

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 10, 2012**

ATTENDANCE

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

President Thomas Newmeyer called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

M/s/c Ziegler/Benjamin/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 went into closed session at 5:15 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Open session was reconvened at 6:00 p.m.

President Newmeyer announced that, during closed session, a lease between Sausalito Marin City School District and Robin's Nest Pre-Schools, Inc. had been approved pending review by Trustee Ziegler for minor changes, which he will convey to Superintendent Pitts. Additionally, the board approved an agreement for shared services with Marin County Office of Education for another year.

Superintendent Pitts announced that it was the Day of the Teacher and thanked teachers for what they do on behalf of the district's children.

President Newmeyer reported attending a benefit for Bridge the Gap.

Action Team (A Team) Report

Superintendent Pitts and President Newmeyer described what the Action Team (A Team) is responsible for addressing – to plan and engage in a design process for the Comprehensive Educational Program for Sausalito Marin City School District moving forward. Meetings are facilitated by Stephen Chang, National Equity Project. Superintendent Pitts read the Design Question from the Charter: "How can we ensure that Sausalito Marin City School District students receive the highest quality comprehensive education, including social-emotional development, and that the program can be effectively implemented?"

Members include:

- Thomas Newmeyer, Board President SMCS D
- Jonnette Newton, Principal SMCS D
- Tenisha Tate, Assistant Principal SMCS D
- Jennifer Banks, Kindergarten Teacher (Bayside)
- Susan Cassidy, 5th Grade Teacher, (MLK)
- Natasha Griffin, Science/Garden Teacher (MLK)

- Sharon Turner, Project Coordinator, Marin City Network
- Liz Burns, Director, Marin Learning Center
- Ruth Nenabor, Site Supervisor, Marin Community Child Development Program
- Terrie Greene, Director, Marin City Health and Wellness
- Bettie Hodges, Director, Hannah CDF Freedom School
- Johnathan Logan, Jr., General Manager, Marin City Community Services District (CSD)
- Alexis Wise, Community Member
- Pam Dake, Community Member
- Curtis Robinson, Executive Director, Marin City Health and Wellness Center
- Valerie Pitts, SMCSO Superintendent
- Paula Rigney, SMCSO Business Manager
- Bruce Abbott, SMCSO Staff

Attendees gave brief reports/perspectives:

Ruth Nenabor was appreciative of the district's supportive and inclusive process; it has been wonderful to get to know Thomas Newmeyer. Ms. Nenabor would like to see all board members engaged in the A Team. The Superintendent has put together a good team of people.

Sharon Turner was appreciative of time taken to discuss hard topics and for the district's willingness to expand the recruitment process [for the position of Principal and Director of Professional Learning]. Ms. Turner is looking forward to productive work to come from the A Team.

Johnathan Logan acknowledged that to re-envision how the school can thrive is a complicated process. The committee is working on relationships, getting everything on the table, and he is optimistic.

Bettie Hodges expressed her concern for a segregated school district if a K-8 model is selected for Marin City. Ms. Hodges requested a discussion of the implications of race and return to a segregated situation; she encouraged the board to have that conversation soon.

Superintendent Pitts led discussion of possible meeting dates and the following was selected:

May 24 **Regular Board Meeting – *Study Session Discussion of Isolation and Race Issues***
Discussion
Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy Library: 5:00 – 7:00 pm;
Regular Session
Discussion of Facilities Bond/Community Input
Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy Library: 7:00 pm

The A Team may be convened again on May 24 in the afternoon.

Pamela Dake expressed gratitude for the committee process and good will around the A Team table. Ms. Dake thanked board members for opening up conversations and for building a good foundation.

Thomas Newmeyer highly complemented Stephen Chang's facilitation of the A Team meetings. He was also appreciative of having the perspective of a top notch staff, saying, even if we hear negatives about the district, the staff is wonderful and has a really hard task. Mr. Newmeyer is looking forward to upcoming discussions.

Facilities and Master Learning Plan

Superintendent Pitts distributed/reviewed copies of the district's Strategic Priorities and Goals, discussed earlier in the year, and a draft Master Learning Structure Proposal that focuses on four strategic priorities and the alignment with them of objectives for the 2012/2013 school year. Superintendent Pitts reported that every student has summer programming; the after school and summer school providers have worked hard to make sure there is something for everyone. Superintendent Pitts noted that a national conference had been held in California today on the community schools model (K-8).

