

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

March 9, 2009

The Board of Education of the San Leandro Unified School District met in special session on March 9, 2009, in the San Leandro City Council Chambers, 835 East 14th Street, San Leandro, California.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by President Mike Katz-Lacabe. President Katz-Lacabe noted that Trustee Prola was participating via teleconference from 2234 Belvedere, San Leandro, CA 94577. Trustee Prola confirmed that the agenda had been posted at the site and was accessible to the public.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mrs. Lisa Hague

DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT

Christine Lim, Superintendent
Song Chin-Bendib, Assistant Superintendent
Michael Potmesil, 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 6:03 p.m., the Board went into closed session for Conference with Labor Negotiator pursuant to Government Code Section, 54957.6. The closed session was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 7:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. President Katz-Lacabe said the Board had been in closed session where no action was taken.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion made by Mrs. Cutter and seconded by Mr. Almonte, the Board approved the agenda for the special meeting of March 9, 2009, by a 6-0 vote. Trustee Prola voting via teleconference. Trustee Hague was absent.

PRESENTATIONS

- * Staff presented recent highlighted information on **The New State Budget: Revising Your Budget and Programs**, drawn from two sources, School Services of California and Total School Solutions. The presentation included information on the requirements for the Public Hearing (scheduled for the March 17, 2009, Board meeting), and the District's plan in response to this information. Highlights included:
 - The Budget continues to rely on one-time revenues from borrowing to maintain ongoing programs
 - Six propositions have qualified for the May 19, 2009, statewide special election ballot – the first three: Proposition 1A: State Finance; Proposition 1B: Education Finance; and Proposition 1C: California State Lottery are most significant for local educational agencies (LEAs). Proposition 1D and 1E focus particular purposes to supplant General Fund Activities; Proposition F: State Officer Salary Increases was pulled from this ballot, but will appear on the June 8, 2010, ballot.
 - Highest priority is to complete the 2008-09 Second Interim Report accurately and on time by March 12, 2009
 - At the next regularly scheduled meeting on March 17, 2009, there will be a public hearing on flexibility transfers of categorical funds to the General Fund Unrestricted as allowed under the Budget trailer bill SBX34, which states “The school districts and country offices of education would be required, at a regularly scheduled, open, public hearing, to take testimony from the public, discuss, and approve or disapprove the proposed use of funding...”

Following the presentation, concerns were raised and clarifying questions asked regarding the emergency Reduction in Force (RIF) interpretation, the federal stimulus money, Tier III fund balance,

and the possibility of additional cuts June 8 with the May Revise.

The Board agreed that the District should plan for the worst case scenario. Having said this, it was the consensus of the Board to consider the \$4 million in cuts, which was proposed at the March 3, rather than the proposed \$3 million.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

REPORTS

- 1) Correspondence – Clerk Cutter reported receipt of the following emails from March 2, 2009 – March 7, 2009: From Patty Fishbaugh regarding correction to subject: budget cuts and restoration list; from Marilyn Watson regarding budget cuts – counselors cutting choices; from Anjali Atal-Gupta regarding proposed budget cuts to San Leandro schools; from Maureen Forney regarding give priority status to keep Garfield staff intact; from Steven Ramirez regarding San Leandro USD and CES Solar Energy options; from Joyce Forsse regarding Food Service Supervisor; from Angel and Soledad Zamora regarding budget cuts to San Leandro school and our children; from Andrea Sitchon regarding budget cuts – class size reduction; from Kathy Neisse regarding invitation to San Leandro High School AVID Fundraiser at Chevy’s; from Paula Crosetti regarding budget cuts – District Office workload; from Teresa Zumbo regarding budget cuts across-the-board; from Mike Walbridge regarding budget cuts – District Office not top heavy; from Carol Delton regarding questions about San Leandro USD financial resources; from Don Albright regarding the job duties of the Supervisor of Maintenance; from Mark Hamilton regarding question about location of Monday Board meeting; from Jon Sherr regarding a teacher’s non-reelection; from Margarita Alexander regarding saving the IMC position; and from Laura Aguayo-Guevara, Mary Patterson, Janice Pontes, and Patricia Araque regarding staffing in the Human Resources department.
- 2) Student Representative Report – Flavia Coria reported that on Friday, March 13, students will be holding a peaceful protest at 7:30 a.m. in front of the school, wearing pink shirts in support of teachers. March 13 is also senior skate night. Intramurals begin tomorrow, March 10, beginning with “3 on 3 Basketball” sponsored by ASB. Another event sponsored by ASB will be soccer games on the quad next week.
- 3) Union Representative Reports
 - Don Biladeau – Trades, voiced his frustration regarding the constant changes in the budget agenda with regards to reductions in Trades employees, adding that it is not fair or equitable.

