

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

October 7, 2008

The Board of Education of the San Leandro Unified School District met in regular session on October 7, 2008, in the San Leandro City Council Chambers, 835 East 14th Street, San Leandro, California.

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by President Ray Davis.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Stephen Cassidy
Mr. Mike Katz-Lacabe
Ms. Linda Perry
Mr. T. W. "Rick" Richards
Mrs. Pauline Cutter, Clerk
Mrs. Lisa Hague, Vice President (arrived at 6:07 p.m.)
Mr. Ray Davis, President
Ms. Flavia Corria, 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, Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – significant exposure to litigation, Conference with Real Property Negotiator – Property(ies), Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation, and Tort Claim pursuant to Education Code Section 35146 and 48918(c), Government Code Sections 54957, 54957.6, 54956.(b), 54956.8, 54956.9, and 54956. The closed session was adjourned at 7 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 7:06 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. President Davis said the Board had been in closed session and had taken the following action:

- On a motion made by Mr. Katz and seconded by Mrs. Hague, the Board settled Tort Claim # 4104-08-00026-01-02 by a 7-0 vote.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion made by Mr. Richards and seconded by Mrs. Hague, the Board approved the agenda for the regular meeting of October 7, 2008, by a 7-0 vote.

PRESENTATIONS

- * Laura Hackel, Curriculum Specialist, along with Dr. Lois Hetland, Project Zero, Harvard, Mass. College of Arts and Design, and Louise Music, Alliance for Arts Learning Leadership Director, Alameda County Office of Education, presented information related to an exciting new district wide project, "Arts Integration for Equitable Outcomes Teacher Action Research Institute" (TARI).

The project led by Alameda County Office of Education aims to combine our District's equity work and arts learning professional development to close the chronic and persistent achievement gap of African American and Latino students and sub-groups such as English learners. The project provides multiple opportunities for art teachers and non-art teachers to plan together, enrich instruction, and assess student learning in the arts. Resources such as *Studio Habits of Mind* and the *Teaching for Understanding* serve as the foundational frameworks of the project. The duration of the project is from October 2008, through September 2011.

Susan Deming, Arts Specialist at Washington Elementary School, described how the *Studio Habits of Mind* are incorporated into book making as way of engaging her students (who were featured in the presentation) in both the art classroom and their 4th grade classroom, as well as how she documents and reflects these Culturally Responsive Teaching and Arts Teaching strategies into the Art Studio Structure in her classroom.

Dr. Lois Hetland reviewed the three-year timeline, noting that in Year 2 (2009-2010) it was hoped that the project would advance to include 5th grade, expanding to 6th grade; with the capacity to go district-wide in Year 3 (2010-2011).

Mr. Cassidy requested that the Educational Services Department provide the research information supporting the culturally responsive teaching strategies that the District is currently using which would provide insight on different topics the District explores through professional development.

The Board thanked the presenters for an excellent and informative presentation.

- * Roosevelt Elementary School Principal Victoria Forrester and PTA Finance Chair Debbie Fitting presented their “outdoor classroom” to the Board.

It was explained that because of surplus money earned by the parent/school community, the Roosevelt PTA, in the winter of 2008, held several public meetings to elicit ideas for spending this money. Information collected from students, teachers and parents indicated the desire to fund projects including outdoor campus improvement. The request for an “outdoor classroom”, which would also provide much needed shade on the Roosevelt yard, was at the top of the list. Key points of the presentation included:

- A company that works with schools and has structures with DSA approval has been located
- The PTA finance committee created a 3-phase plan for “Operation Beautification” (project title)
- The PTA currently has the \$24,000 needed for this “outdoor classroom” in Phase 1 of “Operation Beautification” and has worked with an architect to design the placement of the structure
- Phase 1 is currently being implemented on the Roosevelt campus and includes an “outdoor café” for lunchtime with tables and umbrellas
- New benches around the campus have been purchased to replace worn out seating and are currently being used by the students
- Phase 1 also includes an outdoor classroom which will include a shade structure, tables for student work stations and small bleachers for performances. Teachers can bring classes to the outdoor classroom for science activities, artwork, drama and music activities, etc. The area can also be used during recess time for students wanting a quiet place to work or play
- It is hoped that Phase 1 will be completed this year
- Roosevelt has applied for a grant to fund Phase 2 of “Operation Beautification” which will include a reading garden for students to use during recess time, and after school

