

SAN LEANDRO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SAN LEANDRO, CALIFORNIA 94579
www.sanleandro.k12.ca.us

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - MINUTES

May 21, 2010

The Board of Education of the San Leandro Unified School District met in special session on May 21, 2010, in the San Leandro Unified School District Office Conference Room 1, 14735 Juniper Street, San Leandro, California.

The meeting was called to order at 4:43 p.m. by President Katz-Lacabe. President Katz-Lacabe noted that Trustee Almonte was participating via teleconference at 16450 Kent Avenue, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. Trustee Almonte confirmed that the agenda had been posted at the site and was accessible to the public.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Trustee Pauline Cutter
Trustee Mack-Rose
Trustee Carmen Sullivan (arrived at 4:55 p.m.)
Trustee Hermy Almonte, Clerk (via teleconference)
Trustee Mike Katz-Lacabe, President

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Trustee Lisa Hague, Vice President
Trustee Diana Prola

DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT

Cindy Cathey, Interim Superintendent
Michael Potmesil, Assistant Superintendent
Song Chin-Bendib, Assistant Superintendent

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON AENDA ITEMS

None

CONFERENCE ITEM

General Services

1.1-CF Participation in Race to the Top Including the Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding

The Board discussed and considered approving participation in the Race to the Top Initiative including signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Interim Superintendent Cathey explained that while the state of

California was not selected as a winner in Round 1 of the Federal Race to the Top (RTTT), the District was recently informed by the State Department of an opportunity for districts to participate in Round 2 of Race to the Top. To participate, the District must enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreeing to implement all parts of the state's plan, adding that because potential funding to be received by the District and explicit details of the commitments are not known at this time, the state is recommending that the districts' Board of Education come together to discuss and consider approving participation in the Race to the Top Initiative.

Interim Superintendent Cathey briefly walked the Board through the scope of the work outlined in the MOU and what it meant for San Leandro Unified:

- Support the transition to enhanced standards and high-quality assessments
- Use data to improve instruction, including improving the use of local instructional improvement systems, formative assessments, professional development on the use of data, and the availability and access of data to researchers
- Improve teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance
- Ensure an equitable distribution of effective teachers and principals in high-priority and/or high minority schools, and/or hard-to-staff subjects and specialty areas
- Provide effective support to teachers and principals including quality professional development offered
- Turn around the lowest-achieving schools using one of the four intervention methods outlined in Race to the Top guidelines
- Additional commitments include improving instruction for English learners (EL), improving the quality of early childhood education, build on afterschool programs and community partnership efforts, make it a priority to develop multiple pathways for students in high school, and improve upon programs that engage parents as partners to support student learning and success

Interim Superintendent also shared that when she asked the state to clarify how binding the four-year MOU is, the response provided was: *The state is looking for districts willing to make a full, good faith, commitment to implementing the requirements. If a district were not able to meet the measureable benchmarks within the established timeframes, they would be exited from the program. There would be no financial penalty and the district would not be required to return any funding received to date unless it was determined that the district*

did not use the funds appropriately.

The Board entered into a discussion sharing their thoughts and concerns that included the collective bargaining process and agreements. In the absence of Trustees Hague and Prola, Interim Superintendent conveyed that Trustee Prola voiced seniority, merit pay, and the short timeline as her top concerns, with Trustee Hague cautioning the Board that this was one-time money and sustaining the program was her concern.

In response, Interim Superintendent Cathey further explained that as noted in their "Invitation to Participate" message, the state is aware of the challenges in California, pointing out that when looking at what the nation was doing, the superintendents in the working group are "developing a plan for California that respects local stakeholders and the collective bargaining process. The plan proposes rational timelines to create fair evaluations using multiple measures of student growth to be used to measure teacher and principal effectiveness." The Interim Superintendent also indicated that the San Leandro Teachers' Association expressed concerns of using one-time money for on-going work and would seek guidance from CTA and thus would not be signing the MOU.

It was noted that while the program was not perfect, and lack of specificity was a strong concern of the members, Trustee Katz-Lacabe felt that the District was already implementing some of the required areas and if not, should be, adding that it was apparent that there was a desire of the Board to enter into this commitment.

On a motion made by Trustee Sullivan and seconded by Trustee Cutter, the Board approved participation in the Race to the Top Initiative including signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by the following 4-1 roll-call vote: Trustees Mack-Rose, Cutter, Sullivan, Katz-Lacabe voting yes; Trustee Almonte voting no (via teleconference); with Trustees Hague and Prola absent.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Trustee Cutter noted that she would be available on June 30 for the Board goals' setting meeting.
- Trustee Katz-Lacabe stated that he would be available for the goals work session whenever the majority decided.

Interim Superintendent Cathey stated that she would summarize the availability of the members and seek to find a date that work for the entire Board.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Trustee Cutter and seconded by Trustee Sullivan, the Board adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m. by a 5-0 roll-call vote. Trustees Hague and Prola were absent. Trustee Almonte voted via teleconference.

Respectfully submitted,

Hermy Almonte, Clerk