

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
January 13, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE**

Board Members Present: Caroline Van Alst, William Ziegler, Thomas Newmeyer, Ida Times  
ABSENT Joshua Barrow  
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 6:08p.m.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Trustee Van Alst announced that no action was taken in closed session.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Trustee Newmeyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ORDER**

The audit report was moved to the top of the agenda. The rest of the agenda order was approved.

**AUDIT REPORT**

Mr. Habbas Nasser of Stephen Roatch Accountancy gave a report on the district's budget audit for 2013-14. He pointed out that there were some minor findings in the audit and that the district responded to the findings.  
**Newmeyer/Ziegler/All to approve the district's budget audit for 2013-14**

**PRE K – 3 REPORT**

Principal Newton said that the district's pre-kindergarten program is well rounded and includes social, physical as well as academic components.

School counselor Julie Auslander said that the social - emotional component of the program consists of serving 60 students in group and individual counseling. She told the board: Attendance has improved a lot this year. We have meetings with staff and parents to help students succeed. We are collaborating more with community members to improve the well-being of our students. There is more parental engagement at Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy. We have an important anti-bullying campaign in the school and we hope to roll out a program to teach mindfulness to our students.

Jonathan Foley, program director of Conscious Kitchen, said the school's cafeteria program is unique in that it is entirely committed to providing organic, sustainable and non-GMO food to the students at Bayside MLK. Conscious Kitchen seeks to engage students with the food program so that they understand the process of food preparation. It also aims to involve as many community members as possible in the food program.

PE teacher Andrew Anstead said that teachers are trying to reinforce scholarly talk among students. In the cafeteria, students are learning to show respect, say please and thank you. This year, there is a lot of positive reinforcement for the students from teachers and paraprofessionals. Fantastic Fridays are still going strong. Students greet our visitors at the door and learn to communicate with adults.

Rebecca Courtney, a Head Start teacher, said we are working as a team to make all the learning that takes place in the district aligned at every level. Director of Boys and Girls Club Katie Raphael said the Club is working with Kindergarten as well as transitional Kindergarten students in collaboration with teacher Jennifer Banks to reinforce the skills that pupils are learning during school hours.

Liz Burns, director of Community Action Marin's Child Development program, said that the Pre K-3 design team is primarily responsible for the creation of the pre K and transitional Kindergarten programs at the district. This is a unique curriculum in the Bay Area, and with the combined resources of CAM and the district, children in these classes are able to go on field trips and take advantage of extra-curricular activities such as African drumming and Art.

Kindergarten teacher Jennifer Banks said this program has given us permission to collaborate as a team and be creative. The children are being given the gift of time and the opportunity to experience play-based learning.

Ruth Nenaber, the site supervisor at the Manzanita Children's Center, said the idea to meld the two programs together came from Jennifer Banks and what I see now is a classroom alive with words and learning. The pre K design team's hard work has made this possible.

Trustee Ziegler said this sounds like a great transitional program. He asked if a baseline can be established with adequate assessment tools to let the Board know how the program is working now, and the outcome in one and two years. Principal Newton said the school is working on this.

#### **Bond Report**

Mark Pressman of Wulff, Hansen & Co. said the district received a AA+ rating from Standard and Poor's. The district's increased reserves show its conservative fiscal philosophy. This should augur an attractive interest rate when we refund the bonds and serve the taxpayers well when the bonds are issued. We are set to go once the resolution has been approved, he concluded.

Brian Quint, an attorney with Quint & Thimmig LLP, said this is an opportunity to save money for the taxpayers. We anticipate a saving of around 10 percent, he told the board.

#### **Roll Call/Newmeyer/Ziegler/All - Ayes 4, Nos 0, Absent 1, to approve resolution 712, Authorization of the Issuance and Sale of the District's 2015 General Obligation Refunding Bonds**

#### **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

Trustee Van Alst said that she attended the Willow Creek Academy Foundation meeting with Trustee Barrow. Foundation members were interested in the possibility of having an ad hoc committee of two board members to disseminate communications about district finances to the public and clarify any issues that remain murky in the admittedly complicated area of school finance.

