

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

July 13, 2006

The Board of Education of the San Leandro Unified School District met in special session on July 13, 2006, in the San Leandro Unified School District Office Conference Room 1, 14735 Juniper Street, San Leandro, California.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Pauline Cutter.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Ray Davis (arrived at 6:08 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

**DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT**

Christine Lim, Superintendent  
Leon Glaster, Assistant Superintendent

**Facilities Workshop**

Staff presented a PowerPoint presentation that provided additional information requested at the July 5, 2006, Board meeting regarding the facility options and preliminary tax rate information for a possible bond in November 2006.

Superintendent Lim said that the process began with the May 31 Community Forum, where areas of interest for a potential bond were generated. Results from an informal poll taken during the June 19 community forum and at a Rental Housing Owners Association presentation indicated that projects addressing the overcrowding, including a Freshman campus off the San Leandro High School campus, library expansion, performing arts center/music/industrial arts, and an auxiliary gym were given the highest priority. Classroom modernization came next followed by a 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Opportunity School, Burrell Field renovation, Jefferson Elementary multipurpose room renovation, and joint-use projects with the City such as an Adult School Senior Program Expansion, and Bancroft/Callan parking lot.

Nine classroom modernization options ranging from approximately \$27.4 million that included the required ADA Fire Life Safety, roofing, heating, and restrooms up to \$61.8 million that integrated additional scope items into the eight remaining options such as painting, ceilings, lighting, technology, flooring, and new marker boards and Local Area Network (LAN) data systems was shared by representatives from Harris & Associates.

It was the recommendation of Harris & Associates and staff to at least include the LAN upgrades portion of the options which amounted to approximately \$953,000, at three sites currently not up to District standards, confirming Ms. Perry's question, that this would update the system, thus allowing for internet access in each of the classrooms district-wide.

Architectural renderings of the proposed PG& E parking lot, an example of a two-story, 650-seat, Arts Education Center (Theater/Music/Industrial Arts) recently completed by WLC Architects that illustrated some of the components that would meet the needs of the District's potential 26,000 sq. ft. project, and an off-site freshman campus with gym and tax rates ranging from \$35 - \$60 per \$100,000 assessed value were also presented.

Comments and questions from the Board focused on the Arts Education Center, lighting, PBX versus voice-over internet protocol, heating system alternatives, and the PG&E lot.

Mr. Cassidy thought it would be very helpful if a column was included in the modernization conceptual cost estimate listing on-going savings/costs. Cost of a 650-seat theatre with landscaping considerations for the front of the theatre, and cost estimates for an 800-student freshman campus with a gym were areas he wished to be further explored, with Mr. Heystek adding that he thought there should be a policy that states that new construction be built maximally so installation of portables would not be needed in the future.

Additional costs to renovate the classrooms being vacated by the proposed SLAM program relocation to the arts centers and other existing classrooms in the industrial arts program were concerns raised by Trustees Cassidy, Davis, and Heystek.

## **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

- Mike Katz suggested that any additional state-matching funds received should be applied to some of the lesser priority modernization items. He encouraged the Board to proceed with a freshman campus located off the current high school site, an arts center, PG& E lot acquisition, and focus on modernization options such as heating, roofing and restrooms.

- Morgan Mack-Rose encouraged the Board to be bold and visionary, and focus mainly on the overcrowding at the high school as a way of convincing the community that “we can do something right,” adding that a tax rate less than \$40 may not be enough money.
- Tim Felton thought the Board should focus on tangible items that the “community can see.” He also supported a freshman academy, as well as a Performing Arts Center (PAC) which would attract students.
- Jeni Engler would like the Board to consider air conditioning for the third level of the science building and hoped that the library expansion would be relevant, stating that “kids use technology, kids don’t use books.” She felt that it was important to note that freshman would not be limited to taking only freshman courses, but would have the opportunity to attend advance classes at the high school should they meet the requirements.
- Tim Holmes agreed that there needed to a focused effort on completing options that would make a visible difference to the community.

The Board continued to share their thoughts and suggestions on the options to focus on for the bond, adding that with regards to the tax rates and authorizations amount, community tolerance was a concern and would be a challenge.

Mr. Cassidy felt that there were two pressing problems, an overcrowded high school and district-wide modernization needs. He stressed the need to solve one problem fully as a way of building long-term community support and serving the needs of the students, keeping in mind, that the options should be prioritized in such a way, that should the District receive additional matching funds from the state bond, those funds could be used to expand the modernization.

While Mrs. Cutter agreed that we should not count on the state bond, she would like to see some type of modernization included in addition to the high school, as well as looking to the community for their support and contribution. To that note, Superintendent Lim announced that she would be sharing tonight’s presentation with the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce’s Governance Affairs Committee on July 17 for their input.

In preparation for a vote on a final plan scheduled for the August 1 Board meeting, the Board began discussing the process for the July 18 Board meeting where a consensus on the size of the bond and what kind of projects it would fund would need to be reached.

Mr. Richards felt that the tax rate would need to be established first before proceeding with prioritizing the options.

Ms. Perry reminded the Board that due to her potential conflict of interest with the freshman academy, she had been in contact with the District's attorney for their opinion on her role in the process.

Mrs. Cutter suggested that due to Mr. Heystek's expected late arrival to the July 18 meeting, the facility portion of the meeting should begin at approximately 8 p.m.

What emerged from the discussion was that staff would bring back to the July 18 meeting specific information addressing the impact on the industrial arts refurbishment without the SLAM academy, cost of expansion for a 800-student freshman campus, a 650-seat Arts Education Center with a balcony design, more definition of the library expansion, and potential operational savings with regards to a number of modernization items, as well as a copy of the proposed baseline modernization items by schools sites.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Richards, the Board adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m. by a 7-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hague, Clerk