

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
February 25, 2019**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

Absent: Joshua Barrow, Bonnie Hough

Interim Superintendent: Terena Mares

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Board convened the closed session at 4:02 p.m.

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

Open session reconvened at 6:13 p.m.

Trustee Green said that pursuant to Government Code sections 11180 and 54956.9 and Evidence Code section 1152, the ongoing discussions with the California Attorney General's Office are confidential under the law. The District cannot disclose details of discussions with the Attorney General's office. The District understands that there is a letter from the Attorney General's Office dated December 11, 2018 that has been publicly disclosed, describing the conclusion of a related confidential investigation. A timeline for the resolution of this process has yet to be determined. The District will provide more information to the public when permissible.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Trustee Van Alst led the pledge of allegiance.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Trustee Green reported that no action was taken in closed session.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Marin County Office of Education – Budget Review of SMCS D 2018-19 First Interim Budget

District Response Marin County Office of Education – Budget Review of SMCS D 2018-19 First Interim Budget

Marin County Office of Education – Letter dated 2-14-2019

Superintendent Mares said that she would address all three letters together. She explained that in its review of the District's first interim budget, the County Office of Education has noted the possible impact of a successor MOU with Willow Creek Academy in 2019 and called on the administration to continue negotiating with the charter school.

Trustee Van Alst asked whether the County Office's call for "recovery and restoration" in reference to the District's multi-year budget projections is a mandate. Ms. Mares said this is not a mandate; "recovery and restoration" is a common phrase used by the County when it is citing a district's fiscal responsibility to maintain solvency.

Trustee Van Alst said that the last Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team's report showed that the District's contribution to the cafeteria fund has gone from \$64K in 2015-2016 to a high of 160K a year.

Ms. Mares said that this is another area that is receiving her attention. She reported that she is in discussions with the classified union regarding staffing levels and looking at all cafeteria expenditure areas closely. This level of spending cannot continue, she told the Board.

**School & College Legal Services - Response to Potential Breach of Contract Allegation**

Ms. Mares said this is a response to a charge that she had a conflict of interest and could not continue to work on Charter oversight.

**District Response to Willow Creek Academy Letter – Unsafe Facilities**

Ms. Mares said this problem must be remedied and we are taking the steps outlined in the letter to remedy it.

**J. VanderMolen Letter to SMCS Board**

Ms. Mares said this letter outlines the argument that the charter is entitled to additional funding. Trustee Van Alst said it would be useful to get counsel's view on these matters.

**Willow Creek Academy SELPA Acceptance Letter**

Superintendent Mares said this letter formally accepted WCA into the El Dorado charter SELPA. There are ongoing conversations with WCA regarding their special education program.

Jeff Knowles said the District budget proposes charging WCA over 900K for special education. If it were not for this additional cost for WCA, it would be best for all the students to continue with the existing arrangement.

Trustee Turner said that WCA head of school Tara Seekins had stated her preference that the school manage its own special education program. Mr. Knowles said that while autonomy is a good thing, this has not been the charter school's primary goals.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Trustees reported on their committee activities.

**English Language Learners Advisory Committee Membership Update**

Mares said we have one member and we need more. Trying to recruit more Spanish speaking parents.

**Willow Creek Academy Response to District Preliminary Proposal-Proposition 39, 2019-2020**

Ms. Mares said that the WCA response outlines its intention to ask for facilities based on Bayside MLK Jr. Academy's ratio of student to square footage. This would entitle WCA to 12 additional teaching stations and comes in light of the District's intention to charge WCA for its share of maintenance and utilities. In addition, the District has received extensive public records requests from WCA, asking for documentation to back up the District's preliminary offer. Ms. Mares said that the District would continue to negotiate with WCA.

Jeff Knowles said there are two ways that districts can charge charters for facilities. Option 1 is to increase oversight fees to 3%, which has been the case so far – this translated to a charge of \$60K for WCA. Switching over to option 2, which is to consider all facilities costs, and charge a pro-rata share based on square footage, will increase the \$60K charge to \$300K. This is the proposal that led to the public information request. It is regrettable that we are where we are, he told the Board.

**2019-2020 Bayside MLK Jr. Academy School Calendar**

**M/s/c Van Alst/Turner to Approve the 2019-2020 BMLK School Calendar**

**Ayes: Green, Turner, Van Alst**

**Noes: None**

**Absent: Barrow, Hough**

**Superintendent Search Process and Brochure**

Trustees agreed to review an edited version of the brochure and vote on the search procedure at the March 4, 2019 special board meeting.

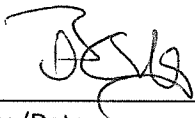
**ADJOURNMENT**

**M/s/c Turner/Van Alst to Adjourn at 7:55 p.m.**

**Ayes: Green, Turner, Van Alst**

**Noes: None**

**Absent: Barrow, Hough**

 Bernice Hough 4/4/19

Signature/Date



Title