

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2013**

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: William Ziegler, Caroline Van Alst, Shirley Thornton, Ed. D.,
Thomas Newmeyer, Joshua Barrow
Superintendent: Valerie Pitts, Ed. D.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The agenda order was approved.

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD PRIOR TO CLOSED SESSION

There was no public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board and Superintendent convened closed session at 6:01 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Open session reconvened at 7:21p.m.

Report Out from Closed Session

President William Ziegler announced that there was no reportable action taken in closed session.

Pledge of Allegiance

Trustee Shirley Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD PRIOR TO OPEN SESSION

There was no public comment.

Trustee Reports

Trustee Thornton attended the JLAC seminar in Sacramento. She also thanked principals Jonnette Newton and Daniel Norbutas for a wonderful show put on by the students to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She reported that Maureen McCoy of Sausalito Optometry has donated a telescope to MLK Academy. Trustee Van Alst attended JLAC seminar. She found that there will be a lot for her to learn and enjoyed hearing from some great legislative speakers. Both trustees Bill Zeigler and Joshua Barrow also attended the JLAC seminar.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Valerie Pitts announced that Ellen Franz has been accepted to a Harvard University Graduate School of Education Project Zero Classroom summer program. The superintendent met with Noah Jackson of First Base regarding a proposal for field renovations at MLK.

MAINTAIN SOUND FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND OPERATIONS

District Annual Financial/Audit Report for Year End June 30, 2012

Mr. Habbas Nassar, Partner at Stephen Roatch Accountancy Corporation and in charge of the district audit, reviewed the audit and responded to questions from the board.

Newmeyer/Van Alst/all to accept the District Annual Financial/Audit Report for Year End June 30, 2012 as presented

Willow Creek Academy Annual Financial/Audit Report for Year End June 30, 2012

Willow Creek Academy Treasurer, Clark Warden, presented highlights of the WCA audit.

Newmeyer/Van Alst/all to accept the Willow Creek Academy Annual Financial/Audit Report for Year End June 30, 2012 as submitted.

Adoption of Budget Development Calendar for 2013/2014 School Year

Superintendent Pitts asked the board to consider the calendar as a draft; no action was taken.

Report on Governor's 2013/2014 Proposed Budget

Paula Rigney, Business Manager, highlighted items discussed during the workshop presented by California School Services.

FACILITIES

Facilities Schematic Design (A)

Debra McGuire, Architect, Quattrocchi Kwok Architects, gave a PowerPoint presentation titled Martin Luther King Junior Academy 24 January 2013 K-8 Campus Planning. She discussed the following points:

- MLK Current Site
- MLK Schematic Design Plan (K-8)
- Modular Classroom Area; detail Head Start preschool & office
- Basketball court, play areas and outdoor learning areas
- Storage
- Preschool Interior Layout
- Project Schedule

Trustee Barrow asked about plans for future growth. Trustee Thornton wanted to know about allocation of space for computers, a library and music classes.

Public Comment

David Guggenheim of the former Marin City Children's Program said that he opposes relocating Bayside. The present location exposes all children to middle class life and prepares them for the cultures they will come across when they go to high school. He added that some volunteers may not come to Marin City.

Peter Sapienza, a Sausalito resident, was also opposed to moving Bayside. He questioned the amount of support for the move and pointed out that newspaper articles are focused on public concern about segregation, racism, marginalization and equity. He asked that there be a one-year delay and to seek advice from the community.

Carson Smith stated that he has no children in schools and is speaking as a community member. He pointed out the following: the community is not ready for consolidation to take place; we have not heard voices in favor of the proposed plan; the facilities proposed are substandard – a real library is needed where the current MLK library is a classroom with bookshelves; only one option has been presented by the board; there must be other solutions to better serve the community.

Marie Simmons said that she has been involved with schools for more than 40 years. She added that children must be prepared to live and work efficiently and that they cannot achieve this in isolation.

The parent of a 3rd grader mentioned that her main concern is having a school library as this is most important to education.

Marilyn Mackel, a Bayside volunteer talked about the lack of opportunity for summer camp except at WCA and the lack of library facilities except at Willow Creek Academy. She said that charter schools have taken hold and public schools are closing as people find other choices.

Barbara Sapienza, a Sausalito resident said that she is in favor of waiting and would like the district to become a model of how a charter and a public can come together on same the campus. She added that we are interdependent and intertwined and should postpone the decision to move and work to combine WCA and Bayside on a single campus.