Trustee Times said she enjoyed her visit to the Willow Creek Academy. On January 19, there will be a ceremony at the Manzanita recreation center and I have been asked to give a charge to parents to play a more active role in their children's school, she told the board.

#### **MAINTENANCE REPORT**

Alan Rothkop, the director of maintenance and operations, said that all sites are now set up with the new alarm system. He said the district would like to use Prop 39 funds to update the lighting at Willow Creek Academy. The MLK campus will soon be fenced in to prevent vandalism at night and on weekends. Trustee Newmeyer asked at what point the fence became the first priority in deferred maintenance. Superintendent Van Zant said that there had been discussions about vandalism, theft and destruction of property during the summer. This

fence should have gone up during construction two years ago, he explained. Trustee Times said fencing is warranted but parents should be notified ahead of time.

### **Board Requests**

Paula Rigney gave a report of Local Control Funding Formula expenditures for both Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. and Willow Creek Academies.

### **WCA REPORT**

Head of School Royce Conner said that he enjoyed meeting with Ida Times. He said that there are three new board members at WCA: Jim Henry, who will be treasurer, as well as Kerry Headington and Taniesha Broadfoot, a Marin City resident. The enrollment calendar for next year has been approved. We have a new recruitment and fundraising video produced by a Kindergarten parent, which tells our story in three and a half minutes, he told the board.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Roll Call Ziegler /Newmeyer/ All to approve the following consent agenda item:**

Minutes of the December 9, 2014 Board Meeting

Quarterly Report: Williams Uniform Complaints Act

Payment of Warrants – Batches 24-26

Field Trips

### **Annual Adjustment to Bid Threshold for Contracts Awarded to School Districts**

### **Annual Adjustment to Liability Limit of Parent or Guardian for Willful Pupil Misconduct**

Superintendent Van Zant explained that these items relate to routine yearly increases to bid thresholds and liability limits at the district.

### **Willow Creek Academy Audit Report for 2013-2014**

Clark Warden said that the charter school's audit is clean; there were no comments by the auditors.

**Ziegler/Newmeyer/All to accept the Willow Creek Academy Audit Report for 2013-2014**

### **Willow Creek Academy 2014-2015 First Interim Budget**

Clark Warden gave an overview of the charter school's first interim budget.

Superintendent Van Zant thanked Mr. Warden for his service to Willow Creek Academy. Trustee Ziegler seconded the sentiment and said that Mr. Warden's service had been invaluable.

### **CSEA Revision of Paraeducator Classification**

Superintendent Van Zant said that the district has worked with the California School Employees Association to rewrite the job classification for the special education paraprofessional. Although all classroom paraprofessionals do the same work, in the past those in special education were paid at a higher rate. With the new classification, everyone will be paid at the same rate and job openings for regular and special education classrooms will be open to all.

**Newmeyer/Ziegler/ All to approve the CSEA Revision of Paraeducator Classification**

**Overview of Bond Refinancing Procedures**

Superintendent Van Zant gave an overview of bond refinancing and pointed out that this is the first part of putting our financial house in order. We can then start on facilities work and forming a committee to develop a facilities master plan, he said.

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

Board Policy 7000 – Facilities – Concepts and Roles

**Newmeyer/Ziegler/ All to approve Board Policy 7000 – Facilities – Concepts and Roles**

Board Policy 7110 – Facilities – Facilities Master Plan

**Ziegler/Newmeyer/All to approve Board Policy 7110 – Facilities – Facilities Master Plan**

**Board Requests**

Trustee Van Alst asked for a breakout of special education expenses. She also asked that the board consider an ad hoc committee to formulate board communications to the Sausalito Marin City community regarding district finances.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Ziegler /Times/All to adjourn the meeting at 8:12p.m.**

*Adelina* 03-10-15

Signature/Date

*Clerk*

Title