

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

October 19, 2010

The Board of Education of the San Leandro Unified School District met in regular session on October 20, 2010, in the San Leandro City Council Chambers, 835 East 14th Street, San Leandro, California.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Katz-Lacabe.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Trustee Pauline Cutter
Trustee Morgan Mack-Rose
Trustee Diana Prola
Trustee Carmen Sullivan
Trustee Hermy Almonte, Clerk
Trustee Lisa Hague, Vice President
Trustee Mike Katz-Lacabe, President
Jeff Engler, Student Board Member

DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT

Cindy Cathey, Superintendent
Song Chin-Bendib, Assistant Superintendent
Debbie Wong, Interim Assistant Superintendent
John Thompson, Senior Director II
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 6:00 p.m., the Board went into closed session for Student Expulsions; Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Hiring; Conference with Labor Negotiator; Conference with Legal Counsel-Anticipated Litigation – Significant exposure to litigation: 1 case; Conference with Real Property Negotiator – Property(ies); pursuant to Education Code Sections 35146 and 48918(c), and Government Code Sections 54957, 54957.6, 54956.9, and 54956.8. The closed session was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 7:08 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. President Katz-Lacabe said the Board had been in closed session where no reportable action was taken.

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 October 19, 2010, by a 7-0 vote.

PRESENTATIONS

* National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist

The Board of Education and the Superintendent recognized San Leandro High School senior Shannon Lee for being named a 2011 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist who has advanced to the Finalist level.

The nationwide pool of Semifinalist, which represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, include the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of Semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become a Finalist, a Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the high school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test. The Semifinalist and high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, which included the student's essay and information about the Semifinalist's participation and leadership in school and community activities.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2011 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 275,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

ACTION ITEM

General Services

1.1-A Interview Candidates and Appoint a Trustee for Area 6 Due to a “Failure to Elect”

President Katz-Lacabe explained that because no candidate had filed to run for the Trustee Area 6 vacancy, a “failure to elect,” had been declared. As a result, Education Code 5328 and 2326 authorizes the Board to make an appointment in such circumstances. Trustee Katz-Lacabe briefly outlined the process the Board would follow this evening, noting that two applicants, Ron Carey and Gordon Emberton, met all the requirements:

- The Board will draw names to establish the interview order
- Each candidate will be allowed a total of 30 minutes to complete his or her interview - a 5-minute opening statement; interview questions from the Board members and a 3-minute closing statement
- Each candidate will be asked the same set of core questions with the possibility of a follow-up question related to a response and/or their applications
- Candidates will be sequestered until all interviews are complete
- Once the interviews are completed , the candidates will be invited back to the general meeting while the appointment process takes place
- The Board President will ask each Board member for their nominee, and then entertain a motion for the appointment. We will use this process until an appointment has been made
- The Board anticipates making the appointment tonight, however, should the Board not come to a decision, October 26, 7 p.m. has been reserved if additional time is needed

Each candidate introduced himself and answered twelve questions posed by the Trustees. The topics included the basic role of the public schools, and the role of the Board of Trustees; their primary purpose/role, what strengths they would bring as a member of the Board and how they would become more effective as a Board member.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Paul Grazzini and Cindy Walters addressed the Board on behalf of candidate Ron Carey stating that as a life-

long resident of San Leandro, his experience as a public employee, and his long involvement in San Leandro schools and commitment to the children of the District would bring knowledge, good ideas and be an asset to the Board.

After recognizing the qualities of both candidates, and thanking them for their willingness to serve the students of our community, the Board presented their nominations and made the following appointment:

- On a motion made by Trustee Hague and seconded by Trustee Prola, the Board appointed Ron Carey as the Trustee for Area 6, by a 7-0 vote.

President Katz-Lacabe asked for and received consensus to move Conference Item 4.1-CF, Resolution #10-62 Authorizing the Filing of the Application for Qualified School Construction Bond Allocation from the California Department of Education, before the budget presentation, as Ruth Alahydoian, KNN Public Finance, was available to answer any questions.