ACTION ITEM

Business Operations

4.1-A Outdoor Classroom/Shade Structure Project at Roosevelt Elementary School

On a motion made by Mrs. Cutter and seconded by Ms. Perry, the Board approved the Roosevelt PTA Outdoor Classroom/Shade Structure project so that the Roosevelt Elementary School may move forward to completion of Phase I of "Operation Beautification" by a 7-0 vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was held regarding Resolution #08-45, Application for New Construction Grant from the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) for the San Leandro High School 9th Grade Campus project.

- On a motion made by Ms. Perry and seconded by Mrs. Cutter, the Board opened the public hearing regarding Resolution #08-45, Application for New Construction Grant from the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) for the San Leandro High School 9th Grade Campus project by a 7-0 vote.

No comments were received from the audience.

- On a motion made by Ms. Perry and seconded by Mr. Katz, the Board closed the public hearing regarding Resolution #08-45, Application for New Construction Grant from the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) for the San Leandro High School 9th Grade Campus project by a 7-0 vote.

ACTION ITEM

Facilities and Construction

5.1-A Resolution #08-45, Support of Application Requesting Grant Funding for the San Leandro High School 9th Grade Campus Project

On a motion made by Mr. Katz and seconded by Ms. Perry, the Board adopted Resolution #08-45, Support of Application Requesting Grant Funding for the San Leandro High School 9th Grade Campus Project by a 7-0 vote.

PRESENTATION

- * The Assistant Superintendent of Business Services presented an update on the 2008-2009 Governor's budget. Key points of the presentation

included:

- The current State Budget, AB 1781, still cuts the education budget by \$2.5 billion
- Restored the 6.5% reduction to Categorical Programs; however, there will still not be any COLA for those programs in 2008-09
- Adult Education receives no COLA in 2008-09
- Special Education receives no COLA in 2008-09
- General Fund Revenue Limit will receive a 0.68% net funded COLA
- Districts must consider holding funding in reserve, due to the risk of mid-year cuts

The Board posed clarifying questions. Ms. Perry provided an update on the status of possible state mid-year cuts, and Special Education.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Billy Campbell, Teamsters/Trades Representative, addressed the Board regarding Beautification Day, stating that until several issues in the contract with regards to Beautification Day have been settled with Human Resources, the union would not be approving any projects and thus would be considered in violation of the contract.

REPORTS

- 1) Correspondence – Clerk Cutter reported receipt of the following emails from September 19, 2008, through October 16, 2008: From Colleen Hess regarding safety at the Adult School; from Phyllis Shuck Gee regarding the Crossings Development and teachers’ housing; from Derek Jung regarding rules regarding a flyer he wanted sent to students’ home; and from Morgan Mack-Rose regarding correction to the San Leandro Times quotation.
- 2) Student Board Member Report – Student Board Member Flavia Coria updated the Board on the following activities at San Leandro High School including:
 - September was the “Welcome Back Carnival”
 - The Associate Student Body (ASB) hosted a teacher luncheon
 - Keith Hawkins spoke to the ASB about making right decisions and overcoming fears. He was well received by the group of students.
 - Back-To-School Night was Oct. 2 – Food was sold by the clubs
 - DECA had a spaghetti feed
 - About 300 students attended the Homecoming Dance
 - Spirit Week is this week:
 - ✓ Monday – Celebrity Day
 - ✓ Tuesday - Wacky-Tacky Day

- ✓ Wednesday – Opposite Day
 - ✓ Thursday – Scrabble Day
 - ✓ Friday – Theme Day, senior car show, Homecoming Rally, football game against Arroyo High School
 - The Exit Exam was today
 - Beautification Day at the school will be Saturday, October 11
- 3) Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Lim announced that the District has exceeded projected enrollment by 89 students – for a total of 8,808: Kindergarten 64 students over (exceeding our goal of 40 students); 2nd grade over by 18 students and 3rd grade over by 31 students. 8th grade was down by 54; but 9th grade was over by 50.

