

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 19, 2012**

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Thomas Newmeyer, William Ziegler, Shirley Thornton, Ed. D.,
Karen Benjamin and Mark Trotter
Superintendent: Valerie Pitts, Ed. D.

President Thomas Newmeyer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

M/s/c Benjamin/Thornton/all to approve the agenda order

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD PRIOR TO CLOSED SESSION

There was no public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board and Superintendent convened closed session at 6:01 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

Open session reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

Report Out from Closed Session

President Newmeyer announced that there was no reportable action taken in closed session.

Pledge of Allegiance

Trustee Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD PRIOR TO OPEN SESSION

There was no public comment.

REPORTS

Trustee Reports

Trustee Newmeyer reported his attendance at meetings with the A Team, headed up by Stephen Chang of the National Equity Project.

Trustee Newmeyer reported that the Marin City Community Services District (CSD) has been awarded a \$5 million dollar state grant to rebuild a park in Marin City, George 'Rocky' Graham Park. CSD anticipates an additional \$5 million dollar grant for Marin City medical center improvements and another to build a gymnasium in Marin City.

Superintendent's Report

Sausalito Police Department

Chief of Police Jennifer Tejada and Officer Don Bartol addressed the board on their relationship with Bayside Elementary School:

- They have the utmost respect for teachers.
- They make campus visits and want to build relationships and provide support.
- Character Education is a weekly activity with the fourth grade class.
- Officer Bartol works with Assistant Principal, Tenisha Tate, on early intervention in disciplinary areas.
- Their goal is to make children feel safe in their community, to teach them that the police are there to help, and that everyone working together improves the community.
- Chief Tejada and her staff want to be partners and good neighbors.
- The police department has limited funds to provide support to schools.
- The board was asked to endorse/support the Sausalito Police Department to move forward in seeking funding to provide a school resource officer to support school staff.
- Chief Tejada estimated the cost of a half time resource officer at \$75,000 to \$80,000.

President Newmeyer requested that a formal endorsement by the Board of Trustees be agendaized at a future board meeting.

Principal's Report

Principal Jonnette Newton reported that:

- Four sixth grade students who entered a recycling project poster contest won \$50 each.
- Both schools are preparing for testing; students are learning what proficiency means.
- Bayside teachers are reviewing Language Arts series for the adoption of new text books for next year.
- Students in fourth and fifth grade will attend Mosaic Camp in the spring.
- Administrative staff is working with extended learning partners and the superintendent to identify programs to support student needs during the summer months.
- The new washer/dryer is much appreciated; thank you!

MLK Benchmark Three Summary Report

Assistant Principal, Sandie Spoering, reviewed the third Study Island benchmark assessment scores which indicate a marked improvement in English Language Arts and a small improvement in Math across all grade levels at MLK. Study Island is an assessment tool being piloted at district schools. The fourth benchmark is scheduled in May.

WCA Head of School's Report

Head of School Carol Cooper provided dates of upcoming events:

- May 1-15 WCA STAR Testing
- April 21 Earth Day; planting as part of creek restoration project; Bridgeway and Nevada
- April 24 Bayside and WCA student art exhibition reception, 5:30 – 8:00 pm, Hannah Project Gallery, 170 Donahue Street
- April 24-May 2 Bayside and WCA student art exhibition
- April 25 Track & Field Day at TAM (Regionals)
- May 3: Eighth grade production of Macbeth in courtyard, 5:00 pm.

Entire board packet on www.sausalitomarincityschools.org under School Board

FINANCE

2012/2013 District Budget Development

Business Manager Paula Rigney gave a Power Point presentation, titled 2012/2013 Budget Development, which included information on:

- Board and Superintendent's Strategic Plan
- Draft Components of a Comprehensive Education Program
- SMCS D Resources Alignment
- Budget Projections
- Budget Planning Assumptions: Unrestricted/Restricted

Discussion

Board members asked what the budget planning assumption for WCA supplemental funding is. Paula Rigney responded that the amount of funds available for supplemental funding would depend upon resources remaining after all district expenses.

Board members asked when they would see more details. Ms. Rigney advised that the Finance Committee would receive details at their meeting on April 26.

Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) Report

Superintendent Pitts and Business Manager Paula Rigney presented Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) recommendations, as the result of the district's request for a review of the district's central office and administrative functions. The recommendations will be used to increase the district's efficiency and operations.

Public Comment

Jeff Knowles, WCA board member, indicated that he was troubled by the tone of the report as it related to WCA. He advocates that the district board view WCA as a big bang for the educational buck, not as a cost center.

Discussion

Superintendent Pitts commented that that the reaction from FCMAT to WCA was a surprise.

Trustee Ziegler stated that he was also put off by FCMAT's reaction to WCA; they don't really understand the big picture.

Superintendent Pitts clarified that FCMAT didn't understand the uniqueness of the district; but did make some good recommendations.

