

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

October 20, 2009

The Board of Education of the San Leandro Unified School District met in regular session on October 20, 2009, in the San Leandro City Council Chambers, 835 East 14th Street, San Leandro, California.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Katz-Lacabe. It was noted that the closed session was cancelled.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Hermy Almonte
Mrs. Lisa Hague
Ms. Morgan Mack-Rose
Ms. Carmen Sullivan
Mrs. Pauline Cutter, Clerk (arrived at 7:04 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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion made by Trustee Mack-Rose and seconded by Trustee Sullivan, the Board approved the agenda for the regular meeting of October 20, 2009, by a 6-0 vote. Trustee Cutter was absent.

PRESENTATION

- * The Board of Education dedicated a bench in honor of Billy Campbell on October 15, 2009. Tonight the Superintendent and the Board of Education presented a Resolution of Appreciation and Affection to Billy Campbell, Lead Custodian, for his dedication, courage, and commitment to the students and staff of San Leandro Unified School District.

REPORTS

Parks & Recreation Commission Report: There was no report.

BOARD WORK SESSION

- * The District’s recent award of a Qualified School Construction Bond (“QSCB”) has prompted many questions regarding the requirements of this program and what projects are available for funding. In addition, the release of the District’s 2009-10 assessed valuation by the County of Alameda (which showed a 5.14% decrease in the District’s assessed values) has led to additional questions and concerns regarding the relationship of future assessed valuation growth rates, projected general obligation bond tax rates, and the timing of the District’s ongoing and future construction program.

These topics were reviewed and discussed at the Board workshop. The workshop was presented into three major sections.

Part 1:

Dale Scott, the District’s financial advisor, provided a review of the District’s QSCB program and its current status. In the workshop, he described the following: a) How pre-election tax rate estimates are calculated, b) The legal requirements associated with such estimates, c) The impact of post-election changes in assessed valuation, interest rates and project timing on these estimates, and d) Options available to the District regarding its ongoing bond program. Key points included:

- ◆ QSCB is on track although market remains emerging
- ◆ Original tax rate estimate of \$39 per \$100,000 of Assessed Value (AV) based on assumption of ongoing growth
- ◆ Prop 39 tax rate legal limit is \$60 per \$100,000 of AV
 - Board has ability to reset tax rate with additional approval
- ◆ New reality requires adjustments in bond program

The Board was requested to decide on the options/alternatives regarding the District’s ongoing bond program from the following three basic alternatives:

- I. Delay projects without extending repayment
(Significant project delays would be required)

Plusses:

- ◆ \$39 tax rate maintained
- ◆ Final Payment in 2037

Minuses:

- ◆ Final project delayed until 2026

- II. Extend term of financing
(Debt repayment would be spread over 36 years)

Plusses:

- ◆ Funds received on schedule
- ◆ \$39 tax rate maintained

Minuses:

- ◆ Extends payments by a least six years
- ◆ Costly additional interest payments
- ◆ Complex structure/additional consultant costs

III. Raise estimated tax rate
(Allow tax rate to rise above initial estimate)

Plusses:

- ◆ Reduce finance costs
- ◆ Lower interest costs

Minuses:

- ◆ Tax rate rises above initial estimate

The Board posed clarifying questions regarding QSCB, the assessed valuation market, and the three alternatives that were presented, which were addressed by Mr. Scott. Concerns were raised regarding how raising the tax rate might deter the community from supporting a parcel tax, and the impact to the District's projects.

Part 2:

District staff presented the list of projects discussed prior to the 2006 Bond election. This list included projects that were funded by the Measure B Bond such as upgrade ADA, Health, Fire, Safety, replace roofs, heating systems, paint classrooms, upgrade technology, upgrade classroom lighting, renovating Industrial Arts Building and the vacated SLAM area. In addition new construction funded by Measure B included the new 9th Grade campus, Arts Education Center, PG&E lot purchase, San Leandro High School library expansion, Bancroft Middle School expansion for parking, high school open space improvements and hardscaping, and a financial reserve to safeguard cost escalation.

The Board also discussed and reviewed projects that were not funded after the passing of the Measure B Bond including additional classroom modernization items such as new window systems, upgrade electrical system, exterior paint and wall finishes, exterior doors replacement, intercom/bell systems upgrade, and Burrell Field to name a few.

Staff also included copies of the full text of the Measure B Bond Resolution outlining the areas funded including upgrade heating, ventilation, electrical, lighting, and plumbing systems to improve energy efficiency, and repair and improve athletic fields and related facilities District-wide.