Ms. Lim also reported on some exciting things happening in the District including:

- “Remembrance,” the theme of altered books by the San Leandro High School Advanced Placement art students will be on display at the Oakland Museum of California beginning Wednesday, October 8 through December 7, 2008.
- In preparation for their garden, Peterson Tractor Company has donated labor and provided equipment to McKinley Elementary School. In addition, as part of a service community project, a mural, featuring diversity in our schools, is being painted at the school.
- Friday, October 10, the Superintendent, along with Alameda County Superintendent Sheila Jordan, will be visiting the County Teacher of the Year, Karen Berry, at Wilson Elementary. The ceremony will take place on October 16.
- Ms. Lim and her team (Judith Cameron, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Lori Watson, Vice Principal, Muir Middle School; Mary Ann Valles, Principal at Bancroft Middle School, and San Leandro High School Principal Amy Furtado) returned from the National Summit for Courageous Conversations on Race in New Orleans, reporting that it was an incredible experience. Comments included:
 - “Great demonstration of skill and will! Great teamwork!”
 - “Loved Lori’s racial autobiography! Good usable information.”
 - “Great authentic dynamic amount administrators...nice to hear real stories of success and challenges”
 - “The resources were great. Yours is a loving and nurturing community of dedicated educators. Thanks for all you do and for sharing.”

In addition, Ms. Lim noted that the room was packed, exceeding its

54 person capacity that included 40 districts, three superintendents and three state department of education.

- The Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) will be meeting on October 30, 2008, 4 p.m. at the District Office.
- International Walk to School Day is tomorrow, October 8.

4) Board Committee Reports

- Curriculum – Mrs. Hague reported that the committee met on October 1, 2008, and discussed the Williams’ visits report (all schools passed), physical fitness tests and status for 10th graders, Program Improvement: School Choice/Supplemental Service Update, and Local Education Agency Plan (LEAP).
- Facilities/Technology - Mrs. Cutter reported that the committee met on September 25, 2008, and discussed the following items that are being brought forward tonight for consideration: Change Order No. 2 for Monroe Elementary School Low Roof Project; Notice of Completion for Monroe Elementary School Low Roof Project; Notice of Completion for Madison Elementary School Trim and Paint Project; Amendment #3 to Ninyo & Moore Geotechnical Engineering and Soils Investigation Contract to provide ground motion hazard analysis, special inspection and testing laboratory services for the Arts Education Center; and Amendment #4 to Ninyo & Moore Geotechnical Engineering and Soils Investigation Contract to provide testing and special inspection services for the San Leandro High School library expansion.

The committee also discussed the contract with Vista Environmental Consulting for soil testing at the District Parking Lot at San Leandro High School; Labor Compliance Program; School Seismic Safety; construction insurance: earthquake, flood, builders risk and sew-up; as well as reviewed minor repair work at Burrell Field; E-Rate contract; and Davis Street contracts. Their next meeting is scheduled for October 9.

Mrs. Cutter also noted that in the future, notes taken at the Facilities & Technology Committee meetings would be forward to the Board members prior to the Board meetings which would be beneficial and keep those members who are not part of the committee up to date.

5) Board Representatives’ Reports

- Eden Area Regional Occupational Program – Mr. Richards reported that the Council met on October 2, 2008, which was the same night at

Back-to-School at the high school, so there would be no report.

CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Katz requested that Consent Items 4.2-C, Contract for RDV Consulting Services to Prepare and Submit E-Rate Paperwork for SLUSD, and 4.3-C, Contract Services with School & College Legal Services for the 2008-2009 School Year be pulled from the consent calendar.

