

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 8, 2016**

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: Caroline Van Alst, William Ziegler, Thomas Newmeyer, Joshua Barrow,
Ida Times

Superintendent: Bob Ferguson

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 6:17 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Ziegler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Trustee Van Alst announced that no action was taken in closed session.

AGENDA ORDER

The agenda order was approved.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Trustee Barrow said that he attended a meeting at the Marin County Office of Education with trustee Van Alst to discuss ways in which MCOE could assist our district. He also attended the WestEd- facilitated Local Control and Accountability Plan meeting at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy and was concerned that only one parent was there. We need a different strategy to engage parents in the process, he said.

Superintendent Ferguson said his perception is that parents are less involved because they have been disappointed in the past, or because a particular crisis has been resolved. He suggested using the web-based program Survey Monkey to gather community input.

Trustee Barrow said that he went to the Willow Creek Academy board meeting. He reported that unlike in previous years, the charter school is not setting class sizes, so it can continue to get applicants and maximize in-district participation.

Trustee Barrow reported that he has accepted a project management position at the Marin City Community Development Corporation.

Trustee Newmeyer said he also attended the WestEd meeting and found it informative.

Trustee Van Alst said that she recently toured the campus of Bayside MLK Jr. Academy and sat in on a parent meeting. The walk to school program has been a great success, she reported. She hoped to have another LCAP meeting scheduled for 8 a.m. so more parents can attend right after they drop their children.

Trustee Van Alst noted that the March 8, 2016 board packet showed the cost of the District's 2014-2015 audit to be \$167,500. This was an error; the correct amount is \$17,500.

2014-15 District Audit

Mr. Stephen Roatch of Stephen Roatch Accountancy said that there were no major findings in the audit; this is the best kind of report possible, he told the board. Board members then asked for clarification on several audit items.

Marin City Health & Wellness Center

Jayvon Muhammad, CEO of the Marin City Health & Wellness Center said the clinic is a federally qualified center that provides medical, dental and mental health services to southern Marin and San Francisco. It was founded by leaders in Marin City and focuses heavily on this community. She continued: We have lots of natural partnerships with the school, such as medical and dental screenings for all students. In addition, behavioral health teams also work with students at both Bayside MLK Jr. Academy and Willow Creek. We also have a partnership with the Conscious Kitchen cafeteria program to bring over seniors to share lunch with the kids at Bayside MLK. This is a beneficial program for the seniors as well as the kids; our patients love eating with the children. We have two other preventative mental health programs at our Center, one is Girl Power and the other is the Defenders. She then introduced the leader of the Defenders program.

Zared Lloyd, facilitator for the Defenders program, said that many of the children in this district come from single-parent families and have difficulty in coping with absent fathers. These problems affect their academic and social lives. He continued: Our program aims to help middle schoolers cope with those issues. We emphasize brotherhood and a sense of community, where we look out for one another. This allows the problems to be discussed out in the open and for the wounds to be healed. When the program started, we had 10-15 boys, now we have 45. I am available 7 days a week 24 hours a day. I teach our kids leadership, communication skills, how to dress and business skills. I teach them other ways out of their predicament than the NFL or the NBA, I tell them that there is more than one way out. There are no requirements to join the Defenders, but members must keep up academically and behave well to stay. In the summer, we take the Defenders on a countrywide road trip, visiting 28 states in 30 days. The trip encourages members to momentarily forget their own circumstances and see how others live, both those who are better off and kids who are less well off. I encourage our members to look at all that we have in common.

Asked about his own background, Mr. Lloyd said: I have always been an advocate for change. At 16, I worked in construction and learned a great deal. I am thankful for the opportunities I have had and want to share my knowledge by being an example to the younger generation.

Joshua, a 14- year old member of the Defenders, said that the club has changed his life completely. I have been more responsible in the house and in my life in general. This program teaches you entrepreneurship and so much more. I just love being a Defender, he told the board.

Ms. Muhammad said that this program is partly funded through a small grant from the Marin county Health and Human Services department. The clinic also does fundraising to cover the cost of the summer trip.

Pre K- 3 Grant

Principal Jonnette Newton said that the Pre K-3 team will give a report on the Pre K-3 initiative, which began six years ago with the goal of closing the readiness gap between pre-school and kindergarten. Teachers are also focusing on having every third grader read at level; studies show that if they can read at level by third grade, they will be successful through high school.

She thanked the Marin Community Foundation for the grant and for their patience. The team includes pre-kindergarten, transitional kindergarten and kindergarten teachers, as well as instructors from the Marin Learning Center, Manzanita Head Start and Bridge the Gap.

Looking to next year, our data committee analyzed all the available data to come up with goals for next year, she said. They will work with the LCAP advisory team so that the adopted goals can be incorporated into the budget.

Carol Burns, Pre K-3 facilitator, said one big opportunity was to work with a research group from North Carolina to develop a culture of collaborative inquiry. A difficult transition is to get away from the 1950s style “carrots and sticks” method of changing behavior and work with motivation theory to help kids make own choices and self regulate by giving them some extra leeway. Each classroom was observed and teachers received the data to see and understand a student’s experience in the classroom during an entire day.

Barbara Gould, supervisor with Head Start and a member of the design team, said that she has been working with third/fourth grade teacher Jim Scullion on cultural proficiency. We look at our own beliefs and biases to ensure that we create an equitable experience for students regardless of race and income, she told the board. The country’s “white” culture has created an environment of inequity; to effect change we must look deeply at our own practice.

