

**TWAIN HARTE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEES**

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Called by the Board President Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Located At:

Twain Harte School
Board Room (Upper Campus)
22974 Twain Harte Drive
Twain Harte, CA 95383

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Governing Board Members

Lisa Brady – President, Chantal Fowler – Clerk, Members: Tim Hoffman-Brady, Ronda Bailey, Eli Wingo

The Closed Session meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Member Brady.

CLOSED SESSION

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - 1.1. Roll Call

Member Lisa Brady
Member Eli Wingo
Member Ronda Bailey
Member Tim Hoffman-Bailey
Member Chantal Fowler
Superintendent Rick Hennes
Chief Business Official-Tonya Midget
Administrative Specialist-Kelly Gilbertson

- 1.2. Agenda Review & Adoption
 - Motion to Approve: Member Wingo
 - Second: Member Bailey
 - Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC-On Closed Session Item 3.1 Only
(The public may address the Board on any matter pertaining to the district that is not on the agenda.)

There were not any comments from the public.

CLOSED SESSION

3.
 - 3.1 Conference with Legal Counsel-Anticipated Litigation
 - Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 Of the Government Code.
 - Number of anticipated cases: 1

OPEN/PUBLIC SESSION-The public session was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

4. CALL TO ORDER

4.1. Roll Call-

Member Lisa Brady
Member Eli Wingo
Member Ronda Bailey
Member Tim Hoffman-Bailey
Member Chantal Fowler
Superintendent Rick Hennes
Chief Business Official-Tonya Midget
Administrative Specialist-Kelly Gilbertson

4.2. Pledge of Allegiance-The pledge of allegiance was said by all.

ANNOUNCE ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

5. There was not any action taken in closed session.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

(The public may address the Board on any matter pertaining to the district that is not on the agenda. Speakers will need to fill out a speaker request card. Public comments may be received verbally or in writing. The Board will impose its customary 3 minute limit per speaker. The Board will only receive public comments and will not discuss, respond or take action.)

Member Brady greeted the audience. She said now is the time on our agenda for the Resolution and proposed Findings of Fact on the proposed Pinecrest Expedition Academy. Pinecrest Expedition Academy submitted its Petition to the Superintendent's office on February 27, 2018. A public hearing to consider the level of support for the petition by teachers employed by the District, other employees of the District, and parents was held March 19, 2018.

Because this is a special meeting, the meeting notice for this special meeting indicated the Business to be transacted at the meeting. No other business shall be considered at this special meeting. The public will be provided an opportunity to address the item described in the notice.

For the record, we ask that speakers fill out a speaker request card. Public comments may be received verbally or in writing. The Board will impose its customary 3 minute limit per speaker. The Board will only receive public comments. During the public comment period, the Board will not discuss or respond to public comments.

After the close of the public comment period, the Board will hear presentations on an overview of the petition process, the standard of review of the petition and the Board options with respect to the Findings of Fact and the Petition. The Board may then ask legal counsel or staff to respond to specific public comments received on the Petition or the Findings of Fact. The Board will then discuss the Resolution and proposed Findings.

Member Brady opened the public comment period.

Margie Bulkin from the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools spoke first to clarify an error in the findings on page 10 in the board packet, listed in the timeline of events. She wanted to clarify that the Tuolumne County Schools office did not deny the petition. She would like to put verbiage in the right spot. They County Schools Office returned the petition because it did not meet the criteria for a County Wide Benefit Charter School. She said that returning and denying the petition are two very different things. She explained that if the Tuolumne County Schools Office would have denied the County Wide Benefit Charter petition, it would have to have been presented to the County Board of Trustees as they govern side by side in some instances and a County Wide Benefit Charter would be one of them. She said the County Wide Benefit Charter

did not meet the criteria to get to the Board of Trustees. She explained that the Charter wasn't denied or approved. It was returned.

Nathan Rohr thanked the board for letting him speak. He said that at the last meeting several people spoke about how great Twain Harte School is and the people that did not want to send their children to Twain Harte were accused of trying to take away a classroom education from children. He said that is not true. He said he has a lot of respect for Twain Harte School and several teachers are actually his friends. He said if he lived in the Twain Harte Community, he would send his children to Twain Harte School, but he does not. He lives in the Pinecrest Community. He said as a parent and in good conscious, he does not want to put his young children on a one or two hour bus ride, especially with medical concerns and other things going on. He said that buses have refused to come up to the Pinecrest area on several occasions due to snow. If the Pinecrest School does not open and he knows that he speaks for several parents in the Pinecrest Community, his children will be in a Charter school and if the goal of this committee is to see that the children in the Pinecrest Community receive a classroom style education, then the board should be doing everything in their power to help re-open Pinecrest School.

