

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 11, 2017**

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: Joshua Barrow, Ida Green, Thomas Newmeyer, Debra Turner
Absent: Caroline Van Alst
Superintendent: Will McCoy

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 6:11 p.m.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Green led the pledge of allegiance.

REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA

Trustee Newmeyer said that concerns have been raised by the County Superintendent that he has a conflict of interest in decisions that affect the relationship between the district and the charter school, arising from the fact that he has children attending the charter school. He continued: Although I do not believe that a conflict exists, given the nature of the allegations and the ongoing investigation of the district by the Attorney General, I am recusing myself from several items on the agenda: 8.01- WCA Correspondence, 10.01 – WCA Oversight Committee Report, 10.02 – District Structure Committee Report, 11.03 – Discussion of 2016-2017 Consolidated Application for Funding Part II, 11.04 – Discussion of Willow Creek Academy Proposition 39 Request, and 13.01- Guidance on District Office Fire Insurance Settlement. He asked that items that were not subject to his recusal be grouped together to minimize disruption to the meeting.

Superintendent McCoy said that the presentation by the Freedom schools has been postponed to April 25.

Newmeyer/Green/1 Absent to Reorganize the Agenda and Group the Above Items Together

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Trustee Green attended a meeting of parents at the school and said that it was a great gathering and there was a good discussion among the participants.

Trustee Turner said that the Spring Update from the district is full of good news about current events at the school and plans for the upcoming summer programs. Turning to matters of governance, she said that if the board is to function as a single entity, it must come together and take up all matters before it. Unfortunately, we are prevented from doing so because of the need for recusal by some Board members, she said.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Teri Lang, mother of two children at Willow Creek Academy and president of the WCA Foundation, said that contrary to rumors, the Foundation does not have \$1 million in the bank. Rather, it strives to raise \$300K a year to fill in gaps in funding for music, the arts and the library. Getting to this level of fundraising took at least five years and involves the continuing commitment of dozens of volunteers. She said that the Foundation is willing to help Damian Morgan strategize to build up his foundation for Bayside MLK Jr. Academy.

Kate Stohr, a parent, said that she is concerned about the role of the Marin County Superintendent of Schools in determining the future of the district. She continued: The investigation launched by Superintendent Mary Jane Burke has cost the district \$300K in unnecessary legal fees to date and two elected board members have been effectively silenced. She has assigned Terena Mares to work in the district. Ms. Mares does not report to our Board but is apparently guiding decision-making. Representatives of one school in the district were excluded from recent budget meetings. All these matters should raise concerns, she told the Board.

She continued: The merger with Mill Valley School district has been proposed three times in the past, in 1957, 1965 and 1970, and each time it failed, causing disruption. We should conduct a survey of citizens to gauge public sentiment before allowing the County Superintendent to hire a consultant. We should limit the actions of the County and allow decisions to come from parents, citizens and local control.

At 6:29 p.m., Trustee Newmeyer left the room.

WCA Letter

Superintendent McCoy said that the letter was recently sent to the Board and Superintendent and is included in the packet for the Board's review.

Jennifer Conway, a parent with students at both schools, said that the board which granted the charter has ultimate accountability and must act in the best interests of all children. She said that differentiating between low-income or English Language learners at Bayside MLK Jr. and Willow Creek Academies is not fair or equitable. The focus should be on getting resources to the students with the highest needs, regardless of their school of attendance.

Sebastian Ferrando, a parent with children at both schools, said he wanted to debunk two myths: One, that the composition of the district board has been stacked in favor of Willow Creek Academy. Given that over 70% of the children in the district attend the charter school, a much bigger pool of interested people would naturally come from parents of WCA students. Two, that more money would solve Bayside MLK Jr. Academy's problems. These problems have included misplaced textbooks, hires that did not work out, high staff turnover and slow progress on key initiatives such as a coherent and ratified discipline policy. This is where the conversation should start, rather than discussion of the MOU between WCA and the district, he concluded.

At 6:37 p.m., Trustee Newmeyer returned to the room.

SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent McCoy said that the administration is in the process of selecting candidates for three regular classroom teachers and one Special Day Class position.

Referring to the list of corrective actions outlined in the Board packet, he said that these have been very encouraging. He went through the items, pointing out those that have been completed and others which are still in progress. It is very exciting to see the pieces of a robust summer school program come together, he said. We are gaining momentum in providing a better learning environment for our students and moving the district forward.

Trustee Barrow said that he would like to recognize that many additional improvements which are not mentioned in the report have already taken place in the district.

