

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 13, 2016**

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: Caroline Van Alst, Thomas Newmeyer, Ida Green, Debra Turner

Absent: Joshua Barrow

Superintendent: Will McCoy

The meeting was called to order at 6:16 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Turner led the pledge of allegiance.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Board President

Trustee Turner nominated herself for the office of board president. The nomination was not supported.

Trustee Newmeyer nominated Trustee Barrow for president.

Newmeyer/Van Alst/ 1 Abstain/1 Absent to elect Trustee Barrow as Board President

Board Vice President

Trustee Newmeyer nominated Trustee Green for the office of Board Vice President.

Newmeyer/Turner/ 1 Absent to elect Trustee Green as Board Vice President

Board Clerk

Trustee Green nominated Trustee Turner for the office of Board Clerk.

Green/Van Alst/1 Absent to elect Trustee Turner as Board Clerk

Appointment of Board Secretary – Will McCoy

Newmeyer/Green/1 Absent to appoint Mr. McCoy as Board Secretary

Adjournment of Organizational Meeting

Newmeyer/Green/1 Absent to adjourn the Organizational Meeting at 6:20 p.m.

OPEN SESSION – *Regular Meeting*

The regular meeting convened at 6:22 p.m. In Trustee Barrow's absence, trustee Green presided.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Trustee Turner thanked everyone for their trust and hard work. She said that the election outcome indicates that voters want not just a change in faces, but a shift in process. She continued: I look forward to working with the Board to lead the district away from conflict and into responsive communication. I hope that we will adhere to not just the letter of the law but also the spirit of the law, and work to empower every student to live a productive life.

Trustee Green said she attended the California School Board Association conference with Trustee Turner and had the opportunity to share opinions and impressions with other trustees from around the state. She said that she feels energized to share her vision for the district's students with our teachers and staff.

Trustee Newmeyer said that he and Trustee Van Alst also went to the conference and attended a ceremony where Mr. McCoy was honored by State Superintendent Tom Torlakson for his outstanding and innovative work in summer school programs.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. McCrary, a parent, said: As a member of the School Site Council and parent of three children, I am concerned about understaffing in the elementary and middle school grades. We need to ensure that there are enough full time aides in all classrooms to help the students, some of whom are performing below grade level. Staffing is tied to the budget and the MOU with WCA. I would urge trustees to renegotiate the MOU, which is contributing to our children not getting the education they deserve. To attract more parents to the board meetings, you have to meet people where they are culturally. Some stay away because the Board is not receptive to them. If childcare and food were offered and the atmosphere was more relaxed, perhaps there would be more of a bond with the community.

Barbara Sapienza, a resident, said that she is interested in bringing the practice of mindfulness to the district's children. This is being used all over the country to help children be more attentive. Children who get five-minute mindfulness breaks a few times a day are more able to focus and control their emotions. It would be useful to talk about how to establish such a program with our students here, she suggested.

Margaret Badger, a local resident, said: I am here to appreciate the energy that was created in electing a new member to the Board. This has energized both Sausalito and Marin City in a positive way. We can all get fired up to receive the ideas that are all around and have them benefit all students. We need volunteers, music teachers, counselors and a dedicated Board.

Terena Mares of MCOE said: On December 9, we issued a letter to the Board and community in response to the final chapter of the FCMAT report. The letter outlined a nine- point action plan which includes working with the district in a collaborative spirit, recognizing that there are some critical needs here. The plan includes the following:

- Compensatory education for the middle schoolers who have had a very slow start to the year
- Professional development plan for everyone
- Resolution of credentialing misassignments
- Resolution of textbook insufficiency
- A timeline to respond to the FCMAT report
- Outreach to capture all four year olds

Ms. Mares said that she has deep respect for the community and for everyone here. "Hold us accountable" she concluded.

Janeane Moody, a resident, said I am a grandparent of a child at WCA, also a retired teacher. The staffing here is completely inadequate. The hiring of a full-time math teacher is not planned until September 2017. This should be remedied immediately.