Kurt Anderson said that he is an upper mountain guy and his kids are upper mountain kids. He fought for Pinecrest School before and he is willing to fight for it again. He would love to have a small school in the community. He said he is a redneck and does have a few issues. He does not like the touchy feely, all kids are winners stuff. He likes the kids that are willing to work hard, get the good grades, willing to work hard in sports, those kids are the winners. He thinks that in a small community those things can be easier nurtured. He said he is all for Pinecrest School.

Steve Bloxham said he lives less than a mile from Pinecrest School and has for the past 8 years. He said that his background for over a decade is that he went into schools in Northern Nevada and rural Northern California and has worked with kids on how to do well in school and how to get into college and how to actually get through college. There were 493 kids and 93% of them made it through college. His daughter is a teacher of third grade. He said on the standardized testing last year at her school in Nevada, the students tested out at 5th grade level. He said it is unbelievable what can be done at a small school. One of two things concern him, one of those things being the name of the school. He said the name creates an ummetus tone. He said this kind of thing affects legends and this kind of thing is not healthy. He said to name a school something like Expedition creates an image that is eww, even with liberals, and he said he is pretty liberal in some ways. The name should include some kind of throwback. He said this should be a school like 1905. A mixed grade with basic essential knowledge, this is a subtitle that people can understand and blend into in their minds and respect a school board that does this kind of thing. A mixed grade essential knowledge and basic are words that ring. These words ring and the board is going to get famous from this. He said his friend does spots for 20/20. He said this is the kind of thing people get famous from. He said this is the kind of thing that works and that people need. He said he was concerned when Pinecrest School shut down and he did not know the reasons and wasn't involved in it at all. He said he hopes it reopens. His second concern was, why it has to be a Charter. He doesn't mind charter schools; in fact he thinks some of them are very good. He said he doesn't like cluster desks either, he likes rows. He said this is the kind of thing that works and its fun. He said kids graduate without knowing basic knowledge. There should be the word STEM. Kids graduate college without knowing about electricity or how to use a weaving mill. This is the kind thing that could be blended into an elementary class. Third graders could grasp this if repeated over and over again. They end up with practical knowledge that creates pride in the entire district. This should be an element of pride. But, that word expedition, ugh.

Anthony said he lives at the Christian Camp and had to take off work a little early to make sure that he could make this 4:00 p.m. meeting today. He said it is challenging. He said he has his wife and daughter will him this afternoon. He further stated that like his friend Nate said, they are not against Twain Harte at all. They love Twain Harte School and have friends at the school

that they care about deeply and it is nothing against the school. It is all about having a school that is closer for our kids. He said if the Charter does not happen he is not going to send his kids to school at Twain Harte. At least not right away. He said it is just too far. He said they will find another way to educate their children and it definitely won't be at Twain Harte. He said he and his family are in attendance to support Pinecrest.

Heidi Lupo, the Lead Petitioner of the Pinecrest Academy started by thanking Rick Hennes and Kelly Gilbertson for their professional and prompt communication during this entire process. She said they have truly been wonderful and she wanted to commend them for that. She also thanked the reviewing committee. She said this is the first time in her life that she was called an optimist. She said she is not an optimist, she is a realist. She said the enrollment projections in the petition are based on the needs of the community over the next five years. Charter Schools in general and the location at hand is incredibly marketable and attractable to young families. She said the districts finding are inaccurate as they do not account for the following information; The Pinecrest area now has access to affordable high speed internet for use at home and for businesses. She said this opens the door for not only school programs, but also for the ability for people to work from home and telecommute to out of area jobs. The district should include for a footnote that Twain Harte does not allow Interdistrict transfers into Twain Harte School. She said this will hamper the potential growth of Twain Harte School, but is technical data that will not live at the growth of Pinecrest Expedition Academy. Since the submission of the petition on February 27th, she has received active interest from families that will include an additional 23 children that are ready to enter the Expedition Academy during the term of the Charter. She further stated that tourism is a 230 million dollar industry in Tuolumne County. Pinecrest and the upper 108 are significant contributors. She said the districts findings state that the Charter would only be attractive to the residents of the Pinecrest area and the district undervalues the number of individuals that work in the Pinecrest area and have interest in their children attending a program of choice in close proximity to the workplace. For example, the United States Forest Service Summit Ranger District employees 90 employees. Of those employees, their families contain 22 children under the age of 9 that did not sign the petition. Additionally, Heidi said she lives in reality and owns and manages businesses, she has run numerous budget scenarios. Including a scenario will they reach a scenario of 65 students enrolled by year 3 and maintain that enrollment for years 3, 4 and 5. She said this scenario generates a surplus of 25,312 dollars at the end of year 1 and a surplus of 25,253 at the end of year 5, which led her to some other inaccuracies on the budget. She said that, first off, the district states that the Charters viability is premised on unreasonably overrated revenue. She said their revenues are based on enrollment projections. The school has used the LCFF calculator which is provided by FICMA and other resource revenues are calculated by the rates proposed by the state. Secondly, the district states that the LCFF calculations are flawed. She said this is inaccurate. Lastly, she said that the major resource of the charter school funding is LCFF.

