

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

September 18, 2007

The Board of Education of the San Leandro Unified School District met in regular session on September 18, 2007, in the San Leandro City Council Chambers, 835 East 14th Street, San Leandro, California.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Rick Richards.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mrs. Pauline Cutter (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)
Mr. Ray Davis
Mrs. Lisa Hague
Mr. Mike Katz-Lacabe (arrived at 6:01 p.m.)
Ms. Linda Perry, Clerk
Mr. Stephen Cassidy, Vice President (arrived at 6:06 p.m.)
Mr. T.W. "Rick" Richards, President

DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT

Christine Lim, Superintendent
Byron Isaac, Assistant Superintendent
Cindy Cathey, Assistant Superintendent
Linda Pollard, Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

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

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:01 p.m., the Board went into closed session for Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release, Conference with Labor Negotiator, Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant exposure to litigation, Conference with Real Property Negotiator – Property(ies), and Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation pursuant to Government Code Sections 54957, 54957.6, 54956.(b), 54956.8, and 54956.9. It was determined that there was no need for a closed session on Student Expulsions. The closed session was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 7:01 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Judith Cameron. President Richards said the Board had been in closed session and no action was taken.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Perry, the Board approved the agenda for the regular meeting of September 18, 2007, by a 7-0 vote.

REPORTS

Student Representatives' Report - There was no report.

Parks & Recreation Commission Report: Juan Manuel Martinez, San Leandro Unified School District Representative updated the Board on the activities of the Parks & Recreation Commission. He reported that the commission discussed the return of the Cherry Festival this year and whether or not the venue should continue in the downtown area, and if it should be a one-day event next year, instead of two-days. They heard a presentation from the Burrell Field Initiative Group, noting that he would have an update in October. Toyan Park neighbors expressed an interest in possible park modernization and/or changes, suggesting the possibility of including a Bocce Ball court on the grounds.

PRESENTATIONS

* Certificates of Commendation were presented to the summer Maintenance and Custodial Teams for their tremendous effort in

preparing our school sites for the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year.

Gerardo Aguado-Garcia	Pedro Gonzalez, Jr.	Jill Popjoy
Lori Atencio	Max Gracio	Antonio Preciado
Don Bilodeau	Dorothy Grushkowitz	Maria Quadros
Ron Brown	Ignacia Guerrero	David Quezada
David Calcagno	Josefina Gutierrez	Arthur Ramirez
Billy Campbell	Julian Gutierrez	Valentin Reyes
Graciela Campos	Don Harano	Fabiola Rivera
Antonio Castellanos	Clarence Henry	Bob Roark
Maria Rita Chavez	Ana Hernandez	Aureli Ruiz De Montoya
Al Chorro	Roy Hunt	Lucy Rynearson
Wenceslao Credita	Ray Jackson	Bill Scarlett
Virginia Cruz	Alberto Lara	Mike Scurries
Jim Davis	Flora Lara	Darryl Shields
Jon Duarte	Martha Lara Perez	Andrew Tomaryn
Chad Dutton	Lorenzo Magallon	Firmino Toste
Greg Dyer	Aida Martinez	Maria Urbina
Kem Dyson	Jim Miller	Hung Van Doan
Doris Flores	Susana Montoya	John Walters
John Flores	Rick Moody	Ed Weatherton
Maria Fonseca	William Mumford	Ken Weiskamp
Ilda Fontes	Edward Muthama	Norman Witt
Evelyn Ford	Efrain Ortiz	Mark Wooden
Manuel Furtado	Alberto Pajarito	Maria Zaragoza
Tom Garcia	Ruth Pea	Zdravaka Zeljika
Joel Gonzalez	Victor Perez	

- * Daniel Chaja, Assistant Director of Research and Program Evaluation, presented the second of a three-part series on "2007 STAR and APR Results: Looking Closely at Our District and School Data." The presentation examined trends in school API scores over a 4-year period of time and basic demographic data (including mobility vs test performance and EL subgroups) by district and by school. The presentation also explained Program Improvement and implications of years 1, 2, 3, 4 and beyond.