- Billy Campbell – Teamsters, echoed Mr. Biladeau’s frustration on the numerous versions of the budget. He urged the Board to keep the maintenance staff in tack and make cuts “higher on the ladder.”
- Jan Nuño- San Leandro Managers Association (SLMA), stated that SLMA is urging the Board to keep in mind, when considering budget reductions and bringing back personnel, to be sure to reinstate employees from all groups, noting that the administrative staff cannot bear further reductions any more than any other group, and stressing that “the District needs strong and courageous leadership to address all of the needs we have in our schools.
- Jon Sherr – San Leandro Teachers’ Association (SLTA) president urged the Board to make responsible, but substantial administrative cuts at the District Office. He challenged the Board to do what the community, teachers, and what the Board has stated that should be the goal of this process, “to keep the cuts as far away from the classroom and services that the kids need and deserve.”

Carol Delton, SLTA’s representative to the Budget Advisory Committee, referred to a previous budget presentation highlighting cost savings measures that has prevented the District from taking mid-year cuts this year, and positive fund balances that might be considered for “sweeping” under Budget Trailer bill SBX34.

4) Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Lim asked for clarification regarding the Board’s decision to identify \$4 million in reductions and the impact in terms that what has been agendized and included in the Board packet this evening. In response, Assistant Superintendent Potmesil noted that reductions being considered tonight were for classified employees and were not required to meet the March 15 deadline; however with regards to certificated employees, Mr. Potmesil indicated that in order to meet the March 15 deadline, the Board would need to make a decision no later than the March 12 Special Board meeting.

5) Board Committee Reports

- Communications – Mr. Almonte reported that the committee met on March 4, and continued their discussion and review of the draft communication regarding the District’s state fiscal crisis.
- Eden Area Regional Occupational Program (ROP) – Mr. Almonte reported that the Council met on March 5, 2009, and approved the Second Interim Report; adopted Resolution #375: Week of the School Administrator; and approved the adoption and second reading of Policy Handbook changes to several policies.

- Facilities/Technology - Mrs. Cutter reported that the committee met on March 5, 2009, and discussed consultant services contracts with J. Randall & Associates for roofing inspection services at the 9th Grade Campus and at the Career Technical Education Shops Building Modernization; and the McKinley Elementary School C13 restroom renovation which are scheduled to come to the Board for consideration on March 17. The Project Stabilization Agreement (PSA) authority over Professional Engineering Services was also discussed.

ACTION ITEMS

Human Resources

2.1-A Adopt Resolution #09-19, Reducing and/or Eliminating Specially Funded and General Funded Classified Services

To begin the discussion process, a motion was made by Mrs. Cutter and seconded by Ms. Mack-Rose to adopt Resolution #09-19, Reduction and/or Eliminating Specially Funded and General Funded Classified Services.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Donna Vinita, Labor Relations Representative for the California School Employees Association (CSEA), addressed the Board regarding CSEA personnel cuts being proposed.
- Claire McKean felt that the District Office is not “sharing the pain” and urged the Board to take a little off the top before looking at CSEA personnel.
- Carol Alvarez felt very discouraged, noting that previously recommended cuts had been reinstated and that the remaining recommendations were not across-the-board or equitable.
- Paul Nicovich, whose duplicating position is being recommended to be reduced by 50%, described the services that he provides District-wide, ranging from duplication to the mail room.
- Joyce Forsse urged the Board to reconsider their decision and retain the Supervisor of Food Service.
- Janice Pontes addressed the elimination her position “Personnel Secretary I, and asked the Board to reconsider eliminating any positions in Human Resources.

After hearing public comments and having an in-depth discussion, Mrs. Prola suggested that 1.50 FTE (Craft Maintenance Helper Lead (.50) and the Glazier (1.0) be removed from the list.

On a motion made by Ms. Mack-Rose and seconded by Mrs. Prola to amend Resolution #09-19 with the removal of 1.5 FTE maintenance positions failed, due to a tie 3-3 vote. Trustees Mack-Rose, Prola (via teleconference), Katz-Lacabe voting yes. Trustees Cutter, Almonte, Sullivan voting no. Trustee Hague was absent. Trustee Prola voting via teleconference.