Trustee Trotter did not feel the Board should adopt board policies wholesale from California School Boards Association. The district did a complete update of board policies in February 2010.

Superintendent Pitts clarified that CSBA's recommendations for board policy updates parallel education code changes.

Paula Rigney noted that as a small district with a small staff, some internal processes will be reworked. She is hoping to complete all recommendations within the next six months.

On a separate matter, regarding attendance, Trustee Thornton questioned whether leases with Marin Public Housing require children to attend school as the leases of other public housing agencies do. Superintendent Pitts will find out more about this and report back.

Agreements Between Sausalito Marin City School District and Mill Valley School District

At their meeting of April 18, 2012, the Mill Valley School District Board of Trustees approved the renewal of three attendance agreements between Sausalito Marin City School District and Mill Valley School District:

- Tennessee Glen Agreement 2012/2013 Addendum #12
- Tennessee Woods Agreement 2012/2013 Addendum #10
- Mill Valley & Sausalito Marin City School Districts Attendance Agreement 2012/2013 Addendum #3

M/s/c Trotter/Ziegler/all to approve the renewal of all three attendance agreements as well.

FACILITIES

Facilities Master Plan and Facilities Bond Needs Analysis

Public Comment

Jeff Knowles: If there were funds available to WCA through a bond, what would it be for? The WCA board wants to be part of that discussion. Trustee Ziegler agreed.

Presentation

The district has limited deferred maintenance funding and continuing modernization and new construction needs. Greystone West Project Management Company has completed a Facilities Needs Analysis for the district that identifies approximately 12-15 million dollars of additional facilities modernization and new construction needs. The analysis will serve as the basis of a ten year Facilities Master Plan. Director of Maintenance and Operations, Forrest Corson, gave a Power Point presentation with highlights from the Facilities Needs Analysis 2011-2012 and Components of a Facilities Master Plan:

Martin Luther King Jr. Academy Highlighted Needs

- MLK Main Building
 - Acoustical treatments throughout the building
 - Additional cabinets
 - Furnace unit(s) main corridor
 - Door light (class) at Assistant Principal's office
- MLK Annex Building
 - Building has outlived its useful life
 - Cost to modernize exceeds 70% of cost for new construction
- Portable Classroom Buildings (5)
 - No significant investment recommended due to condition and age
- Other Site Needs
 - Covered exterior eating area
 - Exterior drinking fountains
 - Increased parking capacity
 - Path of travel improvements
 - Filed modernization
 - Fencing
 - Playground remodel/replacement
- Annex Replacement/Elementary School: Potential Location

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- Preschools & Parent Center: Potential Location
- Additional Parking/Improved Drop Off: Potential Location

Bayside Elementary Campus Highlighted Needs

- Bayside Elementary School
 - Repair/replace siding, repaint
 - Roof evaluation
 - Downspout & gutter replacement
 - Replace/augment exterior lighting
 - Upper entry road drainage improvements
 - Replace outdated playground & railroad tie staircase
- Willow Creek Academy/Gaskins Library
 - Bathrooms require remodeling
 - Siding repairs & paint
 - Covered outdoor eating area
 - BARD HVAC unit condensate drainage improvements
- 33 Buchanan Drive
 - Could be salvaged for historical significance at an increased cost
 - State policies indicate demolition and replacement
- District Office/Post Office
 - Could be salvaged for historical significance at an increased cost
 - State policies indicate demolition and replacement
 - Site is suitable for future gymnasium location or additional parking
- Potential Gymnasium Locations

Facilities Master Plan (Described)

- Overview of District
- History of enrollment
- Current enrollment trends
- Current description of facilities
- 5 – 10 year facilities need projections
- Facilities needs analysis
- Educational specifications/program planning process
- Future facilities process

Discussion

Superintendent Pitts clarified that that in addition to ‘needs’ as identified in the analysis, there are also ‘wants’, which are yet to be identified. The board must now begin the process to identify ‘wants’. Dr. Pitts pointed out that needs and wants will be the basis of a plan to present to the public as to why the district needs a bond; it does not include design at this point.

President Newmeyer wondered when a want becomes a need. He gave the examples of a changing room for MLK fields, which would allow for an increase in the rental rate, and artificial turf at Bayside. Trustee Thornton wondered if the district needs partnerships with Sausalito and Marin City on joint use. Superintendent Pitts answered that partnerships would be a necessity; the district cannot afford to maintain the fields without them.

There was a discussion of developing a list of ‘wants’ and setting a time to do that.

Trustee Trotter stated that he doesn't see consensus on the education program; recreation, maintenance and education buildings are separate issues. He would be uncomfortable putting forth a bond measure with construction for which there is currently no board consensus.

Superintendent Pitts explained that she is building consensus for support for K-8; the district has classrooms at MLK that do not work.

