

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: William Ziegler, Caroline Van Alst, Thomas Newmeyer, Joshua Barrow
Shirley Thornton Ed. D.
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 6:10 p.m.

Report Out from Closed Session

Trustee Zeigler announced that no action was taken in closed session.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Newmeyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.
The agenda order was approved.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Trustee Thornton said that she attended the Joint Legislative Audit Committee meeting in Sacramento, where superintendents and board members from across the state met with legislative representatives and state budget analysts. This was the first time in five years that the meeting was not all gloom and doom. There were discussions of the new Local Control Funding Formula and other important issues. It was well worth attending and it would be great if all board members could take the time to attend in the future, she said.
Trustee Thornton also announced that the Rotary Club will be funding seven of the 16 district teachers who applied for the Teachers' mini-grants.

SMCTA Report

Fifth grade teacher Susan Cassidy said that the mood of the school has been wonderful. The Middle School staff and students love seeing the younger children now that Bayside has moved in. We are happy with the play space and the children and families seem happy too, she reported.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Van Zant reported that he attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Day event at the Marin City Community Center. It was a good community event and our students put on some great musical performances. Regarding the ball field, he said that the financing portion should be finalized by March, at which time he will make a fuller report to the Board.

The Superintendent said that both he and Trustee Thornton went to the ISOJI meeting of Marin City community activists and service providers, where a speaker from the State talked about the Community Health Project.

Building on the idea of working with the Health and Wellness Clinic to improve the well-being of our students, the District and the Marin City Community Services District are working together to hire someone from Urban Strategies who will devise a plan for collective impact in the community. Money for this plan will come from First Five Marin, Marin Promise and the United Way. It will take about \$100,000 to make it work; all stakeholders are continuing to meet to make it happen.

So far this year we have had six students move from Willow Creek Academy to Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy and five who have made the move in the opposite direction. We have to work on our software system so that both schools can verify where their incoming students have been attending school and to set up a transfer period window during which students can move from one site to another.

Trustee Thornton said that beyond a transfer window, there needs to be a process in place whereby parents and administrators meet and confer regarding expectations for each student.

Principal's Report

Principal Daniel Norbutas said that the school continues to work on parental involvement. Two week ago, we had a successful Family Math Night; all elementary level teachers had tables where they worked on math activities with students and parents. Middle schoolers had their own tables and helped out with the younger kids. There was great turnout and energy. This was also a good opportunity for Conscious Kitchen which provided the refreshments and surveyed those present about the cafeteria food.

To celebrate Black History Month, we will be taking our third through eighth grades to a performance at the Hannah Project on February 27th.

To speak about curriculum and student achievement, Daniel Norbutas asked Math teacher Jan McDougal and Language Arts teacher Kayla Zeisler to address the Board. They gave a PowerPoint presentation on collaborative learning groups showing that we are on an upward trend in Math and English. They said that looking back on STAR test scores from 2005 to the present, we can say that we are turning around a failing school. There has been a big cultural shift. In past years, the students were angry and felt that their school was a school for dumb kids. Today, anyone who spends time in the hallways can see that we have a changed and much improved culture.

Teachers are taking student surveys in middle school, asking them how they feel about all aspects of learning. Two years ago, the anger that students expressed was a result of feeling bad about Martin Luther King Jr. Academy and schooling in general. Today, we can see that students have a stronger sense of community. We are doing more reading and writing, we have fewer referrals, students are journaling, doing more silent reading. This year, more than 20 percent of 8th grade transfers to Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy came in at two years below grade level; this means that we have a wide range of abilities in our classrooms. In Mathematics, we have individualized instruction so that the high achievers can work at their level while those who need more help get the attention that they require. This has made our classrooms more productive, with the teacher acting as coach and mentor.

The Board then saw a video chronicling student achievements and participation in various activities. Hennessy Rosenberg, a 17-year Sausalito resident and parent at both Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy and Willow Creek Academy spoke about her experience in moving her daughter from the Lycee Francais to the district. She

said that Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy has been transformative for her daughter. She has made up her deficits in math and is cruising along in algebra. This school is like a family, she said. The work that teachers do in preparing students for high school and beyond is impressive. I tell everyone how great a school Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy is, she concluded. She thanked the teachers and the Board for a job well done.

