

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

August 1, 2006

The Board of Education of the San Leandro Unified School District met in regular session on August 1, 2006, in the San Leandro City Council Chambers, 835 East 14th 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
Mr. Louis Heystek
Ms. Linda Perry
Mr. T. W. "Rick" Richards
Mrs. Lisa Hague, Clerk (arrived at 6:10 p.m.)
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 6:07 p.m., the Board went into closed session for Public Employee Performance Evaluation, Title: Superintendent's Evaluation, Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release, Conference with Labor Negotiator, Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant exposure to litigation, Public Employee Appointment – Title: Communication Outreach Specialist, Conference with Real Property Negotiator, and Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing, Litigation pursuant to Government Code Sections 54957, 54957.6, 54956.9(b), 54956.8, and 54956.9. The closed session was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 7:10 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. President Cutter said the Board had been in closed session and the following action was taken:

- On a motion by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Hague, the Board appointed Robin Michel as Communications Outreach Specialist, beginning August 14, 2006, by a 7-0 vote.

President Cutter also announced that the Board would be returning to closed session for Public Employee Performance, Title: Superintendent's Evaluation, following the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion made by Ms. Perry and seconded by Mr. Richards, the Board approved the agenda for the regular meeting of August 1, 2006, by a 7-0 vote.

PRESENTATIONS

- * Wendy Ponder, Assistant Director of Categorical Programs, presented information related to the District's programs for English Learners.

Key changes in the District's English Learner (EL) Master plan that Ms. Ponder highlighted included raising parent involvement to the number one priority, and in addition to their continuing responsibilities, the District English Language Advisory Committee (DELAC) parents would also be playing an advisory role with regards to District and site accountability, school by school needs assessment and No Child Left Behind teacher and para educator compliance. Also, districts would now to be required to provide high quality professional development with sufficient intensity and duration that would have a positive and lasting impact on teacher performance in the classroom.

Ms. Ponder noted that the District would be conducting an EL Master Plan self review and update in 2006-2007 to ensure that the District's plan was aligned with new state and federal requirements, at which time she would be bringing back the completed plan to the Board.

During the 2005-2006 school year a Biliteracy Task Force was formed to define the District's biliteracy program by working collaboratively and collegially reviewing current research around bilingual education, and looking at biliteracy plans created by teachers in the San Francisco and West Contra Costa Unified School Districts. What emerged was a Biliteracy Plan that included a set of goals and

agreements that would meet the program goals of biliteracy by the end of 5th grade, improve district-wide bilingual student achievement in English Language Arts, and define the amount time and specific skills learned in grades K-3 with regards to Spanish Language Arts, English Language Development (ELD), and English Language Arts (ELA). It was also agreed that each grade level, K-3, would be responsible for introducing grade level literacy in English and Spanish so that students would achieve grade-level competency in both languages by 3rd grade, thus easing the burden on the third grade teachers with regards to transitioning from Spanish to English. In addition, K-3 Biliteracy binders that included an overview of ELA skills, new pacing calendars for the three separate subject areas were created over the summer, as well as purchasing essential materials from the English reading adoption.

Ms. Ponder stated that the Task Force would continue to meet and review the final versions of the pacing calendars and disburse the materials at ELAC and DELAC meetings, giving parents an opportunity to provide input, as well as to the K-3 bilingual teachers at each site, who will be piloting the plan in 2006-2007, for their input.

In addition, Ms. Ponder said that should the three schools, Jefferson, Washington, and Wilson, agree to the current goal of biliteracy through 5th grade, a grade 4-5 Biliteracy Task Force would be created to address accountability implications for/from the California Standards Test in Spanish (Math and Language Arts, the need to increase academic vocabulary in Spanish for all grades, especially in 4th-5th, and more coherence and policy around student/teacher ratios.

Mr. Cassidy said that he was looking forward to seeing the data with regards to students achieving literacy by the end of 5th grade.

