

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

August 18, 2009

The Board of Education of the San Leandro Unified School District met in regular session on August 18, 2009, in the San Leandro City Council Chambers, 835 East 14th Street, San Leandro, California.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Katz-Lacabe.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Hermy Almonte
Mrs. Lisa Hague
Ms. Morgan Mack-Rose (arrived at 6:01 p.m.)
Ms. Carmen Sullivan
Mrs. Pauline Cutter, Clerk (arrived at 6:04 p.m.)
Mrs. Diana Prola, Vice President
Mr. Mike Katz-Lacabe, President
Mr. Steven Mills, Student Board Member

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 6:01 p.m., the Board went into closed session for Public Employee Performance Evaluation, Title: Superintendent's Evaluation/Contract, Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Hiring, Conference with Labor Negotiator, Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – significant exposure to litigation, Conference with Real Property Negotiator – Property(ies), and Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation pursuant to Government Code Sections 54957, 54957.6, 54956.(b), 54956.8, 54956.9, and 54956. The closed session was adjourned at 7:00 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 the following action was taken:

- On a motion made by Trustee Prola and seconded by Trustee Sullivan, the Board authorized the Superintendent to proceed with an appeal on a Writ of Mandate by a 7-0 vote.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion made by Trustee Hague and seconded by Trustee Sullivan, the Board approved the agenda for the regular meeting of August 18, 2009, by a 7-0 vote.

PRESENTATIONS

- * East Bay Schools Insurance Group (EBSIG) awarded San Leandro Unified School District with a 2009 Loss Control Safety Award for extraordinary compliance determined by the 2008-2009 Northern California ReLief (NCR) inspection recommendations. The special efforts of Song Chin-Bendib and Greg Dyer for their exceptional management of general District safety, and their determination to obtain special hazard analyses is highly acclaimed among all 16 Alameda County East Bay School Insurance Group members.
- * Ali Cannon outlined his major roles and responsibilities as a result of new grants he was instrumental in acquiring for the District. With 21st Century ASSETS, he will be working closely with both high schools to implement \$457,000/year over the next five years to establish comprehensive after-school programs at SLHS and Lincoln. The Homeless Education Base Grant Award of \$50,000 for the next three years will enable us to continue to outreach, better identify, and serve homeless children and youth in our district. Mr. Cannon gave a PowerPoint Presentation outlining these new funding sources and also offered some training to the Board on Best Practices for serving Homeless Youth. He concluded with a recent example of how he connects with community partners by acknowledging Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) and Feed the Children for their generous contributions of 240 backpacks and additional supplies.
- * Daniel Chaja, Assistant Director of Research and Program Evaluation, presented the results of the Spring 2009, California Standards Test (CST) taken by students in grades 2-11. Daniel shared district-wide data in English Language Arts, Math, Science, History/Social Science, longitudinal and disaggregated by statistically significant subgroups. Highlights included:
 - An increase in the percent of students performing at the proficient or

advance levels in English-language arts, with Madison and Monroe Elementary schools showing double digit gains of 12% and 10% respectively.

- Nine out of twelve schools showed an increase in the percent of students at the proficient or advance levels in Math, with Garfield and Washington Elementary schools demonstrating gains of 10% and 9%, respectively.
- Fourth grade showed the most impressive overall grade-level performance, who demonstrated a 15% growth in ELA and 11% growth in math.

Mr. Chaja stated that San Leandro continues to show improvement for all students while decreasing the racial disparity of student performance. Most notably:

- Second grade students as a whole increased by 5% in proficient or advanced in English-language arts, African American students increased by 6%, and Hispanic/Latino students increased 8%.
- Fourth grade students as a whole increased by 11% in proficient or advanced in math, African American students increased by 20%, and Hispanic/Latino students increased 8%.
- Fifth grade students as a whole increased by 2% in proficient or advanced in English-language arts, African American students increased by 8%, and Hispanic/Latino students increased 5%.
- Sixth grade students as a whole increased by 3% in proficient or advanced in English-language arts, African American students increased by 10%, and Hispanic/Latino students increased 5%.
- Seventh grade students as a whole increased by 9% in proficient or advanced in English-language arts, African American students increased by 10%, and Hispanic/Latino students increased 11%.

The Superintendent acknowledged and congratulated staff for all of their work towards raising the achievement of all students while focusing on closing the racial predictability of the achievement gap, noting that 6-year trend data indicates that African American and Hispanic/Latino students are achieving far better than they have before. Mr. Chaja later added that he would pass on a copy of this 6-year data to the Board.

