

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 8, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board and Superintendent convened closed session at 5:31 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Open session reconvened at 6:01 p.m.

Report Out from Closed Session

Trustee Ziegler announced that no action was taken in closed session.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda order was approved.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Trustee Thornton said that she went to the California Association of African American Superintendents and Administrators meeting in Sacramento. Thank you for allowing me to go – this is a useful gathering and not confined to the concerns of African American students, she said. She urged other board members to consider attending this event next year.

Trustees Barrow and Thornton met with managers at the Marin Community Foundation for an update on the agency's grant allocation process and to discuss the possibility of longer term, sustained grants; they expect MCF to reach a decision regarding grants to the district by June 2014. MCF is pleased that we are working with Willow Creek Academy to come up with an equitable way to spend district money, they reported.

Trustees Newmeyer and Ziegler went to a fundraising event for Bridge the Gap and were very impressed with the turnout and enthusiasm of the community.

CSEA Report

Julius Holtzclaw said the chapter recently elected new officials and that Jeff McNaughton is now president of the chapter and will represent the classified employees.

Maintenance Report

Alan Rothkop, the new director of maintenance and operations, said that during the summer break, two neighbors of Willow Creek Academy will undertake the cutting of some trees in the area at their own cost.

He informed the board that the donated bike racks are being stored for the time being. We received a bid to install them at a cost of \$8500, but I think that we can install them ourselves, he said. Trustee Thornton said she would talk to the Rotary Club and see if they can help out.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Van Zant said all eighth graders are on track to graduate and move onto high school next year. I am talking to the Hannah Project regarding its summer program for our students and I think we have identified a source of funding so that it can go forward. With Aim High, another summer program for our older students, the funding is not yet certain, he said.

We have received a proposed Memorandum of Understanding from the Marin City Community Services District regarding the ball field, he reported.

All three teachers who currently have single-subject credentials but need a multiple- subject one for the middle school environment, have met with the superintendent and laid out a plan to make it happen in the 2015-2016 school year.

Susan Cassidy presented the work of her fifth graders, and showed bridges which the students had built using paper, cardboard and plastic for her class on structures.

Principal's Report

Principal Daniel Norbutas said a 7th grader from Willow Creek Academy transferred to Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy this week. He has met with all 8th graders to review the requirement for participating in graduation.

The school hosted a visit from the Tomales School, another school participating in the Marin Community Foundation K-3 grant. They were impressed with our student and teachers, he reported. We are having another family fun night this week with an emphasis on writing.

The Smarter Balance Assessment will take place in May. This first round of testing will not be graded, he said.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Fran Nelson, the school librarian, said the merger of Bayside and Martin Luther King Jr. Academy has worked out beyond her wildest expectations. She said that the camaraderie among the staff has been great this year, and she would like to see the Spanish and Art program continue with other sources of funding, if the grant for those programs will no longer be available.

Rocio Novoa, a parent, said: I have three children at Bayside MLK. I want to acknowledge the work that Daniel Norbutas is doing for the school. Two years ago I did not want my kids at this school. But I heard good things about MLK and moved them here. I want to thank Ms. McDougal for all her hard work, it means a lot to me. Ms. Franz, you are awesome. I appreciate the time you take to communicate with me about my children. Thank you Julius, the kids really need you. I am a single parent so it's hard for me to make sure that my kids are doing all their work. I appreciate that the staff let me know what is happening with them at school.

Hennessy Knoop, a parent, expressed her support for Principal Norbutas's work. She said that she had reached out to the Marin Community Foundation and encouraged everyone to speak to them about grants to the district.

Alma Lucas, a parent, said I have one student at MLK and two at WCA. I don't like how this process is going. We are not happy with a lot of the things that you did. I want to tell you one word that I learned a long time ago, it is "integrity." Do the right thing, even if nobody is watching. A lot of the kids in Marin City do not have a parent to watch over them; they are outside at 10.30 at night. I saw Mr. Norbutas play with those kids. Now you have decided that you want him out. We are going to see what we can do.

Neil Hammari, a parent, said: I have two children at Bayside MLK. My kids really appreciate Spanish and Art. You have to keep the foreign language option and art classes, because they help students in mathematics.

Three Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy students, Jackie, Remmy and Caroline, spoke as a team. They thanked Ms. McDougal for helping them with algebra and said that Mr. Norbutas had connected with them, unlike principals they had in the past.

CONSENT AGENDA

Roll Call Thornton/Newmeyer /All to approve the following items:

Minutes of Board Meeting of March 11, 2014

Minutes of District Financing Corporation Meeting of March 11, 2014

Payment of Warrants – Batches 40-43

Master Agreement with Cypress School

Superintendent Van Zant said that we have two children who go to this non-public school and it costs us more than \$100K a year. We would like to have a program that allows us to offer these resources in house. Trustee Barrow asked if the district could solicit help from the Marin Community Foundation for support in this area.

Thornton/ Van Alst/ All to approve the Master Agreement with Cypress School

Field Trips

Newmeyer/ Barrow/All to approve the field trips on the agenda with the addition of a walking field trip to the Hannah Gallery in Marin City.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Roll Call Van Alst/Barrow /All to approve the following Board Bylaws:

Board Bylaw (BB) 9200 – Limits on Board Authority

Board Bylaw (BB) 9222 – Resignation

Board Bylaw (BB) 9223 - Filling Vacancies

Board Bylaw (BB) 9224 – Oath or Affirmation

The following bylaws were brought to the Board for a first read:

Board Bylaw (BB) 9230 – Orientation

- Board Bylaw (BB) 9240 – Board Development
- Board Bylaw (BB) 9250 – Remuneration, Reimbursement & Other Benefits
- Board Bylaw (BB) 9260 – Legal Protection
- Board Bylaw (BB) 9270 – Conflict of Interest

BOARD REQUESTS

Trustee Thornton: Statistics regarding truancy, absentees and transfers. The timeline for letting parents know that their student is in jeopardy of being retained.

Trustee Barrow: next step in developing budget and fundraising.

Trustee Van Alst: enrollment data; how many Kindergarteners are returning next year.

ADJOURNMENT

Thornton/Van Alst /All to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

 5/13/14

Signature/Date



Title