

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

October 2, 2007

The Board of Education of the San Leandro Unified School District met in regular session on October 17, 2007, 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 Rick Richards.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mrs. Pauline Cutter
Mr. Ray Davis
Mrs. Lisa Hague (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)
Mr. Mike Katz-Lacabe
Ms. Linda Perry, Clerk
Mr. Stephen Cassidy, Vice President (arrived at 6:04 p.m.)
Mr. T.W. "Rick" Richards, President

DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT

Christine Lim, Superintendent
Byron Isaac, 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 6:02 p.m., the Board went into closed session for Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release, Conference with Labor Negotiator, Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – significant exposure to litigation, Public Employee Appointment – Title: Assistant Director of Categorical Programs, and San Leandro High School Vice Principal, Conference with Real Property Negotiator – Property(ies), and Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation pursuant to Government Code Sections 54957, 54957.6, 54956.8, 54956.9(b), and 54956.9. The closed session was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 7:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Superintendent Lim. President Richards said the Board had been in closed session and had taken the following action:

- On a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Richards the Board authorized legal counsel to refer a question involving mass mailings at the District's expense to the Fair Political Practices' Commission for investigation and administrative determination by the following 5-1 vote:
 - Trustees Cutter, Davis, Hague, Perry, Richards - Voting yes
 - Trustee Katz-Lacabe - Voting no
 - Trustee Cassidy - Recusing himself

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Prior to approving the agenda, Mr. Katz asked that the spelling of "Zocolo" on page four of the agenda under "Acceptance of Donations" be corrected to "Zocalo."

On a motion made by Mrs. Cutter and seconded by Mr. Davis, the Board approved the agenda for the regular meeting of October 2, 2007, as amended, by a 7-0 vote.

REPORTS

Student Representatives' Reports – San Leandro High School representative Astrida Fernandes updated the Board on the activities at the high school.

She reported that San Leandro High School has raised \$900 to date for the "Pennies for Patient" drive which goes towards leukemia research.

Home Coming will be the week of Oct. 22. The theme this year is "Worlds" with the senior class depicting -"Jungle World"; junior class - "Disney World"; sophomores - "Space World"; and freshman - "Wonka World".

Raza Day will be Friday, October 12, 8:05-11:16 (first and second block) sponsored by Latino Unido; DECA week will be October 7-13; and the SAT testing will be Saturday, Oct. 13. College Bound will be sponsoring a freshman festival after school on October 4, where students will learn about college and the College Bound program. The fall sports season has begun. Service clubs have been participating in many community services activities such as the upcoming Washington and Roosevelt Elementary Schools' Fall Festivals.

PRESENTATIONS

- Daniel Chaja, Assistant Director of Research and Program Evaluation, presented Data Presentation Part III. This part of his presentation highlighted additional summary data reports further defining the progress the District is making in meeting the needs of our students. He also shared highlights of data analyses conducted by the District, using the middle schools as examples of what might happen to the API given certain variables. He was joined by Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Cindy Cathey, who shared reflections from all school sites as we identify program strengths, areas of needs, and action steps needed to address our students' achievement needs.

Following the presentation, the Board raised some very thought provoking concerns and questions that focused on such areas as separate classes and programs for GATE students, if the growth over time matches what needs to be done to meet AYP and if moving students from far below basic to below basic does a disservice to those students doing well, raised by Mr. Katz; if there have been any discussion with regards to districtwide strategies to reach out to parents, raised by Ms. Perry; and moving students from general math to algebra, raised by Mr. Cassidy, which were addressed by staff.

When Mr. Cassidy asked why there was an achievement gap, Ms. Cathey explained that while the response entailed a very multi-complicated answer, from her perspective it was about resources, time, professional development and zeroing in on the issues of race, to name a few.

In addition, Ms. Perry was interested in having a mid-year update regarding the middle school math curriculum, testing at the elementary level, as well as how the adopted text, supplemental materials and pacing schedules were being used.

Mr. Cassidy thought there might be a need for realignment of resources thus dedicating more to the middle schools. He was also interested in ways to expand the summer school program, and would like to know how summer vacation impacts student achievement.

The Board thanked the presenters for their time and effort towards, this presentation, adding that it helped put the pieces together.

- Song Chin-Bendib, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, made a dual presentation regarding Understanding School Finance

and the impact of the Budget Act 2007 recently signed by the Governor.

