

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SAUSALITO, CALIFORNIA**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

June 8, 2010

**OPEN SESSION: 7:04 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Mark Trotter, President**

**Karen Benjamin**

**Thomas Newmeyer**

**Shirley Thornton**

**William Ziegler**

**Debra A. Bradley, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board**

Others Present: Margaret Bonardi, Fran Nelson, Paula Harmon, Susan Cassidy, Katie Beckman, Edgar Furlong, Megan Bolduc, Natasha Griffin, and Beth Catcher taking minutes.

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**OPEN SESSION**

Open session was reconvened at 7:04 p.m.

Vice president Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Ziegler moved to approve agenda order; Dr. Thornton seconded.

**PERSONS ADDRESSING THE BOARD**

Mrs. Fran Nelson: Expressed thanks to the board; five or six years ago she expressed great concern for the creation of the library at MLK. We have a lovely library now where there was no plan for such prior. Thank you for making that happen. 352 check outs in the last few months and almost all of have been returned. We also have computers, having those has been wonderful. Bayside has had a good year too; we have had over 3000 check outs. I would like to see Willow Creek using the space more; I am hoping they utilize it. We have 8000 to 9000 volumes in it.

Mrs. Susan Cassidy: Commented on behalf of the staff regarding next school year and reduction in staffing.

Ms. Natasha Griffin: Addressed the Board to ask they rethink their decision regarding transportation to and from field trips. We are only using the district bus which is not enough in her eyes.

**OPEN SESSION**

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Order

**ADDRESS BOARD**

**RECOGNITION**

**Marin County Office of Education Golden Bell Awards – District Outstanding Teacher and Community Partner of the Year.**

Board recognized and presented certificates to:

Ms. Jennifer Banks – Kindergarten Teacher, Bayside Elementary School

Ms. Katie Beckman – Science Teacher, Willow Creek Academy

Rotary Club of Sausalito presented to Dr. Shirley Thornton and Mr. Mark Trotter, both Rotarians

**Merit Pay Recipients 2009/2010**

Board recognized and presented certificates to:

Ms. Jennifer Banks – Kindergarten Teacher

Ms. Paula Hammons – Fourth Grade Teacher

Ms. Carmen Rivera – English Language Arts/Social Studies

**DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**Excellence Award**

Discussion regarding awarding performance based bonus in the amount of \$5,000 to teachers who provide express excellence in their service and jobs. Award will come from the District's discretionary fund.

M/s/c Thornton/Newmeyer  
All in Favor

**BUDGET**

District Preliminary Unrestricted General Fund Budget for the 2010-2011 School Year presented by Margie Bonardi and reviewed by board.

Willow Creek Academy presented their preliminary budget for the 2010-2011 school year presented by and reviewed by board.

**BOND**

Superintendent presents quote from CA Architects to repair road near cornerstone building, estimated cost \$25,200.

M/s/c Trotter/ Ziegler  
All in favor

**RECOGNITION**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**Excellence Award**

**BUDGET**

District Budget

Willow Creek Academy Budget

**BOND**

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M/s/c //all to adjourn at 7:56 pm

Clerk Karen Benjamin Date 6-24-10

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

**FUTURE 2010 BOARD MEETING DATES**

June 24  
July 22  
August 12  
August 26  
September 9  
September 23  
October 14  
October 28  
November 18  
December 7

**FUTURE 2010  
BOARD MEETING  
DATES**

**UPCOMING EVENTS/IMPORTANT DATES**

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS/IMPORTANT  
DATES**

**FUTURE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES**

**FUTURE CHARTER  
SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING DATES**

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SAUSALITO, CALIFORNIA**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
STUDY SESSION  
MINUTES**

June 8, 2010

**STUDY SESSION: 6:01 PM  
OPEN SESSION: 7:04 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Mark Trotter, President**

**Karen Benjamin**

**Thomas Newmeyer**

**Shirley Thornton**

**William Ziegler**

**Debra A. Bradley, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board**

Others Present: Margaret Bonardi and Beth Catcher taking minutes.

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President, Mark Trotter, called the meeting of the Sausalito Marin City School District Board of Trustees to order at 6:01 PM.

**Call to Order**

**STUDY SESSION  
DISCUSSION OF DISTRICT VISION STATEMENT**

**STUDY SESSION  
VISION STATEMENT**

**VISION STATEMENT:**

**"ALL STUDENTS ARE ACADEMICALLY AND SOCIALLY  
PREPARED TO COMPETE AND BE SUCCESSFUL AT EACH  
GRADE LEVEL"**

The Board of Trustees will discuss items of interest in the expansion of the Vision Statement.

- Parent Participation
- After-School Programs
- Facilities
- Sports Programs
- Non-Profit Partners
- Campus Appearance
- Working Relationship with Organized Labor
- Alternate Sources of Revenue

Mr. Ziegler: Last year's vision statement primarily revolved around students, this year seems to be about the district. All the things in the district are for the students but last year seems more direct in my opinion.

