

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 25, 2016**

ATTENDANCE

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

Absent: Ida Green

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 6:05 p.m.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Van Alst led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ORDER

The agenda order was approved.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Discussion with California Collaborative for Educational Excellence representative, Sujie Shin, regarding CCEE proposal to work with Sausalito Marin City School District as part of four pilot programs in the state of California

Sujie Shin said that she would like to provide a framework for the collaboration that CCEE hopes to have with the district. The old revenue limit system focused on compliance with State rules, the “right programs” and a single metric of success. The new LCFF system builds on collaboration and capacity building. CCEE will not “do” anything to or for the LEA – this will be a partnership.

She then talked about her visit to the Palo Verde school district in Blythe, where two state prisons are the main employers and where the schools struggle with discipline. Trustee Barrow asked who reached out to CCEE about the Sausalito Marin City district. Ms. Shin said that it was the County Superintendent. Trustee Ziegler asked about CCEE’s metric for success. Ms. Shin said that generally, success would be measured by student engagement and achievement. But these are decisions that will be made jointly with the district, after we have talked together about goals and aspirations, she said. If your goal is closing the achievement gap, we would focus on that and set up metrics around that.

Trustee Van Alst asked whether CCEE would use outside agencies as it develops its plans. Ms. Shin said that her organization hopes to be a network hub to make connections between existing pockets of

excellence. The money set aside for the pilot programs is \$4 million plus some prior year monies, she explained. This is to provide training, infrastructure and research support.

Barbara Killey, a school volunteer, said that she had written a letter to the Independent Journal in support of the program. Hersh Markusfeld, a community member, said: I strongly support the complaint filed by Marilyn Mackel against this school district. There is a lack of access to qualified teachers in this school. There is some resistance by this Board to accept the CCEE offer. I can't begin to understand why you would not want to accept this proposal.

Denise Suto, a former science teacher, said working here took a toll on my health and I would do it again if I could have access to the services offered by CCEE. Interaction with the parents and community here made me a better teacher and person. This program will provide the leadership that this district needs.

Alice Merrill, a Sausalito resident, said this program is clearly a wonderful thing. If it is not voted on by the Board, it is an indication of a systemic problem. Please vote for this.

Sue Krenek, a Sausalito resident, said this looks like a phenomenal program. We should not use it as an opportunity to divide ourselves. There is a traditionally undeserved group of kids at both schools. If we want to help these children achieve, let's think about it holistically.

Damian Morgan, a community member, said: I hope you will accept this offer from the State. The kids who go to Tam high School from here are not adequately prepared. It is criminal not to teach art, music and PE. I hope you do the right thing.

Trustee Barrow said it's important to clarify the process. We have received the formal invitation via the county. This is our first opportunity to discuss it. Any notion that we are resistant to the proposal is a misunderstanding; we are trying to learn about the program. After the joint meeting with MCOE, we will have the opportunity to act on this. We have not been given a deadline. This is an opportunity to learn about it and not rush into it without educating ourselves.

Trustee Ziegler said the program sounds wonderful. But it was dropped in our lap without a warning. It was assumed that we would be uncooperative. We are hearing comments about our attitude. Our job is to review the programs that are being presented to us. There is a natural caution because we have not had a prior opportunity to discuss this. This sounds like a very positive opportunity, but it has to be studied before it comes to us as an action item.

Bettie Hodges asked if the Board is prepared to attend the August 31 session. Trustee Barrow said whether we do or not, we should facilitate at least some of the Board to attend and learn what we can.

BOND STUDY SESSION

Superintendent Ferguson said that he has gone through four bond applications in the past. There is no perfect process, he said. The district has done a good job of listening to the school sites. You must be as open and honest as you can and not over-promise. Once it has been approved by the Board, the district has about two months to make its case to the community before the election in November.

At 7:58 p.m., Trustee Van Alst said that the Board would take a short break. The Board reconvened the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Bettie Hodges of Save a Generation said there seems to be a priority around parking. We are excited about the community school project and in view of that, it would be shortsighted to make parking a priority when space is so limited. As the community school begins to grow, you will need more space for neighborhood groups, and it would be wrong to tear down existing space and make it a parking lot.

Barbara Killey, a school volunteer, asked how cost overruns get taken care of and what is meant in the plans by a combination art/storage room. She asked if there could be an assurance that the retirement of the existing COP loan would be part of the bond measure.

Denise Suto, a former science teacher, said that there is not trust in the school board right now. The building that is now Willow Creek Academy was not taken care of for 40 years because it was part of Bayside MLK. There is cultural deafness. Technology should not been taken off the list of funded items, she said. You do not have highly qualified teachers in the middle school at Bayside MLK, she concluded.

David Suto, a Sausalito resident, said items that are clearly not going to be funded should be taken off the list. There has been a lack of outreach and we are a couple of months from the election. What happens if we have 20 more kids per year come to our schools and we need to build more classrooms? How many years is the bond for?

Marilyn Mackel, a school volunteer, said one can easily prioritize the list of funded items and write in for contingencies. As a board, you must be equitable and fair and list priorities according to the needs of the district.

Sue Krenek, a Sausalito resident, you have the two campuses on separate lists. If you combine the lists, you can have tiers of prioritized tasks. I encourage you to put these documents on the district website and make the process as transparent as you can.

Jeff Knowles, a Sausalito resident, said job number one on the bond is to get it passed. The best way is to have a list and have the board make its judgment. I would be an advocate of having combined buckets for both sites, with prioritized tiers. Both communities seem to think that is an

important part of getting this passed. Transparency should be at the top of your agenda. If people have confidence that they can go to your web site and see what is going on, this will help the process. Even with no prioritization in the bond language itself, we need more dialog with members of the community about which items are "in scope" and "on deck."

Kurt Weinsheimer, a Sausalito resident, said when we talk about priorities, we should look at one single list, one district. When you say WCA vs. Bayside MLK list, you are building one more brick in the wall. There is so much that can happen between the two schools, such as technology in classrooms. You should look at what impacts the kids first, parking lots and district offices should be figured out after. Transparency is critical for the bond to be really successful, not just passed.

Trustee Barrow said there are a lot of good suggestions here. Trustee Ziegler said the separate lists were done so that people who are not familiar with the campuses would know where the projects will be located. Secondly the word priority bothers me, he said; it means different things to different people.

Trustee Newmeyer said priority is a bad word for this case. Perhaps say highlighted projects?

Trustee Van Alst said the listed cost for technology is \$500K for two schools. Trustee Barrow said this item should remain on deck and we should also try fundraising. We can revisit it later.

Trustee Newmeyer said the location of the district office should be determined. Superintendent Ferguson said that having the district offices at the Bayside MLK site is not feasible as there is a need for additional space there. Board members agreed that amendments to the master plan would include reducing the scope of classroom interior, multi-purpose room and restroom renovations at Willow Creek, as well as adding a STEM lab classroom and more extensive HVAC improvements to Bayside MLK Jr. Academy.

Barrow/Newmeyer/All to amend the project priorities of the District Master Plan per Board Discussion

ADJOURNMENT

Newmeyer/Barrow/All to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

 9/13/16

Signature/Date

Clerk

Title