Additional comments and requests from the Board included:

- Staff to provide the Board with updated figures on funds spent and anticipated, so they can get an overall picture of what can be done in

the best interest of the schools

- Include Burrell Field in future discussions
- Why air condition was not included in the project list
- What type of savings can the District anticipate through light modifications, window and heating systems modernization, and/or solar energy
- Partnering with the SLSF to renovate Burrell Field

Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) President Deborah Cox also said that the COC supported resetting the tax rate (Alternative #3); however, remained concerned with the impact to the senior citizen community.

Part 3:

Community input was requested regarding what projects are available for funding from the estimated \$10M savings in the issuance of QSCB. Several projects such as Burrell field; San Leandro High School pools; and solar panels for all school sites have been mentioned by many stakeholders. The Board received information from the community and public regarding these and any other potential projects to be funded from the savings of the QSCB. Discussion will begin and a final decision on project(s) to be funded will occur at a later Board meeting.

CONFERENCE

Business Operations

4.1-CF Alternatives Available to the District's Ongoing Bond Program as Presented by the District's Financial Advisor for the Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB)

The Board discussed and considered the three alternatives available to the District's Ongoing Bond Program as Presented by the District's Financial Advisor for the Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB).

Assistant Superintendent Chin-Bendib explained that it was necessary for the Board to take action tonight as the District is planning on issuing the QCSB in early December, which was already an extension from the original September/October time table.

Trustee Cutter remained concerned about the District's cash flow and the impact to the senior citizen community, stating that in good conscience she could not support raising the tax rate above the initial estimate.

It was noted that while there were risks involved with all the proposed alternatives, most agreed that Option #3, to allow the tax rate to rise above the initial estimate, would provide the District the flexibility to complete some of the projects in the time that has been allocated, not risk the matching funds and grants that have been secured for these projects, as well as the overall costs.

On a motion made by Trustee Mack-Rose and seconded by Trustee Sullivan, the Board approved Option #3, as presented, to allow the tax rate to rise above the initial estimate, by a 6-1 vote. Trustee Cutter voting no.

PRESENTATION

- * Bob Maginnis, Martin Capron, Geno Yun, and Deborah Cox described the mission of the San Leandro Sports Foundation (SLSF), its support of sports and facilities at San Leandro schools, and the need for improvements to existing facilities, adding that “We owe it to the children of this community to have a proper school that includes the sports venues.” The SLSF also presented the process and results of its workshops on the design of Burrell Field and summarized the needs and ongoing efforts to support a competitive pool at the high school. Highlights included:
 - SLSF encouraged the Board to approve the placing of a facilities bond on the November 2010 ballot that encompasses modernizing sports facilities throughout the District including Burrell Field.
 - SLSF encouraged the Board to approve spending up to \$3.5 million of the “stimulus” money towards rebuilding the high school swimming pool. Delay in committing funds to rebuild the pool could mean the closure of the pool, adding that

Pictures depicting the condition of Burrell Field in comparison to the facilities at neighboring school districts i.e. Castro Valley High, Amador Valley High, and Logan High were shared.

Architect Geno Yun stated that based on the studies and the public workshops, it was determined that in addition to the same amenities currently provided on the site, the future Burrell Field site could have the capacity for a 2500 seat stadium that would accommodate other sports such as rugby and lacrosse, two basketball courts, and the baseball stadium currently located at the site. In addition, an all-weather track, field, and lighting would allow year-round use.

Mr. Yun stated that a much more energy efficient pool (like so many of the other facilities in the bay area), would provide the District the opportunity to

take advantage of renewal energy technology such as solar hot water, heating, water conservation measures, and more advanced main-drain technology for safer pool use, thus decreasing the operating costs.

Deborah Cox, San Leandro Education Foundation echoed those sentiments and Carol Alvarez, a long-time supporter of the local swim teams including the “Drowning Darryls”, shared some historical facts about the pool.

Board members shared their excitement and thanked the presenters for their ongoing optimism, enthusiasm, and energy towards making the schools better.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The Board heard comments from the following community members in support of restoring the pool at San Leandro High School:

- Denise McHale appreciated the Board’s enthusiasm and thanked them for listening and considering the “SOS” for the pool.
- Michele Felarca, Washington Manor Swim Team President, spoke on the benefits of having a pool, and encouraged the Board to not let the pool close.
- Paul Pierce, President of the San Leandro Swim Team, urged the Board to support their goal of providing a new pool for the school and community.

The Board took a break at 9:30 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 9:36 p.m.