Ms. Perry shared that she had the pleasure of attending most of the DELAC meetings this past year and complimented Ms. Ponder for bringing out the community and making DELAC a very effective body, where participation at almost every school, particularly the high school, had increased. She encouraged fellow Board members to try and attend at least one of those meetings during the year.

ACTION ITEMS

General Services

- 1.1-A Resolution #06-33, San Leandro Unified School District School Facility Improvement Bond November 7, 2006

Ruth Alahydoian from Kelling, Northcross & Nobriga congratulated

the Board for the progress made in developing a bond measure for San Leandro Unified and reaching a consensus on projects to be funded.

She explained that based on feedback from the July 18, 2006, Board meeting and her review of every assumption in her tax model to find an optimum authorization amount, assuming a 30-year repayment term for the last series, would increase the authorization amount by \$5.5 million, allowing the Board to included the full amount needed to paint walls and to modernize the industrial arts building, leaving a cushion for cost escalation.

It was her recommendation that the District issue the bond in four series, with the 30-year potential repayment term for the last series, increasing the total authorization amount to \$109 million at a tax rate of \$39 per \$100,000 assessed value, with an Assessed Value (AV) growth of 5% for the first fifteen years, and 4% thereafter. She also provided the Board with a revised tax rate and a draft "Tax Rate Statement" that should be submitted with the resolution to the County.

Board members raised questions regarding the fluctuation of the interest rate and the issuance schedule. Ms. Alahydoian explained that the interest rate would be set at the time the bond was issued, at which time the repayment term would be restructured to try and stay within the \$39 tax rate; however, the one variable that couldn't be controlled was the AV growth, adding that the 30-year repayment extension was only beneficial in the last series.

The Board thanked Ms. Alahydoian for her dedication and professionalism to this project.

Superintendent Lim distributed a revised conceptual cost estimate based on the Ms. Alahydoian's recommendation, explaining that staff was recommending that the original allocation of \$4.8 million (\$.9 million increase) for painting and \$3.0 million (\$1.5 million increase) for renovation of the industrial arts building, which were reduced at the July 18 Board meeting, be restored, based on Board consensus, along with an additional \$.6 million towards modernization of the vacant multimedia (SLAM) area, leaving \$2.5 million as a financial safeguard for cost escalation and/or potential state matching funds for a total adjusted bond amount of \$109 million.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Dan Walters pledged support on behalf of the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce, encouraging the Board to not only

pass the resolution but look towards the Chamber for assistance in getting the votes needed to make this a reality for our schools.

- Tom Silva of the Rental Housing Owners Association (RHOA) though very encouraged, cautioned the Board that many of the voters who turn out for the November general election likely would be different from those who participated in the April special election, with many of them not having children in the school district. He encouraged the District to do what it takes to get the word out to the voters, focusing on, “If they don’t have kids in San Leandro schools, what is in it for them?” He offered the support of the RHOA, adding that they would do what they could to help make this a reality and looked forward to “congratulating ourselves on November 7 for a hard fought victory.”
- Gerald Shovlin also was very supportive of this bond, stating that by anticipating those arguments against the bond, we would be successful.

The Board shared accolades for one another and expressed their appreciation to the consultants of Harris and Associates, WLC Architects; to District staff Cindy Cathey, Leon Glaster, Mike Martinez, and to the leadership of Superintendent Lim in this endeavor. They also thanked community members Dan Walters and the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce, and Tom Silva and RHOA for their involvement, engagement, and feedback in the process, adding that this bond would address the facilities needs and enable us to “imagine a better San Leandro school district.”

On a motion made by Trustee Heystek, and seconded by Trustees Cassidy, Cutter, Davis, Hague, Perry, and Richards, the Board adopted Resolution #06-33, San Leandro Unified School District School Facility Improvement Bond November 7, 2006, with the revised conceptual cost estimate and authorization amount of \$109 million by a 7-0 vote.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Lou Filipovich interrupted the meeting, declining to fill out a yellow speaker card, making statements that the District had not followed the proper procedure by not holding a public hearing prior to voting on the bond.