Joel Garrett, a member of staff at Bayside, said that spending \$3.5 M to save \$250,000 does not make sense. The real problem, he said, is discipline. There are 3-4 students in a class of 20 who can entirely disrupt the classroom. Remove the disruptive students and the rest can be successful. The International Baccalaureate program is a mere repackaging of past ideas; what no-one is talking about is discipline.

Ayana Jones, a WCA parent suggested that the district use the money for things other than buildings and think about what is better for our kids.

Julius Holtzclaw, a Bayside member of staff, said that he is opposed to moving so fast and would like the district to wait one year, adding that a year's delay will not be financially crippling.

Stan Bair, a WCA parent said that this has been a two- year process; there may be imperfections but what are we waiting for? He has served on other boards where they would love to have a community school for those who live close by and he supports the K-8 structure.

Bettie Hodges, a community member, said that over the past two years, parents have voiced their opinions on this and told the board that they don't need the move; no-one in the community is saying

that this decision is best for the children. She added that the board is entrusted with the task of providing the best education for the children and she is opposed to the move without more consideration.

Board Discussion

Trustee Van Alst asked about the availability of the local public library for students. Superintendent Pitts said that libraries of the future use space flexibly; discussions are taking place around the idea of converting common spaces to furnished areas with books.

Trustee Thornton said that we are not ready for the move; in 2000 we talked about two K-5s and a 6-8; now it feels as though we are moving backwards - this is not the best thing for the children.

Trustee Newmeyer said that the decision is difficult because it is hard to face the realities we have and deliver what we want. The financial reality is that with a growing Willow Creek Academy, state budget problems, split campuses for music, art and other services, inefficiencies in delivery of services, there are a lot of advantages to being a K-8. There are three separate schools with three separate programs. We have not heard as much as we would have liked from parents but we have listened.

Trustee Barrow said this is a tough decision. There is a community readiness issue – will we ever get there? He said that he looks forward to creating that readiness but we are not there yet. He is also looking at how to get more money to the programs for kids in the near and long term. Some things are yet to be worked out, he added. We are heading toward a K-8 school in Marin City but for those who do not believe in this, it is a step in the wrong direction. He said that he is interested in the long-term solution and believes that the biggest concern is community support.

Trustee Van Alst said that the first issues to tackle are design, funding and programming and secondly the commitment to make the plan work. She said that she supports the \$3.5M to be spent on the project.

Trustee Newmeyer said that financial markets could change; if we wait, we may price ourselves out of doing anything. Regarding segregation, he said that Bayside is segregated now as has been stated in other meetings

Trustee Thornton said that we now have joint activities where kids of all backgrounds are having a great experience together. She apologized for where the board is today.

Trustee Zeigler read the mission of the district. He said it is important to keep in mind how to academically and socially prepare students to meet these goals. Approximately 100 questions have been raised through all the meetings which the board has considered and weighed – he doesn't know what other issues there are to study. We are still at the beginning of the process, namely the structure of the school. He added that he feels the financial situation three years from now will be serious; we have a chance to do something now and we must still address the long-term issues.

Trustee Thornton clarified that the A Team came together to discuss intent of academic program not financial issues; 2 K-5 schools and a 6-8 would be a different model to consider.

Trustee Barrow said that to do nothing is a negative; if the least of all evils are to make short-term decision and work toward the long-term, we should move ahead. There are other options but waiting will have consequences.

Superintendent Pitts said that the MLK campus was never finished; going ahead with the plan to complete the campus would be a good thing for the kids who are here now.

M/s/c – Roll Call Newmeyer/Van Alst/ 4 Ayes 1 No (Thornton) to approve the schematic design as presented

A brief recess was taken at 9:10 p.m. The meeting resumed at 9:19 pm

Approval by the Sausalito Marin City School District Board of Trustees of Resolution Number 676: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FORM AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF CERTAIN LEASE FINANCING DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFERING AND SALE OF CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION RELATING THERETO TO FINANCE THE DISTRICT'S MLK JR. ACADEMY CLASSROOM CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING CERTAIN ACTIONS WITH RESPECT THERETO

Superintendent Pitts reviewed all the factors that were taken into account when considering financing: Several issues facing us are also being faced across the country; the K-8 model is experiencing a resurgence; the board has reviewed several options that came out of recommendations from the consulting firm FSG and still came back to K-8 model as the best solution. Trustee Newmeyer added that these issues have been discussed and not left in a vacuum. Superintendent Pitts said that small districts have a lot of overhead; we have to do something about the fact that we have three schools in a small geographic area. Trustee Van Alst said that the COP bond could be folded into a future bond underwritten by the taxpayers.

