in 1997, and began working for the Patterson Joint Unified School District in 2008. I do not own property in Patterson, nor do I have any financial interest in commercial or residential real estate development here or anywhere else for that matter. We raised our children in Stanislaus County, but having grown up in Orange County, I witnessed first-hand what can happen to a community when development is rushed and poorly planned. My only interest is in seeing that Patterson's residential development plans don't move forward at the expense of the students, staff, and families I've had the pleasure of working with for the past 14 years.

As superintendent, I engage with diverse community stakeholders having many different political views, cultural experiences, and religious beliefs. I collaborate with these stakeholders and our board to implement a unified vision that, to the best of our ability, meets the needs of all Patterson residents – not just those with power and privilege. I try to keep abreast of current events, but do not involve myself in local politics. Upon becoming your superintendent in 2012, I dropped my party affiliation and do not endorse candidates for public office, except the non-partisan offices of state and county superintendent.

I'm sure Ms. Maisetti cares deeply about the community she served for so many years. As many citizens in Patterson have articulated in recent months, the title of mayor – whether past or present, is supposed to carry with it a high level of respect, responsibility, and trust. Citizens expect their elected officials to represent the facts accurately, honestly, and fairly so sound policies are developed and implemented for

the benefit of all citizens, not just a select few. Former mayor Maisetti did not contact our school district to get its perspective or background on this topic before writing her letter. Instead, she based her comments solely on private conversations she allegedly had with a single land developer she knows. As superintendent, I serve as clerk to our elected board of trustees; therefore, it is imperative that our elected officials have detailed background on matters of such monumental importance as residential development.

Just as city governments must collect fees from developers to fund infrastructure projects and maintain public safety, school districts are responsible for negotiating a mitigation agreement with developers that adequately covers the cost of school construction to house the influx of additional students when new homes are built.

It is also my responsibility, and that of all school administrators, to be advocates for our children who are too young to vote, cut a campaign check, or run for political office, but whose lives will be dramatically impacted by development plans. This charge is so important that it is explicitly stated in Standard Six of the California Professional Standards for Educational Leaders, upon which our professional credentials are issued. Standard Six states that we will: ***“Support public policies and administrative procedures that provide for present and future needs of all children and families (and) improve equity and excellence in education while promoting public policies that ensure the equitable distribution of resources and support services for all students”.***

At last count, the massive size and scope of these planned residential projects encompasses a whopping 8,756 new homes that will change the landscape of Patterson forever. This means that our district will not only need to build schools but must secure additional space to warehouse supplies and equipment, house support staff, develop a central kitchen, expand maintenance and operations, and provide technology support for our growing student population and new school sites. In order to be good stewards of our tax dollars and operate these support services efficiently, we have tried to centralize operations in the Keystone Business Park where our district office has been housed for over 15 years.

While our elected board members represent the entire community, as public servants they also share a unique responsibility specifically to the parents of the children entrusted to our care. Roughly 70% of children in Patterson come from families living in poverty. Our parents often work more than one job to pay their rent or mortgage and put food on their tables. We owe it to them to make sure their children are provided the same quality education and school facilities as children in more affluent communities. This is a public trust we hold sacred, and it is the very foundation of our beliefs as Americans. Our entire public education system is predicated on the belief that all children deserve equality of opportunity.

As Dr. Martin Luther King metaphorically explained: ***“It’s all right to tell a man to lift himself by his own bootstraps, but it is cruel jest to say to a bootless man that he ought to lift himself by his own bootstraps.”*** Over the past 60 years, through both landmark legislation and court decisions, we have done much as a society to improve the historical funding inequities in public education that existed between those schools serving wealthy communities and those located in impoverished neighborhoods. Since Proposition 13 was passed, land developers and home builders have had more than 40 years to lobby for a better solution to fund public school construction. They certainly have the power and influence in Sacramento to have done so by now.

Our teachers and classified employees, many of whom are also residents of Patterson and parents or grandparents of Patterson students themselves, continue working diligently on behalf of all our students and their families. I am proud of their efforts to provide the best education possible and help our children reach their full potential, especially during the past two years of the COVID-19 Pandemic. I know that our teachers, paraeducators, custodial and maintenance staff, campus security, nutrition service employees, our clerical staff and all who provide services to the children of Patterson are just as concerned as our administrators and board about the overcrowded conditions that will occur in our schools under current development plans approved by the City of Patterson. Contrary to what they may want to hear, developers – whether they live in Patterson or only do business here, also share this responsibility. Developers are obligated, by law, to mitigate their impact on our schools.

