

REEF-SUNSET UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEE SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2023 – 4:30 P.M.

A special meeting of the Reef-Sunset Unified School District Board of Trustees was held on this date in the District Board/Staff Development Room located at 205 N. Park Ave., Avenal, CA 93204 and live streamed via the district website.

Ms. Padilla, Board President called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. and led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lisette Padilla, President

Lilia Rizo, Clerk

Lupe Chavez

Claudia Cazares

Precilla Barrera-Lopez

PUBLIC COMMENT: An AES employee/parent shared an incident about her son while playing AHS sports; his injury and how it was important to follow protocol. She spoke on behalf of Mr. Vallem and asked the Board to give him a second opportunity. A community member read a letter from the City's Pro-Tem in which he expressed his support of Mr. Vallem and how the City had recognized him with an exemplary community member award. The community member then reported on the CIF championships obtained while under Coach Vallem and how he is a great mentor. A parent expressed he was hopeful the Board would vote in favor of Coach Vallem as he has done positive things not only for his son but for the other students as well. An AHS senior student expressed that the soccer team was attending the meeting instead of attending their soccer game as they were in support of Coach Vallem. An attendee thanked those who attended in support of Coach Vallem and expressed her discontent with the district for scheduling the meeting this day as it was the soccer boys senior night. Finally, a community member asked the Board if they had received or read her emails in support of Coach Vallem.

OPEN SESSION / COMPLAINT AGAINST EMPLOYEE (Government Code §54957 (b)(1)):

Mr. Vallem was given the opportunity to speak. He asked the Board as to why he was removed from coaching. He stated that the HR Director had handed him a letter stating that his services were no longer needed but with no further explanation. He expressed that his character and reputation had been tainted. He gave a brief explanation of the injured athlete and how he handled the situation. He then provided the Board with a copy of his concussion training certificate. The Board then asked questions of Mr. Vallem. There being no further comments by Mr. Vallem, the Board reconvened to closed session.

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACTION:

The Board announced that based upon substantial evidence that the complaint is valid, the Board ratified the actions that were taken by the Superintendent and administration on this matter.

Motion by Padilla seconded by Chavez and adopted unanimously. Ms. Padilla then translated the announcement in Spanish.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Secretary to the Board

Date