During a question and answer period related to the data presented, staff addressed areas focusing on

- The District's plan with regards to negative challenges, and interventions
- Sharing and receiving information/input with parents
- Theories regarding the increased performance in 4th grade and the drop in ELA scores at the high school
- How scores affect Program Improvement identification
- What is impacting the scores i.e. increased assessments, or

emphasis on cultural relevant teaching strategies

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Mark Montoya, Jefferson Elementary School PTA president, addressed the Board regarding the lack of Board visibility at Jefferson Elementary. He also voiced his support for Superintendent Lim, noting that her performance warrants an extension to her contract.
- Hendy Huang, representing the Chinese/Asian community addressed the Board regarding test scores and urged the Board to focus on improving education, teaching, and keeping politics out of the schools and District.
- Freddye Davis, President of Alameda County South NAACP, thanked the Board for responding so quickly to her with regards to the extension of Superintendent Lim's contract. She spoke in support of the Superintendent and urged the Board to lend their support.
- James Isaac addressed the Board in support of Superintendent, echoing a previous comment "to get politics out the educational future of the students."
- Talia Jones, District parent, voiced her support for the Superintendent acknowledging her ability to bring the community together during the Measure B process.
- Gregory Daniel, District parent, addressed the Board in support of Superintendent Lim, adding that the District is making progress. He urged the Board to celebrate the accomplishments, listen to the parents, look at the positive, and "do what's right."
- Carmen Jefferson, addressed the Board regarding outdated teaching techniques and the need for updated instructional materials, and teacher-training in the area of technology and subject matter. She also voiced her support for the Superintendent.

Following public comments, Trustee Cutter suggested that sites might personally invite Board members to their school, as a way of bridging the communication between the two.

Following public comment the Board took a break at 9:05 p.m. and reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

REPORTS

- 1) Correspondence – Clerk Cutter reported receipt of the following emails

from August 5, 2009 – August 16, 2009: From Patricia McCarley regarding concern about enrollment procedures; from Carol Delton regarding restoring CSR to our schools and resources available to restore educators to classrooms and sites; from Katy McCarthy regarding restoring CSR to our Title 1 Schools; Carolyn Carr regarding invitation to TARI, and from Hendy Huang, Jeni Engler, and Mark Montoya regarding support for Chris Lim Superintendent.

- 2) Student Board Member Report - Steven Mills, Student Board Member, reported that Associate Student Body and site administration met and agreed upon the following procedures for “Homecoming Day” October 23:
- October 23 will be early dismissal for students. Homecoming Rally will take place from 2-3 p.m. in the quad
 - Freshman, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors will decorate the gym walls in their assigned theme around Pixar movies
 - Rallies during lunch to support all fall sports’ teams will begin after October 23
 - Discussions for alternatives to the car parade and “running through the halls” are in progress

In addition he reported that:

- August 17-August 20 – School Registration, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- August 20 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon - Freshman Orientation
Freshmen will be entertained with skits and be taken on tours to help acquaint them to the school

3) Union Representative Reports

- Mark Hamilton, on behalf of the San Leandro Teachers’ Association (SLTA) urged the Board to look carefully at the information emailed from Carol Delton regarding funding and class size reduction. He hoped that this valuable information could be used as SLTA and the District begin their work together to improve the District this year.
- Jeannette McNeil, Bancroft Middle School Vice Principal, on behalf of the San Leandro Managers’ Association (SLMA), updated the Board on how the sites are coping with the many changes that have occurred due to the budget crisis i.e. increased student/teacher ratio to 24:1 in K-3rd grade, and reduced number of counselors. She also acknowledged the STAR data results, recognizing that while there is still work to do, we need to stop and celebrate the increases that our students have made, celebrate the growth and those who have made it possible such as families, students, teachers, District administrators, and bargaining unions. On a personal note, Ms. McNeil stated that when she was a teacher and member of SLTA she supported Superintendent Lim, and will “continue to support her as

an administrator working for the educational success of all students.”

4) Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Lim provided the following report:

- She attended the CTA Summer Institute in UCLA, where she was part of a panel that demonstrated how you implement race work. She acknowledged that the warm reception she received by the CTA made her feel like we were “partners in this work.” The Superintendent also highlighted 6-year disaggregated data that illustrated the performance growth in ELA and math since she came to the District six years ago, where all students have progressed and more rapidly our African American and Hispanic/Latino students.
- Responding to questions regarding the use of QEIA and Title funds with regards to Class Size Reduction (CSR) the Superintendent noted that
 - QEIA must fund mandates first such as class size reduction at K-3 and grades 4 and 5, adding while this will be a potential savings to the general fund, the state will deduct our revenue limit as a result of it.
 - Title I funds can be used for CSR in certain circumstances; however, because the District has a targeted assisted Title I program (not schoolwide) funds can only be used to supplement services for those students identified as Title I in Title I schools, otherwise it would be considered supplanting.

In addition, the Superintendent reported that she

- Welcomed eight new teachers to the District
- Had the opportunity to open up the three-day TARI workshop at San Leandro High School. The workshop will continue for two more days, and she invited the Board to Room 102 at the high school to observe their work.
- The Superintendent invited the Board to join the parents at Bancroft Middle School for a barbeque on Monday, August 24 at 5 p.m. which follows orientation that begins at 4 p.m. Bancroft is piloting a Parents Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) Program for parents, which is funded through GEAR UP.
- At the request of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent of Business Song Chin-Bendib shared the following financial cost should the District go from 24 to 22:1 CSR:
 - 22:1 - \$469,000 (K-3) District-wide
 - 20:1 - \$469,000 for grade 1 and \$368,500 for grade 2

In addition, Ms. Chin-Bendib further clarified the financial impact by

reviewing previous and current budget conditions that the information has been based on.

5) Board Representatives' Reports

- Eden Area Regional Occupational Program –Trustee Almonte reported that the Council approved the 2009-2010 school calendar, the Conflict of Interest Code Policy, and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Accreditation Commission granted Eden Area ROP a six-year term, expiring June 30, 2015.

CONSENT ITEMS

Human Resources

2.1-C Acceptance of Personnel Report

Educational Services

3.1-C Acceptance of Donations

3.4-C Memorandum of Understanding between the San Leandro Unified School District and Chabot Community College – Las Positas Community College District (CLPCCD)/Chabot for GEAR Up Program

Business Operations

4.1-C Ratification of Payroll for June 2009

4.2-C Approval of Bill Warrants

4.3-C Intra-Budget Transfers for July 2009

4.4-C Agreement to Provide Food Services for Head Start Programs at Madison Elementary School, Jefferson Elementary School, and the San Leandro Adult School/Muir Campus

On a motion made by Trustee Cutter and seconded by Trustee Sullivan, the Board approved the remaining consent items by a 7-0 vote.

Human Resources

2.2-C Resolution #09-42 to Authorize a Holder of a Single Subject or Standards Teaching Credential to Teach Out of Major/Minor Subject Area – Education Code 44258.2

2.3.C Resolution #09-43 to Authorize a Holder of a Multiple Subject or

Standards Teaching Credential to Teach Out of Major/Minor Subject Area – Education Code 44256(b)

Responding to Trustee Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Mike Potmesil explained that the District has submitted resolutions authorizing a holder of a single subject or multiple subject standard teaching credential to teach out of their major/minor subject area in the past; however, the District has been notifying the teachers and the principal of the school site that teachers need to attach an authorization to teach these courses to their credential or complete their credentialing in these areas.

On a motion by Trustee Sullivan and seconded by Trustee Cutter, the Board approved 2.2-C, Resolution #09-42 to Authorize a Holder of a Single Subject or Standards Teaching Credential to Teach Out of Major/Minor Subject Area – Education Code 44258.2, and 2.3-C, Resolution #09-43 to Authorize a Holder of a Multiple Subject or Standards Teaching Credential to Teach Out of Major/Minor Subject Area – Education Code 44256(b) by a 7-0 vote.

Educational Services

3.2-C Non-Public School Contracts

In response to Trustee Almonte, staff explained that the District was not serving students in Santa Rosa, rather that this particular San Leandro student had a placement in a non-public school located in Santa Rosa.

In response to Trustee Prola, Assistant Superintendent Cindy Cathey explained that contracts are written annually; however, the District is only obligated for the length of time the student is actually attending the out-of-district facility. In this case, the District paid only \$4,300 for the one-month that the student attended the Santa Rosa facility, adding that the student has been placed back in San Leandro.

On a motion made by Trustee Almonte and seconded by Trustee Prola, the Board approved the Non-Public School Contracts by a 7-0 vote.

