

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 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 6:05 p.m.

Report Out from Closed Session

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Newmeyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ORDER

The Superintendent's report was moved to become the last item in the Reports category.

Newmeyer/Barrow/All to approve the change in the agenda order.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Trustee Thornton said that California PTA has put out a booklet on the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) to help parents better understand the impact of these new laws on our schools.

Trustee Van Alst said that she has been nominated by the executive committee of the Marin County School Board Association to the slate of candidates for the office of Treasurer.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Alan Rothkop, the director of maintenance and operations, said that he recommends that the board approve the request by a resident of Sausalito to cut trees on the Willow Creek Academy property. This item will be brought to the Board for a vote in June.

With the help of volunteers from the Sausalito Rotary Club, the installation of the bike racks around both campuses will be completed within the next 10 days.

During the spring break, custodians mowed 90 percent of the weeds and cleaned all the gutters at Willow Creek Academy. They also scrubbed the walls in the common areas at Bayside/Martin Luther King Jr. Academy.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Norbutas said that we are finishing up with the Smarter Balance Assessment and STAR testing. Next week, we will have Open House and a BBQ as well as a Latin Heritage night this Thursday.

Trustee Thornton asked if there are any students in danger of failing this year. Principal Norbutas said all eight graders are set to graduate, but there are some who may not be eligible to attend the ceremony. Parents have been notified and will be meeting with teachers to make sure that they fulfill the requirements to attend graduation on June 16.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION REPORT

Andrew Anstead, the PE teacher, talked about his experience as a first year teacher at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy. He said that one of the most important reasons for choosing to teach in this community was the opportunity to be a coach. He then gave a presentation about the various sports activities that students participated in this year. In cross country, all runners finished all their races, doing their personal best, and our students were able to establish relationships with children from other schools. They all received ribbons for finishing. In football, ours was the only team to include girls. We played against much bigger schools. The focus was on sportsmanship, kindness, changing people's perception of our school and community, building school spirit and having fun. The next sport in the season was basketball, which is this community's passion; it is a big part of their social life and they take a lot of pride in it. In the past, our team had to forfeit many of their games and kids felt they were being set up for failure. I was in their homes, encouraging them not to quit. We had a greeter to welcome people to every game. After every game, we shook hands with the opposing team, their coaches and parents. In girls' basketball, students began with very little knowledge and experience. But they supported each other and improved a lot this season. By the end of the year, they were one of the toughest teams and would have made the playoffs if we had had a little more time. In men's basketball, it was great to see the students who came in with very low skill sets improve their knowledge of the game and play well. In addition, students learned how to behave on and off the court, how to treat each other, their opponents, coaches and parents. They also understood that attendance at practice is mandatory for all players. One player in our team was voted MVP in our league. Our team was undefeated this year, and I am very proud of them, he said.

Mr. Anstead emphasized that the children in Marin City face lots of challenges. He said that students often had to deal with racism from players or parents of other teams. Coaches assumed that we cheat, he said. By the end of the year, there had been profound changes from past years in training and expectations. In Track and Field we competed in several areas and went to the County championship, where we had three students place in separate events.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Van Zant said that the Prek-3 grant was approved by the Marin Community Foundation for the fifth year; we are still waiting to hear about the Transforming Schools grant. The District is working with Royce Conner to make the transfer policy between Bayside/MLK and Willow Creek Academy more transparent.

Explaining his long-range ideas for the district in the coming years, he said that he has laid out three non-negotiable elements of his plan to teachers and staff:

- All four-year olds must be prepared to enter kindergarten
- Students must be fluent readers by third grade
- Students must be proficient in algebra by the end of eighth grade

Teachers have in turn proposed the following teaching strategies to implement these ideas:

- An emphasis on language skills
- Academic and cultural literacy
- Ability to solve real world problems

The Superintendent said that to arrive at these results, students must spend more time in class, they must be on time and come to class ready to learn, and the school must build a support structure for learning that ties into existing

community networks. In addition, our academic goals must be put into language that is easily understood and disseminated so that parents can be in charge of monitoring their children's progress. He said that he has started to talk to teachers about backward mapping, working backwards from the results we wish to see in the eighth grade to create appropriate and useful curricula in the lower grades.

We have started the task of developing a junior kindergarten program in partnership with Community Action Marin, which already runs a pre-school program in Marin City, and the Academy of Arts & Science Charter School. By pooling our resources with these outside agencies, we will help our children be prepared to enter Kindergarten and avoid remedial and special education interventions down the line.

