

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD STUDY SESSION MINUTES  
April 2, 2016**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

Superintendent: Bob Ferguson

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Jannelle Kubinec, director of the Comprehensive School Assistance Program at WestEd, an educational research agency hired by the board of trustees to help the district in formulating its Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), opened the meeting by welcoming members of the community in attendance. She said that this study session will allow community members to give their input into the LCAP process. Previously, the State transferred money to school districts via the revenue limit and categorical program formulas. Under LCAP, schools receive a base grant and supplemental funds, and the State leaves much of the decision making responsibilities in the hands of the local community, with the expectation that districts will adequately address the needs of the most disadvantaged students. Looking to the near future, property tax revenues in Sausalito are projected to grow by 2-5%. However, payments to the charter school under the new Local Control Funding Formula are growing faster than tax revenues.

Trustee Ziegler asked whether the board is mandated to adopt LCAP policies for the charter school. Ms. Kubinec replied that this board must adopt policies for the Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy. Willow Creek Academy will adopt its own policies. Trustee Van Alst said that the board does have oversight responsibilities for WCA – as the authorizing agent, it will monitor the charter school's LCAP policies, but it will not have the authority to approve them.

While LCAP gives wide latitude to local stakeholders, the State does require that its eight priorities be taken into account. These include pupil achievement in the Common Core as well as other subjects such as physical education and art, pupil engagement, course access, school climate, parental involvement and basic services. Once the district has determined its own priorities, the next steps are a spending plan which identifies goals within each priority and putting into place actions that will help the district reach those goals. Trustee Ziegler said that since it is the county's responsibility to monitor how we manage the State goals, it does not appear that local control can become reality. Terena Mares, deputy superintendent at the Marin County Office of Education, said that her office strives to work preemptively with districts so that all budgetary and accountability issues are addressed in a timely manner. While this district's LCAP plans included stakeholder engagement, the latest audit showed that it was not adequately implemented. That is why MCOE is now heavily involved with the LCAP process in this district.

Ms. Kubinec said the best LCAPs tell the story of the district, connect goals to outcomes, recognize services that are present and plan to improve those services in order to meet the stakeholders' desired outcomes. The current state of the budget is that revenues are not going up dramatically, there are fixed overhead costs that must be met regardless of other factors, and the district is deficit spending. The question is, what are the needs at Bayside MLK? We need the engagement of the community to come to a consensus on how to control expenditures and spend our funds on the right programs. At present, a quarter of the budget is spent on contracted services for professional services. This may be a useful area to examine.

Terri Green, a parent and grandparent, said that more Marin City parents must attend the LCAP meetings. She suggested trying for 80% involvement. We should ask students if they are aware of the steps they must take in order to excel, educate our parents in Common Core standards, and let them know how their children are doing in a consistent manner. Please don't wait until a child is in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade to let his parents know that he is failing, she said.

Gail Henrickson said that the most recent push for community participation began with Bettie Hodges and her organization, Saving a Generation. This was the impetus behind the open letter that the board received on January 6, requesting that the superintendent's performance evaluation be tied to student results.

Marilyn Mackel said that sufficient resources for certificated instructors in art, physical education, science and math must be included in the budget. Once the current school administration leaves at the end of this year, we need, at the minimum, one coordinator who works with all stakeholders and ensures that we have a true community school. When will these issues be discussed, she asked. Trustee Barrow said that ultimately, it is the board's responsibility to address these questions.

Teacher Ellen Franz said that frequent transitions in this district mean that programs are started then quickly abandoned. As resources have been cut, teachers have had to take on more, but classroom teachers cannot be expected to take on early intervention, art, P.E. and music in addition to their regular duties.

Barbara Killey, volunteer and member of the board of the Center for Excellence, said that the continuation of the arts program is critical to the success of students at Bayside MLK Jr.

Kurt Weinsheimer, community and WCA board member, said that we need increased transparency so that parents know the problems they face and what they must do to solve them. We should collaborate and break down barriers in order to succeed, he said.

Trustee Van Alst suggested that the board should adopt some top-level goals. Trustee Barrow said parental involvement is an immediate need, but the highest priority should be academic outcomes. What is missing is an emphasis on mental and physical health as well as full day options so we can get to academic achievements. Trustee Newmeyer asked what steps could be taken immediately to address the physical and mental health issues of our students. Trustee

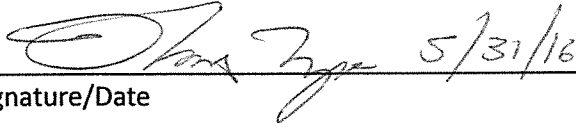
Ziegler said we should look to structural changes to confront the academic achievement problem. As a school district, we are not equipped to tackle parental involvement, he suggested. Trustee Times said that increasing parental engagement is an achievable goal. I will personally knock on as many door as needed to talk to parents, she said. Turning to the achievement gap, she said that we cannot expect a classroom teacher to take on multiple responsibilities like teaching math, science and PE. We must have the right number of teachers with the appropriate credentials to teach each subject. Trustee Van Alst said that building partnerships with the Tamalpais and Mill Valley school districts will create relationships among students and increase participation in sports and school clubs, where we are currently lacking. Trustee Times said that before students reach the higher grades where competitive sports and clubs become important, we must address the deficiencies in the lower grades.

Superintendent Ferguson said that the views of parents must be honored and validated; engagement will then occur naturally. We should focus on the present and future, start the budget at zero, create joint programs with the charter school and concentrate our resources on teachers and the professional development they need. If we have four or five goals such as these, we are off to a good start. He added that aiming for a 25% rate of involvement from parents would be a reasonable goal. Trustee Van Alst summarized the conversation: we ought to be mindful of these larger goals, the bond, shared services and collaboration with WCA and other districts.

Ms. Kubinec said that her organization will work with site leadership to make sure that the district is moving forward.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Barrow/Newmeyer/All to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature/Date

*Clerk*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title