

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2015**

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: Caroline Van Alst, William Ziegler, Thomas Newmeyer, Joshua Barrow, Ida Times

Superintendent: Steve Van Zant

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board and Superintendent convened closed session at 5:01 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Open session reconvened at 6:15 p.m.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Trustee Van Alst announced that no action was taken in closed session.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Barrow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ORDER

The agenda order was approved.

Organizational Meeting was called to order at 5:16 p.m.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Board President

Trustee Newmeyer said that it has been our practice to have two-year rotations for board positions and this has worked well. He commended trustee Van Alst for the thorough job she has done as president for the past year. Trustee Ziegler said that continuity is an important factor. He added, there is a lot to learn and trustee Van Alst has learned the lessons very quickly.

Ziegler/Newmeyer/All to elect Caroline Van Alst as board president

Board Vice President

Times/Newmeyer/All to elect Joshua Barrow as board vice president

Board Clerk

Times/Ziegler/All to elect Thomas Newmeyer as board clerk

Board Secretary

Ziegler/Newmeyer/All to appoint Superintendent Van Zant as board secretary

Trustee Barrow has agreed to continue as the district's representative to the Marin County School Board Association.

Designation of Governing Board Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2016

Ziegler/Newmeyer/All to approve the Governing Board Meeting Dates for 2016 with the notation that the meeting in November will take place on November 8th, 2016 and not November 18th as previously published in the board packet.

Newmeyer/Times/All to adjourn the Organizational Meeting at 6:19 p.m.

The regular board meeting reconvened at 6:20 p.m.

The Board elected to remove item 8.01, Superintendent's contract, from the agenda.

Van Alst/Newmeyer/All to remove Superintendent's contract from the agenda.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Trustee Barrow said he recently spent some time with Vice Principal Dr. Thornton to get a sense of the academic and social environment at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy. He also went to the Hannah Project meeting on education which was very well attended by educators and parents. There were presentations from Principal Newton on academic performance data as well as from Hannah Project and Tam district staff. Guest speakers spoke on the State mandated Local Control Funding Formula and what its implementation means for community involvement, as well as early childhood education, parental involvement, and effective educational institutions.

Trustee Times, who also attended, said it was a good turnout and people were there because they care about the quality of education in their community.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Alan Rothkop, the director of maintenance and operations, said there was a leak in the K-pod bathroom. We have rebuilt the toilets but the leak remains. The next step is to take apart a portion of the wall. We hope to find the source at that point, he told the board.

We should be getting a report on the sewer leak at base of Robin's Nest pre-school at 630 Nevada in the near future. We will forward it to the City of Sausalito.

We should have a list of our property at old district office by next week. Trustee Newmeyer thanked Mr. Rothkop for fixing the old bathrooms at Willow Creek Academy.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Van Zant thanked Principal Newton and Vice Principal Thornton for their work. Policies and procedures are in place and the campus is running smoothly, he said.

At 6:40 p.m., Trustee Van Alst announced that Mayor Jill Hoffman, the newly elected mayor of Sausalito had joined the board meeting.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Jonnette Newton handed out information on the assessments being done at k-5 level. She said that the key to student readiness is self regulation. Our students need to come in with some degree of impulse control to get to the level of academic readiness that they need when they leave kindergarten. When our Pre K-3 Initiative began in 2010, 6% of our pre-schoolers had good impulse control. In 2014, that number had gone up to 39%, and 22% of the students were able to negotiate with their peers. We are working with Head Start and the

Learning Center to align our curriculum and ensure that the younger children are well prepared to learn when they enter Kindergarten. For 2015, the Initiative has moved to an assessment which will measure the students at the beginning as well as the end of the year.

Turning to reading and math data for the first and second grades as well as the combined 3rd/4th grades class, she said that we still have a few students who are performing below grade level. Trustee Ziegler pointed out that in the combined 3rd/4th class, fully half the class seems to be performing below grade level. Principal Newton agreed that more needs to be done. We have intervention, where students are placed in smaller groups, but it will take more funds and special programs to do more, she told the board.

