

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 2, 2016**

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: Caroline Van Alst, William Ziegler, Joshua Barrow, Ida Green

Trustee Newmeyer attended via teleconference from 241 Sunnybrook Farm Road Narragansett, Rhode Island 02882

Superintendent: Bob Ferguson

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marilyn Mackel said that she hoped the Board would hear the voices of all stakeholders who participated in the superintendent search process to arrive at a unified vision. We have the widest achievement gap of any district in the county and we need someone at the top who can forge unity between Sausalito and Marin City, she said. Ms. Mackel thanked superintendent Ferguson for putting together an inclusive panel for the new superintendent selection process.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board and Superintendent convened closed session at 5:40 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Open session reconvened at 6:35 p.m.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Ziegler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ORDER

The agenda item "Resolution 734 – School Bond Election", was moved to the top of the agenda. **Ziegler/Barrow/All to move agenda item 9.01 to the top.**

TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Green announced that she will soon be a new aunt. The Board wished Paula Rigney a happy birthday.

Resolution 734 – School Bond Election

Board members stated that they were satisfied with the conclusions of previous study sessions regarding the school bond measure.

Ziegler/Green/5 Ayes, 0 Noes/ to approve resolution 734 - School Bond Election

DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE REPORT

Alan Rothkop said cleaning at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy is proceeding on schedule. The library and multi-purpose room are next on the list. Even if weekend work is needed, all cleaning will be done on time, he said.

Trustee Green asked if the entrance to the school can be cleaned up and some measure taken to prevent pigeons from nesting in the building's rafters. Mr. Rothkop said that he would look into the matter.

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Dr. Griffin said that the Freedom summer school has wrapped up for this year. He reported that he is working on putting together the Parent and English Learners' Advisory committees. There will be three parents on the ELAC and four or five for the school site council. Trustee Van Alst asked how these committees will communicate with the board. Dr. Griffin said that he would report out the results of their meetings. Trustee Barrow asked about the optimal size of these committees. Dr. Griffin said that five to six people would be ideal. Trustee Green asked about the school vision. Dr. Griffin said it could be summed up that our students are performing at par or better. Trustee Barrow asked the Principal if he is comfortable that he can fill current vacant positions in math, science and PE with the dollars allotted. Dr. Griffin said that there is more work to be done and that he is still looking at the budget.

WILLOW CREEK ACADEMY REPORT

Head of School Tara Seekins said that hiring and school schedules have been completed. She reported that she has reached out to Dr. Griffin to begin a program of collaboration between the two schools. WCA's current enrollment is projected to be 406 students, she concluded.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Marilyn Mackel said that she is concerned that the next board meeting is in September and the agreement with the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence was not calendared for this meeting. There is a limited amount of time to accept their presence in this district, she said. I am sure that both schools would appreciate having this assistance.

Superintendent Ferguson said that a meeting with the CCEE executive director, Dr. Carl Cohn, has been arranged for August 31. Bettie Hodges asked if community members can be a part of that meeting. Superintendent Ferguson said that they could.

Ricardo Moncrief, the director of the Marin City organization ISOJI, said that his team will be surveying 33 organizations in the community to try and connect the dots, bring people together and build equity. We want to be coordinators and partners with the district, he said.

Community member Sonja Hansen said that she shares the concerns of Marilyn Mackel. It is unclear why the district has not accepted the offer of help from CCEE, she said. Superintendent Ferguson said that

Dr. Cohn would like to talk to the Board on August 31. After that presentation, we will be ready to go, he said.

CONSENT AGENDA

Roll Call/ Barrow/Ziegler/5 Ayes, 0 Noes, to approve the following consent agenda item:

Minutes of the July 5, 6, 12 and 15, 2016 Board Meetings

Trustee Barrow requested that the “payments of warrants” be removed from the consent agenda.

Barrow/Green/All to remove item 9.03 from the Consent Agenda.

Formation of the District English Learners’ Advisory Committee

Trustee Van Alst said that this is part of the Local Control and Accountability Plan requirements. All districts with 50 or more English language learners must set up such a committee. Dr. Griffin said that he has talked to three parents who have agreed to be on the committee.

Barrow/Van Alst/All to approve the formation of the District English Learners’ Advisory Committee

PERSONNEL

Superintendent Appointment

Bettie Hodges, director of Saving a Generation, A Marin City community organization, said that in January, members of her group formulated certain criteria regarding personnel selection, in particular for the positions of Principal and Assistant Superintendent which were being considered. She continued: We also asked the board to ensure that there was community input in that process. Superintendent Ferguson has done a good job of reaching out to the community. I would remind the Board of some of the criteria that we discussed. One was experience with communities similar to ours. In the past, superintendents did not have experience with an African American community or a place like Marin City. The issue of cultural competency is very important. We want someone who is able to communicate well with our diverse community. We also wanted someone with fundraising experience. We are starting the school year with funding problems. I am hopeful that those considerations were part of the decision making of the Board. If they were not, it means we are starting the school year with some mistrust. Willow Creek Academy parent Sue Krenek said that she had heard of allegations that a member of the stakeholder committee had improperly influenced the Board. She asked the Board to walk everyone through the selection process, so that community members would be well informed. Superintendent Ferguson said that Board wanted the community involved in the interview process. He said: We had 15 people in the stakeholder community group. They interviewed all candidates. There was no rank ordering of the candidates, board members simply received input from each member as well as results from the search firm, McPherson & Jacobson.