Mr. Mark Pressman, bond advisor, addressed the board.

Trustee Newmeyer asked for clarification of debt service. Mr. Pressman said that we would be borrowing \$3.695M with a debt service under \$200,000 a year, over 30 years. The rating on the proposed bonds is AA Plus; an excellent rating for a small district like Sausalito Marin City.

Trustee Newmeyer said that the financing is structured to be lean and mean and deliver maximum dollars to students.

Pam Dake, a community member, said that we need more time to talk about another option. She said that in her opinion, the move is about WCA expansion. The charter school should put a cap on its enrollment. We should work collaboratively and strengthen everybody in the district.

Marie Simmons asked that everyone be included in the discussion of options; if you proceed with what you think you know is best without the community support, you will not have success.

Marilyn Mackle proposed that WCA be funded at the level required by law and to stop making supplemental payments to WCA as this is not legally mandated.

Paul Mowry said that those recommending a one- year delay are doing a lot to get community buy- in to the plan. He said that the worst thing to do is thumb our nose at repeated community objections and then ask them to support us. Community cohesiveness, equity and justice are priceless. Thinking only in terms of dollars is short sighted.

Rachel Brown, a parent said that she is opposed to moving Bayside to MLK. She likes the diversity at Bayside and feels that the move would take away a lot from our kids.

Fran Nelson, a staff member asked what makes up the \$450,000 savings when we will spend \$ 3.5m on deferred maintenance?

Ellen Franz, a teacher at Bayside, said that the staff will go forward with any decision for the children. The K-8 model could be a great thing, but segregation is an issue.

Trustee Barrow said some options can't be in the cards for next fall. One that doesn't get much discussion is moving Bayside without the \$3.5M loan. He clarified that when he said he supports the direction once the decision has been made, he was not dismissing the idea of continuing discussion on many levels for long term strategic problem solving. Segregation is a challenge and he does not take it lightly.

M/s/c-Roll Call Ayes 4, Noes 1 (Thornton) to adopt Resolution Number 676.

RECESS SMCSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING FOR SAUSALITO SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCING CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, M 9:50 pm

RESUME SMCSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING,

GOVERNANCE

Long-Term Strategic Planning (D)

Superintendent, Valerie Pitts, suggested meeting for closed session at 5:30 PM on 2/28 with open session at 6:30 PM beginning with a small group Governance meeting. Trustee Thornton asked for reflection of actions to show we do want to make a difference for our kids. Trustee Newmeyer disagreed.

Draft Board Meeting and Planning Calendar for the 2013/2014 School Year (D)

Superintendent, Valerie Pitts, reviewed a draft calendar for the 2013/2014 school year regarding board meeting dates and board agenda planning.

The calendar will be approved at the February board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/s/c - Roll Call Ayes 5 Noes 0 to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Minutes of the organizational and regular meeting of December 13, 2012
- Minutes of the board governance workshop of January 12, 2013
- Minutes of the special meeting of January 15, 2013
- Payments of Warrants
- Field Trip Report
- Publication of the 2011/2012 School Accountability Report Cards (SARC)
- Quarterly Report: Williams Act
- Annual Certificated Seniority/Credentials Held List

FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

- Reschedule March 28 Board Meeting to March 14
- Draft Annual Board Agenda Planning Calendar
- Curriculum and Instruction Report
- Approve Second Interim Budget Report (Due 3/15)
- Accept WCA Interim Budget Report (Due 3/15)
- Grade Level or Program Report
- Draft Annual District Calendar
- Resolution: If any, to reduce particular kinds of services (SDTA-Due March 15)

ADJOURNMENT

Thornton/Van Alst/all to adjourn at 10:10 p.m.

Arneline Van Alst 3/4/13
Signature/Date

Clerk
Title

SAVE THE DATES

Future District Meeting Dates

All meetings are held at the District Office, 200 Phillips Drive, Marin City at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. *The first meeting date of each month will be allocated to additional special meetings on facilities issues, special meetings, community forum, etc. as needed. The only or second meeting date of each month will be allocated to regular board meetings.

- February 28, 2013
- March 14, 2013
- April 25, 2013
- May 23, 2013
- June 27, 2013