

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

March 27, 2006

The Board of Education of the San Leandro Unified School District met in special session on March 27, 2006, in the San Leandro Unified School District Administration Office, Conference Room 1, 14735 Juniper Street, San Leandro, California.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Vice President Stephen Cassidy.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Ray Davis (arrived at 8:15 p.m.)
Mr. Louis Heystek
Ms. Linda Perry
Mr. T. W. "Rick" Richards
Mrs. Lisa Hague, Clerk
Mr. Stephen Cassidy, Vice President
Mrs. Pauline Cutter, President (arrived at 6:30 p.m.)

DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT

Christine Lim, Superintendent
Leon Glaster, Assistant Superintendent
Michael Martinez, Assistant Superintendent
Cindy Cathey, Assistant Superintendent

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

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

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:20 p.m., the Board went into closed session for Public Employee Performance Evaluation Title: Superintendent's Evaluation, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957. The closed session was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 6:45 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.

Facilities Workshop #3

The Board continued their discussion of program development for potential options for a bond. Staff and consultants from WLC Architects, and Harris & Associates presented additional information, as directed by the Board at the March 21 Facilities Workshop #2, regarding The Development Team, SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Tough Hurdles) Analysis for each option, and models of reform. A preliminary modernization and classroom standards option spreadsheet was shared and community forums were also discussed.

Assistant Superintendent Cindy Cathey explained that on March 24 the District's Development Team, compiled of District staff, principals, teachers, union representatives, and construction consultants, discussed in depth the five alternatives that were developed by staff and WLC Architects for the March 21 facilities workshop, adding that it was apparent that the team members favored one comprehensive flagship high school, isolating the ninth graders in their own high school was not appealing, but adding a separate wing for those students was an option, thus eliminating the original five alternatives, and developing and bringing forward the following new options for further consideration along with two addendum's to Option 6 which addressed the community's interest and passion around a performing arts/multi-media center for our community:

- Option 6: San Leandro High School at 2500 students
 - Addendum A – include Performing Arts/Multi Media Center at San Leandro High School
 - Addendum B – Include Performing Arts/Multi-Media Center near San Leandro High School
- Option 7: 7-8 Grade Opportunity Program
- Option 8: 9-10 Grade Opportunity Program
- Option 9: Community School

Based on the team's recommendation, Harris & Associates and WLC architects provided three cost analysis for the four options, one without the addendums, one including Addendum A, and one including Addendum B.

Board members agreed that they would have liked to have seen a more detailed modernization proposal that would benefit all of our district sites. Additional thoughts and suggestions shared included looking at the cost of building a multi-purpose room at Jefferson, which was deferred from the original bond due to lack of funding, drafting a 2500-student high school footprint that would make it less daunting for incoming students, and more tolerable for the parents, exploring other high school models, a 9th grade facility on or off the high school site, and a possible joint use project with the City for a performing arts center.

While Mr. Heystek thought it would be wonderful to have a performing arts center, he felt the focus should remain on the academic programs. He asked for additional definitions for school and program alternatives such as opportunity, academy, continuation, etc.

Mr. Heystek, and Mr. Richards were concerned about the community's tolerance level for a bond, with Mr. Richards indicating that maybe the District was pushing forward too quickly.

Mrs. Hague favored the opportunity program as a way of providing alternative ways to help students succeed. She was also interested in know what type of upgrades would be needed should Burrell Field became an available site.

Mr. Cassidy wanted to know if staff had looked into a possible collaborative efforts with San Lorenzo for a continuation high school or opportunity program. Ms. Cathey said that while they had not spoken to anyone from San Lorenzo, staff indicated that efforts to bringing both communities together could be challenging due to gang and sports rivalries.

It was important to Mr. Cassidy that the District not lose sight of the overcrowding issue, and felt that the options identified by the staff did not fully address this. He reminded the Board of the importance and urgency of developing options for the first community forum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Robert Brannan from the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce wondered if money was still available from the sale of Pacific High School and if it could be used for modernization, to which President Cutter said that she would research that. He felt that the proposal should have included growth options beyond 2015, as facilities can last up to much longer than that. Mr. Brannan was concerned that a footprint for a 2500-student high school, and possible use of the PGE property for parking had not been addressed in the options. He also thought that sports' rivalries between schools could be somewhat healthy and may not be such a tough hurdle to cross.
- Morgan Mack-Rose was also concerned about having one 2500 student high school. She supported a 9th grade academy and a 7-8 grade opportunity program, adding that she would like to see the immediate issues at the high school addressed at the first community forum and encouraged them to look at other "best practices" throughout the county.
- Jack Papazian, also from the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce, felt that because San Lorenzo Unified School District's projections showed a decline in enrollment, the community would welcome a collaborate effort between the school districts, adding that "messaging the boundaries" (moving San

Leandro students to San Lorenzo campuses) would be an innovative approach to addressing the overcrowding at the high school. Mr. Papzian also felt that, in the past, sports' team rivalries had not been a problem.

It was the consensus of the Board for staff to focus on the following areas to be addressed at the Facilities Workshop #4:

- Develop a more detailed modernization proposal.
- Explore options on reducing the size the high school to smaller than 2500 students in addition to the scope of the 9th grade program on the campus and 9th grade academy off the campus.
- Explore a 7-8 grade Opportunity Program.
- Develop a draft 2500-student footprint of the high school.
- Explore developing District land to address the overcrowding at the high school.
- Expanding on the Lincoln Continuation High School collaboration with San Lorenzo.
- Cost to renovate/build Jefferson multipurpose room.
- Cost to upgrade Burrell Field.
- Performing Arts Center joint use project with the City.

Mr. Cassidy would also be interested in visiting similar facilities to those being considered after April 11.

Superintendent Lim said that the last Board workshop would be April 17, at the District Office, 6 p.m., adding that she had spoken to Heidi Finberg, San Leandro Chamber of Commerce CBO, and a joint meeting with District staff and Chamber members was scheduled for April 26, 8-9 a.m., at Bay Fair Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Ms. Perry said that she had forwarded information from the Alameda County Office of Education regarding the local pre-school workshops to the Board, urging them to try and attend one of them, if they were available. She clarified that Ms. Cathey's comments regarding school "rivalry" referred to "gang" rivalry and not "sports" rivalry.
- Mr. Cassidy met with Moses Maines from the Northern California Carpenters Regional Council and was given an overview of some of the pre-apprenticeship program work they are doing in Contra Costa County, and at the Mandela Center in Oakland. Mr. Maines also expressed interest in having such a program at San Leandro High. Mr. Cassidy suggested that the Board and Superintendent visit the Mandela Center in April or May. He had very nice time at the Band Festival, and also observed the students practicing for the high school musical, *Seussical*.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Richards and seconded by Ms. Perry, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m. by a 7-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hague, Clerk