

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

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: Caroline Van Alst, William Ziegler, Thomas Newmeyer, Joshua Barrow,
Absent: Ida Green

Superintendent: Will McCoy

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board and Superintendent convened closed session at 5:32 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Open session reconvened at 6:03 p.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.

CORRESPONDENCE

Rotary Club of Sausalito Mini Grant Program

Superintendent McCoy said that the Rotary Club has again extended an offer of mini grants to the district's teachers. Teachers may apply directly for these grants and winners will be able to make use of the extra funds for their classroom needs. We very much appreciate their generosity, he said.

REPORTS

English Learner Advisory Committee

Dr. Griffin said that he has been meeting with the parents regularly. He assured the Board that he will henceforth ask the committee to provide a written report if they are not able to come to board meetings.

Director of Maintenance

Alan Rothkop said the district is installing a pigeon abatement system at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy which will be finished by Monday. At Willow Creek Academy, the fence is up at 33 Buchanan, the site of the old district office. We have been cleaning drains and gutters in case of rain. During the Thanksgiving break, we will get bids to replace the sewer lines close to the Robin's Nest building. The floors in the hallways will also be refinished.

School Psychologist – Pam Nieto

Ms. Nieto reported on the counseling program at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy. At the Marin City Health & Wellness Clinic, a team of three licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and one intern are available to the school. At the Southern Marin Internship Program, the team consists of four MFT and Social Work

interns who are all at least in the third year of their programs. Moreover, Elberta Erickson and Regina Archer, a specialist in trauma counseling, supervise the interns. Ms. Nieto said that she also provides group and individual counseling services. She then described the referral process and the decision making process for referring new students for counseling at the school.

Trustee Barrow asked whether the LCAP is guiding the evolution of the program. Principal Griffin replied that it is. Trustee Newmeyer asked about the workload. Ms. Nieto said that at this point, it is manageable. Trustee Green asked about the turnover of interns and its impact on the students. Ms. Nieto said that so far, this has not been an issue. The longest serving intern is about to be employed by the Wellness Center and will continue her work with the children.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Debra Turner, a volunteer, said that she would like to remind the Board of a document on the Sausalito Marin City K-8 comprehensive education program. Had we paid real attention to this, a lot of the controversy we are experiencing would not be happening, she said. This document talks about the promise of creating a K-8 school and involving the community. I understand that we are still moving towards it, but it feels like it has lost steam. If this is not the case, I would like the Board to make this clear to us, she said.

Rachel Gutierrez, a 7th grader at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy, said that she would like to give feedback on some of the things that have happened recently. She continued: We received our planners a week ago and we just got our lockers, math and science books. Students want to see all of the board members at our school and at our assemblies. We would like to see more of the students at WCA, do more in collaboration with them and have good partnerships with them.

Damian Morgan, a community member, asked if Bayside MLK Jr. Academy can have its curriculum up on the website for the benefit of the students. He said: Two weeks ago, I was at a meeting with candidates for the School Board where Mr. Ziegler made what I consider to be a hate speech. He criticized our community and said that we were all on drugs, that our vocabulary was not up to par and that our fathers were absent. There is also the matter of an article in the Marin Independent Journal, which references an email sent by Mr. Ziegler to Thomas Newmeyer. In it, he talks about a conversation he had with Jeff Knowles, a Willow Creek Academy board member, who asked him to step aside in the school board elections and allow him to run instead. This is politicking between two boards. This speaks volumes about power and wanting power. We need change.

Dana Perez, a parent, said she was excited about the newsletter that was going to go out to parents as one way to connect with them and let everyone know about the good things happening at the school. She said: The overview that parents got from the coordinator of the Rhythm and Moves physical education program was really inspiring; it seems like an excellent addition to the curriculum. Another good program is Positive Behavior Intervention and Support. I think that is vital for our school. We need to see more positive reinforcement. A mother in the community has expressed concern that the Kindergarten teacher may be overwhelmed with six or seven students who have IEPs. The district should consider getting a full time paraprofessional for her. We also need a parent liaison. Michael Tabb is excellent as a facilitator for the parent group, but we need a parent liaison.

Kurt Weinsheimer, a board member at WCA, said the level of distrust is now so high that no further discussion will change anyone's mind. On Election Day, People will vote their belief and we will move forward. As parents we believe real change needs to happen. Both BMLK and WCA must close the

achievement gap. I can't wait for Nov 9 so the real work of collaboration and healing can begin, he concluded.

Principal

Principal Griffin said our enrollment is at 160. Trustee Barrow asked if there are transfers between the two schools. Dr. Griffin said there have been a few from WCA and other school districts, with the largest influx coming into the higher grades. This is highlighting the need to split the 7/8 combo class.