The anonymous developer allegedly told Ms. Maisetti that we have refused to meet with him or her. We have met with developers regularly, but there exist tremendous barriers to constructive dialogue. Currently, there are three separate residential developments moving simultaneously in Patterson. Unfortunately, each time we met there were different people at the table. From my count and recollection, we have conferred with at least 10 different individuals – some of whom have financial interest in more than one of these projects. I also know that our assistant superintendent, Mr. Jeff Menge, has responded to numerous emails and phone calls. There are also dozens of different limited liability corporations and family trusts representing various landowners with financial interest in each of these developments.

It has frequently been unclear who is speaking for whom and which person is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the groups involved with each project. We were informed by Patterson City Manager Ken Irwin, that one development consultant with extensive experience in governmental relations would be working with us and we have been communicating through him. However, just this past Friday he informed us that he doesn't represent the Baldwin Ranch development project. This was a surprise to us since both projects were approved together by the planning commission. Similarly, we were informed by city staff that a developer was no longer actively involved in Villages of Patterson, only to discover recently that this person is still very much involved. Subsequently, he actually provided more information on the status of the Hartley Road construction than any of the other developers or city staff supposedly overseeing this project. Throw in the mix rotating attorneys and various consultants of all types representing their aforementioned clients, and you get a better idea of the problem.

More importantly, throughout this process, our district has also sought to engage city staff and council directly in an effort to answer our questions and address valid concerns about the impact these residential projects will have on our schools. I want to make it clear that we are not against development, but we also don't want to go back to the days where families were forced onto year-round scheduling and shoddy portables to house students impacted by poorly mitigated residential development.

In the 14 years I've served the Patterson community as assistant superintendent and superintendent, we've made great strides in improving our facilities and developing innovative programming for our children. Our former superintendent, Dr. Patrick Sweeney, took great pride in our facilities and left the district in good shape, despite the rapid growth that occurred during his tenure and the onset of the Great Recession. We have built on this legacy by leveraging more than \$20 million in state funds to modernize our aging facilities during the past decade, relieving local taxpayers from shouldering this

responsibility all on their own. This could not have been achieved without a supportive board of trustees who are committed to educational excellence and care deeply for the children of Patterson.

As a district, we have also worked collaboratively with local businesses to develop meaningful Career and Technical Education programs that support economic development in Patterson. We were the first district in the State of California to implement a successful supply chain and logistics program and a ready workforce upon graduation from Patterson High School. We were also one of the first districts in the country to develop a commercial truck driving program. Both programs have been covered extensively by The Modesto Bee, ABC, NBC, CBS, NPR, CNN, Fox Business, Fox News, international news networks, and virtually every industry trade publication in the nation. The recent supply chain crisis has only amplified the need for such programs both locally and nationally. Our staff from these programs deserve our community's thanks for the work they are doing and for putting the City of Patterson in the national spotlight with these positive and uplifting stories.

We are also proud of the work we've done as a district in managing resources to bridge the digital divide that exists with many low-income families in our community. Arguably, lack of internet access among disadvantaged children is the most important civil rights issue of our time as both schools and workplaces have become dependent on technology. Even prior to the pandemic, we had digital devices for each student and received FCC approval to install LTE towers so students could access digital educational resources at no charge.

While we hope we never have to go back exclusively to distance learning, the Patterson Joint Unified School District was better prepared than almost any district in the State of California to provide this type of instruction for our children. When staff from the Los Angeles Unified School District, the 2nd largest school district in the country, reach out to visit Patterson and learn from what we're doing, then I'd say we did something right for our students and our community. Our innovative efforts also drew the attention of the Wall Street Journal, again shining a promising light on the City of Patterson.

In 2015, our district hosted a trade association conference for supply chain and logistics in Patterson that brought industry experts from across the nation to our city. This event had never been held west of the Mississippi before. Some of the same developers who were involved with commercial development at the time, and are now pursuing residential development, were direct beneficiaries of our school district's efforts to provide much needed workforce development through our high school's CTE and adult education programs. Don't take my word for it. Ask managers from CVS, Grainger, Kohl's, Restoration Hardware, Amazon, Bronco Wine, Gallo, Morning Star Farms, and dozens of others who gladly sit on our advisory committees and jump at the opportunity to hire our students. I'd say we've done more than our fair share to promote community development. At the time, Patterson Planning Commission Chair Ron West wrote an unsolicited Op-Ed piece praising our school district's efforts to help fulfill the city's ambitious 30-year general plan to increase new employment opportunities for Patterson residents by 660 percent by the year 2040.