Kahaya Adams, a parent of three children at Bayside MLK, said: We formed the Marin City Parents Advocating for Children a few months ago. We are concerned about discipline and the absence of a math teacher. We are not satisfied with the progress that has been made so far. We are hopeful that the administration will soon address our concerns.

Mary Luz Arredondo, a parent, said: I have lived here more than 15 years. My son tried to commit suicide because he was bullied. I advocate for my children directly. My son is now safe and graduated from high school. Stop looking back and look forward. We are in a crisis right now. In the past, our children suffered academically. We have to advocate for future generations. We have the money, resources and heart to address the issues of bullying and academic achievement. We want our children to succeed and go on to high school. I am concerned about my children not being prepared for high school. We need help now.

Mickey Allison, a retired science teacher, said: I am willing to volunteer. I have skills in life science and chemistry. Come up with a coordinated plan for using volunteers from a variety of organizations. It is criminal what has been going on here. Please use us.

CORRESPONDENCE

Willow Creek Academy Request for Prop 39 Facilities

Superintendent McCoy commended the school for the timely and professional submission of the plan. He said that he had no objection to the plan as written.

Julius Holtzclaw said: The facilities request is always in compliance with the law. But a lot of people don't understand what a charter school is and how it operates. The Plan talks about adequate facilities comparable to Bayside MLK. WCA has taken over the Bayside campus in Sausalito. Bayside went from 13 acres to four rooms here without storage or water in the classrooms. WCA has asked for 20 classrooms, offices and rooms for counseling. They ask for a computer lab, we have none. Right now, we don't have a room for discipline. They want two special education rooms. Here we have a total of eight classrooms. We don't have a restorative justice area. Fair is not always equal.

LaDonna Jones said that she agreed with Mr. Holtzclaw. She continued: I want to know why we are paying for what WCA wants. The school that is supposed to be the Board's priority is being pushed aside. I am not happy that board members or the superintendent do not come into my community. Step out, knock on doors, speak to us, we are fed up.

Trustee Van Alst asked if calculations have been done about over-allocation of space based on the prop 39 request and the count of in-district students compared to the reasonably equivalent calculation at Bayside MLK, to determine whether space allocated to out-of-district students is in excess and there

should be a charge for such space. Superintendent McCoy said that calculation has not been done at this point. It would be timely for the Board to look at such calculations as we move forward with the budget discussions in the next few months. The district must respond to the WCA request by February. Trustee Van Alst said it would be good to hear the district's assessment of the space being requested to ensure an equitable allocation of facilities.

REPORTS

Principal – Student Recognition

Principal Griffin invited teacher Dionne Estes to speak about third grader Sheldon Bynum, who was not able to attend the meeting. Ms. Estes praised the way that Sheldon was able to complete a writing assignment by connecting the subject to a previous lesson and using his skills to go beyond what was expected.

Beth Minor honored Mikyla Williams, a 7th grader, who wrote about her hopes for the future. Mikyla said in part: "In two years I will be in high school...I will be the valedictorian of my class and make my family proud... I will go to law school and I'll never lose a case...I'll start to sing in public and become very famous. I'll have lots of money and support many causes, such as breast cancer...because I will be willing to share my wealth." Mikyla then received a certificate of achievement from Ms. Minor.

Discipline Plan

Principal Griffin said he is presenting the discipline plan in draft form. He consulted with parent groups and teachers, and is now waiting for feedback from students and classified staff. The goal of the plan is to raise academic achievement and curtail bad behavior, while making sure that staff and students feel supported. We will use punitive measures as well as positive rewards, he said. The plan envisions responsibilities for the administrative staff as well as teachers, parents and students. We expect appropriate behavior throughout the school: no fighting, no cheating, no running, no electronic devices, and adherence to the dress code. Students can talk to counselors in case they are needed to de-escalate events. It would be good to have a full time counselor, he said.

