

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

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - MINUTES

**BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP:
Seeking Community Input Regarding the
State's Fiscal Crisis and its Impact on
San Leandro Schools**

February 2, 2010

The Board of Education of the San Leandro Unified School District met in special session on February 2, 2010, held at the John Muir Middle School Gymnasium, 1444 Williams Street, San Leandro, California 94577.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by President Mike Katz-Lacabe.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mrs. Pauline Cutter
Ms. Morgan Mack-Rose
Mrs. Diana Prola
Ms. Carmen Sullivan
Mr. 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
Michael Potmesil, Assistant Superintendent
Linda Pollard, Administrative Assistant
Valerie Cunha, Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:03 p.m., the Board went into Closed Session for Public Employee Performance Evaluation, Title: Interim Superintendent pursuant to Government Code Section 59457. The closed session was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The Board returned to open session 6:35 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. President Katz-Lacabe said that the Board had been in closed session where no action was taken.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

The San Leandro Unified School District, like all other districts across the state, is faced with making drastic budget reductions due to the state's fiscal crisis. Under the Governor's proposed budget, reductions for 2010-2011 are estimated to be \$2.7M to \$3.1M. A budget cut of this magnitude will have a grave impact on the programs and services to our students.

Tonight, the Board of Education and the Interim Superintendent sought input and ideas from the community regarding priorities and suggested reductions. A brief PowerPoint was shared outlining the purpose of the meeting. The community had the opportunity to review the budget situation facing SLUSD, understand program and staffing costs, and break into small groups, led by a school board members and District staff, to discuss potential reductions such as cutting funds for high school athletics, teaching positions and raising class sizes in kindergarten through third grade. Other suggestions included eliminating a staff development day, cutting clerical jobs at the District Office, and staff at the adult school.

The information gathered at this workshop will be used to inform the Board of Education as they make the difficult budget reductions that must be made in order for the District to have a balanced budget. No decisions were made at this workshop.

It was also noted the decision regarding final cuts would be made at a Special Board meeting scheduled for February 23, 2010, at the Bancroft Middle School Gymnasium at 6:30 p.m. The community was encouraged to attend.

Following the breakout session, the Board reconvened the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

President Mike Katz-Lacabe thanked everyone for coming and participating in this very difficult and painful process.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Mark Hamilton, San Leandro High School counselor, addressed the Board on behalf of the high school staff, noting that in light of the increased amount of traffic that most likely will be generated by the opening of the 9th grade campus in the fall, he was urging the Board and school district to work with the City and explore installing a traffic light at the corner of 136th Avenue and Bancroft Avenue.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

The Board thanked staff who helped make the workshop possible by providing an opportunity for parents, teachers and staff to offer their opinions on where to make cuts for the next school year.

- Trustee Sullivan thanked all of those who attended the African American, Latino Educational Summit on Saturday, January 30, 2010, at San Leandro High School, noting that the event was very successful and Trustees Mack-Rose, and Cutter were in attendance. Trustee Sullivan commented that the San Leandro High School Parent Equity committee is hoping to continue in this effort to educate middle and high school students on exploring options available after high school, including both career paths and higher education.
- Trustee Mack-Rose commented that as depressing as the budget is, she was feeling hopeful and positive that as a District, we will be able to move forward as a whole, because there is genuine concern.
- Trustee Cutter felt that the information collected this evening will be very valuable and will give the Board a better sense of what things are important.
- Trustee Prola commented that this was a process that needed to be done, and while it wouldn't be solved tonight, it made people aware of the magnitude of the problem.
- Trustee Katz-Lacabe encouraged the community that, if they don't want school budget cuts, to contact their legislators Ellen Corbett, and Mary Hayashi, and Governor Schwarzenegger.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Trustee Hague and seconded Trustee Cutter the Board adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m. by a 7-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Hermy Almonte, Clerk