

A.L.E.A.  
Alta Loma Educator's Association  
Alta Loma School District, Alta Loma, California

Helene Kowal, Executive President  
Dan Wilt, Executive Vice President  
Peggy Swistock, Treasurer  
Julia Olsen, Secretary

[www.youralea.com](http://www.youralea.com)

**ALEA Representative Council Meeting Minutes  
February 22, 2018, 3:30 pm  
Hermosa Elementary  
Room 19**

In attendance: Helene Kowal, Dan Wilt, Peggy Swistock, Julia Olsen, Shari Cipres, Deanne Conroy, Kristina Hedlund, Linda Honaker, Kathryn Franklin, Jena Kerr, Michelle Zomer, Jamie Bonaldo, Stephanie Frye, Laura Stoddard, Debra Mansfield, Marina Smith, Karena Zubiata, Steve Reyes, Katherine Jackson

Meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. by President, Helene Kowal

Helene Kowal –

- Approval of January 18, 2018 minutes: Motion to approve: Stephanie Frye; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Steve Reyes Motion passed

Peggy Swistock –

- Register report given.
- ALEA received a "random" Cashier's Check that arrived at Hermosa School with no reference as to purpose or from anyone known to ALEA. Peggy is suspicious it is phishing and is investigating before cashing.

Helene Kowal –

- Handouts from CTA with information about people and issues being supported.

Helene - Introduced Steve Thomas to address concerns and field questions

- ALSD has been in declining enrollment since the mid 1990's. Student population has now stabilized and has been nearly level for the past couple of years. This is partly due to similar exiting classes of eighth graders and incoming kindergarten classes, plus having Preppy K.
- Safety
  - Explained the timeline and process of expulsion; it takes several weeks. Result can be expulsion or reinstatement of the student. Can include a contract if the student is reinstated. During the hearing process, the student is usually off-campus. The state is now rating schools (LCAP) on many factors, including suspension and expulsion. Increases in these areas are a big negative for the district.
  - Do teachers have the right to say he/she is not comfortable with a student in class or on a field trip? No – administration has the right to place students. Hopefully, there would be a meeting to discuss the placement and ensure all concerns are addressed.
  - ALSD is working with psychologists and mental health professionals so our schools and staff are prepared for any situation. All must remember – we are a public school district and must accept

- and teach all students who reside within our district boundaries.
- Raptor system – new security clearance system for visitors – is now in place at all sites for another layer of security.
- Electronic locks for doors – these are about to be installed. East schools will be done first, then the West side. All sites should be completed by summer. With new security system, some sites will have students re-routed. Steve did not know if a “buzz-in” feature is included.
- When will fencing be replaced? Steve did not know of any plans to replace fencing.
- Concerns about combo classes – these classes are very hard on all staff at the grade level. If there must be combos, is additional compensation an option? Grades 4 – 8 are staffed at a ratio of 32:1, grades K – 3 are staffed at a ratio of 24:1. ALSD attempts to staff as tightly as possible to keep class sizes in accordance with the above ratios and maximize the budget. Students do not come in neat “class size” packages. Additional compensation could be negotiated at a future date.
- How are inter-district transfers handled? Are students screened? Yes – attendance record and academic record are considered. Once granted, the transfer is placed at a site with room for the student. If it is not the site the incoming family wants, they have the right to decline. A transfer can be revoked for cause.
- A teacher has money purchase computers and has been told by the IT staff that refurbished units with lifetime guarantees are what the district is using. The teacher wants brand new. Steve advised to ask if there was a new option IT would recommend and state the school had the money to cover the cost.
- ALJH is being asked to eliminate the rotating (block) schedule – why? Steve gave one reason of having part time teachers; it is very difficult to handle this schedule with same.
- A site expressed concern for kindergarten teachers – they have duty before and after school, no early dismissal on a weekly basis and want autonomy with other staff to meet as a grade level, especially if a combo is involved. Steve suggested taking the issue to negotiations. It was stated that Superintendent Moore had already stated he was against kindergarten teachers having a weekly release day.
- When would TAPS be full time? Steve responded this was an expensive move. Others responded it would be a safety asset for TAPS to be available to handle issues.
- Helene asked about increasing the dental benefit – Steve responded that this is a bargaining table issue.

#### Site Concerns

- A site stated that Joan Sanders is telling principals to ask why teachers are calling in sick. Helene will investigate. (It is not a chronic absenteeism issue.)
- Will the 6<sup>th</sup> grade report card be aligned with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade report card? Melinda is looking into this – it should reduce conferences, as they will be more like the conferences held at the junior high schools.
- Are all sites being asked to “Document and collect data”? Response – no; this seems to be a site issue, especially with special education issues.

Helene Kowal –

- Reminding all: IF YOU FEEL THREATENED – **MAKE A POLICE REPORT!**

Next ALEA event: Thursday, March 15, 2018  
 Hermosa School  
 3:30 pm, Room 19

Meeting adjourned, 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Julia Olsen, Secretary