

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: William Ziegler, Caroline Van Alst, Thomas Newmeyer, Shirley Thornton Ed. D.,
Joshua Barrow
Superintendent: Steve Van Zant

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board and Superintendent convened closed session at 4:31 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Open session reconvened 6:05 p.m.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Barrow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ORDER

The agenda order was approved. At trustee Van Alst's requests, the item "payment of warrants" was moved from the consent agenda.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Alan Rothkop, the director of maintenance and operations, said that summer cleaning projects are progressing well at Willow Creek Academy and that his crew will start working at the Martin Luther King Jr. Academy after August 1st.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Van Zant said that school facilities are being used to capacity during the summer months and every program, including the Hannah Project for the lower grades and Aim High for middle schoolers, has been well received. He then asked the director of Conscious Kitchen, Judy Shils, to introduce the new garden program to be inaugurated in the district next year.

GARDEN REPORT

Judy Shils introduced Tony Mekisich the garden architect who will help to develop and transform the 5000 sq. ft. plot behind the Multi-Purpose Room into a viable farm to grow food for the school and the community. The goal is to produce all the vegetables that we need for the cafeteria program and to share the bounty with the community during the summer months, she explained. We would also like to use the garden to teach people to grow food in their backyards. We hope that volunteers will work on the soil and help prepare it for planting. We

estimate that fencing and irrigation will cost around \$15K, to be covered by district, and we plan on soliciting donations for supplies and the salary of a garden coordinator.

Trustee Van Alst said that she would like to see all the numbers outlined in the budget, indicating the source of funding for each expense. Mr. Peter Van Meter, a community member, said that there may be a ready source of volunteers; he knows of a local group looking for a garden site.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Peter Van Meter said that Classroom Partners, the math tutoring program, just completed its 21st year of partnering with the 4th grade teacher at Bayside MLK. Most recently, the program has been run by Barbara Geisler. He said that when he was able to be a full-time volunteer, he could spend a full academic year with one student and track his or her progress. Having observed students over the years, it is clear that some students are being left behind. There are a million reasons for this: parents, poverty etc. It is time to break this chain, to break the rules and not let anyone leave school without having them learn to the best of their ability. In my opinion there is no child who can't learn; I hope you have the courage to do something, he concluded.

Pam Dake, a community member, said there are wonderful programs in place in the community. I urge you to have a Spanish program with a live teacher rather than an online program. Please honor the people and the culture of the Spanish speakers in our school. Our students will be better equipped for the future with a second language, she said.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Personnel Action Report

Willow Creek Academy Memorandum of Understanding (Bullet Points)

Superintendent Van Zant said a lot of work by district and Willow Creek Academy board members went into the crafting of these points. We are a two- school district and children here have value no matter where they go to school. Jeff Knowles, a Willow Creek Academy board member, said that this was a long process for the board. This year has been very productive, and we have been focusing on education rather than funding. Foreign language instruction is lacking in our schools right now; we want to work with the district to improve information technology resources and bring language program to our schools, he told the board.

Newmeyer /Thornton/ All to approve the Willow Creek Academy Memorandum of Understanding (Bullet Points)

Willow Creek Academy Charter Renewal

Superintendent Van Zant said that agreeing on these bullet points was an important part of the charter renewal process. Willow Creek Academy is fiscally viable and in large part meets the education needs of its students. I recommend approval of the charter renewal for the next five years, he concluded.

Trustee Van Alst said that the approved MOU does not include all the bullet points listed in the Charter Agreement. She requested that the finalized MOU address the bullet point list in the approved Charter and indicate why some of the topics were not included.

Newmeyer/Van Alst /All to approve the Willow Creek Academy Charter Renewal

Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators

Superintendent Van Zant said that filing this paperwork with the state allows us flexibility in hiring, in case a newly qualified teacher does not yet meet all of the credential requirements of the California Teachers Commission.

Van Alst /Newmeyer/All to approve the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators

2014-2015 Consolidated Application for Funding

Business Manager Paula Rigney said that it is no longer mandatory to bring this application before the board. However, she has included it so that board members are apprised of the process for applying for federally funded programs.

2014-15 Agreement with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Marin and Southern Sonoma Counties

Trustee Van Alst asked why this agreement calls for enrolling 85 students, when the funding is calculated for 59 children. Paula Rigney explained that the Club enrolls a larger number of children in order to maintain attendance at above 85 percent and avoid the risk of loss of funds. Trustee Van Alst also asked that the item that provides for a transfer of excess funds from Willow Creek Academy's After School Program allocation to MLK be deleted. These funds are allocated to specific sites and cannot be transferred, she said.

The board asked that the modified agreement be brought back for action at the next meeting.

Payment of Warrants - Batches 54-58

Trustee Van Alst asked that Paula Rigney include a key at the beginning of each warrant report to explain the resource and object codes so that board members can see the source of each fund and how it is to be used.

Roll Call/Van Alst/ Newmeyer /All to approve the payment of warrants

Purchase of Van for Special Education Transportation

Paula Rigney said that this purchase will save the district money in special education transportation costs and can also be used to take small groups of students on field trips.

Alan Rothkop assured trustee Ziegler that he would look for a low mileage vehicle and purchase an extended warranty.

Barrow/Newmeyer/All to Approve Purchase of Van for Special Education Transportation

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Van Alst/Newmeyer/All to approve the following Board Policy:

Board Policy 1501 – Uniform Complaint Procedures

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

Board Policy 1000 – Community Relations - Concepts and Roles

Board Policy 1020 – Community Relations - Youth Services

Board Policy 1112 – Community Relations - Media Relations

BOARD REQUESTS

Trustee Thornton asked for an end of summer programs report showing attendance, academic achievements and recommendations for the future. She also repeated her request for truancy and absentee reports from the first day of school.

Trustee Van Alst said that following up on Mr. Van Meter’s comment about students being left behind, the board should see a baseline of students’ aptitude in every subject at the beginning of the school year. Students should be brought up to proficiency level, and gifted children should not be forgotten, she added.

Trustee Barrow said that he would like once again to ask for a fuller explanation of the warrant payments.

Superintendent Van Zant said that the principal intends to assess everyone during the first two weeks of school and give a report to the board. We also want to do a better job in tracking attendance, he said. Trustee Barrow said that beyond metrics, it would be useful to know what ideas there are to improve the situation.

Trustee Newmeyer asked for a report on transfers between Bayside MLK and Willow Creek Academy, as well as a report on how long each student has been at each of the schools by the end of the year.

ADJOURNMENT

Thornton/Newmeyer / All to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

 8/12/14

Signature/Date



Title