General Services

- 1.1-C Approval of Board Minutes – August 26, 2008
- 1.2-C Approval of Board Minutes – September 3, 2008

Human Resources

- 1.1-C Acceptance of Personnel Report
- 2.1-C Contract with eSchool Solutions to Provide and Support a comprehensive Automated Substitute Employee Management System

Educational Services

- 3.1-C Acceptance of Donations
- 3.2-C Memorandum of Understanding between San Leandro Unified School district and the Newark Unified School District, Local Education Agency for the East Bay BTSA Induction Consortium

Business Operations

- 4.1-C Resolution #08-44 to Declare Certain Equipment Surplus and/or Obsolete

Facilities and Construction

- 5.1-C Change Order No. 2 for Monroe Elementary School Low Roof Project
- 5.2-C Notice of Completion for Monroe Elementary School Low Roof Project
- 5.3-C Notice of Completion for Madison Elementary School Trim and Paint Project

- 5.4-C Amendment #3 to Ninyo & Moore Geotechnical Engineering and Soils Investigation Contract to Provide Ground Motion Hazard Analysis, Special Inspection and Testing Laboratory Services for the Arts Education Center
- 5.5-C Amendment #4 to Ninyo & Moore Geotechnical Engineering and Soils Investigation Contract to Provide Testing and Special Inspection Services for the San Leandro High School Library Expansion
- 5.6-C Resolution #08-45, Support of Application Requesting Grant Funding for 9th Grade Campus Project

This item was already addressed under Action #5.1-A earlier in the agenda, so was stricken from the Consent Calendar.

On a motion made by Mr. Katz and seconded by Mrs. Hague, the Board approved the remaining consent items, and striking Consent Item 5.6-C, by a 7-0 vote.

Business Operations

- 4.2-C Contract for RDV Consulting Services to Prepare and Submit E-Rate Paperwork for SLUSD

Responding to why staff was recommending contracting with an outside consultant, Assistant Superintendent Song Chin-Bendib explained that with the number of current as well as up coming projects being addressed by the IT Director, it was recommended that the District contract with a consulting services company that possessed the knowledge, skills and industrial network to maximize the available reimbursements due the District, noting that this expense would not impact the General Fund.

On a motion made by Mr. Katz and seconded by Mrs. Cutter, the Board approved the contract for RDV Consulting Services to prepare and submit E-Rate paperwork for San Leandro Unified School District for E-Rate Years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-2012 by a 7-0 vote.

- 4.3-C Contract Services with School & College Legal Services for the 2008-2009 School Year

For clarification Assistant Superintendent Chin-Bendib explained that because of transitions in the Business Department, they were unaware of the decision not to renew a retainer contract with School & College Legal Services. As a result, a check was issued to the firm

in the amount of \$18,500, and approximately \$1,300 has been used on Measure A related matters.

Unfortunately, the firm's policy prohibits a refund, so if the District commits to a contract of \$13,875, the \$17,200 from last year will be credited and rolled into the 2008-09 contract for a total retainer of \$31,075.

It was also noted that the hourly rate for School & College Legal Services was the same as for Ruiz & Sperow.

On a motion made by Mr. Katz and seconded by Mr. Richards, the Board approved the contract services with School & College Legal Services for the 2008-2009 school year by a 7-0 vote.

CONFERENCE

Facilities and Construction

5.1-CF Burrell Field Sports Facility

The Board discussed and considered the minor repair work for the teams' rooms, restrooms, and snack bar at Burrell Field.

Assistant Superintendent Song Chin-Bendib explained that because the required repair work for the facility's team rooms, snack bar, and restrooms was beyond the scope of routine maintenance, and would require major capital expenditures, staff was recommending the following estimated costs for the repairs that would be funded by the Special Reserve Fund for Capital Outlay Projects (Fund 40):

1. Team Rooms: Repair the T-bar drop ceilings, and replace carpet, and doors to both team rooms. Estimated cost: \$15,000.
2. Restrooms: Restrooms are shared with the City and the District is currently working with them to ensure that proper maintenance is carried out. Restroom partitions are currently serviceable but will require replacement within a year. Estimated cost: \$1,000/year for cleaning supplies and labor cost.
3. Snack Bar: Upgrade electrical in snack bar to meet the needs of the equipment being used. Estimated cost: \$2,500.

