

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
September 13, 2012**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

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

**M/s/c Thornton/Newmeyer/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 6:01 p.m.

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

Open session was reconvened at 6:46 p.m.

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

Trustee Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Carolyn Van Alst, Willow Creek parent, announced a fundraiser by the WCA Foundation to benefit student scholarships for the K-4 after school enrichment program. A piano concert featuring Joseph Stillwell will be held at the Christ Episcopal Church in Sausalito on September 20, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40.

**REPORTS**

**Trustee Reports**

Trustee Thornton reported on her attendance at Back to School Night. She also reported that today Superintendent Pitts spoke to members of Rotary Club of Sausalito about what is happening in the school district; she was well received.

Trustee Mark Trotter announced that tonight would be his last board meeting. He and his family have decided to make the Tahoe area their permanent home. Trustee Trotter shared that serving on the board has been a pleasure and that he finds it hard to leave. Superintendent Pitts and each board member thanked Mark and his entire family for their commitment to the Sausalito Marin City School District for many years. We wish them the very best!

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Pitts welcomed new certificated staff and Principals Newton and Norbutas introduced: Denise Suto, Julie Auslander, Kayla Zeisler, Karli Pierce, Cari Trevor and Joseph Fusilier. Danielle Denton and Jenny Fung, who could not attend, were also acknowledged. Certificates were issued to each staff member, good toward classroom supplies. It was also announced that in addition to serving as Bayside's Principal, Jonnette Newton will serve as music teacher in 2012/2013.

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

#### **District Unaudited Actuals and GANN Resolution #669**

Business Manager Paula Rigney gave a PowerPoint presentation titled Unaudited Actuals Financial Reporting 2011/2012, which included information on:

- General Fund "Actual" 2011/2012 Year End Totals
- 2011/2012 General Fund Revenue Summary - \$5,844,443.61
- 2011/2012 General Fund Expenditure Summary - \$5,475,247.89
- 2011/2012 Willow Creek Academy Contribution
- Other Funds "Actual" 2011/2012 Year End Totals
- Ending Fund Balances All Funds = \$1,458,397.25

Ms. Rigney also reviewed a SMCS D Financial Dashboard and responded to Board questions.

**M/s/c – Roll Call Ziegler/Newmeyer Ayes 4 Noes 0 (Benjamin absent)** to approve the District Unaudited Actuals and GANN Resolution #669

#### **Willow Creek Academy Unaudited Actuals**

Treasurer Clark Warden reviewed the overview commentary included in their submittal and the board packet.

**M/s/c Ziegler/Thornton/all** to accept the Willow Creek Academy Unaudited Actuals

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

#### **Employment of Joseph Fusilier on a Provisional Internship Permit**

Superintendent Pitts reported that it is standard practice to notify the board of any teacher working on their credential while also working in the district. The district wishes to employ Joseph Fusilier as a Physical Education teacher on a Provisional Internship Permit.

**M/s/c Trotter/Thornton/all** to approve the employment of Joseph Fusilier on a Provisional Internship Permit

### **FACILITIES**

#### **Facilities Needs**

Superintendent Pitts reviewed that, as part of a formal, facilities needs analysis performed last year for both campuses, the classroom needs to create a K-8 model school at MLK, with costs which are still considered relevant, were included. She reviewed the K-8 Model Needs list.

Superintendent Pitts reviewed prioritized voting on needs and wants performed last year with the top two items for MLK being to remove what today is known as the MLK Annex, to build 6-7 classrooms and to improve the site to be aesthetically pleasing through additional landscape and, if the school is to become a K-8, to include a playground.

The formal facilities needs analysis also included deferred maintenance which is a district responsibility. Forrest Corson presented projects from the Five Year Deferred Maintenance Plan and projects he would like to see completed in 2012/2013 and into summer 2013/2014.

Three options were reviewed pertaining to the MLK Field Restoration.

Superintendent Pitts suggested that in lieu of a bond, these projects (estimated at 3-5 million dollars) could be financed by a Certificate of Participation (COP) or combination of COP and approaching Marin Community Foundation regarding its facilities program. A COP would be funded by cost savings from reducing two school sites to one and from cost savings possible through other budget categories such as contracts and supplies.

Superintendent Pitts asked for direction from the board, emphasizing that if a decision is made to pursue a K-8 model at MLK and implement it by fall 2013/2014, the board must take action now. She added that having worked with many to arrive at this point, all are waiting ; she would like to avoid incurring additional costs; is this something we want to do? More services are going to begin to cost more.