CONFERENCE ITEM

Business Operations

4.1-CF Resolution #10-62 Authorizing the Filing of the Application for Qualified School Construction Bond Allocation from the California Department of Education

Assistant Song Chin-Bendib reminded the Board that the District received \$25M, part of the State of California's allocation in 2009, and issued Measure B, Series D bonds as QSCBs this past May.

The process for applying for a 2010 allocation has been signed into law and requires Board authorization. This resolution will give District staff authority to apply for a 2010 QSCB allocation for up to \$25 million from the State of California. For San Leandro USD to qualify, the QSCB allocation must be used to issue general obligation bonds or bond anticipation notes (BANs). San Leandro USD has \$11.67 million in bonds authorization remaining in Measure B, and if voters approve the new bond, Measure M, on November 2, 2010, the District will have \$50.1M. The QSCB allocation will allow the District to issue either Measure B or Measure M bonds at a significantly reduced interest cost, thereby, increasing the number of potential projects at no additional cost to the taxpayers.

Ruth Alahydroian provided further clarification and agreed with staff's recommendation to adopt this resolution, noting that applications must be postmarked no sooner (and no later, if the district wants to get an allocation) than November 5, 2010, adding that by then the District will know whether the funds will be issued for Measure B and/or Measure M.

On a motion made by Trustee Mack-Rose and seconded by Trustee Hague, the Board adopted Resolution #10-62 Authorizing the Filing of the Application for Qualified School Construction Bond Allocation from the California Department of Education by a 7-0 vote.

PRESENTATIONS

* State Budget

Assistant Superintendent Business Services, Song Chin-Bendib, provided a presentation on the State Budget that was approved by the Governor and Legislature on October 8, 2010, stating that "The good news is that it's a better budget," however, "all the experts question its sustainability," adding that the budget is believed to be built on political assumptions, not sound economic and expenditure projections.

At the Board meeting on October 5, 2010, the Assistant Superintendent discussed budget items including the projected 0% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2011-12, input from the Budget Advisory Committee, and a summary of the Board Finance Committee meeting. In this presentation, other relevant budget information was provided which included:

- Excerpts from School Services of California (SSC) workshop held on October 11, 2010
- State Budget for 2010-11 and 2011-12 and its impact on San Leandro Unified School District
- Updated Tier III charts
- Other budget related issues

Highlights included:

Provisions of the new state budget:

2010—2011

- Reverses negative cost-of-living adjust (COLA (-.39%))

- \$25/ADA
- Reverses 3.85% ongoing cut
 - \$246/ADA
- No supplanting with Federal Jobs Bill funding

2011-2012

- Reduces COLA from 2.1% to 1.7% (SSC projected 0% and ACOE will require school districts to apply 0% for 2011-12 First Interim report)
- Reverses 3.85% ongoing cuts

Risks of State Budget

- \$1.4 billion based on optimistic economic and revenue forecast
- \$5.0 billion from Federal funds
- The Legislative and the Governor can recapture “over appropriations”
- Minimum is the maximum. Minimum funding for Proposition 98 is \$49.7 billion with no guarantees that K-14 will receive anything more
- STRS and PERs rate increases

Next steps

- The Finance Committee will meet on Thursday, October 21, 2010, at 6 p.m. where the recommendation will be to apply “money on paper” to backfill 2012-2013 deficit for the 2010-2011 First Interim Report, which much be approved by the Board on December 14, 2010. In order to be more timely and efficient, a special invitation went out to the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC)
- Recommendations will be presented to the full Board at a Special Board meeting on Tuesday, October 26, 2010

Following the presentation Trustee Mack-Rose, Finance Committee Chair, felt that unless the Board needed further clarification related to the presentation, questions can be emailed to Assistant Superintendent Chin-Bendib, and the Finance committee will review and discuss the process.