Imagine our shock when just three years later, the City of Patterson filed suit against Stanislaus County over the commercial development of the old Naval Air Station in Crows Landing. I don't pretend to know what politically motivated turf war between city and county prompted this suit, nor do I care. But what I can tell you is that the lawsuit claimed that a commercial project would generate 9,500 students for the Patterson Joint Unified School District and the Newman Crows-Landing School District. These figures were a fabrication. At no time was either district asked about the project's impact or provided

input on this project at the city's request. At the time, I contacted the superintendent of the Newman Crows-Landing School District who confirmed that he knew nothing of the suit. The first time either of us knew about the city's claim was when we read it in The Modesto Bee on December 5, 2018. Businesses produces jobs, homes produce students. Not the other way around.

Less than three years later, the city's general plan was quickly rewritten and rezoned to add more residential housing. The plan was rushed through the planning commission and then the city council. This time we did submit formal written concerns about student generation and provided our concerns to the City of Patterson through City Planner Joel Andrews in 2020. City staff didn't even bother to include our input in the Environmental Impact Report provided to the commission and council. To my knowledge, the first time our elected council and our planning commissioners received our concerns was this past Tuesday when Mr. Menge provided them via email. More than thirty years of city leaders promising to bring jobs along the I-5 corridor for Patterson's residents suddenly shifted in the blink of an eye.

Former Community Development Director, David James misled the council and commission by telling both there had been "robust conversations" with the school district, but again never providing our written concerns to either the planning commission or the council in the city's final report. These concerns were not addressed publicly, other than with a verbal statement that our concerns had been "taken into consideration". While it is not our place to say whether or not this rezoning best serves economic development and the housing needs of Patterson residents, it is absolutely our responsibility as a school district to ask where we will put the students generated from the additional homes in the Baldwin Ranch development.

The current plan, crafted entirely between city staff and developers would require transporting all children from the 471 homes in the Baldwin Ranch development into an already overcrowded Apricot Valley Elementary School. This simply is not feasible. Anyone who has tried to navigate the narrow streets of Walker Ranch during morning drop-off or afternoon pick-up around Apricot Valley knows this. In fact, Councilmember Homen brought this constituent concern about traffic congestion around Apricot Valley to our attention through City Manager Ken Irwin. We explained that the school district did not design the streets around Apricot Valley, the city did. This was in August 2021. She then proceeded to give final approval to the Baldwin Ranch plan without raising this issue.

For the sake of our community and our children, we must develop a better plan. I'm glad that the city apparently has what it needs from developers to move forward, but the school district does not. We will not allow our staff, parents, and children to be steamrolled by this unorthodox and highly questionable process.

Over the past six years with City Manager Irwin, and previously with City Manager Rod Butler, school district and city staff have met occasionally and informally to discuss items of common interest. While discussions about non-development items were mostly productive, when it came to residential development, information was routinely vague and simply gleaned from staff reports that had already gone before the council. We asked but were never provided the opportunity to meet with city staff and developers together as the city negotiated its agreement first.

I have attended several city council meetings and planning commission meetings related to this topic. It has become evident that District concerns are either ignored entirely or downplayed by city staff. Because of this, I informed Mr. Irwin that we needed to include a council member and a board member in future conversations so our elected officials who represent our community could hear our questions and concerns directly and unfiltered by city staff. Initially Mr. Irwin was hesitant to do this, but eventually agreed. Our first meeting was held in September with Board Members Segoviano and Bays, Mr. Menge, and me. Mr. Irwin selected Mayor McCord to represent the council.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond either agency's control, we have not met again. We are scheduled to resume these meetings on February 22nd with Mr. Irwin and Vice-Mayor Farinha. I'm hopeful we can bring some resolution to issues with the Village of Patterson project since a school must be built there before we can even think about discussing the Baldwin Ranch project.

In researching past development issues in Patterson, I came across a very interesting article from 1994. The article reported how our school district was at odds with the city and developers over inadequate developer fees for our schools – the very same issues were dealing with today, and that previously resulted in schools going on year-round scheduling, bringing in shoddy portables, and kindergarten students housed in old World War II military barracks in Patterson. At the time, Mayor Maisetti recommended that a committee be formed with council members and board members to discuss the issue. What a great idea – transparency.

In 1994, it was the school district superintendent, Dr. Keith Daniel, who rejected the idea of holding joint meetings. Let's not make that same mistake again. The needs of the city and school district should not be mutually exclusive. We deserve a seat at the table as well. Not a backroom, not a private lunch meeting with unnamed developers, but with the respect, collaboration, confidence, and transparency our community demands of the elected leaders. We've all been entrusted to make decisions for the benefit of the entire community, including its most vulnerable citizens – our children. As the late Nelson Mandela so eloquently stated: ***"The true character of a society is revealed in how it treats its children."*** It's about time we improve the character of this community.