FREEDOM SCHOOLS

Bettie Hodges of the Hannah Project said that her organization is close to raising enough money to have 50 students at the Freedom school this summer. Turning to the next school year, she explained the idea of embedding the Freedom school concept in the regular school. The changes would include adding an assembly at the beginning of the day, a reading period for the entire school, an integrated 90-minute reading program, a cool down/mindfulness period and a closing circle at the end of the day. Each teacher and classified person would be trained in the Freedom School methodology. The curriculum is customized to ensure that it is diverse, reflective of various cultures and their achievements, she told the Board.

LCAP

Pecolia Manigo of PLAN gave a presentation on the Local Control Accountability Plan for the coming year. She went through the goals as well as the actions and services that are designed to achieve those goals and the measurable outcomes that are expected.

The first goal continues to be student achievement. She outlined the various tests that are used to measure outcomes and the actions and services that will go to improve those outcomes.

Bettie Hodges suggested that in addition to tests, portfolios of students' work be used as a measure of students' achievements.

Goal 2 remains sustaining a community school model at the district. Ms. Manigo said that a great deal of work remains to be done to achieve this goal.

Goal 3 is family and community engagement. The measurable outcomes for this goal need to be improved so that they can be measured accurately. Engaging the community in the core academic program at BMLK is an important action for this goal.

Goal 4 is school climate. This is a new goal that includes reducing absenteeism and tardiness, fewer cases of discipline and suspension and a middle school dropout rate of less than 1%.

Glenda Gentry, a board member of the Center for Excellence, said that her organization sees the visual and performing arts as a central and core part of the school curriculum.

Barbara Killey, a volunteer and Center for Excellence board member, said that this year has been a difficult one at BMLK. Last year, parents and community members were not included in the budgeting process. She asked that they be included so that there is understanding and buy-in for all LCAP priorities.

CONSENT AGENDA –

Roll Call Newmeyer/Green/4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 1 Absent to Approve the Following Consent Agenda items:
Minutes of the March 27 and 28, 2017 Board Meetings

Payment of Warrants – Batches 38-39
Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints

Approval of 2017-2018 Sausalito Marin City School District Calendar

Superintendent McCoy thanked Amy Prescott for drafting the calendar.

Newmeyer/Turner/1 Absent to Approve the 2017-2018 Sausalito Marin City School District Calendar

Approval of California Healthy Kids Survey

Superintendent McCoy said this is a standard statewide test.

Turner/Newmeyer/1 Absent to Approve the Administration of the California Healthy Kids Survey

Approval of Agreement with San Francisco State University for Communicative Disorders Interns at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy

Superintendent McCoy said this agreement enables the university to place student trainees in speech pathology in our district

Newmeyer/Turner/1 Absent to Approve the Placement of Speech Pathology Interns

Approval of 2017-2018 Agreement with the Marin Theatre Company for Drama Instruction at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy

Bettie Hodges said that there have been problems with the cooperation with MTC in the past. It is important to vet possible partners before entering into an agreement, she told the Board.

Newmeyer/Turner/1 Abstain/1 Absent to Approve a Preliminary Agreement with the Marin Theatre Company

At 9:40 p.m., trustee Newmeyer left the meeting.

WILLOW CREEK ACADEMY OVERSIGHT (Barrow, Turner)

Trustee Barrow said that the committee had met and looked at a checklist of items which the CBO and Superintendent will go through with WCA leadership.

DISTRICT STRUCTURE COMMITTEE – Ad Hoc (Turner, Barrow)

Trustee Turner said the committee met with representatives of WCA and will continue to reach out to the community for other proposals regarding district structure.

Jeff Knowles, WCA board member and parent, said he would like to underscore that the WCA Board should have input on the subject of district structure. He continued: We should cooperate to find ways to close the achievement gap. We should look at all options, including a merger of the two existing schools. There would be massive financial efficiencies with the charter format and just one school.

DISCUSSIONS

2016-2017 Consolidated Application for Funding Part II

Superintendent McCoy said this enables the district to apply for federal funding and is being presented to the Board for discussion.

Willow Creek Academy Proposition 39 Request

Superintendent McCoy said that charter schools are required to follow an application process to request space. We are reporting out that the application seems reasonable and is a continuation of their present space usage.

Guidance on District Office Fire Insurance Settlement

Superintendent McCoy said we must look at the various options open to the district. The Board should consider whether the funds be used as intended to rebuild district office facilities or for other purposes.

Green/Turner/1 Oppose/2 Absent to Disapprove Use of Insurance Monies for Sole Purpose of Rebuilding the District Office

FUTURE TOPICS

Facilities

ADJOURNMENT

Turner/ Green/1 Absent to Adjourn at 10:07 p.m.

 5/16/17

Signature/Date



Title