Community member Michael Tabb thanked Mr. Ferguson for including him in the interview process. He said: As stakeholders, we were able to talk to each other and hear each other’s opinions. It seemed transparent and open. Now we can assess and see if our input was valued. Did you hear the voice of the community and were you able to understand the leadership qualities that we need in this community? We were given an opportunity to identify our leaders and we would like to see this become reality.

Dr. Melissa Cadet, executive director of the Marin City Community Development Corporation said: I am appalled at the level of inequity between the two schools in this district. I was part of the interview panel; it was a fair process. This community needs leadership; whoever is chosen has to blend together two communities. Our children must be treated equally no matter which side the freeway they live on. They all need access to credentialed math and science teachers. There should be an equitable distribution of bond money. You are blessed to have a small community, but the divide is getting bigger and bigger. The victims are the kids who are left behind. I encourage the Board to set specific goals for the new superintendent to close the achievement gap.

Trustee Green thanked everyone for their input. Trustee Barrow said that the Board made a selection and is here to formalize it tonight. Trustee Van Alst said the selection process was not an easy one. Equity, experience with budgeting and closing the achievement gap were very important to us. We deliberated long and hard.

Trustee Ziegler said we had an excellent slate of candidates. We spent two days in interviews then followed up with another day of discussion. The fit with this district and the ability to solve this district's problems were paramount considerations. We look forward to a better future for the district. Trustee Newmeyer said the process was exhaustive; everyone deliberated with respect and dignity. I think this will help the district. He said.

Ziegler/Barrow/4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 1 Abstain to approve Mr. Will Mc Coy as the new superintendent

Superintendent's Contract

The Board reviewed the proposed contract for Mr. McCoy.

Ziegler/Barrow/4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 1 Abstain to approve Mr. McCoy's contract

Mr. McCoy said: I am impressed with the discourse going on tonight. It takes real people and real passion to talk about the future of our students. Achievement gaps are unacceptable; I look forward to proving myself to this district. He then read a statement to the Board in which he thanked them as well as the community and stated that equity has been the focus of his work as an educator. He said that he looks forward to learning about the history and specific stories of this district and to working with all stakeholders until all students are learning and performing at high levels.

At 7:38 p.m., Trustee Van Alst said that the Board would take a short break. The Board reconvened the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

FINANCIAL & BUSINESS

2016-2019 Local Control Accountability Plan

Trustee Barrow said that the Board approved an initial version of the LCAP at the same time as the budget with some reservations and an understanding that this would not be the final document. Today is the deadline for a final adoption of this particular version. Changes include a clarification of the allocations for communication and web site improvement. This tells a more accurate story with the same funds. There were meetings with MCOE, Saving a Generation and Dr. Griffin. This version includes State required metrics that were missing. Metrics around achievement goals need the input of

educators, so we are hoping that next time more thought and input will go into those goals, focusing on progress toward proficiency and metrics that show that progress.

Trustee Van Alst thanked Amy Prescott of MCOE and CBO Paula Rigney for their work on the LCAP. She also thanked Assistant Principal Dr. Thornton and Principal Jonnette Newton for the improvements in student test scores in 2015.

Marilyn Mackel said that she is concerned that the LCAP document is being approved without a math or science teacher in place, while the document still states that we are contracting out those tasks. It concerns me that the LCAP does not represent what will actually happen, she told the Board.

Trustee Barrow said: We recognize that this document is currently out of sync with reality. We will get a letter from MCOE regarding their findings and we can then change it accordingly. It would have been good to get it more up to date, but unfortunately, that is not the case. Trustee Green said that we should have all the personnel in place before the start of school.

Barrow/Green/5 Ayes, 0 Nos to approve the 2016-2019 Local Control Accountability Plan

Payment of Warrants

Trustee Barrow asked about the high ATT communication charges. IT specialist Mark Tong said that the district is disputing the current \$4000 monthly charge for fiber optics. It should be around \$1000 and we will get a refund on the amount we have paid so far.

Trustee Barrow also asked about the high cost of membership in the California School Board Association. This is a universal complaint, he was told.

It was also clarified that \$3600 was paid to a custodian who had taken all the janitorial towels home for cleaning for the last three years. This is now done by a laundry service.

Barrow/Van Alst/All to approve the warrants

Trustee Barrow said we need to hear straight language from everyone on problems in the district. It would be good to get a Friday letter or periodic updates on issues that concern students, parents and staff.

Trustee Van Alst said we have had good comments about transparency. She said that she has talked to Mark Tong about having a page on our web site to post items about the bond. She also asked that the Board discuss having a Bond Implementation Advisory Committee at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Barrow/Ziegler/5 Ayes, 0 Nos to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

 9/13/16

Signature/Date

Clerk

Title