

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 14, 2012**

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Thomas Newmeyer, William Ziegler, Mark Trotter, and
Karen Benjamin via teleconference
Shirley Thornton, Ed. D. arrived at 6:50 p.m.
Superintendent: Valerie Pitts, Ed. D.

President Thomas Newmeyer called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

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 6:16 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Open session reconvened at 7:08 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.

Agenda Order

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

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD PRIOR TO OPEN SESSION

Kyla Gunderson addressed the board in support of Robin's Nest; the preschool's relocation is her reason to stay in this community. Ms. Gunderson is very excited to have Robin's Nest here.

Alice Nedere addressed the board in support of Robin's Nest for a public option for working parents who want to keep their children in schools near home.

RACE AND ISOLATION

Board Statement on Equity, Resolution #662 – First Reading

Superintendent Pitts presented a draft resolution that represents a commitment that, as a school district, we continue to focus on the achievement gap. A tool or rubric is being developed for presentation at a subsequent board meeting (early fall).

Discussion

- Trustees Thornton, Ziegler and Newmeyer recommended that resolution language in sections A – F and at the top of page 8 be revised to speak to academic need.

- Clark Warden recommended the statement be written in present tense as some board members have worked toward equity for years.
- Vickie Nichols and Ruth Nenabor suggested that important documents such as this be made available as handouts. Superintendent Pitts noted that the document is on the district website; she encouraged interested persons to email comments to her prior to the second reading.
- Trustees requested data to support draft resolution language, perhaps as an appendix.
- Trustee Benjamin will email suggestions for the draft rubric to the superintendent.

A second reading with revisions will be agendaized.

FACILITIES

Town Hall for Community Input on Facilities Bond and Grade Level Structure

Superintendent Pitts gave a power point presentation, titled Facilities Master Plan for Comprehensive Educational Program, that included information on:

- SMCS D Vision, Mission and Strategic Priorities
- Comprehensive Educational Program and Course Offerings
- Plans A and B
- Program Implementation Requirements (Rationale)
- Enrollment History and Projection
- Educational Facilities Specifications
- Facilities and Fiscal
- Facilities Needs/Deferred Maintenance/Wants and Totals
- Guiding Principles for Design
- Conceptual Plan for MLK from Community Input on June 12, 2012

Discussion

- Trustee Trotter: Do we have soil reports for construction site possibilities? We do not want to repeat the past experience of planning, then re-planning due to soil reports. Stan Clark: We are aware of that.
- Terrie Green: What do blue circles represent on the conceptual plan? Stan Clark: They represent ideas discussed at the meeting of June 12.
- Pam Dake: What is Plan B? Superintendent Pitts: The difference is in the funding and with a much reduced scope.
- Jonathan Leone: I have concerns about a Sausalito school and a Marin City school which may further divide two communities where much work has been done over the years to bring them together. The County Office of Education has been discussing a broader idea which may bring in Mill Valley. Superintendent Pitts: In any scenario, the district has deferred maintenance to address to maintain facilities. Additionally, the Annex and portables need to be removed and/or replaced.
- Trustee Thornton: Plan C was discussed on June 12; add that back for consideration. Superintendent Pitts: Plan C does not take away the need for a bond; Plan C is not sustainable right now. Our need right now is to plan beyond the 2012/2013 school year given the economic forecast.
- President Newmeyer: There is no single solution; there are a number of weighty issues.
- Trustee Ziegler: We cannot sustain three schools as they are with the cuts that are occurring.

- Trustee Thornton: If our mantra is that we are one district and that these are all our children, then live our mantra!
- Fran Nelson agreed on facilities needs but could not imagine where \$800,000 savings would come from and hates to see segregation perpetuated. Superintendent Pitts offered to provide savings information at the next meeting and explained that there are more possibilities if there are not two separate schools draining resources.
- Julius Holtzclaw recommended disseminating information in a variety of ways; not everyone has a computer. His recollection is that a prior board's original idea was that two K-5 schools (Bayside and Willow Creek Academy) would feed into one middle school. How do we support a charter school? The confusion continues - are we one district or are we Bayside/MLK?
- Orlando Lobo stated that he was frustrated by strategic representation; 50% of WCA's students are from Marin City; WCA is completely diversified; the original charter was for K-8. What is Plan C? Mr. Lobo opposes disrupting WCA.
- Terrie Green stated that over the years there has been talk of joining with Mill Valley; Ms. Green had attended the recent MCOE meeting on school district realignment. She believes children of both school districts would require preparation for such a change and that it should be removed from the table for now. She asked, in terms of Plan B, if a bond fails, what are we talking about?
- Trustee Thornton: We are talking about various ways, each with pros/cons; but in the end with what is best for all our children.
- Mark Pressman, financial advisor, presented updated information regarding tax rates, the estimated tax per \$100,000 of assessed value, existing debt service for general obligation bonds (election of 2004) and combined debt service with a proposed bond.
- Pam Dake asked how large the loan would be if Plan B is pursued? Superintendent Pitts replied that this is more about funding; present staffing cannot be sustained beyond next year.
- Trustee Ziegler asked how a load would be serviced. It would require detailed discussion.
- Trustee Thornton expressed concern that students will end up in Annex portables. Superintendent Pitts again clarified that the district has a problem staffing two schools; leaner staffing is an option.