3.3-C San Leandro Adult School Course Offerings for 2009-2010

Trustee Mack-Rose commented that the Effective Parenting Techniques courses being offered brought to mind the Jeffery Canada's "Harlem Children's Zone program. She urged the Adult School to consider expanding these types of course offerings along the lines of the Jeffery Canada model, stating that compelling

evidence has shown that by reaching parents early, students perform better.

On a motion made by Trustee Mack-Rose and seconded by Trustee Cutter, the Board approved the San Leandro Adult School Course Offerings for 2009-2010 by a 7-0 vote.

3.5-C Scope of Work Agreement between Washington Elementary School and Girls Incorporated of Alameda County to Provide Counseling Services for Eligible Students

Assistant Superintendent Cindy Cathey explained that as part of this blended funding model approach in covering costs for mental health services at Washington Elementary School, Girls Inc. is committing to cover the remainder of the \$26,755 total cost of the program, \$4,500 of which is being provided by Washington Elementary School.

On a motion made by Trustee Almonte and seconded by Trustee Mack-Rose, the Board approved the scope of work agreement between Washington Elementary School and Girls' Incorporated of Alameda County to provide counseling services for eligible students by a 7-0 vote.

Business Operations

4.5-C Contract for Legal Services with Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost, LLP for the 2009-2010 School Year

4.6-C Contract Services with McArthur & Levin, LLP (Special Education Legal Services) for the 2009-2010 School Year

4.7-C Contract Services with School & College Legal Services for the 2009-2010 School Year

4.8-C Contract Services with Orbach, Huff & Suarez LLP (Measure B Legal Services)

4.9-C Contract Services with Ruiz and Sperow, LLP for the 2009-2010 School Year

Trustee Prola was concerned about the wide-range of hourly professional rates and costs and expenses such as in-office photocopying between the law firms coming to the Board for consideration. Trustee Prola would like to see the District consider narrowing down the selection. Staff explained that entering into a

contract with the firms does not obligate the District to use their services.

Following the explanation, on a motion made by Trustee Prola and seconded by Trustee Sullivan, the Board approved the 4.5-C, Contract for Legal Services with Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost, LLP for the 2009-2010 School Year; 4.6-C, Contract Services with McArthur & Levin, LLP (Special Education Legal Services) for the 2009-2010 School Year; 4.7-C, Contract Services with School & College Legal Services for the 2009-2010 School Year; 4.8-C, Contract Services with Orbach, Huff & Suarez LLP (Measure B Legal Services), and 4.9-C, Contract Services with Ruiz and Sperow, LLP for the 2009-2010 School Year, by a 7-0 vote.

CONFERENCE

Educational Services

3.1-CF Student Intervention Coordinator Position and Job Posting

The Board discussed and considered approving the Student Intervention Coordinator job description and position funded from ASSETS grant (60%) and the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) support fund (40%).

San Leandro High School Principal Linda Granger shared some background information pointing out that since initially creating a position in 2007-2008 to provide additional during-the-day support to students who have not passed one or both portions of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) we have learned that the demands of the position require extended hours beyond the teacher workday, supervision and of staff, and the maintenance of student/parent confidentiality.

With the increased construction that is taking place at the site, the preparation to be done for the opening of the 9th grade campus, and the addition of the new ASSETS grant program and requirements beginning in 2009-2010, staff is recommending that this newly created Student Intervention Coordinator be an administrative position who will be able to take on all of the duties outlined in the job description, manage the programs that need to be managed and allow the current administrative staff to fulfill their responsibilities. In addition, the high school is seeking to combine the .40 FTE CAHSEE position and the new .60 FTE ASSETS position to a 1.0 FTE Student Intervention Coordinator.

The Board was concerned about increasing administrative staff at this time and the breakdown of the funding sources. Trustee Prola

felt that while she was not totally opposed to the funding recommendation, she could not support the proposal as it was being presented.

On a motion made by Trustee Cutter and seconded by Trustee Almonte, the Board approved the Student Intervention Coordinator Position and Job Posting by a 6-1 vote. Trustee Prola voting no.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Business Operations

4.1-I Miscellaneous Receipts

Miscellaneous receipts in the amount of \$10,451,007.73 have been deposited in the Treasury of Alameda County.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Trustee Hague commented that she was participating in the August 4 Board meeting via teleconference from New York on August 4 where she was working as part of a teaching American history grant. Trustee Hague said that she toured underground-railroad sites, abolitionists'-movement sites, women's suffrage sites and worked with primary resource documents from the 1600s, adding that three San Leandro High School teachers were among the participants.