Courtney Sutton, the founding board member of the Pinecrest Expedition Academy. She said that the petition submitted to the district is educationally sound and identifies EL education and module learning as the primary curriculum model and an effective approach to a multi grade classroom. She said that contrary to the districts findings, they have identified the following text in the petition; for English and language arts, EL education supplemental text -National Geographic (not understandable), for Social Studies and Community Services Studies-Pearson Scott-Foresman, (not understandable) California History Social Science and National Geographic World History. For Math-Pearson Scott-Foresman Math Reasoning, Mind Algebra Readiness, Big Ideas Learning and Big Ideas Algebra. She stated they have also left room in the petition that allows texts to be changed and added just as outlined in the educational supplemental online program will be added to help each teacher and student achieve success. She said it should be noted that the EL Education curriculum has recently reviewed the highest score even given by the ED report based on the following; text quality and complicity and alignment to standards, knowledgeability with text, vocabulary and (not understandable), instructional supports and feasibility. Out of the total 696 points, the EL Education program scored 668. As stated in the EL Education, CEO Scott Hardle quotes; created by teachers who are teachers, our curriculum views

over 25 years of educational experience in literacy and instruction and inspires educators and sparks student's excitement for learning. This recognition is a testament to our mission to create classrooms where teachers can fulfill their highest aspirations and students can achieve more than they think possible. Our founding group is pleased to be able to utilize the professional development on site and online available through the EL Education. We are confident our staff will have available resources to keep them focused and driven in their teaching environment.

Courtney concluded by reading a statement by John Cashmen; She said he apologized for not being present. In his work obligations, he encountered significant traffic which delayed his arrival. He said he coaches, develops and mentors athletes on an elite international level. He recognizes the value and necessity of collaboration in order to succeed in a situation, whether it be athleticism, academics or workloads. The ability to work with others in a safe environment and ask for help and ideas throughout the collaboration is the key to success. He believes this environment can be easily accomplished in a multi-grade classroom setting and be evident to work effectively in other Charter Schools, such as Creekside Charter and Sierra Expeditionary Learning School. He said that the goal is to see students thrive in an ever changing world utilizing our ideals of what makes an educated person in the 21st Century. She further stated that John said that accountability, problem solving, creativity, collaboration and critical thinking, communication and adaptability set the stage for students to work together.

Janelle Ruley greeted the superintendent and the board. She stated she is an attorney from the firm representing the Charter. She said her partner; Jerry Simmons was in attendance for the public hearing. She said she is in attendance to be in support of the Pinecrest Charter Expedition Academy and wants to urge the board to approve the Charter and separate from the district's staff report. She stated that she was sure that the board has been advised by their legal counsel. The legal intent behind the Charter School is that they are an integral part of the California Education system and their establishment should be encouraged. Further the default position of the law is that the District must approve the Charter unless it makes findings in one or more six possible areas of the Charter petition. She stated that the District findings mistakes facts and mistakes flaws and should not be relied upon as basis for (not understandable). She spoke about the textbook and instructional methods stating that the findings said they were not identified. She said the Charter is not required to include that in the petition, but Pinecrest Charter Expedition decided to do so. She said as the law does not require those items to be listed. She said as far as the racial ethnic balance, Pinecrest Expedition Academy does outline a detailed plan for student recruitment and she said that is what the key is and what we need to talk about. She said how are they going to find a kid so that the population has the same racial ethnic balance as that residing in the district. She said the districts racial ethnic balance changes every year and putting it in the Charter doesn't really do anything for them as they have to make the comparison every year. She said there is not a lot of fun in having a satanic number in the Charter petition. Again, the plan is recently comprehensive regardless of whether or not that percentage is in there. She said as far as suspension and expulsions; she thought this one was a little bit strange in the district findings because there is a whole paragraph listed in the petition regarding suspension and expulsion. She said she would be happy to show the board where the information is outlined in the Charter petition. She said the law changed this past January and that is outlined in the petition regarding expulsion and suspension.