Slides shared illustrating the subgroup API trends over a 4-year period, confirmed that the District is closing the achievement gap indicated by the continued gains in the District's most significant subgroups: Hispanic/Latino (5.48%), African American (6.40%), Asian (3.26%), White (5.23%) and Filipino (5.72%).

Charts shared regarding student mobility vs. test performance clearly indicated that students with a lower mobility rate are more proficient in ELA as well as Math, than those arriving after CBEDS which is the first week in October.

Mr. Chaja explained how Title I schools are placed on Program Improvement status. He then walked the Board through the process and its implications, highlighting the District's responsibilities including:

- Year 1 Notifying parents of PI status of school and school choice and transportation
- Year 2 Providing supplemental education services to all eligible students
- Year 3 Taking corrective action such as replacing school staff, implementing new curriculum and restructuring internal organizational structure of school
- Year 4 Preparing plan for alternative governance of school that may include replacing all or most staff including principal and state takeover
- Year 5 Implementing alternative governance plan developed in Year 4

Mr. Chaja reported that currently none of our schools were in Year 3, 4, or 5, and that he would continue to work with the individual principals to review PI performance and forecast to identify strengths, weaknesses and next steps.

The Board raised concerns and asked additional clarifying questions to further understand the impact of the data to the District including whether or not the District's growth is substantial enough to meet the increased AYP goal this year and next, how the District's mobility rate compared to other districts, and challenges facing the middle schools (particularly in light of the low scores). Mr. Chaja indicated he would address those issues at his October 2 presentation.

Mr. Cassidy was interested in how the Title I schools were determined. Assistant Superintendent Cindy Cathey explained that the District had made the decision to take an early intervention approach and identify the five elementary schools (those with the highest percentage of free and reduced lunch) as Title I, noting that while that decision could be changed, the District has consistently decided to target the intervention at the elementary level. It was a suggestion of Mr. Cassidy's that the District might consider identifying those schools at the most risk of being sanctioned, and rotate them into the mix.

The Board thanked Mr. Chaja for the presentation. Ms. Perry particularly appreciated Mr. Chaja for crunching down the mobility data and having the data presented in various ways, which helped illustrate who we are in San Leandro, adding that the presentation showed that the District's work in the last four years was finally paying off.

Mr. Chaja will be returning to the October 2, 2007, Board meeting with

the third part of the series on data reflections.

- * Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Song Chin-Bendib presented the 2006-2007 Unaudited Actuals/2007-2008 Preliminary Multi-Year Projections.

Prior to the presentation, Superintendent Lim introduced Kathy Morrison, Measure B Administrative Assistant, and Ms. Chin-Bendib acknowledged the efforts of the entire Business Office with special recognition for their work, dedication and professional talents.

Ms. Chin-Bendib explained that the 2006-2007 Unaudited Actuals includes the documentation of all fiscal transactions of the District, presents the District's financial position for the period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007, and that the ending fund balance of the 2006-2007 Unaudited Actuals becomes the beginning fund balance of 2007-2008.

The presentation included detailed summary information for the General Fund and all other Funds in the District including Adult School, Cafeteria, Deferred Maintenance, Special Reserves, Building, Measure B, Capital Facilities, County (State) School Facilities, Bond Redemption and Self Insurance.

Charts illustrating the combined general fund revenue sources and expenditures and unrestricted general fund revenue and expenditures were shared, including expenditures by function charts that indicated that the majority of expenditures are spent on instruction.

Following a few clarifying questions that were address by Ms. Chin-Bendib, Mr. Cassidy requested that it would be very helpful to see how our District compared to other county school districts with regards to percentages of expenditures dedicated to the classroom.

The Board thanked the Business Office team for presenting a very thorough, and "easy to follow" presentation.

- * "We're Shaping Up in San Leandro" - Recent studies indicate that today's generation – our students – could be the first generation to not outlive their parents, due to obesity related health issues. Robin Michel, Communications Outreach Specialist presented some of the steps the District is taking to address this trend by promoting healthy lifestyles, such as nutrition and physical fitness, as well as the District's work in building external assets and resiliency in youth by collaborating with the City of San Leandro, Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker, the Alameda County Public Health Department and other agencies in order to reverse

this trend and improve our students' academic, social, emotional and physical health.

