

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

January 19, 2010

The Board of Education of the San Leandro Unified School District met in special session on January 19, 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 5:04 p.m. by President Mike Katz-Lacabe.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mrs. Pauline Cutter
Ms. Morgan Mack-Rose
Mrs. Diana Prola
Ms. Carmen Sullivan (arrived at 5:08)
Mrs. Hermy Almonte, Clerk
Mrs. Lisa Hague, Vice President
Mr. Mike Katz-Lacabe, President

DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:04 p.m., the Board went into Closed Session for Public Employee Performance Evaluation, Title: Interim Superintendent.

The Board returned to open session at 5:42 p.m. with the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag. President Katz-Lacabe noted that the Board had been in closed session where no action was taken.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

None

DISCUSSION

Human Resources

2.1-CF Discuss and Consider Superintendent Search Firm Proposals and Narrow the List to Those Firms from Whom the Board will Request a Detailed Presentation

The Board discussed and considered superintendent search firm proposals and narrowed the list to those firms from whom the Board would request a detailed presentation.

Assistant Superintendent Mike Potmesil said that seven proposals were received, noting that he was not recommending a recently received proposal from DHR because of their \$50,000 fee for services.

Mr. Potmesil said that the firms were sent a questionnaire including nineteen questions ranging from their process i.e. closed or open, recruitment, if they had a “stable” (own group of administrators), number of consultants, if District staff would be used, visitation of candidates, costs, and services. Mr. Potmesil said that he reviewed the responses and distributed a chart comparing these proposals for the Board to review, noting that overall the firms offer similar services with the biggest difference being the cost and follow-up.

A concern was raised as to whether or not this was the time to perform a superintendent search due to budget uncertainties. It was suggested that they delay the process.

The Board agreed that, with the number of districts engaged in the search process, the timing might not be right and delaying the search would be a good idea.

They also agreed that regardless of the Board’s decision to proceed, they needed to narrow the number of search firms under consideration to three. Board members discussed the backgrounds and services of the various search firms. The Board selected *The Cosca Group, Leadership Associates and Dave Long and Associate*, to be brought forward to a future Board meeting for further discussion regarding their next steps including a possible presentation on services and fees by each of the three firms and the timeline for the superintendent search.

On a motion made by Trustee Prola and seconded by Trustee Mack-Rose, the Board selected *The Cosca Group, Leadership*

Associates and Dave Long and Associates to request a detailed presentation to the Board at a future Board meeting by a 7-0 vote.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Trustee Mack-Rose was concerned that the committee assignments had not yet been made. President Katz-Lacabe confirmed that the assignments had been completed and would be emailed, adding that any modifications to the committee structure would be discussed at the next regular Board meeting.

Trustee Mack-Rose reported that she participated in the CSBA's 2010 Forecast Webcast and while the experts are warning of more hard times ahead, she found it interesting, recommending that the Trustees listen to it, adding that it will help the Board explain to the community this very complicated budget that the Governor has proposed.

Trustee Mack-Rose asked for and received consensus to have Trustee Prola attend and speak at the Eden Area League of Woman Voters' meet and greet event on February 5, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Trustee Mack-Rose attended Bancroft Middle School's PTA meeting and heard a presentation given by San Leandro High School principal Linda Granger regarding the San Leandro High School Fred Korematsu campus. Trustee Mack-Rose reported that from feedback she received, parents are concerned that social transitioning, equity work, and educating the students about Fred Korematsu, for example, have not been addressed. She suggested that the Board Curriculum Committee speak to Linda Granger about a core course.

Trustee Mack-Rose attended the PTA meeting at Roosevelt Elementary School where a parent shared how pleased she was with the Interim Superintendent selection, but was concerned about not appointing additional help.

- Trustee Sullivan welcomed Cindy Cathey as Interim Superintendent and offered her assistance during this transition.
- Trustee Almonte asked for an update on the District-wide Disaster Preparedness drill in light of the recent earthquakes that have been occurring. Interim Superintendent Cathey stated that the District reviewed the District's plan with two consultants from Alameda County whose expertise is disaster preparedness training and they felt that our plan was too ambitious. Having said that, Interim Superintendent Cathey said that on February 25, District Emergency Operations Command (EOC) personnel, site administrators and their key personnel, who will be involved in the event of an emergency, will participate in a simulation activity at the District Office. Simulations involving children would not happen for at least a year; however

the District continues to have practice drills, emergency plans are in place and EOC personnel are familiar with their role and will soon be able to train others.

- Trustee Prola commented that she received an email (which she forwarded to the Board) from a teacher stating that their site never had earthquake or fire drills. She suggested that an email be sent to the sites reminding them of the need to perform these drills on a regular basis. Interim Superintendent Cathey stated that schools are required to turn in logs every month; however, she will look into this.

Trustee Prola reminded staff to keep the traffic guards in mind when looking at the budget. She also noted that she has heard that adult schools in some Districts are overseeing the CAHSEE intervention courses and asked if it would be possible for the District's Para-educators to enroll at the Adult School for training, thus generating ADA for them.

She complimented San Leandro High School Linda Granger on her presentation at the Bancroft PTA meeting, noting that she has heard positive comments from parents and teachers regarding improved behavior at the school since her appointment.

Trustee Prola would like to see "How the Board is going to monitor the LEA" placed on the next Discussion meeting agenda.

- Trustee Cutter would like to see a budget plan and asked Assistant Superintendent Chin-Bendib for clarification with regards to reducing administrative cuts. Ms Chin-Bendib noted that at this point in time School Services of California is recommending that the cuts should be across the board, not just at the central administration; however, at the same time District's should try and keep reductions away from instruction and principals.
- Trustee Katz-Lacabe welcomed Interim Superintendent Cathey and echoed Trustee Mack-Rose's comments made with regards to San Leandro High School principal Linda Granger and her presentation at Bancroft Middle School's PTA meeting. He also thanked Assistant Superintendent Potmesil for all of his work with regards to the superintendent search, adding that it really helped in guiding his decision.

Responding to Assistant Superintendent Potmesil regarding direction for staff pertaining to the superintendent search, Trustee Katz-Lacabe felt that what he gathered from the discussion, the Board was not certain they wanted to proceed at this time; however, the Board would be discussing this further at the January 26 Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Trustee Cutter and seconded by Trustee Mack-Rose, the Board adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m. by a 7-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Hermy Almonte, Clerk