

SAN LEANDRO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SAN LEANDRO, CALIFORNIA
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REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - MINUTES

February 7, 2006

The Board of Education of the San Leandro Unified School District met in regular session on February 7, 2006, in the San Leandro City Council Chambers, 835 East 14th Street, San Leandro, California.

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by President Pauline Cutter.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Ray Davis
Mr. Louis Heystek
Ms. Linda Perry
Mr. T. W. "Rick" Richards
Mrs. Lisa Hague, Clerk
Mr. Stephen Cassidy, Vice President
Mrs. Pauline Cutter, President

DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT

Christine Lim, Superintendent
Leon Glaster, Assistant Superintendent
Michael Martinez, Assistant Superintendent
Cindy Cathey, Assistant Superintendent
Linda Pollard, Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

There were no public comments concerning items on the closed session agenda.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:08 p.m., the Board went into closed session for Student Expulsions, Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Employment, and Conference with Real Property Negotiator – Property pursuant to Education Code Sections 35146 and 48918(c), and Government Code Sections 54957 and 54956.8. The closed session was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 7:12 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. President Cutter said the Board had been in closed session and no action was taken.

President Cutter announced that Consent Item 3.9-C, Apprenticeship Agreement between San Leandro Unified School District and the Associated Builders and Contractors, was being pulled from the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion made by Ms. Perry and seconded by Mr. Davis, the Board approved the agenda for the regular meeting of February 7, 2006, with the exception of Consent Item 3.9-C, by a 7-0 vote.

REPORTS Student Representatives' Reports – San Leandro High School student representative Alison Zhao updated the Board on activities at the high school including campus Beautification Day, February 4, where there were over eighty-five volunteers. The next Beautification Day will be February 25 and all is invited. Jostens will be taking cap and gowns orders. Open House will be February 9 with presentations in the gym at 6 p.m.; classroom visits will follow at 7 p.m. Performances of *Suessical* will be April 28, 29, May 5, 6. The California High School Exit Exam, (CAHSEE) for eleventh and twelfth graders will be February 14 and 15; Senior Bowling night; and ROP tours for tenth graders. African American Career Day will be February 23rd, with over forty guest speakers. Ms. Zhao hoped all the Board members would be able to attend in the morning. Raymond Holton and Tony Chan were National Merit Finalists; Jamil Handler, Damian Owens, Niko Herron have committed to Fresno State, and Pernell "Scotty" Cordier has committed to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo on football scholarships. Freshmen are selling candygrams and ASB are selling Valentine balloons.

PRESENTATIONS

- * President Cutter announced that Kristin Earnest was named Eden Area Regional Occupational Program (ROP) "Student of the Month" for January 2006 in Health Careers. A Certificate of Commendation will be sent to the school, as she was not in attendance.
- * Assistant Superintendent of Business, Leon Glaster, presented a brief analysis of the Governor's January budget and the impact on the District budget. Referring to School Services of California's *"A Summary Analysis of the Governor's Proposed 2006-07 State Budget for California's Schools"*, Mr. Glaster highlighted a few of the proposed increases in unrestricted funding for 2006-07 including COLA, Deficit Reduction,

Equalization, and Mandated Reimbursement. He explained that while it looked like a great budget, he would not be highlighting any of the major new proposals as this time as there were some major pitfalls in terms of funding; however, the District would be continuing to move forward very cautiously in terms of all of the financial decisions impacting the schools.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The following Roosevelt Elementary School parents voiced their concerns to the Board regarding the “Safe Space” Poster:

- Catherine Luce thanked the Board for reconsidering posting the Safe Space poster at the elementary school level. While she felt that it was important that elementary students be trained to be respectful, honor one another, and appreciate other people’s values, Ms. Luce didn’t want the District to move too fast and possibly overlook any proven successful programs that had already been implemented in other County schools.
- Scott Rennie was concerned about the age appropriateness of the poster and being displayed at the elementary level as it was currently designed. He also felt that the decision-making process lacked parent involvement and requested that the information, which staff would be basing their recommendation, be made available to parents prior to the February 22 so that parents would be able to participate in a meaningful way. He was also dismayed about staff’s reaction to parent concerns and felt that it was very important that staff not prejudge those concerns.
- Kristin Porter felt that it was very important to promote tolerance and teach acceptance in the schools, and supported Board’s and District’s efforts to reduce anger, harassment, and hate in the schools. She felt it was important to begin to normalize diversity and other family arrangements at the elementary level beginning with age-appropriate discussions and would like to be part of those discussions.