Trustee Van Alst asked when the next assessment will take place. Principal Newton said the next round is slated for March. Librarian Fran Nelson pointed out that in the accelerated reader program, some teachers are not allowing the children to read a book that is not assigned to their exact level. Even if a book is labeled “easy”, a student can learn from it and enjoy the reading experience, she said.

The executive director of the Hannah Project, Betty Hodges, asked about plans to implement the Marin City Reads program. She also asked about the specifics of the district’s plan to improve the students’ reading skills. Does the board have targets that it is monitoring over the next year or two, so that we can all become aware of our goals, she asked. Principal Newton said that she is working with the Superintendent to go beyond current assessment tools and that the Marin City Reads program will probably be included in her plans.

Trustee Barrow said that the format of the Kindergarten Observation Form (KOF) is useful because it shows results for multiple years. We should also show cohorts of students over time with and without special education and English learners so that we can really understand what is happening, he said. Trustee Van Alst suggested that the education committee meet to discuss these issues.

Ms. Hodges asked if it would be possible to look at how Marin City students are performing at Willow Creek Academy vs. Bayside/MLK. Trustee Barrow concurred that the Marin City community has asked for more data about the performance of our students. This is the direction we should take, he said. Trustee Van Alst said that there are likely common challenges at both schools

The next professional development day for our teachers will focus on school culture and climate. We will have a speaker who will talk about resilience and cultural proficiency, as well as building relationships with our kids.

Trustee Ziegler thanked Principal Newton for the objective data on student performance.

WCA REPORT

Head of School Royce Conner thanked Alan Rothkop for working hard on the WCA facilities. He said: I also attended the Hannah Project meeting and appreciated it very much. We will have our interim budget at the next meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Gail Henrickson, a community member, gave notes on the Hannah Project meeting to the board. She said that at Tam High School, 78% of all students read at the proficient level, while the specific number for African American students is 12%. At the middle school level, students at Mill Valley schools are 90% proficient; for Bayside/MLK,

the number is 42%. She asked, if teachers and students are evaluated based on this data, should the superintendent also be subject to the same criteria.

Community member Mary Demund said that it would be useful to see the Superintendent's contract.

CONSENT AGENDA

Roll Call/Newmeyer/Ziegler/5 Ayes, 0 Nos, to approve the following consent agenda items:

Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Special Board Meeting

Payment of Warrants – Batches 20-24

2015-2016 First Interim Budget Report

Chief Business Official Paula Rigney gave a Power Point presentation on the budget. The first interim report reflects all changes to the budget since its adoption in June. Our total revenues are up by about \$280,000. This includes a carryover of \$142K in mandated allocations, as well as a one-time \$95K restricted allocation which must be spent in the current year. It is possible to use some of these funds to reduce expenditures in unrestricted categories and thus lower our overall budget deficit of \$60K, but it is important to be mindful that one-time allocations cannot be counted on to free up funds for ongoing expenditures.

Our special education expenditures remain high at \$1.6 million and represent a 22% encroachment into our unrestricted funds. This year, we have set up a new Special Day class and hired a teacher as well as an aide, so that we can continue to reduce the number of students who must be placed in non-public schools at great expense to the district. Other expenses include salaries at 57% of the budget, operational costs at 22% and supplies at 4%.

Trustee Barrow asked if the board could get a one or two-page summary of district goals with the budget. Trustee Van Alst said that the finance committee could come up with a format. Trustee Newmeyer suggested that district personnel work with the finance committee on the goals and have the main points highlighted in the minutes.

Barrow/Newmeyer/All to approve the 2015-2016 First Interim Budget Report

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The following policies were brought to the board for a first read:

Board Policy 200 - Philosophy, Goals, Objectives and Comprehensive Plans – Goals for the School District

Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 3260 – Fees and Charges

Board Policy 3280 – Sale or Lease of District–Owned Real Property

Administrative Regulation 3460 - Business and Noninstructional Operations - Financial Reports and Accountability

Board Policy 3513.3 – Tobacco Free Schools

Administrative Regulation 4117.14– Post-Retirement Employment

ADJOURNMENT

Ziegler/Barrow/All to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Tom Noy 1/12/16

Signature/Date

Clerk

Title