REPORTS

- 1) Correspondence – Clerk Cutter reported receipt of the following emails between October 6, 2009-October 16, 2009 from: Sonal Patel regarding thank you to Trustee Almonte for attending Open House and support for Chris Lim’s leadership; from Carolyn Carr regarding invitation to TARI, October 28, 2009; from Garry Grotke regarding suggestion for naming 9th Grade Campus; from SLED Foundation regarding thank you for EAT OUT night; from Bobbie Brooks regarding letter of support for Superintendent Lim; from Paula Crosetti regarding Lincoln High School Newsletter; from Carol Delton regarding concerns about budget and potential financial resources; from Audrey Brown regarding thank you for attending the Teacher of the Year event; from Karen Hale regarding Garfield Parent Newsletter; and from Mary Styner regarding Business Academy Volunteer Needs 2009-2010 school year.
- 2) Student Board Member Report – Steven Mills, Student Board Member representative, provided an update on activities at San Leandro High School. Highlights include:

- College Bound had its first meeting on October 13. Students interested in attending college learn how to sign up for the SAT, how to write a personal statement and how to decide where to apply
- Sports Walk-a-Thon is Sunday, October 25
- Homecoming is this week. The dance was very successful. The Homecoming rally (which will be outside on a stage for the first time) will be this Friday, October 25 at 2 p.m. The Homecoming game will be at 7 pm. at Burrell Field. Classes will parade with murals representing their class theme, and the Homecoming Court winners will be announced
- ASB is organizing a way to solicit names for the new 9th Grade Campus
- As a way of raising awareness to the swine flu, students are posting flyers in the restrooms, reminding students to wash their hands.

Mr. Mills mentioned that students feel that the tardy policy is too stringent particularly in the morning when, because of traffic, students may be only a few minutes late

3) Union Representative Reports - Julio Hernandez , Principal of Wilson Elementary School, on behalf of the San Leandro Management Association, provided the following report:

- School sites are creating their school site plans for the next two years, and sharing STAR data results with the community and staff
- Since being named a Program Improvement district, schools sites have been having a variety of meetings to engage our families in the PI process, sharing the data and implications of PI, and receiving input from the community regarding school culture, equal access and parent engagement to inform our plans
- Staff has been combing through the Academic Program Survey and Essential Program Components
- Two new exciting parent engagement and leadership programs are up and running – High Expectations at the elementary school level and Parent Institute for Quality of Education at the middle school level

Mr. Hernandez also reported that Wilson Elementary recently opened a Parent Center to engage parents, and Trustee Almonte will be making a presentation on “Naming the 9th Grade Campus” on Oct 22.

4) Superintendent’s Report - Superintendent Lim reported that while the District didn’t fully participate in the recent “Great ShakeOut”, she is making Disaster Preparedness a top priority. Key points included:

- Training staff on how to be prepared in a case of a major earthquake or disaster has become the main focus
- The Emergency Organization Chart has been revised

- Training on roles and responsibilities will take place within the next couple of weeks
- Inventory is being gathered at the District Office and site level,
- The Superintendent is creating a check list to be sure the principals are on top of this at their sites
- An EO Training is scheduled for November 9, 2009
- A table-talk is scheduled for December
- District Support Team will be practicing at their meetings every other week
- On January 14 there will be a District-wide simulation with a Leadership debriefing at the end of the day

Online Charter School: Superintendent Lim informed the Board that, at the request of Assistant Superintendent Chin-Bendib to have the charter school consider rescinding their request, we received a letter informing the District that Charter School Development Systems is formally withdrawing the Global Tides K-12 online charter school petition.

Joint School Site Council/District/CTA Training will be November 5 at 6 p.m. at the District Office.

Ninth Grade Campus: A twenty-three member Task Force was convened and has had their first meeting focusing on outlining the ninth grade program. She will be will discussing operational issues such as custodians and security with Cabinet. The Task Force expects to meet about eight more times and will provide the Board with a presentation.

The Kindergarten Task Force met. Unfortunately, Trustee Prola was unable to attend. Superintendent Lim said that the Task Force was looking at holding their meetings on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. The Superintendent asked that, by the end of the meeting, Trustees Mack-Rose, Prola and Cutter submit three dates that they can jointly attend as the Task Force is anxiously waiting to meet with them.

Baltimore: Superintendent Lim reported that she asked each member of the team (Teachers Anita Schriver, Lisa Wong, Mike Kertesz; Vice Principal Lori Watson; Principals Mary Ann Valles, Jan Nuno; and Trustee Sullivan) to provide her with the three top things they learned or experienced at the 2nd Annual Summit for Courageous Conversations in Baltimore. Below are some of their reflections that the Superintendent shared with the Board:

- The eight of us come from very different perspectives and places. Yet we all hold a common and critical vision of equity for our students. To a person, our stories told of ensuring safe, serious and consistent support for our children and never backing off from our responsibility for reaching our black and brown students.
- Presenting our SLUSD story made me proud to have come so far and grateful to be beyond the isolation that it once took to do this. The reaction from the audience said

it all when one woman announced, “I can retire now that I know that there are others in this world who are willing and capable of doing antiracist work.” Another principal from Connecticut said, “I was going to retire because I am so exhausted doing this work in isolation. But now that I have heard your story, there may be hope for us in our district.”