Mel Switzer from the Alameda County Electrical Apprenticeship, located in San Leandro, addressed the Board with respect to the Apprenticeship Agreement between San Leandro Unified and the Associated Builders and Contractors, which had been pulled from the agenda. He extended an invitation to the Board to visit their facility, which included 200 apprentices (many of them from San Leandro), and give them an opportunity to discuss the possibility of their group participating in the Adult School apprenticeship program.

Billy Campbell commended Superintendent Lim for her support in improving communication with the custodial staff, and through the efforts of District staff, 99 percent of the custodian’s email was up and running.

REPORTS

- 1) Correspondence – Clerk Hague reported receipt of emails from Anne Sanger-Kuzmicky regarding judging Lions Club Event; Christine Gibney regarding the restrooms at Davis Street Day Care; Debra J. Sarver, Harry Likas, Pat Skillen, Linda Madison, Jackie James, Catherine Luce, Pat Rennie, Lori King, David and Deborah Williams, J. James, Carol Brown, Jim Lovig, and Jeff Kunz regarding the “Safe Space” poster; Elisabeth Huffmaster regarding teacher salaries; Carol Alvarez regarding the SLHS Crab Feed; Heidi Finberg regarding the Dale and Donna Reed Event; and Mary Styner regarding the Business Academy Competition.
- 2) Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Lim reported that:
 - District staff had responded to all but two Board reported email correspondences and those would be addressed this week, adding that a letter to the parents had been distributed explaining any misconceptions, and to share the District’s direction and plan of reconvening the Secondary Safe Schools Support Team on February 15 and the Elementary Safe Schools Support Team on February 16 to discuss the issues, review the feedback from tonight’s meeting, and all the correspondences that had been received in preparation for the their Board presentation on February 22.
 - Collaborative Action Research for Equity (CARE) teams, comprised of approximately sixty district staff and administrators, met for training to study and examined the best practices in terms of developing culturally responsive teaching. She was unable to attend because she was at the Superintendents’ Symposium; however, Cabinet reported that it was an “outstanding day” and participants were very pleased with the work that it undertook.
 - At the Superintendents’ Symposium, Ms. Lim said that she learned so much and brought back some ideas on how to improve our Board meetings. She would be giving a training with the Leadership Team regarding the five dysfunctions of a team including what collaboration is, holding people accountable, not being afraid to debate, but to debate, move on and develop action.
 - Ms. Lim reported that Ray Davis, Amy Furtado, and her presented the general information Measure A Fact Sheet along with the San Leandro High School Measure A Fact Sheet at the Chamber luncheon on February 2.

The second set of the general information of the Measure A Fact Sheet and samples of the each of the sites’ fact sheet have been translated I into Spanish, and were available, noting Chinese translations were upon request.

- The WASC team would be visiting San Leandro High School the week of February 27 through February 29 with a reception on Sunday, February 26, giving the Board and staff an opportunity to meet the team and hear about the process.
- Ms. Lim has received the 2006 ACSA Valuing Diversity Award and her name would be moved forward to the state and hopefully to the national level.

3) Board Committee Reports

- Communication – Mr. Cassidy said that they met on February 3 and reviewed previously discussed items such as the development of the elementary school fact sheets, press release related to the middle school orientation in February, other opportunities to generate more favorable publicity for the school district, and newsletter to parents, staff and Chamber members.