Ms. Chin-Bendib walked the Board through the Governor's budget, stating that while there were no significant changes for the District this year, the key challenges for schools will be to fund baseline K-12 programs schools next year, given the slowdown in Proposition 98 and the use of one-time funds in the current year. Among some of the major program cuts from the May revision to the final budget noted by Ms. Chin-Bendib included, School Safety Block Grant, Career-Technical Equipment, Career-Technical Teacher Incentives, Career-Technical Counselors, CAHSEE Assistance, and Pre-kindergarten Family Literacy. The Revenue Limit COLA, funding for federal programs, and major health care proposals were also touched upon.

Ms. Chin-Bendib provided charts illustrating inventory of reserve dollars by restricted and non-restricted funds, summary of the Governor's budget, and the final budget page from School Services which provided a synopsis of past, current, and future fiscal years.

Clarifying questions posed the Board included whether the Adult School CBET program would be affected by the elimination of pre-kindergarten family literacy funding, raised by Mrs. Cutter, and further explanation on the District's revenue limit per ADA, raised by Mr. Cassidy.

The second part of Ms. Chin-Bendib's presentation focused on Understanding School Finance, noting that this can be an extremely complex concept. Keeping that in mind, she hoped that the information presented would address all of the essential areas and be helpful to not only the Board but to the community as well.

Charts breaking down the combined general fund expenditures, and illustrating general fund multi-year projections, fund Balances/Categorical entitlement carryovers, deferred revenues and revenue limit summery were shared to further explain the unrestricted and restricted classifications.

Mr. Cassidy felt it would be very helpful to have a document or flowchart illustrating the breakdown of COLA within the District's budget.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

PUBLIC HEARING

Ms. Perry recused herself from the public hearing.

A public hearing was held regarding the Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) for the 9th grade campus.

On a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Hague, the Board opened the public hearing regarding the Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) for the 9th grade campus by a 6-0 vote with Ms. Perry recusing herself.

There were no public comments from the public.

On a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Cutter, the Board closed the public hearing regarding the Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) for the 9th grade campus by a 6-0 with Ms. Perry recusing herself.

REPORTS

- 1) Correspondence – Clerk Perry reported receiving the following emails for the period of September 19 – October 2, 2007, from Alberto Del Rio regarding concerns of Monroe Elementary, from Thomas Morse regarding opening of bargaining, and from Claire McKean regarding District position.
- 2) Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Lim announced that the release of the Career Technical Education (CTE) first round scores ranked the District’s 5 CTE grants in the top half of the 17 grants awarded, placing the grant application of the Building Trades and Construction program at San Leandro High as the top score at 150 points for Region 4 (Marin, Napa, Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties) thus qualifying the District for the second round of consideration. Noting that a minimum score of 105 was required, Ms. Lim reported the following scores by industry sector:

- Building Trades & Construction – 150
- Manufacturing Product Development - 146
- Marketing, Sales, and Services – 144
- Arts, Media, & Entertainment – 142.5
- Transportation – 136

Ms. Lim said that this was quite an accomplishment, acknowledging Emily Kaplan, District grant writer and the CTE staff for their vision and

dedication to this program.

The Superintendent reported that the District was entering its fifth year of equity training, and had their first meeting moving into the next model, Equity Training of Trainers (E-TOT), with Glenn Singleton on September 24. Approximately sixty-five members came together to review agreements and conditions around race, had an eye-opening experience regarding Jena 6, and concluded with a lesson on building relationships establishing and raising rigor for our students. She said that Dr. Sharroky Hollie would be the presenter on October 22.

The Bancroft Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be October 8 and will include a special tribute to Bob Williams, and an inaugural lap around the track.

The first Superintendent's Parent Leaders' Council meeting will be on October 9 at 6 p.m. at the District Office.

Dr. Will Walker will present the second of three sessions of Partnership for Academically Successful Students (P.A.S.S.) on October 29 at 5 p.m.

3) Board Committee Reports

- City/District Liaison – Mr. Cassidy reported that the committee met on Monday, October 1 and shared the following report:
 - Discussed Burrell Field options including the possibility of using Oyster Bay for relocation.
 - Superintendent Lim shared the District's "We're Shaping Up in San Leandro" PowerPower that was shared with the Board.
 - Discussed "Walk to School". Mayor Santos distributed a copy of his proclamation proclaiming October 3 as "Walk to School Day". It was noted that the City had received several Safe Routes to School grants which will provide funding for 12 projects in the City including in-crosswalk lightening. The District requested that consideration be given to those heavily trafficked areas that are adjacent to school sites.
 - Four potential joint use projects were briefly discussed including the San Leandro High Arts Education Center, 9th Grade Campus gymnasium, the San Leandro High School parking lot and relocation of the District administrative offices. The City was thanked for their input with regards to the design phase process of the 9th Grade Campus.
 - Councilmember Gregory suggested converting the property at the end of Cary Drive, next to the Bancroft field into a dog park.
 - Mr. Davis interjected that the City is interested in working with District with regards to the facility design and construction management of the PG&E lot.