Additional suggestions included sending the expected rate increase projections in STRs and PERs to the Finance Committee prior to their meeting and sending a copy of this budget information to the newly appointed Board member, Ron Carey.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Carol Delton, San Leandro Teachers' Association representative to the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC), shared her concerns with regards to the evaluation of the furlough days, class-size reductions, and double budgeting issues.
- Latrina Dumas addressed the Board regarding the Roosevelt Elementary School Fall Festival fundraiser and allegations of inappropriate/illegal political activity taking place. She requested that a formal investigation be conducted. In addition, she raised concerns around Brown Act violations, and the lack of transparency and fairness, adding that she would be filing a formal complaint.

Following the comments, Trustee Mack-Rose asked that Ms. Dumas submit her concerns in writing to the Board, so that they could be addressed. Trustee Katz-Lacabe also noted that the event at Roosevelt Elementary was a PTA-sponsored event, not District-sponsored.

The Board took a break at 9:16 p.m. and reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

REPORTS

- 1) Correspondence – Clerk Almonte reported receipt of the following emails from October 5, 2010, - October 17, 2010: From Dan Martin regarding “Supreme Court Decline to Hear Appeal Against Ban on Religious Music”; from San Leandro Education Foundation regarding “Eat Out for Education”; from Janita Lopez regarding “Woodrow Wilson Newsletter”; from Myrna Hernandez regarding “Washington Elementary Newsletters”; from Jeni Engler regarding “Issues to be Addressed as a Result of the Friends of the Theatre Tour”; from Maria Carvalho regarding “Lincoln High School Newsletter; from Glenn Brodeur regarding Jefferson’s Book and Blanket Night”; from Carol Delton regarding” Use Ending Balances to Support Keeping Teachers in the Classroom.”
- 2) Student Board Member Report – Student Board Member Jeff Engler updated the Board on activities at the San Leandro High School main campus and Fred T. Korematsu campus. Highlights included:

- Students are focusing on Homecoming and classes are rehearsing their skits, planning the decorations, and building their floats.

The official dates are as follows:

- October 29 Homecoming Dance
- November 1-5 Homecoming Week
- November 5 Homecoming Game against Bishop O’Dowd
- Students are enthusiastically continuing with their campaign for Measure M, noting that over one hundred students participated in

two block walks, as well as volunteering at the phone banks.

3) Union Representative Reports

- Mark Hamilton, on behalf of the San Leandro Teachers' Association, commented on returning to the bargaining table on November 3, partnering with the District on ways to keep our quality teachers in the classroom and District, furlough days, how teachers' salaries have fared, and receiving accurate enrollment numbers.

4) Superintendent Report – Superintendent Cathey reported that:

- All schools will be participating in the Great California Shakeout this Thursday, October 21 at 10:21 a.m. in preparation of earthquake safety
- Last week the Superintendent took Alice Lia Bitker on a tour of the ASSETS program at San Leandro High School, reporting that students packed the library and computer lab, studying, receiving tutoring, working in partner groups. In addition, intramural sports and cultural dancing were going on and the Rainbow Club was preparing for Ally Week. The Superintendent encouraged those who have not had an opportunity to observe the program to do so
- Friday, October 22, the Superintendent will be attending the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce retreat
- Contra Costa Office of Education will be meeting with Educational Services, and providing an informal audit of our progress with regards to the implementation of the Title III Improvement Plan as it relates to the Program Improvement Plan

5) Board Committee Reports

- Facilities/Technology – Trustee Cutter reported that the committee met on October 8, 2010, and received a presentation on energy education; reviewed portable use and placement proposals; discussed and reviewed the marquee at the San Leandro High School campus; the priority project list at each school site; and the WLC donated plaque at the San Leandro High School Fred T. Korematus campus. The Board will consider the proposed “Project Team” plaque at tonight’s meeting. The next meeting will be October 22.

5) Board Representatives' Reports

- Eden Area Regional Occupational Program – Trustee Almonte reported that the Council met on October 7, 2010, and approved the Quarterly Report on Williams Act Complaints and Resolutions, and Resolution #394: School Safety Month and Red Ribbon Week.