Other items discussed included disseminating information in the S.L. Times to the public as a less expensive alternative to the original *Focus*, with staff drafting such a document for the Communication Committee's review, and then the Superintendent would include it in her *Confidentially Speaking* for Board feedback. The committee was working on a story board for the remaining informational pieces and would report back with a proposal. They discussed the Fiscal Blueprint distribution, reporting that it had already been sent to the homeowners and City commissioners. In an effort to promote the blueprint to the community, Mr. Cassidy provided a copy of a letter he had drafted, for President Cutter's signature, to be published in the S.L. Times to the Board for their comments and suggestions. He also reported that he had worked on a PowerPoint presentation combining some of the materials of previous community forum workshops with the Measure A Fact Sheet information and he had given it to staff and legal counsel for their review, at which time, copies would be given to each Board member by CD ROM as a useful tool in discussing the issues.

- Facilities/Technology – Mrs. Cutter said that the committee met twice since the last Board meeting. On January 23, the committee was updated on Jefferson, stating that it would probably be another two months until students could play on the field. Director of Facilities and Operations, Mike Murphy, was working with the City regarding bus and truck accessibility through the parking lot as well as educating the parents on parking procedures.

February 2, the committee received an update on the John Muir Middle School and Wilson Elementary School student traffic turnout,

with the possibility of a joint use effort with the City. They also developed their actions/steps for their goals supporting the Superintendent's goals and discussed the Master Plan Study recommendation, which was on the agenda tonight for discussion and consideration, including a recommended five Board workshops: three would educate the Board on a potential November bond, including the timeline, funding priorities, and different scenarios, and two public forums would involve the public in the process of exploring the facilities' needs of the District. Mrs. Cutter said that during her comments she would like to poll the Board's availability for a February 23 date for the first Board workshop, followed by one in March and April, and two community forums May or June.

- Policy – Ms. Perry said that the Policy Committee met on January 23 and discussed the high school graduation requirements concerning the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). The committee was bringing forward Board Policy 6146.1 (a-g) which provides for the issuance of “certificates of completion” in lieu of a high school diploma for those students who have otherwise met all graduation requirements with the exception of passing both parts of the CAHSEE for consideration tonight. She noted that the Governor recently signed SB 517 which includes specific requirements for a diploma to be given to Special Education students without having passed the CAHSEE and that requirement would be incorporated in the District's ARs which Assistant Superintendent Cathey was currently working on. Ms. Perry also reported receiving two CSBA advisories regarding this general issue and SB 517. If the Board was interested in receiving a copy, please let her know.

7) Board Representatives' Reports

- Eden Area Regional Occupational Program – Mr. Richards said the committee met on February 2 and discussed the impact of the Governor's budget on ROP, and acknowledged DECA regional award winners, thirty-two of which were from San Leandro High. They also discussed allocation of ADA based on hours of attendance, budget timeline, and reorganization of the counsel where Hayward Trustee Myrna Truhill was elected as chair, and Trustee Richards as vice chair.

President Cutter requested that 3.6-C be pulled for clarification. Ms. Perry asked that 1.1-C and 1.3-C be pulled for minor corrections; Mr. Cassidy requested that 1.2-C also be pulled.

CONSENT ITEMS

Human Resources

2.1-C Acceptance of Personnel Report

Educational Services

3.1-C Acceptance of Donations

3.2-C Recommendation from Administrative Panel for Expulsion for student E15-05/06.

3.3-C Recommendation from Administrative Panel for Expulsion for student E20-05/06.

3.4-C Recommendation from Administrative Panel for Expulsion for student E22-05/06.

3.5-C Recommendation from Administrative Panel for Expulsion for student E24-05/06.

3.7-C Consolidated Application, Part II

3.8-C Discard Old Library Books at Wilson Elementary School

Business, Operations and Facilities

4.1-C Intra-Budget Transfers

4.2-C Joint Use Agreement for Use of Shared Teachers Education Facility between Chabot-Las Positas Community College District and San Leandro Unified School District

4.3-C Joint Use Agreement for Use of Shared Teachers Education Facility between Child Family & Community Services and San Leandro Unified School District

4.4-C E-Rate Bid for Local Area Networks for McKinley and Wilson Elementary Schools

On a motion made by Mr. Richards and seconded by Ms. Perry, the Board approved remaining the consent items by a 7-0 vote.

Business, Operations and Facilities

3.9-C Apprenticeship Agreement Between San Leandro Unified School District and Associated Builders and Contractors

This item was pulled from the agenda.

