

SAN LEANDRO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SAN LEANDRO, CALIFORNIA  
[www.sanleandro.k12.ca.us](http://www.sanleandro.k12.ca.us)

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - MINUTES**

April 12, 2007

The Board of Education of the San Leandro Unified School District met in special session on April 12, 2007, in the San Leandro Unified School District Office Conference Room 1, 14735 Juniper Street, San Leandro, California.

The meeting was called to order at 3:17 p.m. by Vice President Stephen Cassidy.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mrs. Pauline Cutter  
Mrs. Lisa Hague (arrived at 3:20 p.m.)  
Ms. Linda Perry, Clerk  
Mr. Stephen Cassidy, Vice President

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mr. Ray Davis  
Mr. Mike Katz-Lacabe  
Mr. T.W. "Rick" Richards, President

**DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT**

Christine Lim, Superintendent  
Cindy Cathey, Assistant Superintendent  
Katherine Piccus, Co-Director, Special Services  
Daniel Hillman, Grant Coordinator  
David Lorden, Director, Student Support Services  
Aulani Cler, Director, Food Services  
Robin Michel, Communication Outreach Specialist

**DISCUSSION**

The Board and staff engaged in an informative discussion with Jeff Hild, Education Representative for Congressman Pete Stark, regarding federal education issues.

Superintendent Lim thanked Mr. Hild for coming to San Leandro and giving the District this opportunity to begin forming an open dialogue between Congressman Stark and the District.

The Superintendent set the stage by having the District team members introduce themselves and their role in the District. She then shared an overview and demographic breakdown of San Leandro Unified, adding that recently the District passed a \$109 million bond where \$45.5 million would fund modernization District-wide, and \$63.5 million would focus on new construction including a new San Leandro High School freshman campus, purchase PG&E lot for high school parking, an Arts Education Center, library expansion, and Career Technical Education.

Staff provided information and recommendations on the following federal education issues that are of concern for our District:

#### FY 2008 Federal Budget Issues

Assistant Superintendent Cindy Cathey shared a chart illustrating the funding amounts for Fiscal Years (FY) 2006 and 2007, and the difference between FY 2007 spending levels and the President's FY 2008 budget request to Congress. She said that Title I Grants, Title I School Improvement, Improving Teacher Quality, Safe and Drug-Free Schools, Special Education, Career & Technical Education, Even Start, Innovative Programs, Teacher Quality Enhancement and English Language Acquisition are the programs that currently benefit the District. Unfortunately, the District has yet to receive any funding for Educational Technology, stressing the frustration felt because strict guidelines and requirements in the application process make it difficult for small districts to compete against larger ones.

#### Special Education

Katherine Piccus, Co-Director of Special Education, explained that the meager increases in federal funding provided over the last several fiscal years have made it difficult for the District to meet the continued escalating costs to fund the multiple services the District is required to provide, particularly with the increase in cases of autism surfacing, not to mention the legal ramifications that can arise should a District not provide mandated services. This has resulted in increased encroachment to the District's general fund. She stressed that it was important for Congress to understand that federal funding for special education must be increased in order for the school to pay for the needed services.

Ms. Perry was interested in any suggestions Mr. Hild might have that would assist us in advocating for additional funding for Special Education.

Mr. Hild encouraged continued dialogue with Chairman George Miller and members of the Education and Workforce Committee to support this cause.

#### No Child Left Behind

Ms. Perry distributed packets of information including copies of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Reauthorization, and CSBA's Fix NCLB Campaign, noting that in

2005-06, there were 683,178 special education students, 1.6 million English Learners in the California public school system, and the 719 schools that met at least double the California measure of success were labeled failures under NCLB.

Ms. Perry also provided a copy of NSBA Support H.R. 648 quick reference guide of 43 provisions and rationales. AYP, Participation Rates, Students with Disabilities, Limited English Proficient Students, State Flexibility (API), Public School Choice, Sanctions and Goals in General and High Qualified Teacher were the areas selected by staff from the list that they felt were of particular importance to the District and provided additional explanation and recommendations.

### Nutrition Issues

Food Services Director Aulani Cler briefly shared the history of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program, and San Leandro's programs, demographics, adding that it was the mission of San Leandro USD *"to provide a variety of nutritious meals with strong student acceptability that support the health & wellness of students and aid in the learning process."* She touched upon the importance of federal legislation – e.g. Farm Bill – free and reduced lunch, the need to coordinate with the federal government for upcoming state legislation, as well as nutrition issues on the forefront e.g. San Leandro Student Wellness Policies, adding that the District was one of 59 school districts to be recently chosen to participate in a study from Cal Berkeley regarding obesity to see how the Wellness Policies are being implemented and their impact on our a la carte sales.

### California Adequacy of Funding Studies

Ms. Perry shared "Getting Down to Facts", a 72-page Stanford research project of 23 studies examining California's school governance and finance system, that addresses three broad questions: What do California school finance and governance systems look like today? How can we use the resources that we have more effectively to improve student outcomes? To what extent are additional resources needed so that California's students can meet the goals that we have for them?

Two final areas of concern that were briefly touched upon included opportunities for federal funding for Measure B new bond projects, and childcare.

Mr. Hild thanked everyone for being part of the discussion and said that he would forward all the information received and concerns raised, particularly regarding NCLB, to Pete Stark. He said that it's not often that you get an opportunity to witness the "passion" of staff and the Board for the work they are doing, noting that this discussion would definitely be very helpful with their decision-making process.

He encouraged everyone to attend Congressman Stark's "Town Hall" Meetings as a way of keeping him informed on issues affecting the District. The meetings are

scheduled on a Saturday, once-a-month, are held at three local areas: Fremont, San Leandro, and Alameda, and are posted on the his website.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion made by Ms. Perry and seconded by Mrs. Hague, the Board adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m. by a 4-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Perry, Clerk