She said she was going to make a note of the County's word of returning the Charter petition, not denying it. She thanked the County Superintendent for bringing that to the attention of the board. Lastly, about the Special Education program. The Tuolumne County Selpa reviewed the Charter based on a rubric that was created, she's not sure when, but by a financial agency that oversee schools and school district throughout the state. She isn't sure why the Special Education Department didn't review the petition based on their own expertise.

John Lupo said, how about Courtney? She is a Twain Harte graduate. He said he supports this petition because he thinks it is the right thing to do. That's why he thinks the board should approve it. He said the last time he was at the special board meeting, the teachers spoke about what a good job they do and he said, no one disputes that. He said he knows that the teachers feel

a duty to the staff to support them and they would not want anybody to lose a job because they supported their position. The hard thing is that, he thinks they are there for the best interest of the students and their families first and the staff second. He said he believes that everyone at the meeting would agree with that. Second, he said that he thinks this is sort of like an interdistrict transfer and again that is why he supports local school boards and not unification because you want to know who your neighbors, friends and teachers are. He said the democratic process would be the right thing to follow. He said, if someone came to you right across the street and said that their kids were born here and said, hey Mr. Wingo, I got a job at the hospital and my kids can go to school right at Sonora Elementary. He said it is just better for everybody. He can't believe that the board would deny those people that right. He said he has been on school boards and never denied anybody who wanted to transfer in or out because that is what they want for their kids and that is what is in the best interest for their families. He reiterated the reason we are all here is for the best interest of the kids and their families. He said by supporting this petition, you are supporting this community and as you have heard, it is hard to get a job here, and hard to buy a house and survive. He said it is a lot better for the people that want to work for the Forest Service, Dodge Ridge, Tri Dam, Strawberry Inn or wherever they want to work. He said this will really help the community and the county. Like Dodge Ridge for example, they depend on the community. He said, so let's do this. Instead of fearing this, embrace this and work together with these people. Share innovation and resources. He said this is the right thing to do for those friends and families. Lastly, he said, let these kids go to school where these parents want them to go. He urged the board to do the right thing. He said, he thinks they know what that is.

Denise Bengard said she actually had no intention of speaking today, but wanted to clear something up about the bus rides since she is the bus driver that goes up to Pinecrest. She said when Pinecrest School was open, she drove Pinecrest kids. She said she picked kids up in Twain Harte that went up to Pinecrest. She picked kids up at Pinecrest Dam that went to Twain Harte School. She said she has been driving for 14 years and has gone through snow storms where her bus was leaping over snow drifts, but she would get up to Pinecrest and get the kids. She said by the time she leaves the bus yard to the time she hits Jennes Park, it is 30 minutes. She said they are not on the bus for an hour to two hours, unless she is in a snow storm and broke down. She said in that case, someone comes up to help her and picks the kids up. She said she has kindergartners that go up to Pinecrest and then back down depending on what side of 108 they live on. In that instance they are sometimes on the bus for 45 minutes. Denise said, from Pinecrest to Twain Harte, it is a 30 minute bus ride. She said there are times when she has had the CHP escort her up to Pinecrest School, drop the kids off and pick the kids back up. She said in bad weather, she would call CHP and say if they want the kids off the hill, she will need an escort and they would provide an escort. She said they are willing to do whatever it takes to get their students to and from Twain Harte School. She just wanted to clear up that bus issue.

Jillian Rohr said she already wrote the board a letter, but she did want to let everyone know that her letter was in their packets a couple of weeks ago. She said she will not be bringing her child to Twain Harte School due to the fact that she has heard some other bus stories. However, she would like to finish Heidi's notes. Secondly, the LCFF calculations are flawed. She said this is inaccurate. The major resource of Charter School funding is LCFF revenue in general. The school might be eligible for other funding such as, Federal funding. However, the initial budget is projected without having additional resources. The projections rely on loans and grants that are limited in scope and may not be available. She said they have applied for the Charter School Revolving loan and all expenditures related to the PCSGP and are reported in the budget expenditures and they are not required to submit that in the petition process. She went on to state that Pinecrest School Club is historically unsubstantiated. She said that the school has raised funds through PSC and is not included in the budget. The school does receive in kind donations for having a dollar a year lease for facilities. She said this is listed as in-kind donations revenues will offset the revenues. Additionally, Heidi's fundraising abilities are being discounted. In the last twelve months she has been responsible for fundraising money through for parent nursery school. In twelve months she has raised over \$51,000 for a program that charges a daily fee, this is a substantial amount of money and has increased at least five times since her involvement. The

fundraising abilities of PSC and thanks to the area property owners is far greater and will be achieved. She thanked everyone for acknowledging and encouraging Heidi.

