

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
October 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 5:00 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Board and Superintendent convened closed session at 5:01 p.m.

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

Open session reconvened at 6:05 p.m.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Trustee Times led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ORDER**

The agenda order was approved.

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

Trustee Times said she attended the Performing Stars of Marin 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary party. Community members came together and celebrated this wonderful local resource for our children, she told the board.

Trustee Newmeyer said that the letter from Terena Mares at the Marin County Office of Education, which formally accepted the district's 2015-2016 budget, erroneously contained a paragraph from last year's letter. He asked that this error be recorded in the board meeting's minutes.

**MAINTENANCE REPORT**

Alan Rothkop, the director of maintenance and operations, said that the district is working to retrieve all the tangible property that can be saved following the fire at 33 Buchanan. The district has purchased a large container to store all maintenance equipment and supplies. The container will be placed in the parking lot at 33 Buchanan.

Trustee Ziegler asked if there was an inventory of the tools we had prior to the fire. Mr. Rothkop said that we did not have a written inventory. Trustee Van Alst suggested that we start an inventory of all our equipment for the future.

Four heavy duty trash cans have been purchased for Willow Creek. These will be secured to the asphalt so that they are not tipped over by animals, creating a mess.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Van Zant thanked Judy Shils of Conscious Kitchen for allowing the district to use her office before renting temporary office space at 3030 Bridgeway.

### **CONSCIOUS KITCHEN REPORT**

Judy Shils, director of Conscious Kitchen, gave a Power Point presentation of the cafeteria program. She said that there was enormous response to a press release about the program the press, schools and the public. The start of the program at Willow Creek Academy this year was the second milestone in the history of Conscious Kitchen. As a result of growing public interest, we hosted a webinar for school districts, she told the board. I could not have done this without the support of the district, she concluded.

### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

Principal Jonnette Newton gave an update on school attendance. She shared a chart showing tardiness and absences last year vs. the same period this year. She also shared information regarding the number of children walking to school and eating breakfast here. She said: There are many more students eating breakfast at school this year. Attendance is much better. We are working on the issue of tardiness with a few students who are repeat offenders. At 9:30 AM every morning, we have automatic calls going out to the homes of absent students. Every afternoon, we call the parents of absent or tardy students. These procedures keep us informed about the students and their families and what is happening in their lives. Middle schoolers get detention for being consistently late. In the case of younger students, we work with their parents and set up meetings with them to discuss their children.

She continued: Assessments are ongoing and report cards will go out in November. Dr. Thornton and I visited the Tamalpais High School principal to talk about preparing our students for high school. We plan to have Tam administrators come here to talk to some of the parents of our former students who are now at Tam.

Trustee Van Alst said she heard that lack of transportation is a challenge for some of our students who are now at Tam, because they cannot attend sports and other extracurricular activities. Principal Newton agreed and added that some are not comfortable in the Tam clubs, so we are working to have clubs at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy to better prepare them for the culture at Tam.

Teacher Ellen Franz announced that as of November 2015, we expect to have \$15K in our non-profit foundation dedicated to the arts, the Center for Excellence. We will have a benefit sale on October 24th, with proceeds going to the Center, she told the board.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Roll Call /Ziegler/Times, 4 Ayes, 0 Nos, 1 Absent to approve the following consent agenda items:**

Minutes of the September 8, 2015 and September 23, 2015 Board Meetings

Payment of Warrants – Batches 9-14

### **California Voting Rights Act**

Superintendent Van Zant said that the board should start thinking about the provisions of the California Voting Rights Act, as it is a vital issue for a school board. Trustee Newmeyer said that as it stands, the composition of

the board pretty accurately represents the population of Sausalito Marin City. Trustee Ziegler suggested that we create an executive summary of our obligations under the act.

**FINANCIAL & BUSINESS**

**CBEDS/Enrollment Report**

Paula Rigney explained that the CBEDS report shows that our enrollment increased by 5 students over last year.

**Field Trips**

Trustee Van Alst said that it might be helpful to have the cost of field trips in the budget so that the board can look at this information before approval.

**Newmeyer/Times/All to approve Field Trips**

**CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**

Trustee Times asked if it would be possible for teachers to come to board meetings to talk about curriculum and instruction. Superintendent Van Zant said perhaps we can take one subject in the curriculum for each month and have the teachers give a report.

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT**


The following board policies were brought to the board for a first read:


Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 0420 - Philosophy, Goals, Objectives and Comprehensive Plans – School Plans/Site Councils

Board Policy 7210 – Facilities Financing

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Newmeyer/Ziegler/All to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m.**

 11/10/15  
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Signature/Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title