- A district administrator from Denver caught me as I was leaving the awards ceremony, asking if there was any way she could bring her district in touch with ours for coaching and mentoring. She had heard about both of our presentations and was impressed, as so many including a Board member, Superintendent, principals and teachers.
- I will never forget when James Lowen wandered into our session late and sat with intense concentration as we talked. He left early, but later stopped me in the hallway to say what a great presentation it was. In his keynote address Mr. Lowen mentioned us twice, first by saying that he wished that he had more time to visit sessions like the San Leandro one at the Summit, and then when he suggested that San Leandro may have been one of the Sundown Towns that he speaks about in his recent book.
- Our visit to the African American History museum deepened my knowledge about history. The 381 display for the Montgomery bus boycott changed my perception of the suffering and power in the movement. I was especially touched by the quote by Wilcox, “To sin by silence when we should protest makes cowards of men.” I was starkly reminded again of my responsibility as a white woman to never, ever sit back in complacency when matters of racism arise.
- It was also very rewarding to hear from Ben Jealous, President, from the NAACP, and his message to all of us—as he spoke about public schools and the incident that happened to the male student that was murdered by fellow youth. The importance of the unspoken/spoken messages that we send out—some are heard and others are not heard.
- Educators of different ethnicities, male and female, all with the common goal—being truthful about inequities and now choosing to have conversations around this inequity and planning to do something about it. If we don’t plan (do), then we are planning to fail (a group of students) those who are looking at adults for guidance!
- The student presentations and the educators who taught the students. Specifically, I was most impressed by the Logan HS forensics team on Sunday and then more impressed again by Tommie Lindsey’s award presentation and acceptance speech on Wednesday.
- I was impressed by the strong, diverse across the board leadership and presentation of SLUSD. (The photo of you all is powerfully symbolic. The attendance and mention by James L. was the icing on the cake.)
- The fact that we were a team...all of us, parent, teachers, and administrators...all working together to share our equity stories, challenges, and gifts. Its was delightful and rare experience to cross the boundaries that often separate us in our roles in the educational community. (Yes, I needed Carmen there to feel that our circle was complete)
- Listening to educators of color as they challenged the role of Whiteness that underscores the digital divide in schools.
- The wisdom and talent of the keynote speakers and the student performers were the doses of medicine I needed in order to come back and combat the battle fatigue of our work.

Superintendent Lim also shared a video taken at the Summit

acknowledging and presenting Trustee Sullivan with the 2009 Summit Community Empowerment Award from Glenn Singleton.

CONSENT ITEMS

Trustee Hague requested that Consent Item 3.4-C Recommendation from Administrative Panel for Expulsion for Students E01-09/10, E02-09/10, and E03-09/10 be pulled from the Consent Calendar.

General Services

1.1-C Approval of Board Minutes – September 1, 2009

Human Resources

2.1-C Acceptance of Personnel Report

Educational Services

3.1-C Acceptance of Donations

3.2-C Contract between the San Leandro Unified School District and Spencer Johnson of *On the Ball Spinny*

3.3-C Memorandum of Understanding between the San Leandro Unified School District and the California Reading and Literature Project of the San Francisco Region

3.5-C Revised Agreement between San Leandro Unified School District and Teneh Weller, Parent Educator, High Expectations

Business Operations

4.1-C Ratification of September 2009 Payroll

4.2-C Approval of Bill Warrants

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

Educational Services

3.4-C Recommendation from Administrative Panel for Expulsion for Students E01-09/10, E02-09/10, and E03-09/10.

This item was pulled from the agenda.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Business Operations

4.1-I Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous receipts in the amount of \$1,684,164.70 have been deposited in the Treasury of Alameda County.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Trustee Sullivan commented on what a rewarding experience it was for her to be part of the Second Annual Summit for Courageous Conversation '09 in Baltimore, where so many educators of different ethnicities came together with the common goal of achieving racial equity and excellence in education. She thanked the Superintendent and District team for displaying to the nation “the work that you and the District do so diligently”, and for all of your support. It was the hope of Trustee Sullivan that everyone will join this work and reach out to the underrepresented students so that they can feel and know that someone is “advocating for them.”

