

SAN LEANDRO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SAN LEANDRO, CALIFORNIA 94579
www.sanleandro.k12.ca.us

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - MINUTES

**BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP:
Seeking Community Input Regarding the
State's Fiscal Crisis and its Impact on
San Leandro Schools**

January 29, 2009

The Board of Education of the San Leandro Unified School District met in special session on January 10, 2008, held at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd., San Leandro, California 94579.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Mike Katz-Lacabe.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Hermy Almonte
Mrs. Lisa Hague
Ms. Morgan Mack-Rose
Ms. Carmen Sullivan
Mrs. Pauline Cutter, Clerk
Mrs. Diana Prola, Vice President
Mr. Mike Katz-Lacabe, President
Ms. Flavia Coria, Student Board Member

DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT

Christine Lim, Superintendent
Cindy Cathey, Assistant Superintendent
Song Chin-Bendib, Assistant Superintendent
Michael Potmesil, Assistant Superintendent

SPECIAL WORKSHOP

The Board of Education led a budget workshop seeking community input regarding the state's fiscal crisis and its impact on San Leandro Schools. Approximately three hundred people attended this forum, representing District employees from the San Leandro Teachers' Association, California School Employees Association, Teamsters/Trades, San Leandro Management Association, parents, students, and community members.

Board President Mike Katz-Lacabe opened up the workshop with the Board presenting a short PowerPoint presentation about the fiscal status of the District, as well as the purpose, scope of the work, and the format of the meeting.

Following the presentation, six breakout sessions (SLTA, CSEA, Teamster/Trades, Administrators and Parents/Community) met to discuss and prioritize their ideas, keeping in mind that it is impossible to list the cost of every item, some things are mandated by law, and that approximately 85% of the District budget is spent on employees. When the groups reconvened, everyone placed stickers next to the items they wished to reduce (stars) and keep (smiles). The lists will be compiled and the Board will review and agree by consensus what items they would like the District to provide a cost analysis.

The Board urged everyone to think about what transpired here tonight and to contact the Governor and legislators to voice their concerns, adding that cards were being distributed with local phone numbers of email addresses. The Board will be continuing their discussion regarding budget reductions and impact at the following upcoming Board meetings: February 3, 10, and 17.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

The following people addressed the Board, offering more effective ways of addressing the fiscal crisis:

- Robert Marrujo stated rather than continually “nickel and diming” the parents for various things such as classes, field trips, and parcel tax, he would like to see the District look at not providing gas cards, and cell phone allowances, for example, to the administration.
- Jack Nelson felt that a five-day furlough and a 3% across the board cuts made the most sense. He suggested utilizing and not selling Burrell Field, and keeping the reductions as far away from the students as possible.
- San Leandro High School seniors Angela Marrujo and Lola Ridgell addressed the Board on the impact to San Leandro High School students. Angela Marrujo, voiced her frustration regarding asking parents to pay additional fees for their child to participate in sports, and how much waste (paper, for example) she notices in her classes. Lola Ridgell spoke on the importance of the athletic programs to the students.
- Martin Capron, President of the San Leandro Sports Foundation, addressed the Board on the efforts of the foundation to renovate and modernize Burrell Field. He urged everyone to support the various local foundations as a way of helping the students, schools, and community.

- Jennifer Oliver, founder of SportsHopes, addressed the Board regarding the importance of high school sports programs as a stepping stone for future successes, advocating that “in order to raise the bar and create opportunities for student athletics takes community support”.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

The Board appreciated and thanked the many employees, parents, students, and community members for attending the forum, and providing their ideas and suggestions on how to balance the deficit in the District. The members encouraged everyone to continue to send emails with any additional comment and suggestions to them, adding that they looked forward to continuing to work together in support of the community and students of San Leandro.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mrs. Cutter and seconded by Mrs. Hague, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m. by a 7-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Pauline Cutter, Clerk