

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
February 28, 2017**

**ATTENDANCE**

Board Members Present: Joshua Barrow, Ida Green, Thomas Newmeyer, Debra Turner  
Caroline Van Alst

Superintendent: Will McCoy

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Board and Superintendent convened closed session at 5:35 p.m.

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

Open session reconvened at 6:12 p.m.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Trustee Van Alst led the pledge of allegiance.

Superintendent McCoy pointed out that the date shown on the agenda is incorrect. It should be February 28, and not March 28.

The agenda order was approved.

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

Trustee Turner said that she enjoyed the afternoon and evening presentations to celebrate Black History month at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy. Turning to issues of governance, she said that her understanding is that the two schools at the district have separate governing boards and that her primary responsibility is to Bayside MLK Jr. Academy and that her duties at WCA are confined to oversight functions.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Ora Hathaway, a community member, said she is concerned that recusals by Board members may mean that there is not a quorum for certain votes. She asked if it would be possible to have more people join the board.

Barbara Sapienza, a local resident, said she wanted to follow up on her idea of mindfulness training for our students. She said that she knows of an expert in the field who works with children locally and suggested that both teachers and students at BMLK could benefit from this training, which can be paid for with a grant.

### **Presentation by Mr. David Schnee – Center for Community Life Project**

Mr. Schnee of Group Four Architecture presented the Marin City Community Services District plan for revitalization of the Phillips Drive corridor.

### **Discussion of the 2016-2017 Budget and Multi-Year Projections**

Trustee Van Alst said that out of an abundance of caution, she would recuse herself and abstain from discussion on the topic. She continued: This has to do with an accusation by the County regarding a common-law conflict of interest for Board members with children in the public charter school participating in decisions regarding discretionary allocation of funds and resources from the district. My hope is that this is resolved very soon, but until we receive a final decision, I will be recusing myself from this discussion.

Trustee Newmeyer said he reiterates Trustee Van Alst's statement and added that he too would be recusing himself until the Board hears from the Attorney General.

Trustees Van Alst and Newmeyer left the room at 6:56 p.m.

Superintendent McCoy gave a report on the budget and the Memorandum of Understanding with Willow Creek Academy.

Marijke Smit, Vice President of the Willow Creek Academy Board, summarized the charter school's concerns with the district budget. Resource allocation must be driven by equity, she told the Board.

Jennifer Conway, parent of a first grader at WCA, asked for clarification on the Board's level of responsibility towards WCA and its guiding principles in general.

Clark Warden thanked the Superintendent for a "great presentation". He said that the budget before the Board is a work in progress and does not become reality until June 30. He added that in the past, substantial changes in numbers have occurred between the second interim and the final document.

Michael Tabb, a local resident, said Mr. McCoy's report was transparent and beneficial. He asked if there is any conflict of interest with Trustee Barrow, who has children at the charter school, staying on during budget discussions. This is an opportunity to teach our children to share with those who have bigger needs. Let's be just, he concluded.

Barbara Killey, a volunteer, said it was mentioned that there was no budget for the arts. Superintendent McCoy said that this was due to the budget and the Local Control Accountability Plan not being prepared in tandem.

In answer to Mr. Tabb's concern, Trustee Barrow said many board members across the country are overseeing budgets for multiple schools and a majority have children at one of those schools. He continued: I have sought the advice of District counsel and we have a legal opinion that there is no conflict of interest.

Trustees Van Alst and Newmeyer returned to the room at 7:52 p.m.

**Consideration of School Bond Measure**

Trustee Barrow said the district’s debt payments on the Certificate of Participation are above \$200K and slated to go higher.

Trustee Newmeyer said it is worth considering a bond measure, even though a two-thirds majority is needed for passage. Trustee Van Alst suggested consulting with a bond consultant or counsel. Trustee Turner said she would like to know the cost of a bond measure.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Roll Call /Newmeyer/Van Alst/5 Ayes, 0 Noes, to approve the following consent agenda items:**

- Approval of Special Education Testing Services Provided by Audrey Bethke
- School Closures

**Consider Creation of a District Budget Advisory Committee**

Trustee Barrow said he would like further clarity on the parameters and philosophy of the committee. Superintendent McCoy said the LCAP should be the cornerstone for making budgetary decisions.

**Van Alst/Turner/All to Approve the Creation of a District Budget Advisory Committee of Limited Duration**

**Approval of Dissolution of the Instructional Outcomes Committee**

Superintendent McCoy said that this action is being taken at the direction of the Board.

**Turner/Green/All to Approve the Dissolution of the Instructional Outcomes Committee**

**Approval of the Revised 2016-2017 Calendar of Board of Trustees Meeting Dates**


**Newmeyer/Van Alst/All to approve the Revised 2016-2017 Calendar of Board of Trustees Meeting Dates**

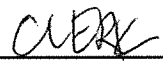
**FUTURE TOPICS**

- CCEE upcoming meetings
- Final Insurance Figures for District Office Fire Insurance re DO

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Green/Turner/All to adjourn at 8:43 p.m.**

 3/14/17  
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 Signature/Date

  
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 Title