He continued: We recently had a bullying awareness seminar to go over the options that students have when confronted with bullying. Our message is focused on trustworthiness, caring. We give good behavior tickets to students. These go into a jar and names are drawn weekly for a prize.

Trustee Van Alst said as part of the LCAP process, it would be useful to see how this plan improves the suspension and expulsion rates. Principal Griffin said he is working with the CALPADS consultant to build a report that shows the effectiveness of the program.

Parent Advisory Council

Principal Griffin said the group has focused on the absence of a math teacher. Superintendent McCoy said the Tuesday roundtables are well attended. This is not a silent parent community, even if we do not hear that in a formal report, he said.

English Learner Advisory Committee

Mary Luz Arredondo said: I want to learn what we can do for our children. We have to have zero tolerance for bullying. I am an advocate for human rights. If I have to go to Sacramento, I will do it. We have accumulated 30 years' worth of problems. Now we must pay attention to them. Please come and engage with our community, parents and students. We don't want to be alone. We should be friendly with each other to show children that color and ethnicity ought not to be barriers. We are concerned about the cafeteria because some of the students don't like the food, which means they stay hungry and cannot learn. We are concerned about the level of education for our students who will not be ready to enter high school. We meet every Tuesday and we invite all of you to come to our meeting.

Trustee Van Alst asked how the Board should track and resolve the concerns that are brought before it. Perhaps we can receive a report on the concerns of the parents, she suggested. Trustee Newmeyer asked if the ELAC meetings have an agenda. Principal Griffin said they do. Trustee Van Alst asked to see the agenda of the meetings at the next board meeting.

CSEA

Julius Holtzclaw said he is currently the union's vice president. He continued: It was concerning to see that the tentative agreement was almost voted down. It is my hope that you will rectify this and approve the agreement. We are ready to go forward with the next step.

Superintendent McCoy said the issue was tabled at the last meeting with the direction to go back and increase our ending balance. He said that he worked with Amy Prescott to bring the budget to a better standing. We believe that the budget before you tonight supports the agreement, he told the Board.

Director of Maintenance

Trustee Van Alst said that the water usage bills seemed to be all over the map, with some usage far exceeding the norm. Alan Rothkop said keeping the fields green uses a lot of water. At some point, we had a leak that was under a driveway and continued for 24 hours before we could stop it. We will look at the usage over several years to see if there is an anomaly somewhere.

California Collaborative for Educational Excellence

Sujie Shin said CCEE has been regularly attending the Tuesday roundtables as well as meetings of Marin City Parents Advocating for Children and other stakeholders. As outlined earlier, CCEE met with parents, staff and teachers as well as students. She continued: We asked about the assets of the community, its goals and its challenges and obstacles. We heard that the community wants academic success for the children. Challenges include discontinuity in leadership, behavior issues, not having adequate number of teachers or classroom materials. Ms. Shin said that the suggested next steps might include having a planning committee comprised of all the stakeholders, including the district, MCOE, BMLK, parents and the community with CCEE as facilitator. This group could then identify 2-3 goals, review data to figure out a focus point and immediate vs. long-term needs, and map out a plan that includes timeframes and roles and responsibilities for the stakeholders.

Trustee Newmeyer asked about metrics. Ms. Shin said this depends on the goals that we choose. Trustee Van Alst said she would like to hear district plans for bringing the middle school up to snuff. Do we need to bring in tutors? We need some out of the box solutions, she said.

Willow Creek Academy

Head of School Tara Seekins said: 6th graders gave presentations of their interpretations of Greek myths in the multi-purpose room. Huckleberry Youth Services is conducting our sexual and reproductive health classes. The English Language Learner reclassification rate for the school is .34, exceeding the State target of .22. Teachers will be attending the Marin City Math Challenge. They are in the process of developing individual learning plans for students who need support to study algebra in the ninth grade. The suspension rate has been cut by almost two-thirds relative to this same time last year. Enrollment is 402.