The regular meeting of the Sausalito Marin City School District Board of Trustees was recessed at 6:45pm for the Sausalito School District Financing Corporation Board of Directors Meeting.

The regular meeting of the Sausalito Marin City School District Board of Trustees was resumed at 6:51 pm.

School Counseling Services – Julie Auslander

School counselor Julie Auslander said that even after 11 years working in the San Francisco school district as a social worker and two years in Oakland, she was not prepared for the high level of trauma that she encountered among students at school Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy. She said that she is glad that mental health is a priority at the school. She is currently serving 57 students with individual and group counseling.

During her first year here, her priority was to stabilize the students and build relationships with students and the community. Parents have had a chance to get to know and trust me, she said.

In her second year, she is continuing the clinical work of serving the 57 out of 150 students who need counseling. In addition, she has put into place a program to train third and fourth graders to mentor their Kindergarten “buddies”. Her vision for the future is to continue direct services to students, expand the mentoring program to other age groups, and collaborate with community agencies like health and wellness, housing and child welfare to help parents give their children the support that they need.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Elizabeth Martin, a Sausalito resident, asked whether the Board could facilitate her application to alter some trees near Willow Creek Academy. Superintendent Van Zant said that we will have a new director of Maintenance and Operations in the near future and will move forward with her request at that time.

CONSENT AGENDA

Roll Call/ Thornton/ Van Alst/ All to approve the following items:

Board Minutes of November 21, 2013 and January 14, 2014
Publication of the 2012/2013 School Accountability Report Cards
Personnel Action Report
Payment of Warrants – Batches 26-30
Field Trip

Approval of the Extended Day Enrichment Contract for 2013-2014 with the Marin City Community Services District

Trustee Van Alst said that in the Memorandum of Understanding, it is stated under the heading purpose that services are to be provided to the students at Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy, whereas under the responsibilities heading, all the district’s students are referenced. She suggested that the wording under purpose be changed to include all the students, including those at Willow Creek Academy.

Trustee Thornton asked if there is a schedule to show that MCCSD is doing what it is supposed to do in the way of after-school programs. Does the District provide oversight, she asked. We should maintain a high and rigorous standard and make sure that we are getting our money's worth, she said. Superintendent Van Zant said that he would ensure that an oversight mechanism is in place.

Van Alst/ Thornton/All to approve the Extended Day Enrichment Contract for 2013-2014 with the Marin City Community Services District with the change noted above.

Memorandum of Understanding with Marin Housing Authority

This MOU was brought to the Board for review. Assistant Principal Tenisha Tate said that this agreement will strengthen our cooperation with the Marin Housing Authority regarding attendance, and enable us to share information more easily.

Election of California School Board Association Delegate for 2014

Thornton/Newmeyer/All to elect Linda Jackson as California School Board Association Delegate for 2014

Report on the Governor's 2014-2015 Budget Proposal

Superintendent Van Zant said that the State budget includes \$6.3 billion for education. This is great news for revenue limit districts, but we are basic aid. For Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. and Willow Creek, this means a \$755 increase in funding per pupil for next year. Funding for Special Education and certain categorical grants will go up by less than one percent. Next year, the state will be awarding energy efficiency grants to school districts; we will apply and plan to use the funds to upgrade our facilities, particularly at Willow Creek which has an older infrastructure.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Roll Call Barrow/ Van Alst/All to approve the following board bylaws:

Board Bylaw (BB) 9000 – Role of the Board

Board Bylaw (BB) 9005 – Governance Standards

Board Bylaw (BB) 9010 – Public Statements

Board Bylaw (BB) 9130 – Board Committees

The following bylaws were brought to the Board for a first read:

Board Bylaw (BB) 9110 – Terms of Office

Board Bylaw (BB) 9011 – Disclosure of Confidential Information

Board Bylaw (BB) 9012 – Board Member Electronic Communication

Board Bylaw (BB) 9121 – President

Board Bylaw (BB) 9122 – Secretary

Board Bylaw (BB) 9123 – Clerk

Board Bylaw (BB) 9124 – Attorney

Trustee Ziegler pointed out that the Terms of Office bylaw should indicate that elections are held in even numbered years.

ADJOURNMENT

Thornton/Newmeyer /All to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Candice Clark 3/11/14

Signature/Date

Clerk

Title