The Superintendent said that he would like to start a new program in the community, "Marin City Reads", and bring community members who are enthusiastic about books into the school to interact with our students and encourage them to become readers.

To ensure that all young minds stay busy through the summer, the district is offering the Summer Bridge program for children entering kindergarten next year, Bridge the Gap for K-2, the Freedom School for 3-5 grades, and Aim High for the middle schoolers.

Mr. Van Zant said that the community should think about a single name for the school. We are one school on one campus, and we should have one name, he said. We have good teachers and good students who sometimes misbehave, as is the wont of all children. We should work hard to find our special way of doing things, the Panther way. That is something that Andrew Anstead has begun to do in athletics and which we should extend to the entire school. This is a long process which does not allow for shortcuts.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Hennessey Knoop, a parent, said that she has corresponded with Don Jen of the Marin Community Foundation regarding getting their help to re-instate the school's 501.3(c) fundraising organization.

Pamela Dake, a community member, said she has seen a transformation in the school. The nutrition program has made a huge change not only in nourishment, but also in the students' behavior. Systems are in place to help children who need extra help and support. Their psychological needs are huge. There is time for staff to share ideas and support each other. The community feels very welcome in the school. There is more compassion. Instead of hitting each other, students say "I am not feeling respected."

Jonathan Logan, general manager of the Marin City Community Services District, expressed his support for Andrew Anstead and his work coaching and teaching our students. He is a great asset and I look forward to building on our relationship together, he said.

Neil Hammari said: I have two kids in the school, and I am very happy with the education that they are receiving at Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy. For Mother's Day, my daughter made an LED card for my wife, complete with switches, wires and batteries. I am also proud of my son, who wrote a poem for the occasion.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Minutes of Board Meeting of April 8, 2014
Quarterly Report: Williams Uniform Complaints Act
Payment of Warrants – Batches 44-47
Field Trips

**Resolution 698, Requesting Election Services by the Marin County Elections Department
Roll Call Thornton/Newmeyer /All to approve Resolution 698.**

**Agreement with Dannis Woliver Kelley for 2014-2015 legal services
Van Alst/Newmeyer/All to approve the above agreement.**

**Summer School Facilities Use Requests – Hannah CDF Freedom School and Aim High
Newmeyer/Van Alst /All to approve the above agreement, amending the end date of the Freedom School contract to
August 1, 2014.**

**Resolution 699 – Non-Reemployment of Certificated Employees
Thornton/Barrow/All to approve the above resolution, amending it to have the notice to Scott Haddad removed.**

**Resolution 700 – Education Protection Account Expenditure Plan
Paula Rigney explained that this is a plan for spending the district’s 2013-2014 Proposition 30 revenues. She said that
this year’s allocation comes to \$29,000, which will be used for teacher salaries and benefits.
Roll Call Newmeyer /Van Alst/All to approve the above resolution.**

**Construction Change Orders #2 & 3
Superintendent Van Zant said that these change orders pertain to elevations and drainage as well as some electrical
modifications.
Newmeyer /Thornton/All to approve the above change orders.**

**Notice of Completion Filings
Newmeyer /Van Alst All to approve the filing of the Notice of Completion for the construction project at 200 Phillips
Drive.**

**2014-2015 District Calendar
Superintendent Van Zant said that by and large, this calendar matches up with the Willow Creek Academy calendar.
Barrow/ Van Alst/All to approve the 2014-2015 District Calendar.**


Thornton/Newmeyer/All to approve the following Board Bylaws:
Board Bylaw (BB) 9230 – Orientation
Board Bylaw (BB) 9240 – Board Development
Board Bylaw (BB) 9250 – Remuneration, Reimbursement & Other Benefits – Action
Board Bylaw (BB) 9260 – Legal Protection
Board Bylaw (BB) 9270 – Conflict of Interest

The following bylaws were brought to the Board for a first read:
Board Bylaw (BB) 9321 – Closed Session
Board Policy (BB) 9321.1 – Closed Session – Actions and Reports
Board Policy (BB) 9322 – Agenda Materials
Board Policy (BB) 9323 – Meeting Conduct
Board Policy (BB) 9323.2 – Actions of the Board
Board Policy (BB) 9324 – Minutes and Recordings

Trustee Ziegler asked that the district place a clock at the lectern so that members of the public who address the board can clearly see when their three-minute limit is coming to an end.

ADJOURNMENT

Thornton/Van Alst /All to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

 6/10/14

Signature/Date



Title