

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2013**

ATTENDANCE

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 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 5:31 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Open session reconvened at 6:45p.m.

Report Out from Closed Session

President William Ziegler announced the following reportable actions taken in closed session:

M/s/c – Van Alst/Barrow Roll Call 3 ayes, 1 no (Thornton) and 1 absent, to adopt a Resolution of Non-reelection and authorize the District Superintendent or her designee to notify the probationary employees listed that they will not be reelected for the 2013-14 school year.

M/s/c – Van Alst/Barrow Roll Call 3 ayes, 1 no (Thornton) and 1 absent, to adopt a Resolution of Non-reelection and authorize the District Superintendent or her designee to notify the employees listed on Attachment "A", that they will not be reelected for the 2013-14 school year.

M/s/c – Van Alst/Barrow Roll Call 3 ayes, 1 no (Thornton) and 1 absent, to adopt a Resolution of Non-reelection of Administrative employees

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 reported that she has been attending a lot of meetings with the sheriff's office, the housing authority and other local agencies as we prepare for the start of the new school year to ensure that we have one of the best school openings possible. She added that we should think about having a true coming home for our kids where they feel good and valued. Trustee Van Alst said that she had toured Bayside school with principal Newton and appreciated the time and attention she was given.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pitts praised all the staff for putting together an exciting celebration of Black History Month at the MLK Jr. Academy. She said that all the teachers, students and staff members did a wonderful job; there was great turnout and good food. She had meeting with staff regarding the transition from Bayside and also met with Johnathan Logan of the Community Services District and Noah Jackson at First Base Foundation regarding the field. She will give a more comprehensive update later.

School Site Administrator Report

Principal Newton showed a video of 4th graders playing Lift Up Your Voice and Sing, known as the African-American anthem. She praised their dedication and said that they practice at lunch and recess and are engaged and enthused about learning a musical instrument. The next concert will be towards the end of the year. She added that next year we will have more students and more instruments.

Principal Norbutas said that the Black History Month celebration was a great night. Principal Newton and Trellis Condra, the school secretary at MLK deserve lots of credit, as well as the First Missionary Baptist Church which brought in a lot of food for the participants.

Principal Norbutas spoke about a new culture at the middle school, with the emphasis on good behavior. After visiting several schools in Seattle, Santa Monica and Oakland, the administration at MLK has embarked on a new incentive-based system which is now in its fifth week. The focus is summed up in the phrase "Be Prepared, Work Hard, Be Kind", seen all over the campus. Using a web-based program called Class Dojo, students get immediate feedback on their iPads for coming to school prepared and with their homework done, for being kind and helpful to their peers and for working hard. Help each other. Students track how well they are doing in each category. If you are on time, wear your uniform, and have done your homework, you get Dojo points. At the end of day, you total your points and get rewarded with everything from being allowed to wear jeans on Fridays to going bowling. Those who score low attend Saturday School, where from 8 to noon, we do math, social studies and other school work, filling some gaps. Mr. Norbutas praised the program, saying that students are getting real-time feedback and working towards goals that are of interest to them. The long-term goal is for them to internalize making the right decisions, but for now we are using external incentives. The program is going well so far.

Superintendent Pitts said that she would be willing to volunteer on a Friday and offer a prize to add to the incentive kit. She thanked Principal Norbutas and Assistant Principal Tenisha Tate for their hard work.

Facilities Update

Superintendent Pitts said that she had met with the architects a couple of time in the past month to make sure that we have all the resources we need at MLK, including a library and a family center. We should aim to use the available space more efficiently. Plans will be going to the DSA by April or May. This year, our summer programs, including the Hannah Project, will be offered at Bayside. Aim High is considering a location at Tam High and using WCA as a backup. We are still considering options for the MLK summer school, Summer Bridge and transportation. Marilyn Mackel, a community member, said that she does feel that the facilities being planned for MLK will be comparable to the services and amenities currently available at Bayside.

ENSURE THAT ALL STUDENTS WITHIN SMCS D REACH HIGH LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Smarter Balanced Assessments (D)

Superintendent Pitts said that she is putting a presentation regarding the State's new testing method, called Smarter Balanced Assessment, online so that everyone can see what the new test coming in 2015 will be about. Every spring, kids are tested through STAR, Standardized Testing and Reporting. The main component of STAR, the

California Standards Test (CST) is going away after next year and being replaced with Smarter Assessments, which will be online. There will be no more paper and pencil tests. This is tied to the common core standards, which we adopted at a previous board meeting. As long as kids are familiar with technology, they will be better prepared. The new test will no longer test second graders, which is a positive change. Teachers are learning about this right now. She encouraged the board to go to smarterbalance.org and experience what they kids will experience in 2015. She warned that initially, as the benchmarks are reset, there will be a drop in scores. Kentucky, which went to new tests last year, has already gone through the process. It's all about the future and problem solving. We were not selected for the pilot program this year because we are too small a district. Stay tuned!