On discipline, we are crafting a discipline matrix and a progressive discipline model that includes restorative justice. We have had experts come to our staff meetings and they will come back to look further at the program. We want to balance discipline with rewards. We are now using a model called Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. It teaches strategies like creating lists of students who are doing well rather than list of those who misbehave. Transforming school culture does not happen overnight, he said. The next Restorative Justice training will take place on October 26.

Trustee Barrow asked about talk of bullying at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy. Dr. Griffin said that he has recently dealt with three instances of bullying. We will have professional development and give strategies to parents to deal with the issues. Trustee Van Alst suggested that parents discuss the issue with administrators during their regular Tuesday morning meetings. Trustee Green suggested having speakers come to the district to speak to children about bullying. She mentioned Bryan Stow, the Giants fan who was badly beaten at Dodger Stadium in 2011 as a possibility.

Trustee Van Alst asked about the suspension rate in light of our LCAP goals and asked when would be the appropriate time to look at prior benchmarks and start comparing those to our current rates. Dr. Griffin said that this year, we have had three out of school suspensions and no in-school suspensions.

Dr. Griffin said that all classes now have textbooks. We have a new math teacher who is an engineer by profession but wants very much to teach at the middle school level. Superintendent McCoy thanked the Marin County Office of Education for helping with that process.

Superintendent McCoy mentioned that the district website now carries his Twitter feed on its front page, where parents can read the latest news and updates regarding the school. Trustees thanked Dr. Griffin for putting together the Bayside MLK Jr. Academy newsletter.

Assistant Principal Beth Minor said that as of this afternoon, everyone has been assessed in 1st and 2nd grade in reading and math and the rest of the grades in reading, math and language skills, using the Measure of Academic Progress test. Kindergarteners are taking a test called ESGI, because MAP testing is not geared to their level. In 1st through 5th grades, about 80% finished the test and in middle school the rate was 50 to 60%. This is our first year with the MAP test and we are building a baseline, so that we will be able to give meaningful comparisons, she said. Trustee Barrow said that it would be useful to the demographic comparison information as well as more complete testing data in the future.

Willow Creek Academy

Head of School Tara Seekins said the fall MAP testing at WCA concluded on September 23. The school hopes to collaborate with Bayside MLK Jr. Academy as well as Bridge the Gap and Tamalpais High School to ensure that students are ready to enroll in Algebra by ninth grade.

Families from both school had a get-together at the Family Dinner night hosted at the BMLK multipurpose room. Dr. Griffin has visited staff at WCA and talked about using data and lessons from the charter school as BMLK begins its Restorative Justice program.

Both Fall Welcome and Campus Work Day at the school were successful. Ms. Seekins thanked the Parent Council and staff members for their assistance. Current enrollment at WCA is 400.

Superintendent

Trustee Van Alst announced that Superintendent McCoy will be honored at the CSBA Annual Conference on December 1 for his work with Summer Programs and Equity.

Superintendent McCoy said the district's work is moving forward. I am impressed by the willingness of staff and community to come together, he told the Board. He continued: Certificated and classified staff met with the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence team last week. Joining them was James Randle, an instructional coach who will be working with the district and individually coaching teachers to help improve their pedagogy. We are designing systems that will provide structure, clear expectations and restorative justice as well as a sound curriculum to our students. We are organizing our resources to make all of this happen. I appreciate that I am being given some breathing room by the community to make this happen. I assure you that I think we have the people and resources to build a great program where children will succeed. We are providing additional coaching from experienced administrators for Dr. Griffin in his first year as principal. At the November meeting, I will present a more in depth educational plan.

Trustee Newmeyer asked how Mr. Randle's work dovetails with that of CCEE. Superintendent McCoy said that CCEE is looking at community engagement and to help us have our numbers and systems in place. Mr. Randle is here to strengthen teacher practice.

Lynette Sheldon, a parent, asked if the new training and support will also be provided to special education teachers. Superintendent McCoy said that all teachers, paraprofessionals and even volunteers will be trained.

Update on the District's Response to the FCMAT Report

Superintendent McCoy said that he was hired to focus on the achievement gap and the Board continues to show a commitment to achieving this goal. I urge the board and the community to move forward, he said.

Trustee Ziegler said that he would like to commend Mr. McCoy for his work on the response to the FCMAT report. It was detailed and took a massive amount of time. He continued: I felt that the FCMAT report was an unfair erroneous attack on the Board. I am very happy with the response. I hope that it puts everything to rest. I respect FCMAT and its work but I think they misspoke in this case. I support the request for FCAMT to withdraw their report. It was harmful across the board. We should and will be more aware of some issues in the future.

Trustee Van Alst thanked Superintendent McCoy and the staff for their work on the response. I hope this brings closure so that we can focus our attention on the district, she said. She praised the superintendent's leadership style and his honesty and optimism as an administrator.

Trustee Barrow said that he has asked many questions about academic achievement. He said he wanted it to be clearly understood that the achievement gap is everywhere throughout the nation and that our teachers and our Board did not create it. We are working to solve this problem, he said.