Turning to the budget, Clark Warden said total revenues have increased by \$54K and expenditures have decreased by \$3K with a net fund balance of about \$27K. Projections for the next two years are in line to reflect the normal cost of living adjustments. Enrollment is projected to go to 417 next year.

David Suto, a resident, said: This interim budget has factored in a cost of living increase of 1.1 to 2.4 %, when rents are increasing at a rate of 5%. At some point you will lose teachers because they will not be able to afford to work here. Teacher retention is a key metric of a school's success. Turning to the problem of hiring a math teacher at Bayside MLK, math teachers these days are getting signing bonuses. If you are not offering that, you will not be able to hire a teacher. We don't have enough revenue. We have to cut overhead, find grants, or go for a parcel tax or bond to take the pressure off operational costs. We need a plan to identify what we need to teach our kids. Right now all of our schools are failing. I suggest that you check some reading samples at the middle school and see whether those students are performing at grade level.

Trustee Newmeyer said we must think of a parcel tax or bond to make revenues match up with need. Looking at students by group, the socio-economically disadvantaged students are not doing well at our schools, in Marin County or in California. We must retire the COP debt and get behind something that works for all our students.

Superintendent

Mr. McCoy said that we face multiple challenges:

- Hiring a math teacher – we still do not have a viable candidate
- Compensatory education for students this summer – we are implementing an all-hands-on-deck approach. We are not giving our children what they deserve; I appreciate all those who are stepping up to help out. I am learning about the community and I am listening.
- The Marin Community Foundation is re-evaluating the guidelines for the funding for the parent liaison position. We will wait for their input before proceeding.
- Legal challenges continue. We are working with the Attorney General's office. We are also dealing with a complaint filed with the California Department of Education.

He concluded: I am now in a better position to understand the storm that we face. We have to step up and have good conversations with each other.

At 8:42 p.m., Trustee Green said that the Board would take a short break. The Board reconvened the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Van Alst asked to remove the November 15, 2016 minutes from the consent agenda.

Newmeyer/Van Alst/1 Absent to remove the minutes from the consent agenda.

Roll Call /Newmeyer/Van Alst/4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 1 Absent to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Follett Agreement for Library Services
- Response to Grand Jury Request
- Payment of Warrants – Batches 19-22

Minutes of the November 15, 2016 Board Meeting

Trustee Van Alst asked that the minutes reflect more of the discussion that took place around the consideration and approval of budget revision #1 and have the minutes brought back at the next meeting.

Approval of Tennessee Woods, Tennessee Glen and Attendance Agreements

Superintendent McCoy said the Board reviewed these agreements in November and recommended approval.

Van Alst/Newmeyer/1 Absent to approve the Tennessee Woods, Tennessee Glen and Attendance Agreements

Review of Parent Leadership Action Network (PLAN) Proposal

Superintendent McCoy this proposal is more comprehensive than the one presented by WestEd. The contract would come to the Board at the January meeting.

Pecolia Manigo, executive director of PLAN, said that her organization serves families as well as children and works to ensure that all students have access to a good education. She said that she is a parent of three children and has been a School Site Council president for seven years. She continued: We work in several sites in the Oakland school district and we have also supported parents and students in West Contra Costa county and San Jose. I have done education advocacy since middle school to win local control of funding for schools. We run three programs: Parents Ready for School, which prepares parents to navigate the education system. We also have a program called Leaders Engaged for Active Parents. We believe that it is essential to build a structure for family engagement. We want every family to deliver a high level of service for their children. We also do organizing. We work both with the LCAP and the Single Plan for Student Achievement to engage all the stakeholders and to get more clarity about the role of the Board, parents, students, and the community. In January, I can give more details on designing your LCAP and your plan for student achievement. In the beginning of the LCAP process,

there is a strong desire to be too philosophical and less practical. We came across this in Oakland. The LCAP can be simplified and written so that parents can easily read it. The person who has the best experience in a given task, is the one we will bring to teach your stakeholders.