CONSENT ITEMS

The following items were pulled from the Consent Calendar:

- 3.4-C Memorandum of Understanding between the San Leandro Unified School District and Coro Center for Civic Leadership at San Leandro High School for the 2010-2011 School Year (Trustee Prola)
- 3.7-C Contract between Patricia K. Murphy, Seamstress, and the San Leandro High School Business Academy (Lisa Hague)

General Services

1.1-C Approval of Board Minutes – September 14, 2010

1.2-C Approval of Board Minutes – September 21, 2010

1.3-C Approval of Board Minutes – October 5, 2010

Human Resources

2.1-C Acceptance of Personnel Report

Educational Services

3.1-C Acceptance of Donations

3.2-C Non-Public School/Agency Contracts

3.3-C Proposed Stipulated Expulsion Orders for Students E03-01/11, E02-10/11; E01-10/11

3.5-C Contract Agreement between the San Leandro Unified School District and Johnna Brooks to Provide Program Assistance Support at Lincoln High School for the 2010-2011 School Year

3.6-C Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the San Leandro Unified School District and Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE) for Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Self Study Coordination at San Leandro High School for the 2010-2011 School Year

Business Operations

4.1-C Ratification of the September 2010 Payroll

4.2-C Approval of Bill Warrants

4.3-C Approval of Intra Budget Transfers and Budget Revision for Final June 2010 and September 2010

4.4-C Resolution #10-61 to Declare Certain Equipment Surplus and/or Obsolete

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

Educational Services

3.4-C Memorandum of Understanding between the San Leandro Unified School District and Coro Center for Civic Leadership at San Leandro High School for the 201-2011 School Year

Trustee Prola acknowledged Interim Assistant Superintendent Debbie Wong for responding to her questions that she sent; however, she had concerns with regards to the cost of the program in relation to the small number of students it would serve. While she understood that the general fund would not be impacted by this expense, she would like to see staff use more diligence with regards to the use of grant monies.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Carol Delton commented on the use of general funds and carry over funds related to the ASSETS program. Ms. Delton noted that in 2009 CORO was able to offer an intensive pilot leadership program to SLHS students as an in-kind donation, and encouraged the Board to look at the District's vendors who may have the ability to offer in-kind services for our students as part of our consumer relationship.

Trustee Mack-Rose said she had an opportunity to see the recent CORO presentation and found it to be the most impressive program given by high school students. At the same time she understood Trustee Prola's concern about serving as many students as possible with the limited resources available; however, noted that there is a danger that serving more students may equate to a less effective program.

Superintendent Cathey shared Trustee Almonte's suggestion that putting students on a "wait list" might be considered so that if students drop out, spaces will be filled.

On a motion made by Trustee Mack-Rose and seconded by Trustee

Cutter, the Board approved the memorandum of understanding between the San Leandro Unified School District and Coro Center for Civic Leadership at San Leandro High School for the 2010-2011 school year by a 6-1 vote. Trustee Prola voting no.

3.7-C Contract between Patricia K. Murphy, Seamstress, and the San Leandro High School Business Academy

Trustee Hague commented that she didn't remember school groups entering into contracts with outside vendors to sew and embroider graduation stoles, stating that the stoles had always been a student-collaborative effort, where students might make a small monetary donation to cover the materials and fabric, and parents would volunteer to assist.

Interim Superintendent Wong explained that she learned recently that this seamstress has been providing this service for approximately five years to the Business Academy; however this was the first time the contract was being brought forward to the Board for consideration. She also noted that while the basic stole would be sewn by the seamstress, students would be encouraged to add their personal touch.

A concern was raised regarding the District's contract-approval process, and concern about the lack of consistency and equity between the groups who choose to honor their graduates with specialized stoles.

Assistant Superintendent Song Chin-Bendib said that she learned from legal counsel that all contracts for professional services must come before the Board regardless of the dollar amount to be considered valid, and that staff was trying to rectify this.

The Board felt that staff needed to delve further into the process, and because it was not time-sensitive, on a motion made by Trustee Mack-Rose and seconded by Trustee Hague, the Board tabled the contract between Patricia K. Murphy, seamstress, and the San Leandro High School Business Academy for further clarification by a 6-1 vote. Trustee Cutter voting no.