Trustee Barrow said that he would like more information about outcomes. After 5-6 years, it seems that the needle has not moved, he said. Ms. Burns said that looking at the data, it is clear that kids are getting big bounds in language acquisition from kindergarten to first grade. Teachers are making changes in their methods and we hope to see better results next year, she said. Ms. Gould added that it takes some time for fundamental change to occur. Many things are coming together this year and I see great hope for the future, she concluded.

At 7:56 pm, the board took a 5 minute recess.

The board reconvened at 8:03 pm.

District 2015-2016 Second Interim Budget Report

Chief Business Official Paula Rigney presented a slide show of the budget report. She said that the special education encroachment into the general fund continues to be problem; it currently stands at \$1.2 million.

Trustee Ziegler said we have to think outside the box to come up with a solution to this problem. Trustee Barrow said we need additional eyes on the budget so we can have confidence in our direction for the future. Trustee Van Alst asked about the administration of special education and was informed that Susan Martin is the director of the district’s program.

Looking ahead, our budget challenges will be funding Willow Creek Academy, special education and setting money aside for deferred maintenance and technology, Ms. Rigney said. Trustee Barrow said we should discuss fundraising and see whether nearby technology companies can help us with our IT needs.

Marilyn Mackel, a community member and volunteer, said the board should think about tackling its challenges differently. It is outrageous that the board is not thinking about the quality of persons hired who could bring additional revenues to the district. It is important to have a superintendent who can write grant proposals. Every organization recognizes that grants expire and that they must look for alternatives. In setting up a budget, it is logical to start from needs, and then find the money to answer those needs, she said.

Gayle Henrickson, a community member, said it is clear that the district is struggling with core, mandatory expenditures. She continued: The community is very hopeful that change is coming. We have two schools where 80% are performing below standard. I am confident that with the passion and expertise and competence that is here, we can change this statistic. We are all in this for the kids, so we have to have a positive attitude.

Trustee Barrow said that Ms. Mackel's remarks resonated with him. We should think about the programs that we want and need. We lack a multi-year, program driven process. We need to approach budgeting differently. Trustee Van Alst said that she hopes LCAP will take us in that direction.

Newmeyer/Ziegler/4 Ayes, 0 Nos, 1 abstain to approve the District 2015-2016 Second Interim Budget Report

Willow Creek Report

Head of School Royce Conner said that his school uses a test called Measures of Academic Process. MAP is an online adaptive test, tailored to individual students. It is a tool to answer that important parental question: what did my child learn this year? He then showed a slide report of students' results.

Willow Creek Academy 2015-2016 Second Interim Budget Report

Clark Warden said that total revenues have not changed significantly, while expenditures are down by about \$87K. Total fund balance at the end of the first interim budget was \$17K; currently it is \$99K.

Ziegler/Newmeyer/All to accept the Willow Creek Academy 2015-2016 Second Interim Budget Report

Superintendent

Superintendent Ferguson invited Dr. Walt Buster to speak to the board. Dr. Buster said that he was happy to offer his services as a facilitator and workshop leader to design an in-service program for the board. He suggested that a sub-committee be set up to come up with specific suggestions. Trustees Barrow and Newmeyer volunteered to be on the sub-committee.

SMCTA Negotiations

Mr. Ferguson said that he has received a request to start a sunshine process for negotiations with teachers.

Discussion of Superintendent Position

The board decided to hear a discussion on the search for a superintendent at a future meeting.

WestEd – LCAP Procedure

Mr. Ferguson said that a schedule has been set up for the meetings that will involve the community in the LCAP procedure.

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) for 2016-2017

The board heard that Community Action Marin will not run the transitional kindergarten program going forward. Mr. Ferguson said that this issue will be brought back for discussion in April.

Resolution 725 – Agreement with Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS)

Superintendent Ferguson said that an early retirement agreement for some teachers will result in substantial savings for the district.

Roll Call/Ziegler/Barrow 5 Ayes, 0 Nos, to approve Resolution 725 – Agreement with Public Agency Retirement Services

Certificated Salary Schedule – Principal

Superintendent Ferguson said that this new schedule, which allows for incentives and longevity payments, will allow the district to attract the best possible candidates for the job.

Barrow/Ziegler/All to approve the Certificated Salary Schedule – Principal

Audit Contract for 2015-2016

This is the third year of the agreement for an audit of the district budget by Stephen Roatch Accountancy.

Newmeyer/Ziegler to approve the Audit Contract for 2015-2016

2016-2017 Budget Development & LCAP Calendar

This calendar was brought to the board for its information.

CONSENT AGENDA

Roll Call/Newmeyer/Ziegler/5 Ayes, 0 Nos, to approve the following consent agenda items:

Minutes of the February 2 and February 10, 2016 Board Meetings

Personnel Action Report

Payment of Warrants – Batches 30-33

Trustee Barrow asked for clarification on the spreadsheet accompanying the list of warrants. The spreadsheet states the purpose of each disbursement and the fund used to pay it.

Barrow/Newmeyer/All to approve Payment of Warrants – Batches 30-33

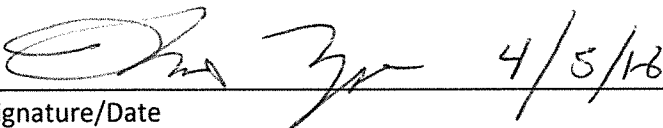
FUTURE MEETING

The board decided to move the next meeting to April 5 to accommodate trustees' calendars.

Newmeyer/Ziegler/All to change the date of the next meeting to April 5, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Barrow/Ziegler/All to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 p.m.

A handwritten signature and the date 4/5/16 are written above a horizontal line.

Signature/Date

The word "Clerk" is handwritten below a horizontal line.

Title