

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Special Meeting of the Envision Board of Directors**  
**Thursday, April 13th 2023**

*The California Governor's Executive Order Number N-29-20 has suspended some provisions in the Brown Act and allows meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic to occur entirely telephonically.*

**I. Preliminary**

A. Call to Order

- Board Chair Mark Daoust called the meeting to order at 4.30pm.

B. Roll Call

- Attendees: Mark Daoust, Rhonnel Sotelo, Kaleb Lawson, Akil Hollis, Rob Vassel, Jillian Juman, Kyle Castillo, Michelle Seijas, Bob Lenz, Shruti Sehra
- Not present: Miyesha Perry, Larry Hancock
- Others Present: Sele Nadel-Hayes, Justin Wells, Niloy Gangopadhyay, Elizabeth Raji-Greg, Monica Alatorre, Cliona Murphy, Kathi Burke

**II. Public Comments and Announcements:**

- A. Kim Davis, an OUSD parent, was the first to speak; she congratulated the amazing students and on reaching an agreement with the union partners as it is an amazing way to support your teachers in the community and she appreciates the focus on community, the location of the school, and the connections between students, families, your staff and she'd like the school to stay in the same place because of the the impact on the community. She spoke about the Franklin Elementary School community, which she described as an amazing group where there are 40 languages spoken and more than half of their students are English learners and almost a quarter of them receive special education services. This diverse community is not just working in regular classrooms but also in other spaces where students are given individualized attention. McClymonds High School is another example of that, where they have students that have experienced incredible trauma and need space so they can feel part of the community and gain strength from those relationships they are able to make in the smaller group setting. Kim knows that Envision is negotiating for the lease but wants Envision to be aware of and understand the impact that Envision's co-location would have at the Franklin school site. Her hope is that Envision finds another space that is not an OUSD space or at least not none of those that have been talked about.
- B. Member of the public Shona Armstrong spoke next; she is another another OUSD parent and she has worked for years to build a community at Claremont Middle School and that it was a school where people were leaving to go to charter schools and private schools for years but through the work done in the public school system, they were able to build a really strong community and she begged of Envision not to co-locate in OUSD schools as it cannibalizes the communities that are working so hard to build up. Their mission is similar to Envision while also accepting all of the students who have no parents, students who have no resources or ability to access even charter schools. I hope that Envision won't have to co-locate or sue OUSD because community is so important and the public schools serve everybody.

**III. Closed Session - started at 4.41pm**

**Conference with Real Property Negotiations (Gov Code section 54954.5, subdivision (b) and 54956.8)**

**Property:** 1515 Webster Street, Oakland CA 94160

**Agency Negotiator:** Sele Nadel-Hayes

**Negotiations with:** Colliers-Global Commercial Real Estate

**Conference with Labor Negotiator (G.C. 54957.6)**

Agency Designated Representative: Jillian Juman

Employee Organization: Envision United CTA/NEA

**IV. Return from closed session - 5.32pm**

**V. Public comments, agenda and non-agenda items**

- A. Elizabeth Pauw, a speech therapist at Franklin Elementary School, was attending on behalf of the school, as well as concerns for district students.
- B. Kim Davis commented again that co-locating at a school like Franklin for instance, where there is such tremendous need and that on paper OUSD gives the impression that they've got scads of space available but in fact those are spaces that are used not in traditional classroom ways but in other ways to serve the very diverse language acquirers that they educate as well as students with disabilities. Kim hopes that Envision can find a private facility with which to co-locate.
- C. Assata Olugbala, a member of the Oakland community, commented that she's concerned about Proposition 39 requests for space within OUSD. Assata objected to the spaces recommended to Envision like McClymonds and using the elementary space for high school students. McClymonds is struggling to stay viable and to get certain things in place and it is not an appropriate place for Envision to co-locate. Alameda County should find Envision a space, not OUSD. She also commented that there should be more parents at these meetings

**VI. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approve the Board Minutes - [Special Board meeting Minutes 1.31.23](#)
  - Motion: Michelle Seijas
  - Second: Kyle Castillo
  - Approved by voice vote: Yes 10 No 0

**VII. Break - 5 minute break; resuming at 5.40pm**

**VIII. Introducing Niloy Gangopadhyay, Chief of Staff**

Niloy introduced himself to the group

**IX. Discussion - Leaning into Community: Sharing Collective Stories**

- A. Board members Shruti Sehra and Kyle Castillo and Superintendent Elizabeth Raji-Greig shared their collective stories around how they each became involved in education and specifically Envision Education.

