

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
May 9, 2013**

**ATTENDANCE**

Board Members Present: William Ziegler, Caroline Van Alst, Shirley Thornton, Ed. D.,  
Thomas Newmeyer, Joshua Barrow  
Superintendent: Valerie Pitts, Ed. D.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

The agenda order was approved.

**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 5:00 p.m.

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

Open session reconvened at 6:04 p.m.

**Report Out from Closed Session**

President William Ziegler announced that no reportable action was taken in closed session.

**PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Richard Bohnet, long term district resident: The Board's role is to provide strategic direction, protect the interests of taxpayers and students, and oversee the Superintendent's execution of the plan.

Observation: The board is too involved in details, not engaged enough in strategic planning and what is best for all students in the long term.

Ida Times, long time Marin City resident: Consider the Marin City Community Services District (MCCSD) field proposal; this is a long time dream of Marin City residents for their community.

Ellen Franz, Bayside teacher: Read a letter signed by all certificated staff encouraging the board and superintendent to reconsider Dr. Pitts' continuation as the district leader and superintendent.

Superintendent Pitts recognized Jan McDougal, math teacher, Golden Bell SMCS D Teacher of the Year.

## **FACILITIES**

Two proposals were submitted for the renovation of the MLK Field:

### **Marin City Community Services District (MCCSD)**

Johnathan Logan and MCCSD's design team, represented by Brian Bothman of Robert A Bothman, Inc., and Cordelia Hill of RHAA Landscape Architecture and Planning, gave a presentation and responded to questions and comments from the board. The proposal is for a community park, not just a facility for athletics, to be built in phases. It includes a lease-leaseback now widely used in Northern California.

#### Discussion

- Johnathan Logan reported that MCCSD has funds for Phase 1; donors needed to fund Phases 2 and 3.
- Trustee Barrow asked if there would be any inefficiency in phasing the project; Mr. Bothman responded that there would not. Trustee Barrow asked if there is a concern about flooding; Mr. Bothman explained that drainage will be installed.
- President Ziegler asked if MCCSD could provide a proposal for all three phases. Mr. Logan reiterated that funds are only available for Phase 1; however, MCCSD would seek donors for Phases 2 and 3 immediately following the Board's authorization of the project to MCCSD.
- Trustee Newmeyer asked if there would be any problems doing this project along with other construction in process. Superintendent Pitts noted the need for coordination.
- Trustee Barrow asked how the community is engaged in the design process. Ms. Hill gave examples of what is being done in other neighborhoods.
- Trustee Newmeyer asked about synthetic turf's useful life; Mr. Bothman suggested eight years and with good maintenance, turf will last up to four additional years.
- Trustee Barrow asked what happens if the award is beyond the projected date in May; Mr. Bothman explained there would be a minimum of time added to completion.
- President Ziegler asked when the board could review documents and construction timeline. He emphasized the importance of seeing financial capability, documents and a management/operations plan. Mr. Bothman and Mr. Logan assured him that all can be provided as soon as they receive the green light. Schedule a Facilities Committee meeting.

### **First Base Foundation**

Noah Jackson, First Base Foundation, provided the second presentation:

The two part proposal is to create a multi-sports facility. Mr. Jackson proposed the Dusty Baker Field schematics, noting he had an anonymous donor with the desire for the field to be named after him, who would partially fund the 4.5M project. Mr. Jackson believes strongly that children should play sports. He gave a budget overview and explained that his proposal involves a lease, lease-back, with a portion of field use revenues returned to the school district. He assured the board of financial backing and reviewed credentials and experience. Mr. Jackson grew up in Southern Marin and has been involved in the Foundation for ten years. He is a proponent of community giving.

#### Discussion

- Trustee Barrow asked if the proposal includes phasing; Mr. Jackson responded no and that the timeframe would be to break ground May 2014. He expanded on the earlier discussion of turf differences - wear areas such as the baseball infield are replaceable without redoing the entire field. This would be Mr. Jackson's first project of this large size.
- Trustee Newmeyer asked how much funding is available now; Mr. Jackson stated that, with the board's approval, he could have 3M within 3 months.
- Trustee Barrow asked for more explanation of a nutrition piece mentioned by Mr. Jackson; Safeway and Oakland Children's Hospital would provide food and education to the children. Trustee Barrow asked how much the district would influence community use of the field; Mr. Jackson indicated his willingness to work with the district. Trustee Barrow asked why two proposals; Mr. Jackson explained that two proposals streamline tasks.

