

LLESD 11/6/24 board meeting summary

In brief:

Teachers and parents have been analyzing the public records (contracts, warrant registers, cc statements) - Lots of concerns were raised about financial mismanagement and misuse by Dr Polito.

Calls for Beth Polito early departure were made.

The board took no action.

The board will conduct the audit internally - this is a clear conflict of interest!!!!

Jason voted against the settlement (it was a 4/1 vote). He is on the finance oversight committee and was supposed to manage the budget, with a laser focus on the “big buckets” = salaries...how did it get to this under his watch?

We must demand a community/public finance oversight committee to be part of the audit. There is no way this audit will be objective otherwise!

Recording Part 1

Agenda item 4. Public comments before closed session - 12 comments, 1 on superintendent search and 11 asking that Beth leaves the district now - listen in from timestamp 3:00-till the end

Timestamp 23:30 - Craig Reid calls also for the resignation of Heather Hopkins

Recording Part 2

Meeting was called back to order at 7:31 pm - 31 minutes late. Beth Polito and Mei Chen left abruptly before the meeting started.

Agenda item 9. Timestamp 0:44 - Heather “ In closed session, the board did not take action. But we did discuss the superintendent evaluation and the timing of Dr Polito’s retirement”

Agenda item 12. Public comments before open session - 20 comments asking that Beth leaves the district now - timestamp: 10:21 - 49:25

Agenda item 15a. Public disclosure of tentative settlement agreement - listen to Jason’s comment timestamp 2:13:42!!

Agenda item 15c. Third-party audit of credit card expenses and fiscal oversight - timestamp: 2:47:50

In brief, the board suggests doing this “internally” to “reduce costs” - this is HUGE CONFLICT OF INTEREST. The 2 board members who would lead the audit are Jason and Gautam (the 2 members on the board oversight committee)...they were the ones watching the budget with Beth and Mei. There is no way this “audit” would be objective. The audit needs to be thorough, asking Beth Polito for all the receipts and authorizations. Teachers and parents have spent days and more sifting through public records, warrant registers and cc statements - the right thing to do is allow for the community/public committee to be created and leverage the work and expertise from the community!!