- Communication – Mr. Katz reported that the committee met on September 27 and discussed the Measure B community newsletter which will include information about modernization, roofing, grants, and other positive update information, noting that the estimated total cost would be approximately \$8,000. They also discussed more communication with regards to “Letters to the Editor”, etc. and discussed developing a plan, timeline and rubric around six different subjects, in conjunction with the Superintendent’s communications. It was decided that the committee will develop a student achievement flyer. They heard updates regarding the Superintendent’s Parent Leaders’ Council/Reception which is scheduled to meet on Oct 9, P.A.S.S, Website, and ongoing projects. The committee will meet on the third Thursday’s of each month.

CONSENT ITEMS

Ms. Perry asked that 1.1-C, Approve the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on September 5, 2007; 2.2-C, Approve the Revised Job Description for the Measure B Bond Account Technician; and 2.3-C, Approve the Revised Job Description and Position for Community Service/Measure B Bond Accounts Payable Technician be pulled from the Consent Calendar.

Mr. Katz requested that 3.4-C, Adopt Resolution #07-43, Support of Red Ribbon Week be pulled from the Consent Calendar.

General Services

1.2-C Adopt Resolution #07-42, Proclaiming the month of October as International “Walk to School Month”

Human Resources

2.1-C Accept Personnel Report as submitted.

Educational Services

3.1-C Acceptance of Donations

3.2-C K-12 Edusoft Assessment Management System Contract

- 3.3-C Memorandum of Understanding between San Leandro Unified School District and the San Leandro Boys and Girls Club for the After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program

Business Operations

- 4.1-C Actuarial Study for Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 45
- 4.2-C Measure B Performance Audit Contract

Facilities and Construction

- 5.1-C State Roofing Systems Change Order #2 for the McKinley, Roosevelt & Washington Elementary Schools Re-roofing Project

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

General Services

- 1.1-C Approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting held on September 5, 2007

Trustee Perry would like to table these minutes until the October 16 Board meeting. She felt that the questions and issues raised on page four of the minutes by the Board with regards to the Schematic Design Phase of the new 9th Grade campus needed to be expanded, so that at the end of the process the community will be aware of the questions and concerns raised by the Board during this decision making process.

On a motion made by Ms Perry and seconded by Mrs. Hague, the Board table this item until the October 16 Board meeting by a 7-0 vote.

Human Resources

- 2.2-C Approve the Revised Job Description for the Measure B Bond Account Technician.

Ms. Perry noted that "limited term" was not indicated in the job description.

Prior to the vote, and responding to Mrs. Hague, Superintendent Lim

and Assistant Superintendent Byron Isaac, said that there would not be any immediate change with regards to the funding at this time.

On a motion made by Ms. Perry and seconded by Mr. Davis, the Board approved the revised job description for the Measure B Bond Account Technician with the addition of “limited term” to the job description by a 7-0 vote.

2.3-C Approve the Revised Job Description and position for Community Service/Measure B Bond Accounts Payable Technician

Trustee Perry noted that some questions had surfaced regarding this position and requested that it be tabled to the October 18 Board meeting.

On a motion made by Ms. Perry and seconded by Mr. Katz, the Board tabled the approval of the revised job description and position for the Community Service/Measure B Bond Account Payable Technician to the October 18 Board meeting by a 7-0 vote.

Educational Services

3.4-C Adopt Resolution #07-43, Support of Red Ribbon Week

Trustee Katz felt that the wording “...we are strongly committed to a drug-free society” was not the intent of the Resolution. He asked that it be changed to something more appropriate. It was agreed that the entire paragraph of the Resolution would read “NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the San Leandro Unified School District does hereby proclaim October 20th through 28th, 2007, as “Red Ribbon Week” in our public school, and encourages every member of our community to participate in drug abuse prevention education activities, making a unified statement that we are strongly committed to a drug-abuse-free society.”

