

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 14, 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 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 at 6:43 p.m.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Turner led the pledge of allegiance.

REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA

Trustee Van Alst said that concerns have been raised by the County Superintendent that she has a conflict of interest in decisions that affect the relationship between the district and the charter school, arising from the fact that she has a child attending the charter school. She continued: Although I do not believe that a conflict exists, given the nature of the allegations and the ongoing investigation of the district by the Attorney General, I am recusing myself from several items on the agenda: 10.01- Willow Creek Academy Oversight Committee Report, 10.02 - District Structure Committee Report, 11.02 - Update on Budget Advisory Committee, 13.02 - Approval of the Second Interim 2016-2017 Budget Report, 13.04 - Approval of Purchase of Toolbox Training Program, 13.05 - Approval of Special Education Service Providers.

Trustee Newmeyer made the same comment.

Trustees Van Alst and Newmeyer requested that the above matters be grouped together to minimize disruption to the meeting.

Van Alst/Newmeyer/All to Group the Items Pertaining to the Recusal Together

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Trustee Green said that she participated in a meeting on the subject of equity hosted by the Hannah Project. She asked that the Board discuss support for the Hannah Project at a future meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Jackie Dedrick, a local resident, asked if the fact that Trustee Barrow serves on the Willow Creek Foundation Board creates a conflict of interest regarding fundraising for the charter school.

Peter Sapienza, a local resident, said a group of residents are concerned about the deleterious effects of the MOU with Willow Creek Academy. They are circulating a petition on the subject and hope to present it at the next Board meeting. The MOU is harmful to the children of BMLK and needs to be renegotiated, he said.

Michael Tabb, a local resident, asked that trustee Barrow restate his reasons for not recusing himself from Board meetings at each meeting. He asked that the Board consider taking comments throughout the meeting. He said that the community wants to be part of the process of supporting the school and the children. He asked that the Board be transparent with the community as events occur with staffing and other matters.

Bettie Hodges of the Hannah Project thanked the district for allowing the Freedom School to operate at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy for the past seven years. She asked for a better integration of the Freedom School with the district's Summer School.

Marilyn Mackel, a school volunteer, said that the district should have created the oversight committee right after the publication of the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) report. She continued: This indicated a failure of counsel, further demonstrated by the factually incorrect response to the complaint against the Board. The Board is abrogating its fiduciary duties and responding to complaints in keeping with its own personal philosophy rather than one that is consistent with the letter and spirit of the law. This has resulted in huge expenditures of public funds to argue positions that fly in the face of conclusions reached by independent auditors guided by State law and education law. She asked that the Board and Willow Creek Academy reconsider their response to FCMAT and the State.

Cherie Sinclair, a local resident, said that she wanted to express concerns about the MOU negotiated with Willow Creek Academy in 2015. Bayside MLK Jr. Academy is clearly in trouble - is it not equitable to address that, she asked.

BAYSIDE MLK JR. ACADEMY

Dr. Griffin said that he attended a conference on equity in San Diego. Parent Teacher conferences will begin this week. A number of field trips are coming up. Enrollment is at 158.

WILLOW CREEK ACADEMY

Head of School Tara Seekins gave a report on the school. All 42 in-district applicants for the K class have been admitted for next year. Enrollment is at 399.

SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent McCoy said that he met with representatives of Willow Creek Academy to discuss the MOU and other financial matters. He pointed out that there are positive things happening at BMLK. He showed a picture of the entire school wearing the school spirit t-shirt. This should not be lost in the conversation about the problems facing the district, he said.

The Superintendent then discussed the functions of the various committees currently working at the district.

Terena Mares of MCOE gave a report on the corrective actions being taken at the district. These cover many functions, including personnel, policies and regulations, the relationship with WCA and systems of internal control.

Pecolia Manigo of Bay Area Parent Leadership Action Network (PLAN), gave an update on the LCAP engagement plan for 2017.

Sujie Shin of the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE) gave a report on the meeting of the community advisory committee.

At 8:19 p.m., trustees Van Alst and Newmeyer left the room.