The Board voted to remove the following items from the consent agenda:

2016-2017 Agreement with Youth in Arts

2016-2017 Agreement with Rhythm & Moves

2016-2017 Agreement with Marin County Office of Education – Business Services

Marin Promise Partnership Agreement

Payment of Warrants – Batches 11-14

Ziegler/ Barrow/All to remove the above items from the consent agenda

Consent Agenda

Roll Call/Newmeyer/Ziegler/4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 1 abstain to approve the following consent agenda items:

Minutes of the September 13, 2016 Board Meeting

Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints

2016-2017 Agreements with Youth in Arts, Rhythm & Moves, MCOE

Trustee Ziegler said that while he did not have a problem with any of the programs, he objected to some of the language in the contracts. The project description in the Youth in Arts agreement simply says visual arts, without explaining what this entails. The technical issue with the agreement is that it has a hold harmless point directed at the district, whereas Youth in Arts should be holding the district harmless. We need a standard paragraph in this regard for all agreements. Superintendent McCoy agreed that it would be best practice to have a set of policies regarding the hold harmless clause in place. In light of this discussion, the Board decided to table the approval of these agreements until they are amended by counsel.

Barrow/Ziegler/All to table approval of agreements with Youth in Arts, Rhythm & Moves, MCOE

Marin Promise Partnership Agreement

Superintendent McCoy said that the work of Marin Promise is organized around benchmarks for student achievements. They formulate their work around algebra readiness, reading by the third grade and graduation rates. Their goals should be our goals, as they parallel our work and our LCAP metrics

Trustee Barrow said that he has been involved with Marin Promise since its inception. Bettie Hodges said that we should bear in mind that this is a data organization which looks at pilot programs and identifies the ones that might become best practice. It is not a direct service organization, she said.

Barrow/Green/All to approve the Marin Promise Partnership Agreement

Payment of Warrants – Batches 11-14

Trustee Green asked about the vendor Stephen Roatch Accountancy and was informed that this is the name of the district's auditors.

Green/Newmeyer/All to approve the Payment of Warrants - Batches 11-14

PERSONNEL

Personnel Action Report

Superintendent McCoy recognized former Chief Business Official Paula Rigney for her work with the district. I will miss her sense of humor and I wish her well in her new endeavors, he said. Trustee Van

Alst said that Ms. Rigney had a passion for this district and was deeply and emotionally invested in it. She was very accessible and transparent with the information we needed; we will miss her and we wish her the best. Superintendent McCoy thanked Amy Prescott of MCOE for stepping in as seamlessly as anyone and doing great work for the district. Trustee Barrow said that he has enjoyed working with Ms. Prescott and looks forward to her continued support. Superintendent McCoy said that he had conducted a first interview with a CBO candidate and is hopeful that he will be good fit for our district.
Barrow/Newmeyer/5 Ayes, 0 Noes to approve the Personnel Action Report

FINANCIAL & BUSINESS

Resolution 739 - Authorization to Sign on behalf of the Governing Board

Superintendent McCoy said this is a yearly authorization that allows him to sign financial documents on behalf of the district.

Roll Call/ Barrow/Ziegler/5 Ayes, 0 Noes to approve Resolution 739 - Authorization to Sign on behalf of the Governing Board

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Resolution 737 – Arts Education

Superintendent McCoy said this resolution was not listed as an action item last time so is being brought back for approval.

Roll Call/ Barrow/Newmeyer/5 Ayes, 0 Noes to approve Resolution 737 – Arts Education

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5117– Students – Interdistrict Attendance

Ziegler/Barrow/5 Ayes, 0 Noes to approve Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5117

Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6153 – Instruction – School Sponsored Trips

Barrow/Van Alst/5 Ayes, 0 Noes to approve Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6153

FUTURE MEETING

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on Tuesday, November 15, 2016, in the Bayside/Martin Luther King School Library

BOARD COMMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

Trustee Ziegler said that he was privileged to be guided around campus by the Superintendent. He continued: I was very impressed with what is going on in the classrooms. Across the board, the discipline was excellent, there was good order, education was going on and there were at least three adults in every classroom working with the children. There were two issues however. One was stuffy classrooms; without fresh air, kids are liable to get sleepy and tired. The other is that I think we should enroll children in the school as soon as possible, perhaps when they are two rather than four. If we need classrooms, we should look at that in the Bond. If we start on the kids reading much earlier, they will be prepared when they enter Kindergarten.

Trustee Green said that a community member has asked that the district use microphones during board meetings.

Trustee Van Alst said that she attended the “perfect attendance” award ceremony at BMLK, where she gave Starbucks rewards to the teachers. The kids were very proud, as were the parents, she said.

ADJOURNMENT

Barrow /Green /All to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

 11/15/16

Signature/Date

Clerk

Title