**DISCUSSION**

Mr. Trotter: I think of this session as an exercise of identifying our vision as a district and ascertaining how we get there.

Mr. Newmeyer: I am glad parent participation is at the top of the list, it is critical.

Mr. Ziegler: All the items on this agenda are important, let's try to give adequate time to each if not in this session, in others.

Mr. Trotter: Let's visit each subject and decide how we allocate resources and how to address each issue.

**Parent Participation:**

Dr. Thornton: Parent participation can be a point of winning over the parents. Do we have programs in which teachers, members of the district visit the families encourage participation and foster a good relationship with the school and faculty? Do we visit at the beginning of the year, review records and partner with the parent? We may not have done this before but we could implement a program.

Mr. Trotter: Do we have funds for this type of work?

Dr. Bradley: We have funds in two forms; there is money and human capital to do this if we move forward with it.

Ms. Benjamin: There are teachers that do this now without being paid.

Mr. Ziegler: We don't have the participation we would like perhaps due to lack of trust. We have to earn their participation as we earn trust. We have to set up exciting and interesting programs. We should create a school and activities in which parents want to participate. Getting parents involvement is critical. We have to have communication that will bridge gaps. It may not only be the teacher's job, but our job as a Board in what we create and implement. We as the Board need to do it.

Mr. Trotter: We need to capitalize on the good will we have created over the past few years and encourage participation and set expectations. The parents have to know what we expect of them.

Ms. Benjamin: We have programs in our school [SFUSD] in which we work with the parents, we have activities, support services, prepare lunches, they meet with the Principal, we have family walks to school, it's a large event and we also provide food from a food bank for families that are on limited incomes. We provide food once a month to those families. It's working OK. We have many people on staff to support these programs. We are doing all this yet we have the lowest scores in the district, we are being closed soon and taken over.

Dr. Thornton: We need to work more closely with parents, family and community including respective churches and religious/spiritual congregations.

**PARENT  
PARTICIPATION**

**DISCUSSION**

Mr. Trotter: Let's talk about resources. How do we as a Board want to handle this?

Dr. Bradley: We have seen an increase in parent participation over the years; Kindergarten Step Up was successful today. We are and have made progress. We are going to look at more family events next year as a component of various grants.

**PARENT  
PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Newmeyer: How is school site council participation?

**CONTINUED  
DISCUSSION**

Dr. Bradley: It is currently low in number.

Mr. Trotter: We need our parents to support from the home, they need to promote and help us promote and support college bound children. There are different levels of participation and support.

Mr. Trotter: I like the idea of a policy put in place to reinforce our ideas and commitments.

Dr. Thornton: I like the idea of creating and implementing a policy also.

Mr. Ziegler: Let's identify what kind of participation we want from parents. Identify what we expect specifically, and what we want to communicate to the parents. What are the parent's responsibilities?

Mr. Trotter: We need to get the message of our expectations out to the parents. Can we have our parents sign a contract? Should we create a contract for parents to sign that outlines what we expect from them? Set our expectations such as homework, bedtime, attendance, nutrition, etc. Possibly start off with a back to school night in which we all attend and communicate our message. Just sending a note home will not suffice. We have to communicate and re-communicate it. Create a day for the teacher's to have parent contact.

Dr. Bradley: Presents a copy of a current Parent Compact contract that is included in student packets. Contract of students, parents and staff expectations discussed.

Dr. Bradley: We include this "contract" with the opening day packet. We can amend and represent it to parents at Back To School night.

Dr. Thornton: The message has to penetrate the community. It's also marketing, we need to market to the community, parents and students.

Mr. Ziegler: Remarks about the contract presented; this is a to-do list. They must buy into what is going on. We need to motivate them. We may need a larger message than a to-do list.

Mr. Trotter: Maybe we need to launch a campaign? Flyers, posters, mailing, etc.

Ms. Benjamin: Through the Omega Group, which is a college bound program, we have done much of this and more. They state their goals to the class, there are recognition ceremonies, etc. I am hopeful.

**PARENT  
PARTICIPATION**

SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
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What I know is that our students needed everything we did, regardless of the school closing, they needed everything we did and it was successful in that right. The parents were involved. But, our school is still closing

**CONTINUED  
DISCUSSION**

Mr. Ziegler: We may need a different model.

Dr. Thornton: What about a morning ritual in class. That might be good for students and teachers alike. Let's get an assessment of what is going on in the schools and then decide how to approach it.

Mr. Trotter: We have these kids for nine years. We have nine years to make a difference.

Mr. Newmeyer: We need examples from the community. Examples of people from the community that have succeeded. Success stories. Speakers, people from the community that have gone on to make accomplishments.

Mr. Trotter: We have until late August when school is back in session to develop a message and a plan of action. Do you want to have the Principal's in our next session? Let's get input from staff. Each of us please gather input from five people before our next session.

Mr. Ziegler: The principals should give us a list of five questions so we are all asking the same questions.

Dr. Bradley: I hope to get that together by next Tuesday as a result for our faculty retreat.

Study session ended at 6:58 PM.