

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
November 10, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

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 6:08 p.m.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Trustee Van Alst led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ORDER**

The agenda order was approved.

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

Trustee Newmeyer said that Alan Rothkop led a great cleanup day at Willow Creek Academy. It was a very productive day and a lot of progress was made.

**MAINTENANCE REPORT**

Alan Rothkop, the director of maintenance and operations, said the cleanup day at Willow Creek Academy was very successful because the volunteers were well managed by Royce Connor and Tara Seekins.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Van Zant said we are very pleased with the hard work that culminated in the selection of architects for the renovation.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

Principal Jonnette Newton said Bayside MLK Academy continues to focus on academics. She went on to say: We are very concerned about our middle school students' grades and we are sending a weekly progress report to parents. At the moment, out of 33 students in middle school, only eight have not received an F grade. But we also celebrate students who get A and B grades by taking them out to lunch on Fridays. Together with our teachers, we have set instructional goals that we hope will improve our students' academic progress. I have met with staff at Tamalpais High School to build bridges between our schools. We have made arrangements for two of their language arts teachers to come and meet with our teachers and we look forward to having a math teacher come as well. We aim to build basic proficiencies for the majority of our students who are falling behind in those areas.

Trustee Barrow asked: "Are we knocking on doors, in addition to sending letters to parents of failing students?" Principal Newton said that she does this herself, speaking with parents in their homes about their children. Trustee Barrow suggested that the school should let parents know what is going on in the classroom so that they can reinforce that same lesson at home. Principal Newton agreed.

Trustee Newmeyer asked how many parents attended parent teacher conferences. Principal Newton said that most of the parents come to the conferences.

Trustee Times asked if the district provides mandatory after-school instruction for failing students. Principal Newton said that students are in school until 4:30 p.m., three days a week. Trustee Van Alst asked: "If they are doing homework in school, how come they are failing?" Principal Newton said that the homework club is facilitated by the Boys and Girls Club, so if students claim they don't have homework, their work is left undone. She acknowledged that the school administrators should walk through and supervise the homework hour.

Teacher Ellen Franz gave a presentation on the SIPPS (Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words) assessment. This was first introduced last year. Franz told the Board: This year, our students are doing quite well. I will work with the few students who still need help but the majority are now beyond phonics. Classroom teachers will continue the assessment process to test for fluency, comprehension and vocabulary.

#### **Agreement with Fagan Friedman and Fullfrost**

Superintendent Van Zant said that this agreement will allow the district to use the law firm of Fagan Friedman and Fullfrost in matters relating to special education.

#### **Barrow/Newmeyer/All to approve the Agreement with Fagan Friedman and Fullfrost**

#### **Agreement with Cody Anderson Wasney Architects**

Superintendent Van Zant said that the Board had previously selected the firm of Cody Anderson Wasney. Tonight's vote is to give the district permission to go ahead with authorizing planning services in anticipation of the passage of a bond by Sausalito voters.

Trustee Barrow asked what would happen to the planning documents if the bond measure does not pass. Superintendent Van Zant said that in that case, the plans would be shelved for future use. Trustee Barrow asked if it would be possible to have more than one option included in the planning services, so that the district could still proceed with an alternative plan. Trustee Ziegler said that the inclusion of multiple options had not worked in the past. We should bite the bullet and go ahead with this, since we need a plan one way or another, he said. A plan that is clear and easily explained to the public is better than one with several options. There is a risk associated with spending the money in advance on planning services, but a lot of this information is something that we need in any case, he concluded.

#### **Newmeyer/Ziegler/All to approve the agreement with Cody Anderson Wasney Architects for Planning Services**

#### **Resolution 723- Agreement with Plan Member Services for a District 457(b) Plan**

Superintendent Van Zant said that this agreement will allow Plan Member Services to offer financial literacy workshops to our employees. Trustee Ziegler expressed reservations, telling the board that there has been considerable litigation regarding this issue in the recent past.

**Roll Call Barrow/Newmeyer/4 Ayes, 1 Abstain, 0 Nos to approve Resolution 723- Agreement with Plan Member Services for a District 457(b) Plan**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Board decided to pull all items from the consent agenda, except for item 9.05.