MAINTAIN SOUND FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND OPERATIONS

Budget Update (D)

Paula Rigney gave an update of the budget. She said the County Office of Education has put out some talking points regarding local control formula funding which has been posted on our website. She pointed out the highlights within the talking points. As of now, the local control formula funding is a proposal by the Governor, and historically no budget proposal by the Governor has been fully implemented. We have been advised by MCOE not to use it for our second interim budget report. She presented a brief presentation also on our website of revenues vs. expenditures for the last 5 years. She also mentioned that our special education excess costs are currently increasing because district enrollment is increasing. Currently the local control formula funding is not clear as to who is responsible for charter school base revenue calculations when the funds are coming from a basic aid school district. There is a question as to who will fund categorical revenues for charter schools that are within a basic aid district.

ATTRACT, RETAIN AND INSPIRE HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF

Resolution #680: Reduction of Classified Services for the 2013-14 School Year (A)

Superintendent Pitts said that layoffs are due to lack of work, but we can still offer a strong program. Staff who are laid off are placed on a 39-month list and they will be the first to be brought back in case we can do. With the unknowns in the budget, this is a layoff I would recommend right now, she added. Trustee Thornton asked if the children are going to be penalized with fewer services for moving to the MLK building. Superintendent Pitts said that although staffing will look different, we will not lose quality programs. Trustee Thornton said that we have lost students because classroom behavior is not what the parents expect so they pull their kids out. We have to ensure a vibrant program that makes people want to have their kids there. Our teachers need help and if we have not addressed the issue this year, how will we address it next year? Superintendent Pitts said that we have to use our resources in a way that makes sense, given the realities of economies of scale. It's tough to know the answers. Trustee Barrow said that when it comes to classrooms, paraprofessionals are the most sensitive issue. Perhaps we will have the ability to bring back some of these people and make the numbers work. Members of the public expressed both appreciation for the hard work of Bayside and MLK staff and concern about a reduction in force given the needs of the students. Principal Newton expressed similar concerns.

M/s/c - Roll Call Van Alst /Zeigler 3 Ayes 1 No (Thornton) 1 absent to adopt Resolution #680

GOVERNANCE

Strategic Planning Process (D)

Superintendent Pitts said that there are many long-range planning issues which will be discussed at the March 23 Board Workshop.

Membership and Purpose of Committees (D)

Superintendent Pitts recommended that the Board get clarification on the purpose of committees and postpone committee meetings until we get a legal opinion on notice requirements. Presently, there is some confusion about types of committees and whether they are advisory to the board or can recommend actions. Board members agreed that it would be advisable to get a legal opinion on this matter.

Draft District Calendar: 2013-2014 School Year (D/A)

The Board discussed the proposed school opening on September 9 and decided to defer action to the March 14 Board Meeting.

BP/AR 1312.3 Uniform Complaint Procedure Update – First Reading (D)

BP/AR 3260 Fees and Charges (D)

The Board reviewed these policies and will take action at the next meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 24, 2013

Approval of Payments of Warrants

Approval of Field Trip Report

Approve 2013/2014 Board Meeting/Planning Calendar

FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

Special Education Program Report

Annual Policy Review: Extracurricular, Co-Curricular

Approve Annual Board Agenda Planning Calendar

Strategic Priorities Planning

Grade Level or Program Report

Review/Selection of Auditor for Annual Audit

Budget Development

Policies Update

Facilities Update

Future Board Meeting Dates

March 14, 2013

March 23, 2013 Board Workshop

April 25, 2013

May 23, 2013 Subject to change due to conflict with Golden Bell Education Evening

June 27, 2013

Future Charter School Board Meeting Dates


Meetings are open to the public and generally held on the school campus, 33 Buchanan Street, Sausalito. With the exception of the December meeting, meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Thornton/Van Alst/all to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Upcoming Dates and Important Events

April 8-12	Spring Recess
May 15	Bayside Open House
May 22	MLK Open House

 4/18/13
Signature/Date

Clerk
Title

Upcoming Dates and Important Events
Please visit the District website www.smcsd.org