REPORTS

- 1) Correspondence – No report. It will be included with the report on August 15.
- 2) Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Chris Lim thanked the Board and staff for their professionalism, consensus, and process, with President Cutter specifically thanking Steve Speyer, Senior Project Manager, and Kurt Weidmann, Senior Construction Manager, from Harris & Associates for their diligent work in this process.
- 3) Board Committee Reports
 - Communication – Mr. Cassidy reported that they met on July 31 and discussed the District’s website and reviewing contract options for hiring a contractor to update and revise the website. No decisions were made but hoped to have a recommendation to the Board soon.

Responding to Mr. Filipovich’s outburst regarding a public hearing for the bond, and at the request of Superintendent Lim, attorney Bill Madison from Jones Halls stated that a public hearing was not required as the District was simply making a policy decision to present this matter to the voters and that the required posting of the agenda of this public meeting was the only notice necessary, confirming that the meeting was conducted properly and there was no need to open and close a public hearing.

CONSENT ITEMS

Human Resources

- 2.1-C Acceptance of Personnel Report
- 2.2-C Renewal of Student Teaching Agreements

Business, Operations, and Facilities

- 4.1-C Award of Contract for Window Replacement, Madison Elementary Repair Phase II

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

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Mr. Davis advised the Board and Cabinet that he would need to reschedule the August 11 celebration, and would get back to them with another date.
- Ms. Perry alerted the Board that AB 1381, “Mayorial Control of the Los Angeles Unified School District’s Elected School Board”, would be moving forward to the Senate Appropriation Committee, August 7 and suggested that the Advocacy Committee or individual Board members consider sending letters. Responding to a suggestion made by Ms. Perry, it was the consensus of the Board to begin looking at project labor agreements and their usefulness to the District, now that the District was moving forward with the Bond.
- Mrs. Hague reported that she attended the very successful summer music program presentation at Bancroft Middle School, along with Ms. Perry, and was looking forward to next year.
- Mrs. Cutter announced that ROP would be meeting on Thursday, August 3 at 5 p.m. in Hayward, noting that she had a copy of the agenda for those interested in attending. She also raised the issue of revisiting the Board policy regarding reimbursement for missed meetings and the need for further definition of “hardship”, explaining that she was unable to attend the special meeting on July 20 due to the fact that she had already purchased non-refundable tickets for an event. It was the consensus of the Board for the Policy Committee to re-examine the policy, so that further discussion could be allowed in open session.

Ms. Perry reiterated that it was the intent of the Policy Committee when the policy was previously reviewed that the request would be up to the discretion of the individual Board member, with each case being reviewed on an individual bases, thus providing flexibility.

- Mrs. Cutter asked that the meeting be adjourned in honor of Shari Silva a very active District parent, with children at Washington Elementary and Bancroft Middle Schools, who recently passed away from breast cancer.

The Board adjourned into closed session 8:15 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Future Board of Education Meetings

- Regular Meeting – August 15, 2006
- Regular Meeting – September 6, 2006
- Regular Meeting – September 19, 2006
- Regular Meeting – October 3, 2006
- Regular Meeting – October 17, 2006
- Regular Meeting – November 7, 2006
- Regular Meeting – November 21, 2006
- Regular Meeting – December 5, 2006
- Regular Meeting – December 19, 2006
- Regular Meeting – January 17, 2007
- Regular Meeting – February 6, 2007
- Regular Meeting – February 21, 2007
- Regular Meeting – March 6, 2007
- Regular Meeting – March 20, 2007
- Regular Meeting – April 3, 2007
- Regular Meeting – April 17, 2007
- Regular Meeting – May 1, 2007
- Regular Meeting – May 15, 2007
- Regular Meeting – June 5, 2007
- Regular Meeting – June 19, 2007

ADJOURNMENT

The Board returned from closed at 9:23 p.m. where no action was taken.

On a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Richards, the Board adjourned the meeting in honor of Shari Silva at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hague, Clerk