A motion was then made by Mrs. Cutter and seconded by Mr. Almonte to adopt Resolution #09-19 as presented, which also failed, due to a 3-3 tie vote. Trustees Cutter, Katz-Lacabe, Prola (via teleconference) voting yes; Trustees Almonte, Mack-Rose, and Sullivan voting no.

The Board then agreed by consensus to direct the Superintendent to prepare a new resolution enumerating additional particular kinds of services to be reduced or eliminated that included all certificated administrators at the District Office, elementary school specialists, and middle school vice principals) and bring it to the March 12 special Board meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Chin-Bendib explained that the deadline to submit the 2008-09 Second Interim Report is on or before March 15, 2009. Because this report requires fiscal solvency for 2009-10 and 2010-11, the Board needed to approve the budget reductions as presented and approve the flexibility transfers on March 17, 2009.

Mr. Katz-Lacabe asked that the Board reconsider Resolution #09-19. On motion made by Mrs. Cutter and seconded by Ms. Mack-Rose, the Board adopted Resolution #09-19, Reducing and/or Eliminating Specially Funded and General Funded Classified Services by a 5-1 vote. Trustee Prola voting via teleconference, with Trustee Almonte opposed and Trustee Hague absent.

Business, Operations

4.1-A Ongoing Budget Reductions for 2009-10 and 2010-11

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Madeline Budnick stressed the importance of advocating for public education respect at the state level. She also suggested dropping some of the Adult School classes in favor of other

positions.

On a motion made by Mrs. Prola and seconded by Mr. Almonte , the Board approved budget reductions of \$3.0 million for 2009-10 and \$3.2 million for 2010-11 by a 5-1 vote. This \$3.2 million will be ongoing until the Board rescinds them when funding occurs. Trustee Sullivan voting no. Trustee Hague absent.

CONFERENCE ITEM

General Services

1.1-CF 2009 California School Board Association Delegate Assembly Election

The Board discussed and considered the submission of a ballot for the 2009 California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly Election.

Following the tallying of the written votes, the Board submitted the ballot for 2009 California School Boards Association Delegate Election, casting a vote for Sarah A. Gonzales (Hayward USD), Jennifer Henry (Dublin USD), Morgan Mack-Rose (San Leandro USD), and Nancy Thomas (Newark USD).

INFORMATION ITEMS

Educational Services

3.1-I 2007-2008 Alameda County Office of Education Williams Report

The Board received for information and review the 2007-2008 Alameda County Office of Education Williams Report.

Mrs. Prola and Ms. Sullivan raised concerns with regards to the ‘fair and poor rating’ received in the Hazard Materials column of the report. Assistant Superintendent Chin-Bendib said that she would follow-up with Don Albright, the District’s Maintenance Supervisor and report back to the Board in the *Confidentially Speaking*.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Mrs. Cutter asked for and received consensus on the following:
 1. Once the budget process has been completed, the Finance Committee will begin working on the budget priorities and restoration process of personnel/programs.

2. Policy Committee will revisit the Board bylaw regarding Board remuneration when members miss meetings.
3. With no current contract in place, the Facilities and Technology Committee will review the District's contract with Davis Street Resource Center.

Mrs. Cutter congratulated the San Leandro High School basketball team for moving up to the second level in NCS playoffs, and while they fell short against Monte Vista, the team should be proud for their outstanding effort.

- Ms. Mack-Rose would also like staff to explore increased efficiencies i.e. solar opportunities, and removing lawns from the sites in an effort to reduce water waste. Assistant Superintendent Chin-Bendib noted that staff has been and will continue to explore these cost saving and environmental options.

Ms. Mack-Rose would like the District to request that the City of San Leandro absorb the cost of garbage pickup. The Superintendent indicated that she has been in contact with the Mayor and City Manager and that she will follow-up with them.

At the request of Ms. Mack-Rose, the Board agreed by consensus to re-establish a Parcel Tax Ad Hoc Committee to consider bringing a parcel tax to the voters of San Leandro. President Katz-Lacabe appointed Ms. Mack-Rose as chair, along with Mr. Almonte and Mrs. Prola.

- Mr. Katz-Lacabe announced that McKinley would be holding a fundraising auction on Friday, March 13, and encouraged everyone to come out and support the schools.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mrs. Cutter and seconded by Ms. Sullivan, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m. by a 6-0 vote. Trustee Prola voting via teleconference and Trustee Hague absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Pauline Cutter, Clerk