Forrest Corson emphasized that there are things the district needs that there are no funds for, numerous deferred maintenance items for example.

Trustee Trotter stated that the board should focus on education issues rather than on construction issues again as it has for several years. The board needs to see a program that they can agree will work before spending money on new facilities; buildings are a piece of, but not the answer to, educational issues.

Superintendent Pitts explained that the focus of the A Team is to address whether this will be a K-8; she asked whether the board needs to take action on that. Trustee Trotter was unaware of the A Team until this meeting.

President Newmeyer stated that he agreed to an extent with Trustee Trotter, noting that there are several pieces to the project.

Superintendent Pitts explained that the K-8 model is a well researched model; it is about the program and what we can offer when we have a greater pool of teachers.

Superintendent Pitts suggested board members attend a meeting scheduled on April 30 at Marin County Office of Education regarding county school district reorganization, at which one possibility - mergers for districts that are just too small - would be discussed.

Superintendent Pitts stated that she believes Marin City needs a school in its community.

Trustee Ziegler stated that in order to be program driven, the board needs educators to make the recommendations about program that the board can then act on.

Superintendent Pitts shared that the A Team acknowledges the partners for buy in and participation.

Trustee Thornton asked for a discussion of perception and reality; does WCA really do better?

Superintendent Pitts acknowledged that comparatively, WCA does a little better.

Trustee Thornton wondered if this is about educating kids in Marin City or about giving WCA more space. Superintendent Pitts acknowledged that the district does have a fiscal reality, a growing charter and how to provide the program that we need. What is the most reasonable way to marry all the components with only a small number of children?

Superintendent Pitts suggested obtaining program recommendations from staff; a feasibility study; a determination of wants as identified by the board, and more information about joint uses.

Paula Rigney affirmed that if property taxes continue as they are now, the district won't be able to sustain what it has.

President Newmeyer acknowledged the gulf on the board; there are many legitimate points; the board needs a full discussion soon and a process in place.

Trustee Trotter stated the he thinks the board is backing into a K-8 program by building first.

It was agreed that the board and superintendent would hold a study session on a Saturday, April 21 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/s/c- Roll Call Newmeyer/Ziegler/ Ayes 5 Noes 0 to approve the consent agenda:

- Minutes of the regular meeting of March 8, 2012
- Payments of Warrants
- District Calendar for the 2012/2013 School Year
- Quarterly Report: Williams Act


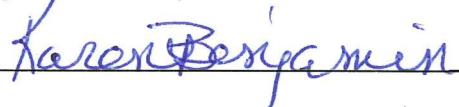
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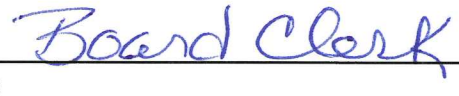
- Resolution #660, 2011/2012 Employee Appreciation
- Memorandums of Understanding – Two Classified Employees
- Final facilities to be allocated to Willow Creek Academy for the 2012/2013 School Year

Mr. Trotter indicated that he could not attend a meeting on May 10 due to travel. Superintendent Pitts recommended the meeting of May 24 begin early.

ADJOURNMENT

M/s/c Thornton/Ziegler/all to adjourn at 10:15 p.m.

 
Signature/Date


Title

FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

Recognition: Golden Bell winners; SDTA Merit Pay recipients, retirees; etc
Assessment Reports (Writing/Study Island)
Extension of Agreement of Participating School Districts in Marin Re: Interdistrict Attendance Agreements
District Health Services Overview
Instructional Minutes/Bell Schedule
School Site Survey Results
Second Draft – General Fund Budget
Second Draft-WCA Budget
Quarterly Receivables Report
Year End After School Program Report
Grade Level Report-XX

SAVE THE DATES

Future District Meeting Dates

All meetings are held at the District Office, 200 Phillips Drive, Marin City at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. *The first meeting date of each month will be allocated to additional special meetings on facilities issues, special meetings, community forum, etc. as needed. The only or second meeting date of each month will be allocated to regular board meetings.

2011/2012 School Year

May 10*
May 24
June 14 Two meetings in June
June 28

2012/2013 School Year

July 26 One July meeting due to Summer Break
August 9*
August 23
September 13*
September 27
October 11*
October 25
November 15 Third Thursday; one November meeting due to Holidays

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December 6*	First Thursday due to Holidays
December 13	Second Thursday due to Holidays
January 10*	
January 24	
February 14*	
February 28	
March 14*	
March 28	
April 18*	Third Thursday due to Spring Recess
April 25	
May 09*	
May 23	
June 13	Two meetings in June
June 27	

Future Charter School Board Meeting Dates

Meetings are open to the public and generally held on the school campus, 33 Buchanan Street, Sausalito. With the exception of the December meeting, meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

May 16

June 20

Upcoming Dates and Important Events

Please visit the District website www.sausalitomarincityschools.org