#### Public Comment

- Everett Brendon, Vice Chair CSD Board, spoke in support of the MCCSD proposal and the importance of having community coordination. He reiterated that MCCSD has access to resources too.
- Carrie Pierson doesn't feel donor support for the field would be an issue and was disturbed at the thought of the field being used for Southern Marin rather than for Marin City.
- Jeff Knowles, SMC Little League coach thought the field would create opportunities to create bridges between both communities.
- Carol Thomas thought it important to build from within the community and then extend outward; bring back pride and integrity to the community.

#### Discussion

- Trustee Newmeyer recommended planning further discussions with both presenters to the Facilities Committee.
- Trustee Van Alst would like the field to accommodate girls' softball.
- Trustee Barrow asked how board members not on the Facilities Committee can stay engaged. Trustee Thornton suggested a board study session. President Ziegler prefers more detail first. Trustee Van Alst suggested creating a temporary ad hoc committee, which she doesn't think is subject to the Brown Act; Superintendent Pitts will look into the Brown Act.
- Trustee Thornton would like to see both presenters involved.
- Find a date – late afternoon - before Trustees Barrow and Thornton are out of town.

#### **Approval to Proceed with Advertisements and Bidding**

**M/s/c Thornton/VanAlst/all** to approve moving forward on advertisements and bidding.

## **MAINTAIN SOUND FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND OPERATIONS**

### **Budget Development-Willow Creek Academy Supplemental**

Daniel Norbutas, Chief Academic Officer, gave a power point presentation on implications of budget on programs at Bayside and Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy.

Trustee Barrow asked Mr. Norbutas what he would do, to avoid cutting classrooms, if he were tasked in the other scenarios described in the budget presentation. Mr. Norbutas responded that while cuts are being made in other areas, schools are human driven operations; a small school still has the same obligations as a larger school and yes, it looks different when divided by the small number of students.

Paula Rigney gave a power point on 2013/2014 budget development impact for ALL scenarios of supplement to WCA and responded to questions from board members.

President Ziegler stated he would like to spend more time to try to avoid loss to either side.

Superintendent Pitts noted that the Governor's May revise will provide some, but not all, information; that will come with the state budget.

### **Public Comment**

- Denise Suto, MLK science teacher, complimented the work of district administrators, including their flexibility. She made a brief presentation showing how students are involved in community. She emphasized that students need our support and that of support staff, especially in view of turnover in leadership. She clarified that cutting 'outside the classroom' has significant impact on program.
- Marilyn Mackel asked if the board stays actively informed about every phase of WCA funding.

## **ATTRACT AND RETAIN HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF**

### **Contract Search Services with Hazard Young Attea (HYA)**

Superintendent Pitts reviewed the current superintendent agreement since inception. The district needs to move from interim to permanent leadership but she will stay through school start up this fall and transition to new leadership.

Trustee Barrow thanked Superintendent Pitts for her clarifying statements and generous offer to remain involved with transition. Board members noted some of her many contributions:

- Engagement of the community
- Turnaround of situations such as school bussing
- Bringing Paula Rigney on board as Business Manager
- Extraordinary effort to accommodate the board.

President Ziegler introduced representatives Bill Levinson and Barbara Young of HYA, both former Marin school administrators who are familiar with the district's needs.