Trustee Green asked if changes are evident in Oakland or San Jose. Ms. Manigo gave the example of a conversation with parents who wanted improvements in reading. PLAN employees recalibrated their work and emphasized reading. Within six weeks, Spanish speaking parents with limited English were able to work on literacy and reading with their children.

Trustee Newmeyer asked if the contract as proposed enough to cover what needs to be done. Ms. Manigo said that this is what we would charge an ally. We are doing it because of our relationship with Bettie Hodges. It is a tremendous opportunity for us, to show that our staff can work in a different environment. We have to be flexible with our plan as we start it. It will take partnership. At your Board meeting in June, we hope that you will have an LCAP that is aligned with your budget.

FINANCIAL & BUSINESS

Resolution 740 - Authorization to Sign on behalf of the Governing Board

Roll Call /Newmeyer/Van Alst 4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 1 Absent to approve Resolution 740 - Authorization to Sign on behalf of the Governing Board

Approval of Budget Revision #1 for Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Trustee Van Alst said: Out of an abundance of caution, and in light of recent accusations regarding common law conflicts of interest, and as I am a trustee who has children at the charter school - I would like to recuse myself from this item as well as the next two items on the agenda, Approval of the 2016-2017 First Interim Report and Tentative Agreements with SMCTA and CSEA Bargaining Units. Trustee Newmeyer said that he is in the same position and would like to recuse himself as well.

Superintendent McCoy said that he would ask the Board to use the rule of necessity for these items. He explained that in order to allow the Board to meet statutory deadlines, the two trustees would step out and he would draw the name of one trustee to return to the meeting.

At 9:20 p.m., Superintendent McCoy and trustee Green left the meeting to confer with legal counsel. The meeting reconvened at 9:50 p.m.

Trustee Green said that according to legal counsel, the rule of necessity would not apply to the items Budget Revision #1 for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and Tentative Agreements with SMCTA and CSEA Bargaining Units, so there will be no Board action on those items at this time. Trustee Van Alst said that she wanted to emphasize that her decision had been brought to the attention of counsel and the Superintendent prior to the meeting and was not a spur-of-the-moment action.

Approval of the 2016-2017 First Interim Report

Trustees Newmeyer and Van Alst stepped out of the meeting. Superintendent McCoy asked an audience member to draw a name and Trustee Newmeyer returned to the meeting.

Amy Prescott said she was bringing a proposed revision to the June budget which must be completed by December 15 of each year. It shows that the district will meet its financial obligations this year and for the next two years and so qualifies for a positive certification. Trustee Newmeyer said that when considering the budget for this year and the next two years, we are looking at a drop of \$940K in ending fund balance, yet are still legally positively certifying our budget. He asked how this is possible. Amy Prescott said that things can change in the next two years. We will have a plan moving forward to make some changes. Terena Mares said that at MCOE, we look at it more holistically. We can change from a positive to qualified certification based on a plethora of assessments. She emphasized the subjective nature of a qualified certification. Amy Prescott continued with the slide presentation of the budget and explained the changes in revenue and expenses in the current year and two subsequent years. She also included items for review in preparation for the Second Interim Report. These items included Basic Aid Excess per the MOU with Willow Creek Academy, other shared expenses with Willow Creek Academy, Special Education, Facilities, Food Service, LCAP, and the Capital Appreciation Bond future payments.

Superintendent McCoy and the Board commended Ms. Prescott for a well presented report.

Roll Call/Turner/Green/2 Absent to approve the 2016-2017 First Interim Report

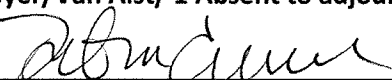
At this point, Trustee Van Alst returned to the meeting.

FUTURE MEETING

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, in the Bayside Martin Luther King School Library

ADJOURNMENT

Newmeyer/Van Alst/ 1 Absent to adjourn at 11:03 p.m.



Signature/Date

CLERK

Title