

AUSD BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
April 4, 2011, 6:00 PM
Alameda High School Cafeteria – corner of Oak and Walnut Streets
Alameda, CA

ADOPTED MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING: The special 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 6:00 PM.

A. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – 6:00 PM

B. CONSENT ITEMS – None

C. GENERAL BUSINESS – Informational reports and action items are presented under General Business

C-1. Discussion of Graduation Requirements Policy and Possible Revision for Consideration

The Board began discussion on the current AUSD Graduation Requirements Policy and possible revisions for consideration.

There were questions about Consumer Math: are there other courses to offer like a basic skills class? There are minimum statewide requirements for math, so what are the math pathways (would like a visual aid) and are the courses for a semester or a year? Algebra II was another important math topic discussed. Eighth grade students taking Algebra II are getting credit but then struggling with pre-calculus: how do we help students through this pathway? Keeping kids out of Algebra II- this course is the new gatekeeper.

Regarding the Current Life Issues course, it teaches practical skills: is this course necessary or just fluff? Need to take a look at the content of that class. Current Life – what is true content of Current Life? We need to get some info from kids about what was useful in their Current Life class.

Another topic was Foreign Language: do we start language earlier, possibly kindergarten? Foreign language worries about bilingual students- how do we validate bilingual kids for testing? There are concerns about attempting to make students take a foreign language class.

The Board would like a definition of 21st Century Education. What are the technology courses? Need a compiled list on paper of UC/AUSD courses, a visual aid. The Board would like to revisit requirements for 8th grade.

Further questions and concerns were addressed about the AUSD Graduation Policy including the need for more counselors.

P.E required for 9th grade, need to deal with the logistics on this issue. Can Inter-scholastic sports count for 2nd year of PE credit? It must be balanced and fair. What is PE really designed for? Can any outside

agencies count towards credits for 2nd year P.E. (ie: dance and gymnastics). Should students be able to opt out of PE1 and PE2?

A parent commented that their child had participated in sports all years, but 9th and 10th grade P.E. was good for her and it was a good option.

Another topic for discussion was whether to create an alternative senior “culminating” activity instead of portfolio? What is the criteria for being in school vs. out of school? How do kids make a college/career plan? The issue of having 5 classes vs. 6 classes came up: should students have a shortened day to do internship or start a job? What are the minimum requirements?

The Board discussed data on kids who fail classes: what is the policy objective? Do we have a value statement?

C-2 Proposed Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) “Steps to Success” Measurable Goals for Student Achievement Leading to College and Career Readiness

This item was moved to the May 25th Special Meeting of the Board.

PRESENT: Mooney, Sherratt, Tam, McMahon, Spencer

ABSENT:

ADJOURNMENT

President Mooney adjourned the Board Policy Special Board meeting at 8:00 PM.