General Services

1.1-C Approval of Board Minutes – January 4, 2006

Ms. Perry noted that at the bottom of the page seven of the minutes, “Mrs. President” should read “Mrs. Cutter.

On a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Perry, the Board approved the Board minutes of January 4, 2006, as amended, by a 7-0 vote.

1.2-C Resolution #06-04, Board Compensation – Ray Davis

Mr. Cassidy asked that Board members provide more clarifying specifications when asking for compensation with regards to “hardship”, for those who may not know the reason this explanation satisfied the hardship standard.

Ms. Perry explained that when the Policy Committee had reviewed the policy, it was their decision to leave it to the discretion of the Board member and if there was a need, at the time of the request, the Board would ask clarifying questions for the trustee to answer.

On a motion made by Mr. Cassidy and seconded by Mrs. Hague, the Board approved Resolution #06-04, Board Compensation - Ray Davis by a 7-0 vote.

1.3-C Resolution #06-05, Career and Technical Education Week

Ms. Perry noted that the resolution number 06-05 was not typed on the copy of the resolution that was in the Board packet.

On a motion made by Ms. Perry and seconded by Mr. Richards, the Board approved Resolution #06-05, Career and Technical Education Week, as amended, by a 7-0 vote.

Human Resources

3.6-C Reconsideration of expulsion for student E21-05/06

Mrs. Cutter reported that the Board met in closed to session to reconsider their decision and reviewed the evidence and that they confirm their original expulsion recommendation.

On a motion made by Mrs. Cutter and seconded by Mr. Davis, the Board approved to reconsider the expulsion and confirmed the original expulsion recommendation for student E21-05/06.

CONFERENCE ITEMS

General Services

1.1-CF Board Policy 6146.1 (a-g) High School Graduation Requirements

The Board discussed and considered adopting Board Policy 6146.1 (a-g) High School Graduation Requirements.

Assistant Superintendent Cindy Cathey explained that districts had the option of offering a Certificate of Completion in lieu of a high school diploma for those students who had otherwise met all graduation requirements with the exception of passing both parts of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), and that the proposed policy provided for the issuance of such a certificate allowing students to participate in graduation activities and the graduation ceremony. She also noted that the passing requirement of the CAHSEE for the class of 2006 and later, had been added to the policy, which had not been addressed previously.

Mr. Cassidy asked if the District saw any conflict with state law by offering a Certificate of Completion to those students who had not passed both portions of the high school exit exam.

Mrs. Cathey didn't think there would be a conflict, reporting that from the districts polled, all but one locally offered this option, adding that the California School Boards' Association also recommended this as an option.

Responding the Mrs. Hague, Ms. Cathey said that as state law changes, the District would revisit this policy to make sure that the District was aligned to the Ed Code and state law.

On a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Perry, the Board adopted Board Policy 6146.1 (a-g) High School Graduation Requirements by a 7-0 vote.

Mrs. Cutter felt that adding this option to the requirement was a very fair thing to do for the students.

Business, Operations and Facilities

4.1-CF District-wide Facilities Master Plan Study

The Board discussed and considered approving a District-wide Facilities Master Plan.

Mr. Glaster said that because of a very important facilities conference in Sacramento the week of February 20, he was suggesting that the first Board workshop be scheduled after that so all the necessary information impacting the November bond would be available.

Mrs. Cutter prefaced the discussion by saying that the current Facilities Master Plan needed to be updated, and staff was recommending a “start-up” contract, on a time and materials basis, not to exceed \$4,000 with Harris & Associates to prepare for the Board workshop.

Concerns from the Board included the timeline for updating the plan, and the funding source to which Mr. Glaster and Harris & Associates Steve Spire said would be funded out of the facilities fund and might take up to four months to complete.

Mr. Heystek was concerned about duplicating the existing 2003 plan, which involved a very intensive process; the cost, how Harris & Associates would use the information gathered by a previous construction firm to create a new study, and Board input regarding the direction to follow.

Mr. Glaster felt that the document needed refinement in areas such as the dollar amount, specific priorities not being aligned with the community engagement process such as overcrowding, and structural issues, with Mrs. Cutter adding that current information was needed in order to move forward.

