

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 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 5:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board and Superintendent convened closed session at 5:31 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 Newmeyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ORDER

Item 9.03, the update on Bond refinancing, was moved up to the slot after Board Communications. The rest of the agenda order was approved.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Trustee Van Alst said that she attended a fifth grade poetry reading at Willow Creek and found it very inspiring. She also informed everyone that on February 26, the Marin County School Boards Association will be hosting an evening to discuss the Brown Act. This event will be open to the public.

Trustee Newmeyer said that a portion of Poggio restaurant's dinner proceeds on February 25 will go to benefit Willow Creek Academy. The school's fundraiser will take place on March 14 at the IDESST Hall in Sausalito.

Trustee Barrow said that the Marin City Community Services District is gearing up to fundraise for its programming, including summer and after school programs. He said that the board should be involved in the discussions that will lead to programming decisions.

UPDATE ON BOND REFINANCE

Mark Pressman of Wulff Hansen & Co. said that the new outstanding bonds came in at \$16.5 million, increasing the district's bonding capacity by half a million dollars. The current average interest rate is 3.41, down from 4.87 percent. The net present value savings for the district will be \$2.6 million. Property owners should see considerable savings in their taxes in upcoming years. The board thanked Mr. Pressman for his hard work.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Alan Rothkop, the director of maintenance and operations, said that custodians will be doing maintenance on the floors during the break. Regarding the new lighting system for Willow Creek Academy, he said that he has been working with a local company, Electrix; they have installed a few sample fixtures on campus to test their quality. The LED lights are much brighter than the others; it will take some time to decide on the right kind for every location, he said.

Science teacher Denise Suto said that during the summer school session, she noticed a few safety issues on campus, with unauthorized persons coming on campus. She said that a fence would be a welcome addition to make the campus a safer place for the students.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Van Zant said that around this time every year, we begin to make plans for the new school year. Once we have our communications and facilities committees in place, we will be asking Willow Creek for their input, so that all sides are involved as we move forward.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Jonnette Newton said the Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. campus has just one water fountain on the first floor. There are no fountains outside. This is an issue that needs to be addressed urgently, she said. Mr. Rothkop said that installing additional water fountains will mean tearing out walls and hiring multiple contractors. Trustee Van Alst said that putting in water coolers would solve this problem immediately.

Ms. Newton said another urgent need is improving the acoustics in the multi-purpose room. Trustee Ziegler said this has been a problem from day one and will be very expensive to fix.

During the recent lockdown drill, it was discovered that teachers cannot lock their rooms from the inside. This is a safety issue that must be addressed, the principal said.

This year, students are coming in to breakfast directly, before the start of school. As a result, we have twice as many kids eating breakfast at school versus last year.

The principal gave board members a packet that outlined upcoming school activities. Saturday University will be opening, offering workshops and seminars in various subjects including baton twirling, drumming, and bike safety. Dr. Shirley Thornton, assistant principal, said that the school has received 35 bikes through Corporate Visions and the efforts of Felicia Gaston of Performing Stars of Marin. We worked with Safe Routes to School to arrange for the children to be taught bike safety, she said. Every second, third and fourth grader will receive a bike and we hope to eventually get all of our children throughout the community onto bicycles.

Trustee Times asked Ms. Newton if there is a benchmark calendar for the academic assessments that Bayside MLK is conducting. Principal Newton replied that benchmarks are in place and that the results of the most current assessments will be analyzed by the end of the week. Trustee Times also asked about the number of suspensions at the school. Principal Newton said that the school prefers in-house suspensions: students are sent to "Australia", where they must do class work and be supervised. She also mentioned that there was a fight at the school last week. A student was suspended, the preliminary step before expulsion, but his parent chose to place him in another school.

Trustee Times said that she had heard rumors in the community that we would no longer have boys' basketball. Principal Newton explained that seventh and eighth graders had been asked to raise their grades before being allowed to play in the basketball team and that they had refused. As a result, we no longer have a team at those grade levels. However, a fifth and sixth grade basketball team is now in place.

WCA REPORT

Clark Warden reminded the audience of the school's upcoming fundraising efforts, mentioned earlier by board members. He also said that he is happy to welcome three new board members to Willow Creek: Treasurer Jim Henry, Kerry Headington and Taniesha Broadfoot.

Willow Creek's second interim budget report should be ready for presentation to the board during its March meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Roll Call Ziegler /Newmeyer/ All to approve the following consent agenda item:

Resolution 713 – Marin Clean Energy Agreement

Payment of Warrants – Batches 27-29

CBO REPORT

Chief Business Official Paula Rigney gave a presentation on the district's special education budget, which currently stands at \$1,196,483. Roughly \$300,000 of this sum goes towards the placement of six students in non-public schools. \$530,000 is spent on salaries and benefits for district special education staff; \$158,000 goes towards outside agencies which provide services such as speech, nursing, occupational and physical therapy. The County Office of Education received approximately \$185,000 for excess costs and transportation.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Science teacher Denise Suto said that the Sausalito-Sakaide sister city program is currently taking applications for the annual student exchange which each summer takes students from our community for a visit to Sakaide in Japan. Scholarships are available and she encouraged interested parties to contact her for more information.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

1. Facilities Committee
2. Communications Committee

Trustee Van Alst said that the main purpose of the standing facilities committee would be to develop a master facilities plan for the district, as well as address deferred maintenance issues. She said that she would be interested in serving. Trustee Ziegler also expressed interest in serving on this committee, to address classroom needs and other facilities issues at both campuses.

Regarding the ad hoc communications committee, trustee Van Alst said its members would meet to develop and disseminate information about school finance to the community. The committee would also be charged with presenting the real experiences of students in the district and dispelling myths or rumors. Trustees Barrow and Newmeyer accepted the invitation to form such a committee.

Barrow/Ziegler/All to approve the formation of a standing facilities committee and an ad hoc communications committee.

BOARD REQUESTS

In addition to assessment benchmarks and suspension numbers, trustee Times asked if at some point teachers could make a presentation to the board on implementing the Common Core standards in their curriculum.

Trustee Van Alst asked to see the payment of warrants information presented in an easy-to-read Excel format.

Trustee Barrow asked for an update on the formation of the Bayside MLK Foundation.

ADJOURNMENT

Barrow/Newmeyer/All to adjourn the meeting at 7:52p.m.

d. daf. Arnie 03-10-15
Signature/Date

Clerk
Title