Greg Dyer, Maintenance Manager, addressed questions posed by the Board regarding the electrical upgrades in the snack bar, and estimated costs for cleaning supplies and labor.

It was also suggested that the District look at the fees being charged to outside agencies using the facility, with Ms. Chin-Bendib stating that cost recovery will be addressed at the next Facilities & Technology meeting and staff will return and share the information and bring back recommendations.

Regarding the timeline, Mr. Dyer stated that once the recommendation was approved by the Board, repair work would begin, estimating that it would take about a month to complete.

Mrs. Hague commented that she was very impressed with the condition of the field at the last football game as well as the woman's restroom; however, noted that the latch on the women's handicapped stall was still broken.

The Board echoed Mrs. Hague's excitement that the District was moving ahead with these much-needed repairs.

On a motion made by Mr. Richards and seconded by Mrs. Hague, the Board authorized the minor repair work for the teams' rooms, restrooms, and snack bar Burrell Field, not to exceed \$18, 500, by a 7-0 vote.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Mr. Cassidy attended Roosevelt's Fall Festival, adding that as a way to encourage maximum participation all students were given tickets for games, etc.

He also touched upon a number of issues including the lack of trash cans on the Roosevelt site (particularly in the immediate playground area), and Beautification Day. He asked that a copy of the presentation given by the Superintendent and her team at the National Summit for Courageous Conversations on Race in New Orleans be distributed to the Board.

Mr. Cassidy also asked for consensus on the following:

- Regarding District employees receiving compensation from vendors of the District, it was the consensus of the Board to seek advice from legal counsel regarding any limitations and guidelines, look at other districts' policies, and then pass on the information to the Policy Committee for consideration.
- With Board consensus, Mr. Davis said he would be happy to share his campaign platform with the Board and would work with staff to schedule a time to do so.

- Mr. Richards relayed to the Board comments he received from a Roosevelt parent, stating how impressed the Roosevelt community has been with Principal Victoria Forrester and the energy she has brought to the school.
- Ms. Perry also attended Roosevelt Fall Festival and complemented the San Leandro High School students who participated at the festivities. She commented that Back-To-School Nights at the middle schools and high schools were well-attended.
- Mrs. Hague commented on San Leandro High School's Back-To-School Night, explaining that it was wonderful to see the enthusiasm with regards to the Measure B projects at the school.

Responding to Mrs. Hague regarding upcoming groundbreaking, Ms. Lim stated that the tentative date for the District Parking Lot at San Leandro High School was scheduled for October 23 at noon, with the 9th grade campus scheduled for sometime at the end of November.

Additional comments were shared by the Board regarding the budget, and mid-year cuts, suggesting that this issue might be addressed through the Finance Committee, a Board workshop, or the Budget Advisory Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Future Board of Education Meetings

Regular Meeting – October 21, 2008
Regular Meeting – November 4, 2008
Regular Meeting – November 18, 2008
Regular Meeting – December 2, 2008
Special Meeting – December 8, 2008
(Swearing in and Reception for New & Re-Elected Trustees)
Special Meeting – December 11, 2008
Regular Meeting – January 8, 2009 (placeholder)
Regular Meeting – January 21, 2009 (Wednesday)
Regular Meeting – February 3, 2009
Regular Meeting – February 18, 2009 (Wednesday)
Regular Meeting – March 3, 2009
Regular Meeting – March 12, 2009 (placeholder)
Regular Meeting – March 17, 2009
Regular Meeting – April 21, 2009
Regular Meeting – May 5, 2009
Regular Meeting – May 19, 2009
Regular Meeting – June 2, 2009
Regular Meeting – June 16, 2009
Special Meeting – June 25, 2009 (placeholder)

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Katz and seconded by Mr. Richards, the Board adjourned the meeting in memory of Trustee Hague's father, Richard Alexander, at 9:17 p.m. by a 7-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Pauline Cutter, Clerk