#### Discussion and Public Comments

- Trustee Thornton expressed concern with the students' arrival at MLK in September plus new leadership at MLK and WCA. We need consistency.
- Felicia Gaston reported that she had sent a letter to Mary Jane Burke, County Superintendent, asking her to step in and put the superintendent replacement on hold; Ms. Gaston agrees that consistency is needed and that the consistency Superintendent Pitts has provided is needed through the transition.
- Marilyn Mackel questioned why neither the search services of CSBA nor MCOE had been contacted; both are of reasonable cost.
- Jan MacDougal shared Trustee Thornton's concerns about a leadership change at this time. She urged the board to take whatever time is available from Valerie Pitts rather than hire someone new now.
- Julius Holtzclaw shared that Valerie Pitts has taken the time to discuss and listen; she brought calm and consistency to the classified staff. He noted that Daniel Norbutas will be new to all the lower grade students.
- Ellen Franz reminded the board that the letter she read earlier had been signed by every certificated staff member; it asks for a delay in hiring a new superintendent at this time.
- Denise Suto encouraged Valerie Pitts to stay, saying you're not done here yet. Teachers have trauma too going through superintendents.

**M/s/c Ziegler** motioned to proceed with the superintendent search firm. There being no second, the motion failed.

#### Discussion

- Trustee Barrow expressed concerned about having a one day/week superintendent; a search could provide options.
- Trustee Thornton suggested looking at the present team to move forward with, saving search funds for a paraprofessional.
- President Ziegler stated he could not guarantee Superintendent Pitts' availability.
- Trustee Newmeyer emphasized that trustees are for all kids in 94965; there are nearly equal numbers of kids at Bayside/MLK and at WCA; we have limited resources considering what the children need. There are kids in both schools that need resources.
- President Ziegler expressed that the board's job is to oversee the entire district; he is concerned about a strong administration; he acknowledged conflict – the board must deal with it the best way it can.
- Trustee Thornton noted that the two boards still have not come together and that the district needs a strategic plan.
- Trustee Van Alst CVA sees the search contract as way to keep looking at options; the board is handicapped without the ability to explore other options/solutions.
- Trustee Barrow would like to modify the motion to proceed with the superintendent search firm but to attempt to negotiate in a guarantee and to include/limit additional fees beyond the \$15,000 contract.

- Trustee Thornton: Timing! Teachers don't need it right now; let's not add another layer right now.

**M/s/c Barrow/Newmeyer/motion passed** to modify the motion to proceed with the superintendent search firm but to attempt to negotiate in a guarantee and to include/limit additional fees beyond the \$15,000 contract.

## **GOVERNANCE**

### **Board Strategic Planning**

A one hour strategic planning session was scheduled on Thursday, June 6.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Trustee Van Alst requested removal of the item concerning AB1200 Disclosure from the consent agenda. The remainder of the consent agenda was approved.

### **AB 1200 Disclosure**

Trustee Van Alst requested a modification to the format used which Ms. Rigney will discuss with the Marin County Office of Education who provides the format. There was not action taken.

## **FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS**

Recognitions  
 Assessment Reports (Writing/Study Island)  
 Marin & SFUSD Re: Interdistrict Attendance Agreements  
 Board Self Assessment  
 District Health Services Overview  
 Instructional Minutes/Bell Schedule  
 School Site Survey Results  
 First Draft – General Fund Budget  
 First Draft – WCA Budget  
 Year End After School Program Report  
 Grade Level Report

## **FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES**

May 21           Originally scheduled for May 23 (Golden Bell Education Evening)  
 June 13  
 June 27

## **UPCOMING DATES**

May 10           Bayside Reading/Math Achievement Awards Assembly, 2:30 pm  
 May 15           Bayside Open House, "BBQ and Class Visits", 5:00-7:15 pm  
 May 21           Bayside Spring Concert Assembly, 1:30-2:45 pm  
 May 22           MLK Open House, 6:00-7:30 pm  
 May 23           Golden Bell Education Evening (Awards), 4:30 pm  
 May 27           School Closed, Memorial Day  
 June 7           Bayside Achievement Awards Assembly, 8:30 am  
 June 12           Kindergarten Step Up Ceremony, 10:00 am  
 June 12           Graduation 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, 6:30 pm  
 June 13           4<sup>th</sup> Grade Step Up Ceremony, 10:00 am

June 13

Last School Day, Minimum Day, Dismissal at 12:30 pm

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

        C. Valh 6/13/13        

Signature/Date

        Clerk        

Title