In addition Trustee Hague raised the several questions regarding H1N1 (swine flu):

- 1) If given the opportunity, will the District be offering vaccinations?
 - 2) Does the District have procedures in place should an outbreak occur?
 - 3) Is there a mechanism in the works for continued instruction?
 - 4) What alternate methods are being considered?
- Trustee Cutter commented on "Keep Music Rockin" Foundation, suggesting that the Board acknowledge Chairman Rick Richards at a future Board meeting.

Regarding the Washington Elementary School fire, Trustee Cutter commented that she alerted the neighborhood, asking them to call the police should they see anything happening at the site.

Trustee Cutter would also like the Superintendent to address a schoolwide Title I program.

- Trustee Prola asked for an update on the crossing guards and School Resource Officers. The Superintendent explained that with the lack of crossing guards due to funding, the principals are discussing plans, noting that adult volunteers would be covered under the District's insurance. Regarding SRO officers, the District is down to one officer; however, protocols are in place to alert them.

Trustee Prola commented on a letter she received from East Bay Mud regarding their long range water issue plan, adding that they have offered to make a presentation on the impact to the District.

Trustee Prola attended The San Leandro Art Association Arts Festival. There were several entries from Monroe Elementary and San Leandro High. She encouraged other school sites to consider participating in the future.

The San Leandro Sports Foundation is sponsoring a Walk-A-Thon in October, adding that participating elementary schools can keep the money raised at their site, and sports teams can designate the funds for transportation, etc. Trustee Prola also suggested that the Board might want to volunteer their services for this event.

At 10:15 p.m., Trustee Mack-Rose motioned to extend the meeting to 10:40 p.m., which was seconded by Trustee Cutter and approved by the Board by a 7-0 vote.

- Trustee Mack-Rose commented on funding for Board training, noting that she was planning on attending the CSBA training in December. She asked for and received consensus to have the Finance Committee discuss possible funding options, since previous identified funding in 2008-2009 was not available for 2009-2010.

With the upcoming Board retreat scheduled for September, Trustee Mack-Rose felt it would helpful if the Board was the able to review information regarding effective Board governance prior to the meeting.

Trustee Mack-Rose commented that she was looking forward to the equity training on August 20. She also reported that she met with Louise Music the Alameda County TARI Coordinator, and that she will be supporting "sweeping" every available Adult School fund balance before increasing CSR in K-3.

Trustee Mack-Rose also asked staff for an update on the status of the District meeting the 3% reserve in 2010-2011.

- Trustee Sullivan thanked the community for voicing their concerns and gratitude for the work implemented by Superintendent Lim and her team. Trustee Sullivan also acknowledged the work done by Assistant

Superintendent Chin-Bendib for CSR despite the fact that further cuts are most likely eminent.

- Trustee Almonte shared a letter he received from AC Transit regarding their proposed service changes scheduled to take place in January 2010. A workshop is scheduled to receive feedback on the specific proposals prior to the public hearing and final Board decision. Trustee Almonte will forward the date and time of the workshop to the Board.
- Trustee Katz-Lacabe noted that if the Board is interested in viewing sample released STAR questions they can log on to starsamplequestions.org where actual questions by grade level, subject, and performance level can be accessed. Piggybacking on that, Trustee Hague noted that released test questions from 2003 through 2008 California Standard Tests (CSTs) have been posted on the California Department of Education website.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Future Board of Education Meetings

Regular Meeting – September 1, 2009
Special Meeting – September 8, 2009, DO, 6 p.m.
Regular Meeting – September 15, 2009
Special Meeting – September 22, 2009, DO, 6 p.m.
Regular Meeting – October 6, 2009
Regular Meeting – October 20, 2009
Regular Meeting – November 3, 2009
Regular Meeting – November 17, 2009
Regular Meeting – December 1, 2009
Regular Meeting – December 15, 2009
Regular Meeting – January 12, 2010
Regular Meeting – January 26, 2010
Regular Meeting – February 9, 2010
Regular Meeting – March 2, 2010
Special Meeting – Thursday, March 11, 2010, DO
Regular Meeting – March 23, 2010
Regular Meeting – April 20, 2010
Regular Meeting – May 4, 2010
Regular Meeting – May 18, 2010
Regular Meeting – Wednesday, June 2, 2010
Regular Meeting – June 15, 2009
Special Meeting – June 29, 2009

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Trustee Prola and seconded by Trustee Hague, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pauline Cutter, Clerk