Member Brady closed the public comment period. She explained that the board will hear presentations on an overview of the petition process, the standard of review of the petition and the Board options with respect to the Findings of Fact and the Petition.

Addison Covert thanked the board president and the members of the board. He said he is in attendance to provide some back up assistance to school district staff in preparation of tonight's meeting and he very much appreciates the information that has been provided by the audience thus far. Before the board tonight is a draft resolution that has been prepared based on the recommendation of the district staff for board's consideration. He said they would like to hear from the board in this process as well. He said there will be an opportunity for the board to discuss what it has heard so far and what its action might ultimately end up being tonight. He said he would like to spend a moment or two going over the recommendation from staff, which is that the petition denied by the school board. That recommendation is based upon mandatory requirements that the state education code and the state legislature have set are the exclusive grounds for either approving or disapproving a charter school. The school board is subject to a fairly tight timeline in the education code for the processing of a petition and to reaching a decision as to whether they grant approval of the petition or to not grant approval of the petition. He said they are locked into a situation where we get the best information that they possibly can and conduct an independent review at the district staff level and come up with a set of recommendations and provide those to the board. He believes the information contained in the packet contains recommendations that are sound legally and justify the ultimate recommendation that is being outlined in the resolution and the findings that have been presented for you. He said he is more than happy to discuss those or answer any additional questions. He said he also wants to provide the board with sufficient time to discuss the petition ask questions and make statements about the process and have time if any statements are to be made and to have time to confer before a final decision is made with respect to the resolution. In closing, he said it is his time to conclude unless there are further questions or comments.

Member Brady asked the board if they had any questions, comments or statements.

Member Wingo read the following statement; he said he attended Twain Harte School as a child and did his senior project at Twain Harte School. He said for those of you who are unaware, Summerville High School requires senior projects for students to be able to graduate. He said it is kind of hard and actually a big deal. He volunteered some time at Twain Harte. He said he helped the principal pack up his office upon retirement and has watched the school shrink in size. It seemed to get smaller with each passing year. First he heard that Southfork School closed. Then he heard that Black Oak School closed. He said around the time that his nephew started at Twain Harte School, he got appointed to the board due to the fact that there were two candidates running and two seats available and to save the school money. Since then, he said he has learned what it means to be a board member. He said he will continue to support the school. When he first started with the board, he said the issue with Pinecrest School was coming to a close. The board sadly had to close Pinecrest School. Needless to say, there was a lot of push back. However, he was secure in knowing that the children from that school would be welcome with open arms on the Twain Harte campus by the staff and students. During his time on the board, they have had to make some tough choices. They have had to vote to close a school, made some staffing changes, and hired a new superintendent and a new principal. He said since he has started, it seems that one battle after another has been waged. But, something someone said during a trying time really stuck with me. A gentleman at a board meeting said that not a lot of people have time to sit around and talk about the cost of toilet paper. I said to myself, "is this guy confused about what a school board does?" Every choice the board makes affects a student on this campus and he said they do discuss how much to spend on items. He said; let me tell you about this staff and this school to help you better understand what the board does. Down at the end of the table is, Tonya Midget, the Chief Business Official. She does an outstanding job of keeping the school on track