**X. Updates**

- A. [ELP](#): Justin Wells, Chief Program Officer, gave an update on ELP and spoke about the process in getting an Executive Director for ELP. There is a search firm who is involved with recruitment, and finding the right person for the role. He reported that ELP

received a grant from Oak Foundation that covered four years for nearly \$1m. Justin closed out with a quick summary about the upcoming ELP strategic plan with the draft coming out soon.

- B. [Development](#): Monica Alatorre, Director, Development & Communications relayed that there were two current campaigns underway to raise funds, the Stand Up for Students event on Thursday, April 27th, being hosted by various board members in person as well as a virtual event and the Capital Campaign which is being led by Bob Lentz. The great news about the Capital Campaign was that The Rogers Foundation had already given a gift of \$250k.
- C. [Schools](#) - Elizabeth Raji-Greig, Superintendent, reported that there were four elements to concentrate on - enrollment, strategic planning for next year, reprioritizing school site leadership, and talent. Enrollment numbers and re-enrollment numbers are up at the schools but Oakland still needs a bit of work.
- D. [LCAP](#) - Justin went over the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), which covers the goals and implementation plan for the schools' Local Control Funding Formula (LCCF) funding from the state. He mentioned that this is the third and final year of a 3-year LCAP plan cycle. There will be an entirely new LCAP for the 2024-25 school year. The four goals for this last year include increasing the number of students ready for college level coursework, developing a community-centered and anti-racist culture, providing an emotionally and physically safe learning environment, and increasing services and support for all subgroups including English learners, students with IEPs and 504s, and students who qualify for free and reduced lunch services.
- E. [Spring Strategy Planning with Deloitte](#) - Niloy Gangopadhyay, Chief of Staff, started his presentation with an acknowledgement and appreciation for Envision Academy (EA) as the Oakland based nonprofit, Families in Action, will recognize EA for their impressive work of ensuring 100% of its 2022 graduates were eligible to apply for UC/CSU based on A-G completion rate on Thursday, 4/27. Niloy mentioned that EA is one of two Oakland high schools that had every Black, Latinx, and special education graduate complete their A-G requirements. He then transitioned to cover the work that Envision will do with the Monitor Institute (Deloitte) in the coming months. Niloy went over the work that Deloitte will lead which will ultimately define an overall strategy for the organization, specifically anchored on a north star that centers amplifying deeper learning experiences and outcomes for every student- especially those who have been historically under served as a result of inequities in our school systems. He mentioned that this work will help ELP and the org as a whole get to reaching one million students. Jillian made an ask for board members who are interested in serving on the working group to let her know. Jillian also recognized Shruti for her support in securing this work with Deloitte and Shruti mentioned that many of the organizations that New Profit supports have been through a strategic planning process with Deloitte and it has been extremely helpful.
- F. Governance - Rhonnel Sotelo thanked Kyle Castillo for joining the committee and reported that Governance will be working on recruitment and that the CEO Evaluation is no longer the responsibility of Governance but the purview of the Executive Committee but Governance will run the annual board self-assessment.
- G. [Finance](#) - Sele Nadal-Hayes, Chief Operating Officer, reported that there was nothing unusual in Envision's finances, and that the variances are not unusual. The balance sheet shows \$12.2 million in assets, with \$4.2 million in cash.

## **XI. Collective Bargaining Agreement**

- A. Approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement
  - Motion: Kaleb LawsonSecond: Akil Hollis
  - Approved by voice vote: Yes 10 No 0

**XII. Adjournment - Board chair** Mark Daoust adjourned the meeting at **6.57pm**