Key points included:

- A District Wellness Policy was adopted in July 2006.
- Every school site offers a nutritious breakfast through the National Breakfast Program, with the SLUSD Nutrition Services Department serving approximately 825,000 meals a year (breakfast and lunch combined).
- As a result of Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker's, "Soda Free Summer" kick-off, the District is banning all soda from the high school beginning this year.
- The District, along with the City of San Leandro, City of Alameda, and San Lorenzo and Oakland Unified School Districts, have been attending health collaborative meetings, called "Health is Not Just Health" spearheaded by Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker, along with Dr. Anthony Iton, Alameda County Public Health. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Oct 12, where they will begin to develop action steps and plans as they exam health through the lens of "The 40 Developmental Assets" of youth development.
- The District has begun looking at healthy alternatives to sugary treats at the elementary level to celebrate special occasions such as birthdays; has conducted a transportation survey; has been researching fitness and nutrition grants, specifically targeting the middle schools; and is developing plans to increase health and fitness after school programs such as Heathly Habits (offered last spring at Garfield and Wilson), and Pallen's Martial Arts (this year, rotating at all schools).
- To create and implement a consistent, high-quality standards based K-12 physical education program, a 5-Year Physical Education Plan is currently being developed by the PE Task Force. It is anticipated that implementation will be in the 2008-2009 school year.
- Garfield, Jefferson, Madison, McKinley, Roosevelt, Washington and Wilson elementary schools have each received a \$2500 Garden Grant to go towards planting instructional gardens at their sites.

Ms. Michel announced that as part of "We're Shaping Up in San Leandro, the Bancroft Middle School Field Ribbon Cutting and Celebration was scheduled for October 12 from 3:30-5 p.m., with an Inaugural Lap to begin at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Michel concluded her presentation with a quote by John F. Kennedy, "*Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body, it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity,*" adding that we have to nurture the mind, body and spirit of the children and once we begin to learn to take care of our own health, then it can

ripple out to the communities and the planet.

Ms. Perry thanked Ms. Michel for the presentation. She reflected on how this has been an evolving journey, not only for her personally but as a District, noting that “it is an exciting time for San Leandro, the District, and the state of California.”

Mr. Cassidy was concerned that some of the other fruit juice drinks or “energy” drinks might have just as high sugar content as soda. Ms. Michel said that the high school principal had indicated to her that this month vending machines would be stocked with more water-based and fruit-based drinks.

Responding to Mr. Cassidy, the Superintendent said that the Bancroft field should be completed this month, but preferred not to report on any details of the ribbon-cutting ceremony until they had been finalized.

Mrs. Cutter was disappointed in the date of the Bancroft ceremony and hoped that alternate dates could be explored. As this was a joint project, the Superintendent explained that many of the dates would not work for the City. President Richards suggested that the Superintendent email the Board the dates that were ruled out, then the Board could respond to the Superintendent with alternative dates by Friday. Mrs. Cutter also suggested that in lieu of naming or dedicating the field, the ceremony might pay tribute to or memory of a special District person.

Mr. Katz said that one thing he gathered from Dr. Iton’s initial presentation was that the health care system was not equipped to deal with essentially thirty to forty years of bad habits, noting that we definitely have the right spirit and enthusiastic supporters from the City and District to hopefully make a small difference in each students lives that will extend their lives and hopefully outlive their parents.

Mrs. Cutter interjected how the block schedule had impacted the physical activity at school for the students, with Mrs. Hague reminding the Board of the impact of the new physical fitness testing requirement facing 9th graders beginning this year.

The Board thanked Ms. Michel for the very informative and enlightening presentation.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was held regarding Sufficiency of Instructional Materials for 2007-2008.

- On a motion made by Ms. Perry and seconded by Mr. Davis, the Board opened the public hearing regarding Sufficiency of Instructional Materials for 2007-2008 by a 7-0 vote.

No comments were received from the audience.