and works a lot more than her contracted hours and gives 110% every single day. Kelly Gilbertson in the back takes the minutes of these meeting and works hard to keep us informed with information about making tough choices. Rick Hennes, the school superintendent works well past his contracted hours because he really cares about Twain Harte School. He said seated next to him is Ronda Bailey, who works for this community and in this community every single day and all day. She works 40 plus hours every week. He said he works at Black Oak Casino as an EMT and teaches classes at the casino. He said the school board meetings are not always at convenient times due to his work schedule, but he is always at the meetings. Lisa Brady works hard day in and day out with a population of inmates. Tim Hoffman-Brady works with Eli Wingo at the casino. He knows that Member Hoffman-Brady works hard because he sees it every day. Chantal Fowler works incredibly hard for this community. All of the board member has had a child or have children that attend Twain Harte School. He said he does not have a child that attends Twain Harte School and has been asked by many people why he is on the board. He said the reason he is on the board is because he wishes to give back to the school. He said they drive up and down the mountain just like everyone else. He said we all have issues in life we must overcome to work together to make this place a better version of than it was yesterday. Now as the board, elected or appointed, it is also the administration that advises us, which in itself is a difficult job because he said that some of them have hot heads. There are teachers here in the audience, some behind you or next to you. Some are not in attendance due to possibly grading papers, helping a student or some maybe just simply wanted to go home and rest. He said the continually try to better themselves as teachers. A few examples are, Mrs. Olsen taught while Member Wingo was attending and impacted his life greatly by helping a struggling dyslexic boy to learn how to write in cursive. He said his handwriting wasn't super successful and she always encouraged him to do well. She always pushes kids a little further and to aim a little higher. He said he was in her classroom recently and saw all those little faces light up while she was helping them with reading. He said, Mrs. Barry is still here. She taught him how to read and seek out knowledge. He said she continues to excel and seek out new teaching methods. He said that Mr. Gold taught P.E. while Member Wingo was attending Twain Harte and all of Mr. Gold's lessons where about team work and working hard along with fair play and the rules. He said that Mr. Brown teaches at Twain Harte and he mention that not many people know his Father taught at Twain Harte School also. Mr. Brown encourages kids to learn science and math. He said he tells him every single day he learns something about science and math and he said his nephew sounds like he really knows what he is talking about. He said he can tell that Mr. Brown has a very positive impact on his nephew. He said that Laura DeMars teaches kids about robots and computers and makes learning fun. Mrs. Rose teaches kids to think critically and about the world around them and then write about it. Mrs. Roberts, the Library Media Specialist gives kids a chance to get books and pushes them to read. She recommends books to kids and finds new books to bring in. Mr. Wurz is in charge of the upkeep of the campus and they do a fantastic job. Mr. Wurz has won a safety award two years in a row. He was given a list of nine items that need to be fixed and he completed 8 of those items. He said according to the presenters, the award is pretty difficult to achieve. He said Mrs. Cross is in the office. She has seen so much time here. She has seen so many staff and so many students over the years and she keeps coming back. He said, maybe there might just be something magical about Twain Harte School and maybe that is why the board is so passionate about this school in this community. We are a community. He said, what he is trying to say, is before you seek alternative education programs, maybe those seeking alternatives should spend some time at the school and perhaps you will see that magic that he sees on the Twain Harte campus when he drives to work every day. Lastly, every single vote in this room affects the students that attend school at Twain Harte. It impacts them and changes the campus and the culture. He said the school is a community regardless of where you are from. He said he believes it is time we all work together instead of against each other.

Member Hoffman-Brady asked a question of the people up the hill, which is where he lives. He asked why won't they bring their kids to Twain Harte? He understands that now they are trying to open a charter, but said it has been six years and he thinks they have been rag tagging their kids all over the place when there is a perfectly good school at Twain Harte with perfectly good teachers and he doesn't understand why they aren't brought to Twain Harte. He said the charter

people talk about outdoor activities. He said Twain Harte School has four accredited STEM teachers. Some of them are known very well and one of them has just won an award from one of his peers as one of the best teachers in our whole area. He taught at the Pinecrest School and he teaches STEM and that is what is talked about all through the petition. He just doesn't understand why. He asked for an answer. He said, he has had seven kids at Twain Harte and he lives up the hill. He said Twain Harte is a great school with great teachers and fantastic outdoor activities.

Heidi Lupo said that she is going to have their counsel answer the question. She said that she thinks he will get a different answer from every single person in the room. She said that it is each person's very personal decision. She said at the beginning of the meeting, it was stated that there would not be a back and forth. Member Wingo explained that the back and forth does not happen during the public comments. He explained the back and forth happens now. He said now is the time to ask questions about the petition and the finding of fact. She said if the Pinecrest families want to come up and answer that question, she is certainly not going to stop them. She asked are we sure that is what we want to open up the door for? Superintendent Hennes and Member Brady stated, yes.

Mr. Lupo said there isn't anyone in attendance that is delineating the teachers, the bus drivers or anything about Twain Harte. Nobody is complaining about that. As the attorney just said, every person that comes before you and has signed this petition probably has their own personal reason. He said what comes down to is choice. That is what this is about. It is about democracy. He gave an example about asking for a transfer and he can't believe that would be denied, no matter how good this school is. Member Wingo said they have actually approved several interdistrict transfers. Mr. Lupo said that is what the charter people are asking for, is a transfer. He said if the transfer is in the best interest of his family and his kids, why the board wouldn't say, okay. He said that is the board's duty.

