Date & Time                     January 27, 2014, 5:00 p.m.
Meeting Place                  District Office
                                 11645 Ridge Road
                                 Grass Valley, CA. 95945

A.  CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be brought to order by the Board President Schwarz at 5:00 p.m.

B.  ROLL CALL

The Board President called the roll of members present:

Katy Schwarz, President: Present
Richard Baker, Vice President: Present
Wayne Klauer, Clerk: Present
Jim Adams, Trustee: Absent
Georgie Coulter, Trustee: Absent

ADMIN PRESENT
Johnson, Dellis, Suenram

C.  APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. On a motion by Baker, seconded by Klauer, the Board voted to approve the agenda items (3-0).

Adams and Coulter entered the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

The SAEL Board meeting was called to order and roll was taken.

D.  DISCUSSION

1. Update from the Sierra Academy of Expeditionary Learning Charter School
SAEL Board President Alex Ezzell distributed a quarterly report to the NJUHSD Board and reviewed the document which included information on funding, staffing, facilities, enrollment and staff development. He also distributed a Charter School Work Plan/Activities document to the board members.

Mr. Ezzell explained that he, Trustee Adam Krusi-Thom and SAEL Principal Crane attended the CSBA trainings this past weekend for new board members, the board president training and the Brown Act training. Additionally the charter has received the first installment of the PCSGP planning year funds of $202,500. The 10% balance will be processed upon completion of their reporting requirements.

He introduced the new SAEL principal, Erica Crane, and their new office manager, Lisa Lehr. Ms. Crane has experience with expeditionary learning, most recently from the Tahoe Expeditionary Academy in Lake Tahoe. She has also worked as a School Designer with the national organization. Three of their four teaching positions have been filled.
The charter has submitted a Proposition 39 request for facilities to the District and is awaiting the District's response. With regard to enrollment Ms. Crane is scheduling site visits to middle schools and they are hosting community meetings on a bi-monthly basis.

NJUHSD Board President Schwarz is the SAEL representative and attends the SAEL meetings, including closed session. The SAEL Board would also like to collaborate with the NJUHSD Board on policies and procedures.

The NJUHSD Board and superintendent asked a few clarifying questions:

*Supt. Johnson: You will not be WASC accredited when you open. Plans? Martinez stated they plan to get the accreditation in a timely manner.

*Supt. Johnson: UC approvals? Martinez noted they will need to work on that process also. Ezzell stated that EL schools have a model that encourages all students to go to college, so UC a-g will not be a problem.

*Asst. Supt. Suenram: Your charter says our Board will approve any contracts over $25K and when personnel hired. Ezzell noted it states they will inform the NJUHSD Board, not be ratified by the Board. Suenram clarified the NJUHSD would accept not approve, but her recollection was that the personnel items had gone to the NJUHSD Board in the past. Ezzell stated we need to be clear on what “approved” means. Suenram stated that the District does not approve the SAEL expenditures, the District approves the “process.”

*Trustee Coulter: How do you establish board members? By public vote? Ezzell stated it is by appointment. The founding board started the school, but once it opens some will be phased out and others in.

Discussion ensued on the joint workshop and the NJUHSD agenda language referencing an “update” from SAEL. Mr. Ezzell thought the meeting would be a joint workshop, not just an update from SAEL, but did not receive a response from the District so it was not clear that all their board members needed to be present. It was not until today that he received a response from the District that the meeting would be a one hour workshop. Supt. Johnson stated it was always the District's intention to have a workshop. However, she did not feel she had clarity from SAEL. Dr. Johnson noted she had not seen a SAEL agenda prior to the meeting. As five SAEL board members were missing at the meeting, Trustee Adams suggested the boards hold a workshop at a later date so all members could be present. Ezzell asked to develop the agenda collaboratively. Johnson stated to be sure to communicate with Administrative Assistant Pencik on the agenda. After some discussion it was agreed the joint meeting would be held at 5 p.m. on the night of the next regularly scheduled NJUHSD board meeting on February 12, 2014 at BRHS.

Johnson communicated that she has spoken with the SAEL administration about vision and the future of the charter, noting that NJUHSD is currently building a budget on declining enrollment. Ezzell stated he has been a teaching at GV Charter and their enrollment has increased from 170 at the beginning to the 500 students currently enrolled. He noted our community demands choice. He explained that their original charter request had been to be a dependent charter. While there have been ups and downs along the way they are still willing to talk about their status in the district. Baker noted that SAEL has already hired its principal and teachers (with no collective bargaining unit), could it work as a dependent charter in our district? Martinez explained that GV Charter is in the same situation and it does work. Suenram explained that SAEL had to be an independent charter in order to get the grant funding, which is why they changed course in the beginning. Baker asked if it was "appropriate" to be an independent charter just to get the grant funding and now change to a
dependent charter. Martinez noted they may have to maintain governance “independence” but the spirit can be something more collaborative.

E. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Personnel
On a motion by Adams, seconded by Klauer, the Board voted to approve the revised letter of retirement from Kim Groneck, District Senior Payroll Technician, effective June 20, 2014 (5-0).

2. Resolution #10-13/14

Trustee Klauer requested information on how many employees would be laid off if this option was not offered. Assistant Suenram stated that had not been defined yet by administration as they are waiting to see how many employees take advantage of the incentive. She stated that there are some long-term employees who by retiring will generate a savings for the district even with replacements hired. Her best guess is that 4-5 FTE would have to be reduced if the incentive were not offered.

On a motion by Coulter, seconded by Baker, the Board voted to approve Resolution #10-13/14, authorizing the PARS Supplementary Retirement Plan by roll call vote:
Ayes- Schwarz, Coulter, Baker, Klauer, Adams
Noes - 0
MOTION PASSED 5-0

3. PARS Agreement

Trustee Baker asked for the length of the agreement and if the monies would be held in an account (like an escrow account). Suenram responded the term is five years with payments made over that period. She also stated the District could put the funds in the special reserve fund. Trustee Klauer asked if the District could establish these annuities in-house without paying a company to set them up and if the District could be held liable if the insurance company funding the annuities went bankrupt. Suenram responded her office does not have the manpower or expertise to facilitate the purchase the annuities and explained that the District will have no liability if something happened, such as bankruptcy, to the company issuing the annuities.

On a motion by Adams, seconded by Coulter, the Board voted to approve the agreement between Phase II Systems, dba Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS), and the Nevada Joint Union High School District for administrative services related to implementing the PARS Supplementary Retirement Plan (5-0).

F. PUBLIC HEARING

Public Disclosure of Collective Bargaining Agreement with the California School Employees Association, Chapter 165

1. CSEA Tentative Agreement
On a motion by Adams, seconded by Coulter, the Board voted to approve the tentative agreement with the California School Employees Association, Chapter 165, dated January 8, 2014, including a 1.25% lump sum payment, a revised classified salary schedule, and a supplementary retirement plan for the 2013/14 school year only (5-0).

G. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS
None.
H. CLOSED SESSION

The Board convened to closed session at 6:31 p.m. and reconvened at 7:28 p.m. There was not mandatory reporting as a result of the session.

I. ADJOURNMENT

1. On a motion by Coulter, seconded by Baker, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. (5-0).

D. Pencik
Administrative Assistant

[Signature]
Secretary, Governing Board

[Signature]
President, Governing Board