Forrest Corson is working on a Facilities Master Plan and anticipates having more on that at the next board meeting.

To provide an opportunity for interested parties to provide input, special meetings were considered. In addition to scheduled board meetings (May 24, June 14 and June 28) meetings will also be scheduled:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| May 16 | Special Board Meeting – <i>Study Session for Community Input on Facilities</i>
Discussion
Bayside Multi Purpose Room: 7:00 pm |
| May 31 | Special Board Meeting – <i>Facilities Bond and Grade Level Structure</i>
Discussion
Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy Library: 6:00 pm |

Discussion

Trustee Ziegler expressed his opinion that wants are more important than needs; he would like to satisfy the 'wants' of the community with the education program driving them. The current 'needs' are extensive; Mr. Ziegler would prefer not to spend all bond funds on maintenance. We want the community to be excited about it!

President Newmeyer shared that four board votes are needed to place a bond measure on the ballot; however, the board does not have consensus yet; the entire board needs to commit to doing the work in the next few weeks.

Trustee Ziegler added that the board must be in agreement on fundamentals or a bond measure on the ballot won't happen; he would be very disappointed if it does not happen.

President Newmeyer asked for help from the A Team to spread the word about upcoming meetings where community input will be heard. He explained that consideration of a fall bond issue is preferable; it can pass with a 55% vote. A spring bond issue would require a two-thirds vote.

Bettie Hodges suggested a decision tree to help people understand the process.

Trustee Ziegler reiterated that community input should come first.

Superintendent Pitts advised that K-8/facilities needs are concurrent.

Trustee Thornton cautioned the district about moving toward K-8 as if a decision has been made.

President Newmeyer added that a discussion about race and isolation issues had been scheduled; if we get over it, we have a go; if not, we have a problem. Fiscally we do have to make some decisions; we have real needs and realities facing us.

Phil Kerr thought it would be a shame to miss the opportunity; WCA is rapidly growing; a bond measure would accommodate growth.

Trustee Ziegler concurred that the opportunity is now but the community has to say what it wants to do so the board feels clear about moving forward.

Johnathan Logan stated that the decision to go for a bond should not hinge on K-8 in Marin City; there are still too many district needs to address regardless of whether or not Marin City becomes K-8. Superintendent Pitts added that K-8 doesn't have to drive a bond.

Forrest Corson provided a Power Point presentation in draft form, titled Facilities Needs/Deferred Maintenance, K-8 Model Needs and Wants, which included:

- Draft Facilities Needs/Deferred Maintenance
- K-8 Model Needs
- Facilities Wants
- Soft Costs.

Budget, Education Program and Facilities: All aspects of the puzzle need to be in place to accomplish the Vision and Mission statements of the District.

Discussion

Forest Corson: Bond funds would be equitably distributed between Marin City and Sausalito campuses.
Trustee Benjamin: The K-8 decision is important; absent that, there are still needs; we have facilities to take care of and should go for as much as we can.

Superintendent Pitts: You don't have to issue it all right away.

Phil Kerr: If the K-8 conversation is ongoing, the proposal includes accommodation for growth in either outcome.

President Newmeyer: We are on an unsustainable model right now. Growth, basic aid cuts and reduction of funding from Marin Community Foundation have been discussed at every meeting since February.

Johnathan Logan: What is the cost to individuals?

President Newmeyer: The fiscal time is excellent.

Bettie Hodges: When we talk about growth, who are we talking about?


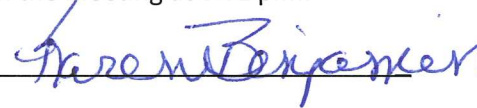
Superintendent Pitts: MLK does not have adequate facilities for a comprehensive education program; five self contained classrooms would be overall (both sites).

Trustee Ziegler emphasized the need to acquire funds from some source just for the annual budget due to deferred maintenance.

Recent Power Point presentations and a calendar of meetings will be posted to the website.

ADJOURNMENT

M/s/c Thornton/Ziegler/all to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Signature/Date



Title