Member Hoffman-Brady reiterated it's been six years and a whole generation of elementary children. He wanted to know, why they don't come to Twain Harte. He said they have been shoved all around the mountain and he just doesn't understand why they don't come to Twain Harte. Mr. Lupo said the families and kids are choosing where they want to go for their reasons. He said that nobody is shoving; it is a choice for all students and families. He said it's about respecting families choices. He said the board should embrace it. He said that declining enrollment is because people can't afford to live in work in this county. He said this is your chance to do that and it will help more people move to the area. He said people don't like what is going on at TH. He said the board's duty is to support the entire community and embrace and support these people's choice. He said this is the right thing to do.

Heidi Lupo asked Member Hoffman-Brady if he was asking why her kids don't go to Twain Harte and she said her children aren't old enough to go to Twain Harte School. She said that most of the signatures on the petition are just having kids that are in primary grades that are now willing to go to school. She said they have either tried another program in the county that hasn't worked for them or are looking for something different. She said, personally she believes in programs of choice and she believes in innovation and she believes they can create a high quality environment in the Pinecrest area that is different from what is offered at Twain Harte.

Member Wingo asked Heidi Lupo about the \$51,000 that was gathered in donations and was that gathered under the Pinecrest School name. She said, no. That was from the fundraising effort that she did at the Summerville Parent Nursery School. She said that is a different 501 3 c (non-profit). Simply stated, she said she wants the board to know that she can raise a whole lot of money.

Superintendent Hennes asked Heidi Lupo about when she mentioned that Twain Harte School does not accept Interdistrict transfers. She said from her understanding, that Twain Harte has a practice of not letting Interdistrict transfer students in. Superintendent Hennes said that it is very bad information and totally false.

Jillian Rohr said that she hasn't sent her children to Twain Harte because her oldest child is just 3 years old. She never wanted to do the commute. She gave a shout out to the bus driver. She is happy to hear it is only a ½ hour commute, but thinks that her 5 year old would have a difficult time on a ½ hour commute with strangers might make him a little bit scared and she thinks that if a ride is available that is only 5 minutes away, she would send her child to that school. She thinks the board is thinking about older children. She said she heard about kindergarten going to all day and that makes them socialize a little longer and it makes the day a lot longer, especially with the additional transportation time and she believes her child would be exhausted. She said if she had the opportunity to send her child to a school that is just 5 miles away, that would be amazing and she would take them up on that offer. She said she doesn't support the board not giving them the opportunity.

Kim Hartwig said that she lives in Sugar Pine and had two five year olds that rode the bus to Pinecrest School and back all the way until 6th grade and it was never an issue. She said there was never a problem. She said she is frustrated with the fact that it has not been discussed that when Pinecrest School was open, it was paid for by a Grant that does not exist anymore. She said that what the Charter is asking for is for Twain Harte to give money to the Charter that Twain Harte is spending on the Twain Harte students. She said this would be giving \$200,000 plus dollars a year to another school to run the same thing we are currently doing at Twain Harte and take the money away from the Twain Harte students. She then asked an audience member not to shake her head at her. She said she didn't appreciate that.

The audience member told Kim Hartwig that she was incorrect and Kim Hartwig said, then correct me.

Heidi Lupo asked for a point of order. She said that they were asked a specific question about children and that the discussion seemed irrelevant.

Courtney Sutton said she is on the hall of fame in the Twain Harte gym and she talks about Twain Harte all the time. She said she has a two year old and one on the way. She said she lives in Pinecrest and she would send her child to Pinecrest. She said she can't reiterate enough what John Lupo said about families having a choice and considering what is in the best interest of each family. She said it's about choice and what fits for your family. She said families should have that option. She said she split her time between Pinecrest and Twain Harte and it was a long bus trip. She said it never seemed like a 30 minutes trip. She believes it is the parent/student choice and it is the board's duty to provide an opportunity for everyone in the community and she would like them to think about that.

Kimberlie Ballard has been a teacher for about 10 years. She said she has taught in Manteca, Turlock and Southern California. She said what she keeps hearing over and over is the sense of family. She said as she looks at the board, she has had Tim's son in her class, Lisa's son in her class, Eli's nephew and Ronda's daughter. She said out of every place that she has worked; she said Twain Harte has the most sense of family. She said that Twain Harte is not trying to create division, but instead what she is trying to say, is that Twain Harte loves kids and would love to have more kids at Twain Harte. She said that Open House is on May 9th and that would be a perfect opportunity to come and see what each grade level looks like. She said that every month they do a STEM project. She said there is good learning going on at Twain Harte. She said she used to teach at Pinecrest School and she said she thinks we all need to unite. She said it was hard when the school closed and seemed to create some division. She said that Twain Harte has a very transparent board and are trying to really bring us together. She asked that everyone come to Open House.

Member Brady asked if there were any more statements or comments from the Board. There was not.