**Roll Call/Newmeyer/Ziegler/ 5 Ayes, 0 Nos, to approve the following consent agenda item:**

Quarterly Report: Williams Uniform Complaints Act

**Minutes of Board Meetings**

Minutes of the October 13, 2015 Board Meeting, the October 21 and October 27 Special Board Meetings and the October 21, 2015 Facilities Committee Meeting

**Barrow/Ziegler/All to approve the minutes with the notation that Trustee Times was not present at the October 21, 2015 special board meeting.**

**Payment of Warrants – Batches 15-19**

Trustee Ziegler asked about the payment of \$32000 to Hengehold Motors. Superintendent Van Zant explained that we needed a new district truck with a tool box, which can be used to travel between the two school sites for repairs and other duties.

**Ziegler/Newmeyer/All to approve the payment of warrants**

**Field Trips**

Trustee Van Alst asked that this report be expanded to include budget information, telling the board how much has been spent and what remains in each account allocated to field trips, so that teachers can stay informed and choose appropriate trips as the budget allows.

**Ziegler/Times/All to approve the Field Trips**

**Superintendent's Contract**

The board decided to table this item until the next meeting.

**Memorandum of Understanding with Willow Creek Academy**

Jeff Knowles, president of the Willow Creek Academy board of trustees, said everything is going well at the school. We are working hard to improve our facilities. We submitted our Prop 39 request to the district and hope to hear back soon.

Turning to the Memorandum of Understanding, Mr. Knowles said the points outlined in it were originally adopted by the district board over a year ago. What you have before you is a result of careful deliberation about the various points by all stakeholders, he said. The Willow Creek Academy board approved it, subject to small changes in one paragraph which are reflected in the version being submitted tonight.

**Newmeyer/Ziegler/4 Ayes, 1 Abstain, 0 Nos to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Willow Creek Academy**

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Harvey McCrary, a parent of three children at Bayside MLK Academy, said that his children moved from Reed because culturally, they were uncomfortable in that school district. Children and even some adults questioned them about their looks, their income etc. He continued: We got the impression that we should not be there. We were advised to check out this district. We came here and were accepted with open arms. I had

never experienced such a welcome. We visited the classrooms, the art and music rooms. Ms. Franz welcomed us. I know the reputation of this district, but culturally, this is where my children thrive. They fit in. Children need to feel they belong. That is why we want our children to be here. We have not received any verbal communication from anyone about why our children's transfer to this district has been denied. We are trying to purchase property here for the sake of our children.

The children's other parent, Mr. William Sardin said, I have been a nurse and an engaged member of this community for 22 years. I told Ms. Newton that we want our children to thrive. Our youngest child was having discipline issues at Reed, but here it is just the opposite.

The Board thanked both parents for their input.

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

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

**Ziegler/Newmeyer/All to approve Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 0420**

Board Policy 7210 – Facilities Financing

Superintendent Van Zant said that this policy outlines different ways in which the board of trustees may finance the building of new facilities.

**Newmeyer/Ziegler/All to approve Board Policy 7210 - Facilities Financing**

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

Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 0410 - Philosophy, Goals, Objectives and Comprehensive Plans – Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities

Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5145 – Students – Nondiscrimination/Harassment

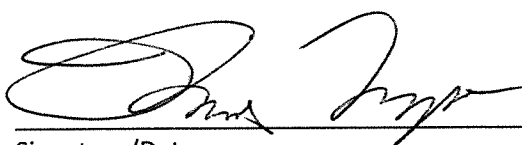
Administrative Regulation 6145.2 – Instruction

Superintendent Van Zant reminded Principal Newton that for the next meeting, the Board would like to see a report on the middle school curriculum, a report on each grade, the calendar of staff development with a list of instructional goals, and benchmark assessment results.

The Superintendent also agreed with Trustee Barrow that teachers and staff should generate ideas on how to help parents understand what is being taught in each class and how children are being assessed, so that they can more meaningfully help their children and stay engaged with the school.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Times/Barrow/All to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature/Date  
Trustee / Clerk  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title