ACTION ITEM

Facilities and Construction

5.1-A Proposed "Project Team" Plaque Donated by WLC Architects for the Fred T. Korematsu Campus

Trustee Cutter commented that during the discussion, a concern surfaced regarding whose names should appear on the plaque, noting that there were many people who played a key role in the success of Measure B. She felt it would be fitting to recognize “the planners and the dreamers” and incorporate their names on a Donor Wall to be placed at the Arts Education Center when it’s completed.

On a motion made by Trustee Mack-Rose and seconded by Trustee Prola, the Board approved the proposed “Project Team” plaque donated by WLC Architects for the Fred T. Korematsu Campus by a 7-0 vote.

INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1-I Miscellaneous Receipts

Miscellaneous receipts in the amount of \$14,048,149.07 have been deposited in the Treasury of Alameda County

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

The Board congratulated and welcomed the newly appointed Board member Ron Carey and thanked both candidates for their willingness to serve the students of our community.

- Trustee Hague commented on how difficult it will be for her to step away from this position; however, she was glad to have had the opportunity to be part of it.
- Trustee Almonte shared an invitation to the Gates Millenium Scholars Bridge Builders Forum from California State East Bay, and an announcement from East Bay Municipal Utility District regarding a contest with Curriculum Connections.
- Trustee Mack-Rose commented on the kindergarten class size, the extended day concept for next year, and the impact of a state pre-K program. She would like an update in the *Confidentially Speaking*.

Trustee Mack-Rose reminded the Board that registration for the upcoming CSBA conference in San Francisco would soon be due, bringing to mind a concern on funding for Board training. There was a brief discussion regarding past practices, Board policy and training alternatives such as working with the County, CSBA, or partnering with other Boards. The Board agreed to have the Policy Committee take this under consideration;

however, the Superintendent said that she would research what is already in place, cost-effective training, and share her plan for the Board's immediate CSBA training needs in the *Confidentially Speaking*, adding that she will be developing a long-term plan and costs for future training.

- Trustee Cutter commented that TB is on the rise and is especially high in Alameda County, suggesting that the District revisit the policy regarding immunizations.

She attended the Trivia Bee on Friday, October 15, and had a wonderful time, adding that she soon discovered "how much you can learn from television."

- Trustee Prola commented on the District phone system and the frustration on getting through to a "live" person.

She reported that CSBA sent out a survey to the state delegates regarding how District's approach sex education. Director of Curriculum and Instruction Mike Walbridge will send her some District materials and she will summarize the information and pass it on to CSBA.

She commended Student Board member Engler for his enthusiasm and leadership with regards to energizing student support at the high school around Measure M.

As a member of the Board of the California Conservatory Theatre of San Leandro, Trustee Prola commented that she recently attended a theatre production of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee", adding that there were a few tickets still available if anyone was interested in attending a performance.

- Trustee Katz-Lacabe thanked Vice President Hague for chairing the last Board meeting in his absence, adding that because of a work-related commitment, he would be participating via teleconference at the upcoming Special Board meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Future Board of Education Meetings

Tentative Special Meeting – October 26, 2010

Regular Meeting – November 2, 2010

Tentative Work Session – November 9, 2010

Regular Meeting – November 16, 2010

Regular Meeting – December 7, 2010

Special Meeting – December 14, 2010 - 1st Interim

Regular Meeting – January 11, 2011
Tentative Work Session – January 18, 2011
Regular Meeting – January 25, 2011
Regular Meeting – February 8, 2011
Tentative Work Session – February 15, 2011
Regular Meeting – March 1, 2011
Tentative Work Session – March 8, 2011
Regular Meeting – March 15, 2011
Regular Meeting – April 5, 2011
Regular Meeting – April 19, 2011
Regular Meeting – May 3, 2011
Tentative Work Session – May 10, 2011
Regular Meeting – May 17, 2011
Regular Meeting – June 7, 2011
Regular Meeting – June 21, 2011
Special Meeting – June 28, 2011 – Adoption Budget

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Trustee Cutter and seconded by Trustee Hague, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:10 p.m. by a 7-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Hermy Almonte, Clerk