

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
April 21, 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 9:05 a.m.

The agenda order was approved.

**PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD PRIOR TO OPEN SESSION**

There was no public comment.

**OPEN SESSION**

**GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP**

The Board of Trustees conducted a workshop on the district's education plan. Superintendent Pitts made a Power Point presentation, titled K – 8 School Configurations, Benefits for Small Communities and Schools, which promoted discussions of:

- Student Learning
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Attracting and Retaining Highly Qualified Staff
- Community Schools
- Fiscal and Business Operations
- Challenges
- Celebrations

**Discussion**

The Board identified the benefits and challenges of an International Baccalaureate Program:

- **Benefits**
  - Holistic/systematic approach
  - Enthusiastic learners
  - Inquiry-based
  - Question/critical analysis
  - Reflection
  - Students seem sophisticated
  - Citizenship/engagement with peers
  - Study skills
  - The approach through the learner profiles
  - Positive/happy students
  - Self-esteem

Confidence  
Language component  
Global learners  
Meaning/relevance  
Focused on students' interests  
Self-directed learning  
Wide community exploration  
Integrated curriculum

- **Challenges**

What do students go on to?  
What is the substance of the curriculum?  
Limited grade level  
Teacher commitment  
Promoting collaborative between teachers  
Access to IB curriculum  
How do you get student engagement?  
Care/resources support  
How are learning challenges addressed?  
How are students who are part of an IB in elementary/middle school integrated into high school?  
Cultural competency  
Concern: How do other schools bring in the community/partners?

The Board continued with a discussion of what other elements of support are needed:

- Individualized learning needs
- Need positive behavior supports
- Teacher cycles –how to keep everyone trained...requires commitment
- How to build in sustainability & transition
- Parent/community involvement
- Support staff training – can they go?
- Cultural competency
- Community to like schools

Evaluation is an important component:

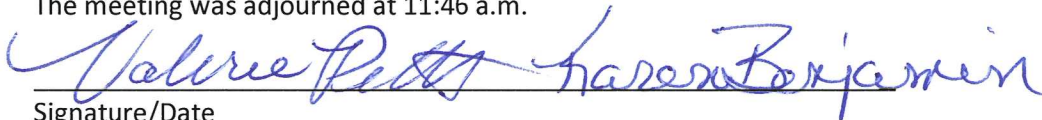
- Communication with Trustees
- Involvement/support of SMCS D Trustees
- How does that happen?
- How can we utilize the summer?
- Can we observe an IB school?
- Happy, healthy children are the goal
- Must work to communicate and market our goodness/programs
- Communicate with our parents NOW –where we are going and why
- SMCS D includes 3 schools; each school should be spoken of with respect
- Perception – 9/10 of reality; address the issues/perception about who the board represents
- Identify opportunities (with Marin City Network) to have our students participate in other Marin activities
- Facility/Diversity/Community School

**M/s/c Newmeyer/Trotter/all** to begin the multi-year International Baccalaureate training (IB), obtain Superintendent/Principal recommendations on how to implement IB to include incorporating supports/board participation, involvement of all staff/parents, and a timeline.

**M/s/c Ziegler/Thornton/all** to agendaize for the board meeting of May 10, 2012: recommendations on facilities needs; timeline and structure for an International Baccalaureate program, and a K-8 model; determine 'wants' versus recommendations and present a bond measure plan that is equitable and supports the district's needs.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

 Valerie Pettit

Signature/Date

 Board Clerk

Title