On a motion made by Mr. Katz and seconded by Mr. Davis, the Board adopted Resolution #07-43, in support of Red Ribbon Week, the week of October 20, 2007 – October 28, 2007, as amended, by a 7-0 vote.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Mr. Richards asked if the Board and District staff were interested in submitting an application to participate in the Alameda County 2007 Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 11. The Board agreed, so President Richards will work

with the Superintendent to finalize the details. He attended the Back-To-School Night at the high school and felt that it well attended.

- Ms. Perry attended the Back-To-School Nights at both middle schools, the high school and Lincoln. She attended the “Kaiser Power to Change” in San Leandro where Kaiser Permanente is looking at advances in health care technology. She found this to be a great networking opportunity for “Shape Up San Leandro”, noting that she was able to get some contacts and that Kaiser was interested in participating.

She also attended the KNN schools finance conference and found it be very informative. Topics included the Standard Poor’s presentation on the new financial management assessment criteria, “Out of Darkness”: Building Bond Support from a skeptical Community presented by Tracy Unified, solar energy in public school presented by New Haven Unified, and Citizens Advisory Committee for Finance presented Los Altos School District. She said that she had passed on the information to both the Superintendent and Assistance Superintendent Bendib.

Ms. Perry said that she would be attending the BTSA Advisory Council at the County Office on October 3 and the Civic Education Awards that same evening.

- Mr. Davis reported that at the District/City Liaison Committee meeting, City staff was acknowledged for their role with regards to the District seeking grant funds, the 9th Grade Campus design, PG&E lot, and the Bancroft field project. He felt it would be appropriate for the Board to recognize the staff who actively participated and worked with District on these projects at a future meeting and asked for Board consensus. It was the consensus of the Board to recognize those staff members either at the Bancroft field dedication or at a future Board meeting.
- Mr. Katz addressed the Board regarding a communication received from SLTA proposing that a portion of the Board meeting be allotted for presentations by the SLTA president or designee. President Richards said that the Board would be discussing that topic in negotiations.

Mr. Katz would like to see the Board continue to move in the direction of a Board retreat and asked for some alternate dates. He would also like to see the Board discuss possible options for Burrell field such as relocation to Oyster Point, and/or renovation/modernization, as well as consideration to pursue a parcel tax at a future meeting.

- Mrs. Hague reminded the Board that the high school Homecoming game would be October 26. She noted that she had mentioned it at the District/City Liaison it hopes of encouraging City participation and support.

- Mr. Cassidy said that he will be out of town on November 11 and will be unable to participate in the parade.

He reported that he had received a letter from Congressman Pete Stark (copies of which were given to the Board and the Superintendent) thanking him for the column he wrote in the Daily Review. Mr. Cassidy expressed how disappointing it was to be criticized at the last Board meeting by other Board members for allegedly playing upon racial stereotypes and talking about issues of student achievement. He distributed a variety of articles regarding student achievement, achievement gap, as well as some of the approaches being made to address this issue, adding the he felt it was important to ask why the achievement gap exists, what are the causes, and have a realistic appraisal of the challenges and needs our students face so that they can be addressed.

Mr. Cassidy said that he was still very much interested in a Board retreat and hoped that the Board would consider having a retreat and planning session to discuss the goals the Board wants to achieve in 2008.

The Board recessed into closed session at 9:47 p.m. and returned to open session at 10:30 p.m. President Richards said that the Board had been in closed session and had taken the following action:

- On a motion by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Perry, the Board appointed Felipe S. Ibarra as Assistant Director, Curriculum and Instruction by a 7-0 vote.
- On a motion by Mrs. Cutter and seconded by Mr. Davis, the Board appointed Daniel S. Hillman as Vice Principal at San Leandro High School by a 7-0 vote.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Future Board of Education Meetings

- Regular Meeting – October 16, 2007
- Regular Meeting – November 6, 2007
- Regular Meeting – December 4, 2007
- Regular Meeting – December 13, 2007
- Regular Meeting – January 22, 2008
- Regular Meeting – February 5, 2008
- Regular Meeting – February 28, 2008 (placeholder)
- Regular Meeting – March 13, 2008
- Regular Meeting – April 1, 2008
- Regular Meeting – April 15, 2008
- Regular Meeting – May 6, 2008
- Regular Meeting – May 20, 2008
- Regular Meeting – June 3, 2008
- Regular Meeting – June 17, 2008

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Perry, Clerk