Trustee Sullivan passed on a suggestion she received from a parent that the class of 2010 might consider collectively submitting a name for the 9th Grade Campus, adding that maybe Student Board represent Steven Mills could encourage the seniors to consider this suggestion.

- Trustee Mack-Rose prefaced her comments by offering an apology to Assistant Superintendent Song Chin-Bendib for the last meeting’s line of questioning regarding the slides presented, adding that it was never her intent to embarrass or intimidate staff and prevent them from clarifying. Trustee Mack-Rose noted; however, that she felt that the slide itself was poorly conceived, and that the information presented was overlooked by the Board Finance Committee, agenda planning, and the Superintendent. Trustee Mack-Rose hoped that in the future, when presenting information at public meetings it is clear, concise and not confusing, adding that she “did not mean to put the Assistant Superintendent on the spot in that way.”

Trustee Mack-Rose was concerned that it had been sometime since the Board had received an update from the District’s representative to the City Parks and Recreation Commission, adding that with the issue of Measure WW funds, a potential bond in November 2010, and joint-use possibilities, there should be a stronger advocate on that committee. Trustee Mack-Rose requested that someone check to see if our representative was still interested in serving on that commission.

Trustee Mack-Rose reminded staff that there have been several requests for a summary of all Tier III programs and funds, and hoped that information would be shared at the next Board meeting.

Trustee Mack-Rose referred to an email from a parent regarding hand gel and the cost benefit. She hoped staff could consider that as a possibility.

Trustee Mack-Rose encouraged the Board to attend the Walk-A Thon on Sunday, October 25, at Burrell Field.

- Trustee Prola commented that approximately 40-45 people attending the bench dedication ceremony/reception honoring Billy Campbell.

Trustee Prola reminded the Board of her request regarding adding “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” on the agenda and hoped that it could be included on the next agenda for consideration next year.

Trustee Prola attended the San Leandro Sports Foundation fundraiser at the Englander. She was disappointed that she was the only Board member in attendance and hoped that at the next fundraiser more members would be available to attend.

Trustee Prola distributed an article from School Services of California regarding “What State Receivership Means and Why It’s Best to Avoid It”.

Trustee Prola reported that several Trustees have been providing presentations to District/community groups regarding the “The Naming of the 9th Grade Campus.

Trustee Prola congratulated Trustee Sullivan as being the recipient of “The 2009 Summit Community Empowerment Award.”

- Trustee Cutter commented that she found the memo from the City summarizing the findings of the Revenue Measure Survey taken recently asking voters of San Leandro about a potential sales tax increase to be very enlightening.

Trustee Cutter would like to see the District/Liaison Committee begin discussing a facilities bond and WW funds, as well as working on the process. She would like to see the Board Finance Committee begin considering an operational budget for the 9th Grade Campus, and future cuts.

Trustee Cutter asked that the meeting days with Molly McGee-Hewitt be included under future meeting dates at the end of each agenda, adding that tentatively the next date will be November 19 at 6 p.m.

- Trustee Hague asked that the October 22, 2009, Special Board meeting be taken off the calendar because it was cancelled due to unavailability by the Trustees.

Trustee Hague was concerned that with budget issues looming, the Board Finance Committee and Budget Advisory Committee have not been meeting regularly.

Trustee Hague commented that Pleasanton Unified installed hand sanitizer between classrooms, however, noted that the alcohol-based sanitizers have become a concern. She suggested that that, as a way of alleviating costs, the District might consider partnering with a local agency such as Clorox.

Trustee Hague also asked for an attendance update at the sites.

- Trustee Almonte commented that he received an invitation from Senator Ellen Corbett and planned on attending a hearing of the California State Senate Select Committee on Earthquake and Disaster Preparedness on Monday, October 26, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Hayward City Hall. The focus of the hearing will be on lessons learned during the “Great ShakeOut”, how far we have come since the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, and how prepared are our communities to respond to a major disaster. Trustee Almonte asked that Superintendent Lim email him the District’s disaster preparedness plan and he would be happy to present it during the hearing; however the Superintendent said that she would be sending a representative.
- Trustee Katz-Lacabe also congratulated Trustee Sullivan for receiving the 2009 Courageous Empowerment Award and the team for their presentation at the 2009 Summit.
Trustee Katz-Lacabe also offered to call Juan Manual Martinez regarding his interest in continuing as the District’s Parks and Recreation Commission representative.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Future Board of Education Meetings

Special Meeting – October 22, 2009, 6 pm, DO

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 Hague and seconded by Trustee Prola, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m. by a 7-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Pauline Cutter, Clerk