- On a motion made by Ms. Perry and seconded by Mr. Davis, the Board closed the public hearing regarding Sufficiency of Instructional Materials for 2007-2008 by a 7-0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Maureen Shapiro, District nurse, commented that in the last few years the District has not only seen an increase in obesity, diabetes, and asthma, but there has also been an increase in students needing special procedures, which requires special training for staff members. She would like to see and take part in a District coordinated school health program which would focus on child nutrition and other healthy habits, and expressed how excited she was about the direction the District was going with “We’re Shaping Up in San Leandro.”

The Board took a break at 8:50 p.m. and reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

REPORTS

- 1) Correspondence – Clerk Perry reported receipt of the following emails from Andrew Maruoka regarding Washington transfers and intra district transfers; from Daniela Leamer regarding transfer issue; from Amy Sylvetri regarding text books; from Dan Martin regarding teenagers and sleep; from Audrey Brown regarding upcoming honor California College of Art; from Mary Styner regarding 2nd annual Smith Barney/NFTE National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge – Liz Esobar of SLHS will compete.
- 2) Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Lim reported that while the District enrollment remained stable, it was still 14 below projections. She announced that members of the Equity team would be presenting the District’s four year journey at the ACSA conference on November 9. She will also be part of a panel discussion at the CDE Achievement Gap Summit, hosted by California State Superintendent of Public Education Jack O’Connell, November 13-14 in Sacramento. Back-To-School Night

for the middle schools will be September 20, adding that the schedule would be forthcoming. She reiterated that seven of the elementary schools would be receiving a \$2500 Garden Grant which will purchase supplies and equipment for school gardens. She said that Wednesday, October 3 will be (California Basic Education Data System (CBEDS) day, at which time the District annually collects student and staff data, including student demographics at each site.

Mrs. Cutter asked how ethnicity was determined on the report and if you could select more than one category. Superintendent Lim explained that the ethnicity is based on whatever parents declare at the time of registration and that one category can only be selected.

3) Board Committee Reports

- Facilities/Technology - Mr. Davis reported that the committee met on September 13, 2007, and discussed the E-Rate contract and reviewed the Measure B contract with AEDIS both of which were being brought forward tonight for Board consideration. They also continued their discussion regarding solar power and the 9th grade campus, reporting that it does not appear that installing solar power would be cost effective as part of this project.
- Finance - Mr. Richards reported that the committee met on September 17, 2007, and discussed the Gallagher contract (GASB 45) survey which is conducted every two years, the IKON contract, and reviewed the 2006-07 Unaudited Actuals, all of which were being brought forward to the Board tonight for consideration.

4) Board Representatives' Reports

- Eden Area Regional Occupational Program – Mr. Richards reported that the Council met on September 6, and welcomed Dr. Sarah Gonzalez from Hayward Unified. In addition to continuing to review various program courses and acknowledge service awards at each meeting, the Council discussed the Superintendent's evaluation timeline and enrollment. Mr. Richards reported that as of August 31, there were 83 San Leandro High School students enrolled (versus the projected 110) at the Hayward campus. The Council approved the 2006/2007 Unaudited Actuals and to pilot a Board self-evaluation process where each member will complete an evaluation form following each meeting, and then the comments will be included in their board packet for the next meeting.

CONSENT ITEMS

Prior taking the vote on the consent items, it was noted that the cover sheets for items 3.3-C, Consultant Contract with Hatchel Tabernik & Associates, and 3.4-C, Consultant Contract with Social Solutions for Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) Software Implementation were correct; however, the backup needed to be reversed.

General Services

- 1.1-C Approve the minutes from the Regular Board meeting on July 26, 2007
- 1.2-C Approve the minutes from the Special Board meeting on August 27, 2007
- 1.3-C Resolution #-07-40, Board Member Compensation – Ray Davis

Human Resources

- 2.1-C Acceptance of Personnel Report

Educational Services

- 3.1-C Recommendation for Readmission from Expulsion the following students:

E15-05/06	E07-06/07
E49-05/06	E18-06/07

- 3.2-C Resolution #07-39, Sufficiency of Instructional Materials for 2007-2008
- 3.3-C Consultant Contract with Hatchel Tabernik & Associates
- 3.4-C Consultant Contract with Social Solutions for Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) Software Implementation

