

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board and Superintendent convened closed session at 4:31 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Open session reconvened 6:04 p.m.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Barrow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ORDER

Item 8.01, New CSEA Approved Positions was taken off the consent agenda. The remainder of the agenda was approved.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Trustee Thornton said that September 2nd was a wonderful Back to School Night. Many organizations donated school supplies, and students went away with lots of paper and pencils to start the new school year. In honor of the nationwide Million Man March event, many fathers walked to school with their children on the first day of school. Bayside MLK students have cleaned up the Orchard Trail on Cole Avenue. If you visit, there is a kiosk that explains the history of the area, she said.

Trustee Newmeyer said that he participated in the work day at Willow Creek Academy. He commended Alan Rothkop for his team's hard work on the campus.

Trustee Ziegler reported that he received a call from Marin Clean Energy regarding a review of the district's utilities expenses.

Trustee Barrow said that he paid a visit to Rocky Graham Park in Marin City. The revitalized park is set to open next year.

Trustee Van Alst said that she will have her first meeting as treasurer of the Marin County School Board Association tomorrow.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Alan Rothkop, the director of maintenance and operations, said that the last of the bike racks will be installed tomorrow. The black bark at Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy has also been installed. He has been informed that the City of Sausalito may take on the responsibility of removing some of the trees on Lincoln Drive because they are a danger to the sewer system.

He reported that a new security system for Willow Creek Academy will be set up next week.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Van Zant said that this year, we have 517 students in the district. This increase in numbers is a testament to the good job that teachers are doing with the students at both schools. The campuses look very good, despite the fact that they were in full use all summer and there was not much time to clean, he said.

This year, the primary focus for our students will be reading. Teachers will be trained in the best practices on the subject in a SIPPS (Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words) training session that will take place next week. The Superintendent's mother is offering her services gratis to the district and running this workshop. Online Spanish will start next week and will be offered four days a week.

Summer School Report

Alec Lee, executive director of the Aim High program, said that this was their fifth year at Bayside MLK. It has been an honor to work with the students and the community here, he told the board. The focus of Aim High is middle school students and since the beginning of the program, retention has been a challenge in Marin City. Aim High is a five- week program that emphasizes academic enrichment and youth development. In the morning, students concentrate on science, math and the humanities. Restorative justice is a big part of the program. Students do hands on interdisciplinary projects and afternoons are devoted to activities, sports and creating a college-oriented culture. This year, students visited San Francisco State and UC Berkeley and went on many other field trips.

We have some challenges here, Mr. Lee said. Reaching enrollment goals has been difficult. This summer we had 76 enrolled but on a typical day there were about 55 students. So attendance has been an issue for us and we have not yet found the magic solution.

Denni Brusseau, director of Bridge the Gap, said this year was a great opportunity to have her program right on campus during the summer. She introduced Hope Feldman, the lead teacher for Bridge the Gap, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the programs Little Readers and Mathletes. She said: we had over 100 volunteers work with our students over the summer. We served about 45 students from K to 3rd grade. We focused on practice in literacy and math skills to maintain skills that students acquire during the school year. We planned library field trips. The kids seemed to have a great time and we gained lots of community support by being here. Next year, we hope to reach out to more parents to have their children attend our program.

Betty Hodges, director of the Hannah Project, said that she is very grateful to the district for allowing her organization to use its facilities for the fourth year. The Hannah Project is an affiliate of the Children's Defense Fund, which has 150 sites around the country. The Fund was started after the 1964 Mississippi Freedom

Summer to champion reading and better education throughout the country. She continued: Here at the Hannah Project, we have had great success in helping all our students retain their reading level over the summer. In 2013, the average reading gain was two years, a remarkable result. This year we tried to expand on this work with a play called Mississippi Summer. We have been able to improve our students' behavior, building on the work that the school has done. Our program includes arts and crafts, dancing, outdoor games and science. This summer, we had many community partners, such as residents of Sausalito Marin City who read with kids who were targeted as having problems. We had a guest chef come and cook for us. Someone from Marin Theater Company presented a play. We had a World Culture Day: groups from Oaxaca, Mexico came and performed traditional songs, demonstrating the link between African culture and native Mexican culture. We feel that we enriched kids' lives; they read an average of 12 books over the summer in addition to their other activities. We are hoping to extend our reach beyond the elementary grades and develop a relationship with the middle school over the coming school year.