DISTRICT STRUCTURE COMMITTEE – Ad Hoc (Turner, Barrow)

Trustee Turner said that the committee is trying to set up meetings with interested groups. Regarding the MCOE proposal to look into combining this district with Mill Valley, she said that this is a very complex issue and we can glean good information from the inquiry.

Trustee Barrow said that the committee would like to support the venture at the study level. Terena Mares said the ultimate decision is up to voters. MCOE has sent out a request for a proposal for the feasibility study.

Terrie Green said she is very concerned about the idea of consolidation. There are other alternatives and they should be studied with equal attention. Trustee Turner said this is an exploration out of which other alternatives may arise.

UPDATE on BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Superintendent McCoy said that the committee held its first meeting on March 10 and will continue to meet every Friday. Members will bring their recommendations to the Board in five weeks' time.

Kurt Weinsheimer of WCA said there are a lot of opportunities for collaboration between the two schools. We would like to be invited to participate in the budget advisory committee, he told the Board.

Terena Mares said it would not be appropriate to have WCA be a part of the budget advisory committee.

SECOND INTERIM 2016-2017 BUDGET REPORT

Superintendent McCoy gave a summation of the report. He said that we have yet to solve the deficit problem and recommended that the Board approve the budget with a qualified certification. Terena Mares of MCOE clarified that the County's qualified budget certification also included other key fiscal indicators beyond deficit spending.

David Suto said that the district must claw back money that was given to WCA. This makes it difficult for both schools.

Richard Bohnet, a local resident, said the biggest problem today is the difference between the haves and the have-nots. Without renegotiating the MOU, it is not possible to have a balanced and fair budget. We can come to an agreement that is equitable for everyone. The previous superintendent was close to 100 percent charter-oriented. The board had four out of five members involved with the charter school. Therefore it is not surprising that the MOU is skewed. We can come up with a fair budget, he concluded.

Jeffrey Knowles of WCA board said the point of the MOU is that resources should be allocated according to need, not based on where children go to school. The Board should reiterate this point to the budget advisory committee.

Turner/Green/2 Absent to Approve the Second Interim 2016-2017 Budget with Qualified Status

TOOLBOX TRAINING PROGRAM

Superintendent McCoy said training with Toolbox is scheduled for March 24. This program will help us institute practices which foster high expectations and effective resolutions when challenges arise.

Turner/Green/2 Absent to Approve Purchase of Toolbox Training Program

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE PROVIDERS

Green/Turner/2 Absent to approve the Special Education Service Providers

At 9:15 p.m., Trustee Barrow said that the Board would take a short break. The Board reconvened the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

DISTRICT OFFICE FIRE INSURANCE SETTLEMENT

Superintendent McCoy said that we have received partial payment of \$1.861 million. The next decisions will be around replacement of district office. We will not receive additional funds until we break ground on that project.

CONSENT AGENDA –

Roll Call Van Alst/Turner/5 Ayes, 0 Noes to Approve the Following Consent Agenda items:

Minutes of the November 9, 2016, February 14 and February 28, 2017 Board Meetings

Payment of Warrants – Batches 32-35

Math Instruction Agreement with the Tamalpais Union High School District

Field Trips

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR SELECTION FOR FISCAL YEARS 2017-2019

Newmeyer/Van Alst/All to Approve the Selection of Christy White Associates as Independent Auditor for Fiscal Years 2017-2019

RRESOLUTION 743- ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LCAP PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Roll Call/ Green/Turner/5 Ayes, 0 Noes to Approve Resolution 743, Establishment of the LCAP Parent Advisory Committee

POLICY SERVICES – CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION

The Superintendent said that the district is still waiting to hear from CSBA regarding a timeline for services that include updating all the district’s policies.

LETTERS OF RESIGNATION

The Superintendent and Board of Trustees thanked Special Education teacher Alejandro Reyes, teacher Dionne Estes and assistant principal Beth Minor for their service to the district.


Newmeyer/Turner/All to Accept the Resignation of Reyes, Estes and Minor

FUTURE TOPICS


- Corrective action timeline
- Board update
- Committee rosters
- Summer school plan
- Restricted vs. unrestricted insurance fund

ADJOURNMENT

Van Alst/Turner/All to Adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

 3/28/17

Signature/Date



Title