**Trotter/Thornton** to approve going forward.

#### **Discussion**

Jeff Knowles, WCA board member: Mr Knowles stated he was uncertain about the future of a bond; he expressed concern that 5 million dollars is a lot of money and the Bayside campus should be included in plans to spend that amount, for 1) to accommodate WCA growth and 2) deferred maintenance. The plan just described is for Marin City, including the MLK athletic field. Mr. Knowles also believes that the plan sounds expensive and that the district should look at the work WCA did on the portables for less money – all DSA approved. He suggested “a full airing” before decisions are made.

Trustee Thornton: Trustee Thornton responded to Mr. Knowles that there is a difference between WCA portables and modular structures being discussed for MLK; to bring MLK down to portables would be an insult; students would be leaving Bayside which is a beautiful campus.

Trustee Ziegler requested more time to review; he would like more detail.

President Newmeyer clarified that the board was not looking to move on 5 million dollars at this meeting but to give Superintendent Pitts direction; the Facilities Committee needs to meet; there is much to move through but not much time to prepare for the 2013/2014 school year; the board must move quickly.

Trustee Ziegler stated he was not prepared to act on the motion made and suggested his availability to work on the plan for the next meeting in two weeks or slightly longer.

President Newmeyer asked Superintendent Pitts how long they might defer a decision; she replied, a few weeks.

Trustee Trotter responded that DSA alone will need six months; the district does not have a few months for more review/discussion; the board has been talking about this for almost two years; he commended Superintendent Pitts for coming up with this plan in lieu of a bond; we have identified the need. In recent history, the district has spent five million dollars on the Bayside campus, which would be left behind for the benefit of WCA; they would get a tremendous benefit. The one million dollar portable project for WCA actually cost closer to two million dollars because it included the new drive.

President Newmeyer expressed his appreciation for all the work being done; it is imperative to move forward in the next two weeks; the board will not have a solution that satisfies everyone; it will have to tread down the middle.

Superintendent Pitts shared that the A Team Committee has been working hard to help define the types of programs the district needs for a comprehensive educational program.

Trustee Trotter: Construction overrides academics in focus and time spent; determine program first to drive facilities needs; Superintendent Pitts has been doing this. Mr. Trotter clarified that originally, he was adamantly opposed to a K-8 at MLK for many reasons; Superintendent Pitts convinced him that a K-8 model is a good model; he appreciates the idea of a modular project as a fast track on construction; it all makes a lot of sense. This plan is driven by our desperate need to improve our schools. Mr. Trotter offered to help over the next couple weeks. He thinks this is the best put-together project he has seen.

**Trustee Trotter amended his motion to direct the Superintendent to pursue with all possible haste. It was seconded by Trustee Thornton.**

Trustee Ziegler asked for clarification of the motion; he added that he supports it conceptually.

After further discussion, Superintendent Pitts again stated that she was hesitant to do more without knowing what the board wants to do and asked for their direction, which would not necessitate a vote.

**Mr. Trotter rescinded his motion.**

Both Trustees Trotter and Thornton reiterated their belief that a K-8 must have a package of acceptable facilities.

Trustee Ziegler requested to see more.

President Newmeyer summarized: the board seems in agreement on a K-8 at MLK, which should include something new, no old facilities. There needs to be a review of costs, WCA growth, and what is freed up if Bayside moves. What space is available at the entire Bayside campus?

Superintendent Pitts will schedule a Facilities Committee meeting.

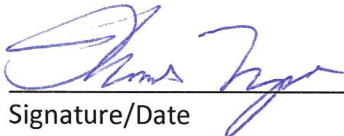
**CONSENT AGENDA**

**M/s/c – Roll Call Trotter/Thornton Ayes 4 Noes 0** to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Personnel Action Report
- New Board Policy 5131.2 Bullying
- Updated Board Policy 5145.3 Nondiscrimination/Harassment
- Updated Exhibit 9270 Conflict of Interest Code
- Resolution #671 -To Support Schools & Local Public Safety Protection Act (Proposition 30) and Our Children Our Future: Local Schools and Early Education Investment Act (Proposition 38)

**ADJOURNMENT**

**M/s/c Trotter/Thornton/all** to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

 9/26/12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature/Date

President  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title