

ADOPTED MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING: The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on the date and place mentioned above.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Mooney at 5:30 PM.

PRESENT: McMahon, Mooney, Sherratt, Spencer, Tam

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION TOPICS: None at this time.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION by President Mooney at 5:32 PM to consider:

A-2a. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release – Pursuant to Subdivision 54957

A-2-b. Conference with Labor Negotiators – Pursuant to Subdivision 54957.6 Agency Designated Representatives:

Danielle Houck, General Counsel and Tom Rust, Director of Human Resources

Employee organizations: AEA, CSEA

Unrepresented employees: Management, Psychologists, Behavioral Specialists, Occupational Therapists, Confidential

A-2c. Conference with Legal Counsel Regarding Existing Litigation – Pursuant to Subdivision (a) of Section 54956.9

(1) Robles Wong v. State of California, Case #RG 10515768

A-2d. Conference with Real Property Negotiators – Pursuant to Section 54956.8

(1) Property: Swim Centers, Thompson Field, Encinal Field, 2200 Central Ave.

Agency negotiators: Danielle Houck, General Counsel and Kirsten Vital, Superintendent

Negotiating parties: City of Alameda

Under negotiation: Joint Use Agreement

A-2e. Conference with Legal Counsel Regarding Anticipated Litigation – Pursuant to Subdivision (b) and (c) of Section 54956.9

(1) Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 54956.9: 1 case

RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION: By President Mooney at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Earhart Elementary School and Principal Joy Dean led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF: Board Members and staff present introduced themselves.

MODIFICATION(S) OF THE AGENDA: None at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the regular meeting of January 25, 2011 and the special meetings of January 7, 2011 and January 25, 2011 were considered.

MOTION: Member Spencer

That the Board of Education approve the minutes submitted.

SECONDED: Member McMahon

MOTION CARRIED

Written Correspondence: None at this time.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Vital reviewed site visits and other news.

Public Comments:

Patricia Sanders, AEA President, addressed the Board and reiterated the sacrifices that teachers personally make – foregoing wage increases, donating time and goods, and other contributions. Ms. Sanders commented on moving to a 6-period day at middle school and the possibility of this happening regardless of whether or not the parcel tax passes. Teachers want to work together to find another solution – why isn't the District looking at coring classes anymore? Ms. Sanders read a letter written by Lincoln Middle School teacher, Rick James regarding this issue.

Ms. Sanders shared an AEA postcard supporting Measure A and asked the community to join teachers in supporting the parcel tax.

A group of Lincoln Middle School core teachers addressed the Board and read the letter they received from Human Resources regarding obtaining their single-subject credential. The teachers asked why they were not consulted on the notion of ending core classes, and noted the impact to teachers, particularly at Lincoln where 12 teachers will be affected. The teachers noted they are being asked to take expensive, difficult tests on extremely short notice and teachers may be switched to assignments in which they have neither experience nor passion. The teachers noted the importance of middle school as a “bridge” to high school, with core classes representing the most stable, consistent part of a student's day. The teachers noted eliminating core classes will set up a domino effect and is not in the best interest of the students.

Report of Student Board Members:

Student Board Member Dietz from ASTI reported on the Valentine's Day Dance; teacher sub; Frosh/soph visit to “Body Works”; applications for ASTI; visiting middle schools.

Student Board Member Singh from EHS reported on Pennies for Patients; Seussical rehearsals; Honor Roll Lunch; spring sports; swim center reopening; canvassing in support of Measure A; college tests; college acceptance letters rolling in to institutions such as Drexel, UC Davis, UC Irvine, Hofstra, Purdue, University of the Pacific, USC, and many more.

Calendar Review: President Mooney reviewed the calendar of events for Board Members.

Closed Session Action Report: No action was taken in Closed Session.

Adoption of the Consent Calendar:

MOTION: Member Spencer

That the Board of Education adopt the consent agenda.

SECONDED: Member Sherratt

MOTION CARRIED

Certificated Personnel Actions: The Board approved 2 hires (Aguirre, Berkson) and 1 leave of absence (Pilch).

Classified Personnel Actions: The Board approved 7 appointments (Thomas, Wilkins, Decoy, Eng, Irving, Sims, Pon) and 1 termination (Rose).

Approval of Bill Warrants and Payroll Registers: The Board approved bill warrants and payroll registers numbered 99014-99173, 99194-99264, 99265-99328, 99329-99330, 99331-99378, 99300 (void).

Ratification of Contracts Executed Pursuant to Board Policy 3300 and Resolution Number 09-0064

Approval of Certification Assignment Verification

Proclamation: Susan B. Anthony Day – February 15, 2011

Resolution No. 11-0010 Approval of Budget Transfers, Increases, Decreases

Approval and Acceptance of Donations

Approval of Special Education Teacher Job Description

Approval of Alameda High School Music Department to Visit Chicago, Illinois on March 18-22, 2011

Approval of Wood Middle School Drama Field Trip to Oregon Shakespeare Festival – Ashland, Oregon March 11-14, 2011

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

The employee recognition program is a District-wide program to promote a greater appreciation of District employees and to publicly honor special employees for outstanding service which directly or indirectly contributes to students in the Alameda Unified School District. Each month, at the Board of Education meeting, those employees selected will be recognized by the Board with a presentation by the President of the Board and the Superintendent of Schools. The persons so honored this month are:

Monica Anders, SPED Paraprofessional – Lincoln Middle School
Karen Hayes, Special Ed Teachers – Lincoln Middle School
Jerome Thomas, Operations Lead-Custodial – Maintenance, Operations & Facilities

Tom Rust, Director of Human Resources, introduced Bay Farm Principal Steven Riave who read the nomination for for Jerome Thomas. Mr. Rust introduced Lincoln Middle School Principal Nicole Williams-Browning who read the nomination for for both Monica Anders and Karen Hayes.

