

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

November 5, 2009

The Board of Education of the San Leandro Unified School District met in special session on November 5, 2009, in the San Leandro Unified School District Office Conference Room 1, 14735 Juniper Street, San Leandro, California.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by President Mike Katz-Lacabe.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Hermy Almonte
Mrs. Lisa Hague
Ms. Morgan Mack-Rose
Ms. Carmen Sullivan
Mrs. Pauline Cutter, Clerk
Mrs. Diana Prola, Vice President
Mr. Mike Katz-Lacabe, President

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments concerning items on the closed session agenda.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:37 p.m., the Board went into Closed Session for Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(b).

The Board returned to open session at 6:05 p.m. President Katz-Lacabe noted that the Board had been in closed session where no action was taken and that Trustee Mack-Rose left the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

- Mark Montoya addressed the Board in support of Superintendent Lim. He raised a concern with regards to the Board considering seeking legal advice regarding replacing Superintendent Lim and that funds for such an expense would be taken away unnecessarily from the students. Mr. Montoya offered his apology for the manner in which he addressed the Board at the November 3 Board meeting, recognizing that the Board has a hard decision ahead; however, he only asked that Board stand by their decisions, explaining that his problem with Trustee Mack-Rose stems from the fact that she tends to take a defensive attitude in these decision-making issues, reiterating that the Board needs to make a decision, stand by it, and “not flip-flop back and forth.” Mr. Montoya wished that he could understand the reason this Board seems to want to remove the Superintendent from her position, despite the incredible job she has done, the strong leadership she has brought to San Leandro Unified, and the respect and recognition she has earned state-wide with regards to equity. As a side note, Mr. Montoya also shared that Jefferson Elementary School recently raised \$13,000 from a three-week chocolate sale to save their garden.
- Alton Jefferson addressed the Board on his perception regarding the fundamentals of politics, leading him to believe that based on the information from the members themselves on why they were seeking to be a Board member, a decision has already been made and it has now become an issue of the Board’s lack of respect towards the community, stating, “You don’t need to be threatened by the union; just be a leader in the community and you will have their support.” Mr. Jefferson felt that the Board is disregarding the voices of the minority parents, noting that at a recent meeting with Trustee Mack-Rose, when asked why she felt that the Superintendent needed to be replaced, she responded by saying that in comparison to other neighboring District’s tests scores, San Leandro Unified could do better. Mr. Jefferson appealed to Trustee Almonte to be a leader in the community, and not be part of this effort against the Superintendent.
- Carmen Jefferson piggybacked on the comments of the previous speakers, noting her disbelief on what has been occurring in this District with regards to Superintendent Lim’s position. She urged the Board to think about the consequences and accountability of their actions.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Trustee Sullivan commended Mark Montoya for his work with the Jefferson Elementary School PTA. Trustee Sullivan attended the Wednesday morning rally with the kids, experiencing first-hand the accomplishments of the PTA under his leadership.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Trustee Cutter and seconded by Trustee Sullivan, the Board adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m. by a 5-0 vote with Trustees Mack-Rose and Prola (who left the meeting at 6:17 p.m.) absent.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine Lim, Secretary