To reassure Mr. Heytek, Mr. Davis said that it was not the intension of the Facilities Committee to “reinvent the wheel” and spend a lot of money, and that the committee was recommending that the consultant use the current plan as the foundation and expand from that, and that this was a very minimal contract, looking at additional phases down the road.

Harris & Associates representative Steve Speyer explained they would initially look at the accomplishments of the previous plan, if any of the priorities set in 1997 still needed to be addressed, and if new ideas and focuses became apparent through the workshops, those would be incorporated into the current plan, thus creating a basis for the District's updated plan.

Mr. Cassidy felt that it was important to get as much community engagement as possible and would like to see a more vigorous community outreach including three community meetings, instead of the two meetings outlined in the timeline.

Mrs. Cutter said that future dates and community forums would be discussed at the first Board workshop in February.

Ms. Perry said that the workshops would provide the Board an opportunity to define the scope of services and the direction, adding that it was important to have as much information from the facilities conference in Sacramento as possible before meeting. "This is just the beginning step and we don't want to rush the process."

On a motion made by Ms. Perry and seconded by Mrs. Hague, the Board approved the recommendation of a "start up" contract, on a time and materials basis, not to exceed \$4,000 with Harris & Associates to prepare for Board workshop by a 6-1 vote. Mr. Heytsek voting no.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Mrs. Cutter polled the Board on their availability for a February 27 Board workshop. It was the consensus to schedule a Board Workshop on February 27, 2006, 6 p.m. at the District Office.
- Mr. Davis said that he was completing his order for shirts and jackets.
- Ms. Perry reported that she, along with San Leandro High School Principal Amy Furtado, addressed the United Parents on Measure A. Trustee Cutter was also in attendance. She attended the BTSA Advisory Council meeting on February 1, discussing the changes in the BTSA program. When the minutes are available she will forward them on. The MACSELPA will be meeting on February 15, and the next Alameda School Boards' Association meeting will be February 16 where they will be discussing Proposition 82: *The Preschool For All Initiative* and the Alameda County Early Care and Education For All Countywide Effort focusing on the impact to local school districts.

- Mrs. Hague announced that April 21 is opening night for *Suessical* at the high school. She attended San Leandro High School's coaches crab feed, and commended Principal Furtado on her handling of the very difficult challenges she faced last week.
- Mr. Cassidy spoke to the Broadmoor parents on some background information on Measure A, noting that Mrs. Cutter was present. He requested, and there was Board consensus, that the Advocacy Committee draft a resolution supporting the City business license fee, adding that he had asked Heidi Finberg for some information related to that. While researching information for the *Fiscal Blueprint* and the history of the San Leandro community, Mr. Cassidy drew the Board's attention to a headline article, "*School Support Taxes Illegal*" that appeared in *The Morning News* on August 31, 1971, and another article that appeared the same day, "*Suggestions for Schools to Fight Racial Bias*" regarding a report that was issued on prejudices in San Leandro stating that at that time, "Of the 10,000 students attending San Leandro's 16 primary and secondary schools, white students total 9,752; black students total 21", with Mr. Cassidy noting that "times have changed." He commended the Superintendent for advancing many of the District's diversity issues today. On February 28 he would be speaking at the Mulford Gardens Homeowners Association, and asked Trustee Davis, Garfield principal Jan Huls and perhaps a parent to join him, adding that Larry Norry, the association president, had written an article against Measure A in their newsletter.
- Mrs. Cutter would be attending the early childhood conference in April on the "Preschool For All Initiative", adding that while she agreed with the concept, it lacked determining factors, process, and specifics. She also attended the coaches crab feed.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Future Board of Education Meetings

- **Regular Meeting – February 22, 2006 (Wednesday)**
- Regular Meeting – March 7, 2006
- Regular Meeting – March 21, 2006
- Regular Meeting – April 4, 2006
- Regular Meeting – April 18, 2006
- Regular Meeting – May 2, 2006
- Regular Meeting – May 16, 2006
- Regular Meeting – June 6, 2006
- Regular Meeting – June 20, 2006

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Richards, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m. by a 7-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hague, Clerk