Board Members thanked the employees for their services and noted personal interactions and observations.

Highlighting Alameda Schools: Earhart Elementary School

Principal Joy Dean shared information via PowerPoint presentation. One of the largest elementary schools in Alameda, Earhart has a strong academic focus on math, language arts, science and written language with an integration of the arts. Using the California State Standards, the Earhart staff work to provide each child the skills and experiences to meet or exceed the grade-level expectations and bridge the skills required to assure success at the next grade level. The emphasis at Earhart is to support each child in “Soaring to Excellence.”

Board Members thanked staff and students for the presentation.

Season for Nonviolence Daily Reading

Assistant Superintendent Sean McPhetridge introduced the item. A Season for Nonviolence is a national 64-day educational, media, and grassroots campaign dedicated to demonstrating that nonviolence is a powerful way to heal, transform, and empower our lives and our communities. Inspired by the memorial anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., this international event starts January 30th and ends April 4th and thus honors their vision for an empowered, nonviolent world.

Daily readings are just one of the highlighted activities practiced during the season. AUSD schools have been provided materials by which teachers and administrators integrate these daily readings to the school day. Today’s reading is based on the principle of faith:

Faith

When Cesar Chavez was organizing farm workers, he challenged them to say, “si, se puede” (yes, it’s possible) when they didn’t know how they would overcome obstacles. Today, say, “yes, it is possible,” even if you don’t know how your goal will be realized. Have faith and say “it is possible” until you find or are shown a way.

Board Members commented on the success of Season for Nonviolence and its citywide impact.

Surplus Property Committee Recommendation

Robert Shemwell, Chief Business Officer, introduced Aiden Berry, the chairperson of the committee.

On August 10, 2010, the Board of Education approved the establishment of the Surplus Real Property Advisory Committee to advise the Board regarding the use and disposition of the following two properties per education code: 1525-1525 Buena Vista Ave., Alameda, CA 94501, APN 72-380-19 and APN 72-380-020 (“Tidelands Property”) and 2437 Eagle Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501, APN 070-0193-011 (“Old Island High”).

When required by law, the board shall appoint a district advisory committee to advise the Board in the development of policies and procedures governing the use or disposition of schools or school building space which is not needed for school purposes. (Education Code 17389).

On January 11, 2011, the Board took action to amend the August 10, 2010 resolution to remove the “Tidelands Property” from the purview of the committee.

The Surplus Real Property Advisory Committee presented their final report. The Committee held seven meetings from October 2010 through January 2011 and a Public Hearing on January 20, 2011 to provide an opportunity for community input. This process enabled the Committee to complete a report which included input from the community and their conclusions and recommendations for the Old Island High property.

The report signified that Old Island High is surplus to the educational needs of the District. It does not authorize or approve any future non-district use for the property. Any future disposition of the property would require a formal resolution of the Governing Board as outlined in the Education Code.

No additional action is necessary until the Board decides and desires to dispose of the property. The Board accepted the report by the Committee.

Approval of Resolution No. 11-0006 Bay Area School of Enterprise (BASE) Charter Renewal

Mr. McPhetridge introduced the item. On November 23, 2010, the Board of Education received a charter renewal petition from the Bay Area School of Enterprise (BASE). The Board is required by law to grant or deny the petition within 60 days of the Public Hearing held on January 11, 2011 or within 90 days with the consent of the petitioners and the Superintendent. On January 25, 2011, the Board received the staff recommendation to approve the Charter Renewal on February 8, 2011.

Mary Gallagher, AIA, addressed the Board, presuming a “yes” vote on the resolution. Ms. Gallagher thanked District staff for working with BASE and praised the program and its students for their success.

Board Members discussed their personal experiences at BASE and commented on the strong culture at BASE, as evidenced by the number of BASE students who came to Board meetings in support of their charter renewal.

MOTION: Member Spencer

SECONDED: Member Sherratt

That the Board of Education approve Resolution No. 11-0006, Bay Area School of Enterprise (BASE) Charter Renewal.

MOTION CARRIED

Board Members commented on the unique innovation that the District has been able to produce and how BASE is the first student-led created charter school in the country. The choice programs in Alameda focus on the right things and are examples of innovations we need to incorporate. Board Members noted it is critical that the community come together to pass Measure A so we have the flexibility to continue this kind of innovation and choice for students.

Board Member Reports:

Board Member Sherratt shared that she and Member Spencer attended the AEA breakfast for Norcal school boards.

Member Tam commented on the Multicultural Center movie screening event and other community activities he attended. Member Tam added that nonprofit organizations in Alameda can use the 100 Best Communities for Young People logo when applying for grants since Alameda was awarded the distinction. Member Tam also commended Jane Lee who is serving as the transitional Principal of Haight Elementary School until the new principal gets up and running.

Member McMahon noted he attended a community forum hosted by Jodie London that featured Nancy Skinner, Assemblywoman from District 14. The interactive forum was conducted by Next 10. The event provided opportunities to discuss possible solutions for the state budget. Member McMahon and Member Mooney also attended the services for former Board Member Berresford Bingham who passed away recently.

Member Mooney elaborated on the services for Mr. Bingham and provided some details of his life of service. Member Mooney added he will be meeting with Senator Loni Hancock and urged the community to secure local funding for Alameda.

Adjournment: President Mooney adjourned the meeting at 8:01 PM in memory of Bob Bergen, a math teacher at Alameda High School who passed away recently.

Member Sherratt, former Principal of Alameda High School, provided some background information on Mr. Bergen noting the other work he took on (including WASC coordinator) and how he will be missed by students and faculty alike.