Superintendent Van Zant said that next year, we will work on getting an earlier start and enroll more of our children in these programs so that our students can attend these wonderful summer academic programs in greater numbers. Trustee Thornton said that if parents are better informed about retention policies, they may have more of an incentive to enroll their children and avoid the possibility of retention.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Jonnette Newton said that a school uniform policy is in effect at Bayside MLK and students are expected to follow it. She said: We have encountered some initial difficulties regarding attendance. Students are getting used to the fact that this year, breakfast is outside of class time and by 8:15AM everyone should be in the classroom. But tardiness is decreasing - today we had fewer than 20 students late as opposed to last week, when we had almost 170 tardy slips for the school. We have informed parents that breakfast is at 7:45AM this year, but we have to reinforce the message with phone calls and house visits.

Total enrollment at Bayside MLK is at 162 students, up from 145 last year. There are 30 students in the Kindergarten class. September 17 is our Back to School Night. Please join us and see how teachers are planning to run their classrooms and talk about their grading and retention policies.

WCA Report

Head of School Royce Conner said that we have had our strongest opening so far - an enrollment of 354 as of today. Of these, 75% are in-district students. In Kindergarten between 90 and 100% of children will be in-district. We have hired Carlos Gonzales as a student support specialist for grades K through 5. This is to reinforce our commitment to restorative justice and to move away from punitive responses to student behavior and towards a more community-based, reparative response. We hope to see positive changes in discipline data.

The district IT specialist Mark Tong has been fantastic; we now have broadband! We have an almost 1 to 2 ratio of students to computers, and we have the infrastructure to have those computers work. Our annual Fall Welcome Day will be on September 27 from 11:30 AM, all are welcome.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Paloma Collier, the garden manager, said that she would like to inspire everyone to come to the garden and volunteer when they can. It takes a lot of work to plant and grow all the food that our cafeteria program needs. We are planting more beds of vegetables, so we would very much appreciate your help.

CSEA approved positions

Superintendent Van Zant said that since Willow Creek Academy will be responsible for its own custodial services, the district has reconsidered its own program. We have a new van and we need a driver, so we have created a custodian/driver position. He asked the board to approve this new CSEA approved position.

Thornton/Van Alst/All to approve the new CSEA approved positions.

Resolution 709 - Agreement with Wulff, Hansen & Co.

Mark Pressman of Wulff, Hansen & Co said that this agreement to consult with the district on bond matters reflects changes in conflict of interest issues that have been instituted by Congress. He added that there may be a general obligation bond issue in 2016 and he commended the board for getting an early start and preparing for the election.

Roll Call Newmeyer/Van Alst/All to approve Resolution 709, Agreement with Wulff, Hansen & Co.

Resolution 707 - Public Hearing on Sufficiency of Instructional Materials

Superintendent Van Zant said that we have sufficient materials, and we are always in the process of getting new instructional materials for our students.

Roll Call Van Alst/Newmeyer/All to approve Resolution 707, Sufficiency of Instructional Materials

FINANCIAL & BUSINESS

Resolution 708 - Adoption of the 2014-2015 "GANN" Limit

Paula Rigney, the district chief business official, said that this is a calculation for the State, showing that our expenditures do not exceed last year's.

Roll Call Newmeyer/Van Alst/All to approve Resolution 708, Adoption of the 2014-2015 "GANN" Limit

2013-2014 District Unaudited Actuals

Paula Rigney gave a PowerPoint presentation of the district's budget. This is the first step in closing the books for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. Our ending fund balance is \$1.6 million or 20% above the previous year's balance.

Newmeyer/Van Alst/All to approve the 2013-2014 District Unaudited Actuals

2013-2014 Willow Creek Academy Unaudited Actuals

Head of School Royce Conner said Willow Creek Academy ended the year in the black, with a surplus of around \$130K.

Newmeyer/Van Alst/All to accept the 2013-2014 Willow Creek Academy Unaudited Actuals

CONSENT AGENDA

Roll Call /Thornton/Van Alst/All to approve the following consent agenda item:

Minutes of the August 12, 2014 Board Meeting

Memorandum of Understanding – Bridge the Gap

Memorandum of Understanding – Boys and Girls Club

Master Contract – Cypress School

Personnel Action Report
Instructional Minutes and Bell Schedule for the 2014-2015 School Year
Payment of Warrants – Batches 11-15

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Thornton/Van Alst/All to approve the following Board Policies:
Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 1113 – School Websites
Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 1114 – School sponsored Social Media

The following policies were brought to the Board for a first read:
Board Policy 1150 – Community Relations–Commendations and Awards
Board Policy 1160 – Community Relations – Political Processes

BOARD REQUESTS


Trustee Thornton asked for an overview of the status of the ball field. Trustee Newmeyer asked for information on transfers from Willow Creek Academy to Bayside MLK.

ADJOURNMENT

Thornton/Van Alst / All to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

 10/14/14

Signature/Date



Title