She said the Board will now discuss the Resolution and the proposed findings.

Addison Covert said this would be the time for the board to ask any questions about the documents and make any additional statements that they might have. Once that process is done, this would be the appropriate time if a board member would like to make a motion in support of the document and then to gain a second and then the board would vote either up or down on that motion.

Addison Covert wanted to make a quick suggestion on the County Superintendent clarifying earlier that the County Board did not exactly reject the petition; instead it was returned because it wasn't the appropriate format at that time. He suggested that the findings be approved with the modification on that one term. So, that the findings would reflect when the petition went to the County Board of Education, their petition was returned and not rejected. Member Wingo clarified if that would be only if they approved it.

Member Wingo asked Heidi Lupo a question about transportation and how students will get to and from school. She said the Charter will not provide transportation. Transportation will be the responsibility of the family. She said she is sure there might be active carpooling.

Member Wingo also asked about lunch and will that be provided. She said they are not required to provide a meal program. Member Wingo asked if the kids go up to Pinecrest and don't have a lunch, are they just out of luck. She said they would try to facilitate a meal for a child if needed, but it will not be provided at the Charter.

Member Hoffman-Brady said that no transportation and 34 students, 24 that are from Twain Harte. He said he is concerned about no transportation. Heidi Lupo said the parents that signed the petition did not seem to be concerned about lack of a bus. He said he has trouble with no bus. Heidi Lupo said there was more concern about small children taking the bus and what happens on the bus. Member Wingo said he believes that the Twain Harte bus drivers have pretty tight control of their bus. Member Wingo was concerned about what happens on busses. Heidi Lupo said she hears stories of what happens on the bus. Chantal Fowler said that her children ride the bus and get a 5 minute bus ride in the morning. She said they are on the bus in the afternoon for about an hour and she lives a mile away. She said it doesn't really matter where you live. Sometimes it's the luck of the draw and any kid could end up on the bus for a while.

Heidi Lupo said it is your choice to put your kid on the bus.

Lisa Brady asked about the SELPA piece and how will they provide Special Education Services. The Charter attorney said there will be two options for Special Education, she said they can either be deemed public school by the district where the district would receive all the money that would be deemed for charter school for its ADA students. She said the district would receive all that money and keep it and then would actually provide services for those students. The other model would be to seek membership on its own in a SELPA and receive the state and federal money on its own and then provide the services for its own students. The second option is what the Pinecrest Academy is seeking to do. The Charter has described it in a way that has been approved by school districts up and down the state and by the state board of education as well. The money comes into the Charter school and the Charter spends the money on its students as it needs to. If those costs exceed what the state and federal money brings to the Charter, then the money would come out of the Charter's general fund. She said the Charter School does not discriminate based on admission of disability. All students who wish to attend may do so, regardless of disabilities and what the range may be. She said the Charter would hire someone to provide services or contract with a provider to provide services.

Member Brady called for a vote to approve Resolution 2017-2018-04-01.

7. ACTION ITEM

7.1 RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TWAIN HARTE SCHOOL DISTRICT DENYING THE PINECREST EXPEDITION ACADEMY CHARTER PETITION AND ADOPTING WRITTEN FINDINGS OF FACT

Motion to Approve: Member Wingo

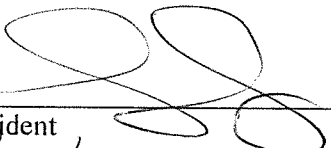
Second: Member Bailey

Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions

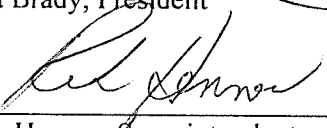
Resolution 2017-2018-04-01 was passed denying the Pinecrest Expedition Charter Academy Petition with the modification of denied being changed to returned in regard to page 10 in the Finding of Fact.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Member Brady adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.



Lisa Brady, President



Rick Hennes, Superintendent



Date

**Next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.
Twain Harte School Board Room, Twain Harte School
Agenda material may be reviewed at the District Office
22974 Twain Harte Drive
Twain Harte, CA 95383
between the hours of 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Agenda posted by Kelly Gilbertson at 11:00 a.m. on April 20, 2018 at the following locations: 2 locations at Twain Harte School, the District Office and Tuolumne County Schools Office. Agenda emailed to: the Union Democrat and Clark Broadcasting (93.5 KKBN). Notice given to each Board Member as well.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance (i.e. auxiliary aids or services) in order to participate in this public meeting, please contact the District Office at 209-586-3772 for assistance. Notification 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting will enable the staff to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this public meeting.