

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 21, 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 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

There was no public comment.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER AND/OR TAKE ACTION UPON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM(S)

The board and superintendent went immediately into closed session.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Open session was reconvened at 6:10 p.m.

President Ziegler reported out from closed session that with regard to the lease of the MLK field, the board has made a preliminary decision to pursue the proposal offered by Marin City Community Services District (MCCSD).

Trustee Newmeyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

- Carolyn Younger, WCA parent, shared her experiences in K-2 school years developing a connection, a bond and support exchange with another family in Marin City. There is a strong connection in community from her experience with WCA.
- Johnathan Logan, Marin City Community Services District (MCCSD), thanked the board for accepting the MCCSD proposal. He looks forward to working together with the school district.
- Ruth Nenabor: The experience of working with Valerie Pitts has been empowering and rich for community organizations; Ms. Nenabor suggested Dr. Pitts stay long enough to see transition.

Superintendent Pitts explained that this is a meeting of the board to conduct board business, in public. The board cannot respond to items that are not on the agenda, yet at times, it would be at their discretion to do so. The board and she have been discussing superintendence and are still working on it. The board would prefer taking public input before they discuss items on the agenda. Public comment is limited to twenty minutes to ensure the board gets to its business.

COMMUNICATIONS

Trustees Reports

Trustee Thornton thanked Bayside and MLK staff for a number of events held over the past two weeks culminating with a concert at Bayside. Events have been outstanding and show that staff goes far above and beyond their role as teachers.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pitts also thanked staff; the classrooms looked amazing for the Open Houses.

School Administrators' Reports

There were no reports from school administrators.

Learning for Action (LFA) Presentation

Superintendent Pitts introduced Mr. Steven LaFrance, President and CEO of Learning for Action (LFA). LFA was contracted by Marin Community Foundation to evaluate the Foundation's Close the Achievement Gap Initiative in the field of education. SMCS D is one of four Marin school districts who participate in the initiative. Mr. LaFrance provided a report to the board regarding their findings.

The board agreed to hear the facilities discussion next.

FACILITIES

Facilities Update – Approve Change Order

Mr. Todd Lee, Greystone West, presented a construction budget update and a construction schedule. A change order request was also submitted to 1) meet an unanticipated requirement by the fire department regarding making modular buildings fire code compliant and 2) for an increase in the kindergarten classroom size.

Discussion

- Trustee Newmeyer asked for budget status related to contingency amounts used to date; Mr. Lee clarified status.
- Trustee Newmeyer asked about budget for landscape and equipment; Superintendent Pitts replied that budget is adequate but tight.
- Trustee Thornton would now like to see program superimposed on design; are there enough classrooms for all programs? Daniel Norbutas explained plans; Trustee Thornton does not think music should be taught in the acoustically poor multipurpose room. She asked - What is the flow of the day so it is most beneficial for staff and students? Daniel Norbutas explained after school program accommodations which will flow into classrooms immediately following the school day. It is definitely tighter; teachers will not be able to remain in the classroom after school.
- Trustee Van Alst requested to receive reports of the construction budget compared to actuals as the project progresses; Superintendent Pitts will see that it is added to monthly agendas for reporting.
- Trustee Thornton still wants to know placement of everything; Superintendent Pitts will provide.

M/s/c Newmeyer /Van Alst /All to approve the change order, CO-1, in the amount of \$123,111.94 for both items.

Discussion and Public Comment

- Susan Cassidy stated that when the Sausalito District Teachers' Union (SDTA) spoke with district administration regarding consolidating campuses, union representatives assumed adequate facilities would be provided, yet it is clear that there is not enough space; more space and rooms are needed. Ms. Cassidy requested that the record reflect that the union believes the district cannot provide the program it currently runs; there are not enough facilities.
- Marilyn Mackel recommended the board obtain legal opinion on equity and facilities before moving forward.
- Trustee Barrow asked what has not been accommodated. Daniel Norbutas explained the complexity of accommodation; there is not enough room. Staff is committed to make it work but there is not enough room. Trustee Barrow noted that the board had earlier discussed the potential for future phasing – don't let that fall off our radar.
- Trustee Thornton asked how the youngest children would be kept from going to the second floor. Daniel Norbutas explained that there would be separate breaks/separate lunches.
- Superintendent Pitts reported that MCOE currently uses one classroom but next year will need two; she and Daniel Norbutas will be discussing that as well.

MAINTAIN SOUND FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND OPERATIONS

Public Comment

- Marilyn Mackel stated that the board has a responsibility to be knowledgeable of what funds WCA has when budgeting to appropriate funds to the schools.
- Denise Suto expressed concern for having space for student privacy when needed for conversations; this is more prevalent where there is an achievement gap and special education situations. Ms. Suto also asked why the budget is being cut but at the same time looking at increasing the supplemental to WCA? She finds it very confusing.
- Kerry Headington feels leadership should support all children regardless of which school they attend. We are trying hard at WCA to lessen the achievement gap, growing rapidly; Marin City enrollments are similar to those at Bayside; WCA needs funds too; it is operating with an inadequate budget.
- Phil Kerr encouraged joint meetings of the boards to discuss vision and budget to work toward providing all schools what they want.

Budget Development

Paula Rigney, Business Manager, gave a power point presentation titled Summary of the 2013 May Revise, which is posted on the district website.

Education Protection Account Expenditure Plan and Resolution #683

Paula Rigney presented information relative to the Education Protection Account Expenditure Plan and requested board approval of Resolution #683.

M/s/c Barrow/Van Alst/All to approve Education Protection Account Expenditure Plan and Resolution #683

GOVERNANCE

Strategic Planning

Superintendent Pitts and board members agreed to have a session on June 6, 2013 beginning at 3:30 pm to advance strategic planning.

CONSENT CALENDAR

M/s/c – Roll Call Newmeyer/Thornton / Ayes 5 Noes 0 to approve the consent calendar

FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES


June 13, June 27

UPCOMING DATES

- June 7 Bayside Achievement Awards Assembly, 8:30 am
- June 12 Kindergarten Step Up Ceremony, 10:00 am
- June 12 Graduation 8th Grade, 6:30 pm
- June 13 4th Grade Step Up Ceremony, 10:00 am
- June 13 Last School Day, Minimum Day, Dismissal at 12:30 pm

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Sign  6/13/13
Title 