REPORTS

Trustee Reports

Trustee Thornton reported that Superintendent Pitts gave a good presentation to the City of Sausalito; they were intrigued and are interested in more to come.

President Newmeyer reported the same with Marin City Community Services District; not everything was resolved but there had been good conversation.

Trustee Thornton reported that the Bayside step-up ceremony had been outstanding; Paula Hammons deserves kudos for the fourth grade; there was a wonderful turnout.

President Newmeyer reported attending the MLK promotion with Superintendent Pitts; attendance was twice what it has been in years past and included many teachers; it felt very positive; our team is doing a great job.

Trustee Thornton announced a going away party at Outback on June 23 for teacher, Natasha Griffin who is about to enter the Peace Corps. She will be missed.

Trustee Thornton announced that she herself is being inducted into Lakeview Hall of Fame in San Francisco.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pitts thanked staff for a good graduation exercise.

Principal's Report

Principal Jonnette Newton reported that:

- Graduation events at Bayside and MLK were both successful
- Final Study Island benchmark results show academic growth at both schools through the year
- Every MLK student will participate in either academic and/or enrichment programs this summer
- Many Bayside students are going on summer trips
- Teachers have worked to align for next year and will attend IB training this summer
- The district has hosted a successful Restorative Justice training for community organizations.

Trustee Thornton: Can we assess students' growth over summer to know if the various programs are benefiting them and to determine modification for the following year? Superintendent Pitts: All program providers are providing data.

Trustee Thornton: Are incoming kindergarteners being assessed? Jonnette Newton: A Kinder Sneak Peak is scheduled for Saturday, June 23; each student will be assessed at that time.

Trustee Trotter: How is each organization's assessment selected; do they select their own? It would be helpful if assessments were coordinated, perhaps all organizations using the same method. Superintendent Pitts will discuss this suggestion at the next After School Providers meeting.

WCA Head of School's Report

Head of School, Carol Cooper, reported that

- Crossing the Bridge K-7 had been the best ever
- Eighth grade graduation held at the Bay Model was also the best ever
- At least half WCA's graduates have attended since kindergarten or first grade; the majority will attend Tamalpais and Redwood high schools.
- Students planned graduation as part of project-based learning.

Trustee Trotter asked for information about the number of WCA students in summer programs. Ms. Cooper will report back.

ENSURE THAT ALL STUDENTS WITHIN SMCSO REACH HIGH LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Instructional Minutes and Bell Schedule 2012/2013 School Year

Superintendent Pitts reviewed the proposed instructional minutes and bell schedules.

M/s/c Trotter/Thornton/all to approve instructional minutes and bell schedules for the 2012/2013 school year

PROVIDE SAFE, HEALTHY, POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

District Health Services

Superintendent Pitts reviewed a report prepared by School Nurse, Lenora Kwok, regarding services provided to students during the 2011/2012 school year at all three district schools.

MAINTAIN SOUND FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND OPERATIONS

District Budget 2012/2013

Business Manager, Paula Rigney, continued discussion of the 2012/2013 preliminary budget with a brief Power Point presentation titled SMCS D Common Message Budget 2012/2013:

- MCOE Budget Guidance 2012/2013
- Common Message.

The state budget should be approved on June 15.

Discussion

- President Newmeyer: Can we ever build enough reserves?
- Superintendent Pitts: That is why we are looking at consolidation; it's being forced on us.
- Trustee Trotter: If we merge with Mill Valley, what happens to our tax revenue? We would need a full study of that.

ATTRACT, RETAIN AND INSPIRE HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF

Staffing and Enrollment


Superintendent Pitts reviewed that Bayside's kindergarten enrollment has increased to 23 in process and that WCA's kindergarten enrollment has doubled. Proposed class combinations would be determined by numbers of students. Trustee Thornton: We need to be looking outside the box. She requested a side by side comparison of staffing and also to know what the district's responsibility is to the charter.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/s/c- Roll Call Newmeyer/Trotter/ Ayes 5 Noes 0 to approve the consent agenda: Authorizations to Sign on Behalf of the Governing Board for the 2012/2013 School Year, Resolutions #664, 665, 666, 667

ADJOURNMENT

M/s/c Thornton/Ziegler/all to adjourn.

 8/23/12

 Signature/Date

President

 Title

FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

- Discussion and Possible Action on School Facilities Bond
- Public Hearing: Categoricals Tier III
- Resolution - State Categorical Funds/Implementing Flexibility Authorized by SBX3
- Public Hearing: District Budget
- Approve District Budget
- Accept WCA Approved Budget

Resolution - Establishing Find Balance Policies (GASB 54)
 Resolution - Temporary Transfer of Funds, Tax Anticipation (TAN)
 Resolution - Budget Transfers to Permit Payment Obligations at Close of Year
 WCA: Annual Supplemental Funding Agreement
 WCA MOU: Finalize agreed upon changes (proposed in February each year [MOU 1.B.3] by July 1, if any
 Transportation Report
 School Site Safety Reports

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

June 21 Special Meeting
 June 28

2012/2013 School Year

July 10 Special Meeting
 July 26
 August 9*
 August 23
 September 13*
 September 27
 October 11*
 October 25
 November 15 Third Thursday; one November meeting due to Holidays
 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.
 June 20

Upcoming Dates and Important Events

Please visit the District website www.smcsd.org