Business Operations

- 4.1-C Ratification of Payroll for July 2007 and August 2007
- 4.2-C Bill Warrants
- 4.3-C 2006/2007 Unaudited Actuals

- 4.4-C IKON Copier Contract for Roosevelt and Madison Elementary Schools
- 4.5-C E-Rate Contract-RDV Consulting Services for 2008-2009
- 4.6-C Resolution #-07-41, Establishing Gann Limit for 2006-2007 and Projecting Gann Limit for 2007-2008

Facilities and Construction

- 5.1-C Architectural Design Services Contract

On a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Hague, the Board approved the consent items by a 7-0 vote.

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Human Resources

- 2.1-CF Revised Job Description and Salary Schedule for the Communication Outreach Specialist

Mr. Isaac explained that with the passage of the Measure B, and the increased involvement in Measure B related matters, 30% to 75% of the Communication Outreach Specialist's work day has been dedicated to Measure B and Bond Project communications. Because it is critical to the success of Measure B that the District communicates the progress on its implementation, the District has developed a revised job description and appropriate salary range which is more in line with the present level of responsibilities, adding that this increase would result in a decrease to the General Fund.

Ms. Perry noted that the third bullet on page 63 of the job description should read "*Serve on the Measure **B** Steering Committee in order to develop news stories and communicate progress.*"

Mrs. Cutter was concerned about the encroachment to Measure B funds for anything other than construction.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Davis asked that the motion include "billable hourly expenses charged to Measure B not to exceed 30% of the salary."

On a motion made by Mr. Cassidy and seconded by Mr. Katz, the Board approved the revised job description and salary schedule for the Communication Outreach Specialist, with the addition of “billable hourly expenses charged to Measure B not to exceed 30% of the salary”, by a 7-0 vote.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Business Operations

- 4.1-I Miscellaneous receipts in the amount of \$17,853,586.50 for July 2007 and \$7,875,941.84 for August 2007 have been deposited in the Treasury of Alameda County.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Mr. Cassidy ask for consensus on the following three items:
 1. A presentation focusing on updating the Board on enrollment and the residency verification process. Following some concerns raised by the Board as to the content, and timing of the presentation, it was decided to have the Superintendent look into the time needed to prepare such a presentation and the information available before the Board considers the request.
 2. Create a one-page, double sided handout focusing on students and improving student achievement. It was the consensus of the Board to have the Communication Committee discuss and draft the document.
 3. Create a one-page flowchart handout on the amount of COLA received by the District and how it is being spent. It was the consensus of the Board to refer this to the Communication Committee to explore how this information should be disseminated to the public.

He also raised a concern that school site communications to non-English speaking parents, particularly newsletters, and principals’ messages were only being translated into Spanish and not Chinese. He asked the Superintendent to inquire into whether or not the District was complying with the law and the extent that we translate site information.

Mr. Cassidy commented that it was helpful to have a presentation on the budget. In light of the strained fiscal situation and that the District is in a period of negotiations, he suggested that staff look at ways to reduce expenditures above and beyond those authorized by the Board.

With regards to joint use, he felt it would be useful to schedule a discussion with the Board as soon as possible, so that consensus could be reached on some of the issues that have been raised.

Regarding solar power, Mr. Cassidy noted that at the CSBA conference last year, a Southern California Chapter of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers had a program where they assisted school sites in obtaining and installing solar power panels. He suggested exploring possibilities of generating assistance from private or union organizations in this area for the 9th grade campus.

- Mrs. Cutter reported attending the National School Boards' Association, where President Clinton spoke about childhood obesity, adding that it would be helpful if the information was shared with non profit organizations such as Davis Street and the school PTAs. She attended Washington Elementary School's welcoming for kindergarten parents, noting that it was well attended and many signed up to volunteer at the school in different capacities. She also commended the principal for her uplifting Back-To-School Night.

Mrs. Cutter raised a concern regarding the "message" communicated in a recent letter written by a fellow trustee and publicized in two local newspapers, noting that she had already shared her views with him. Realizing the difficulty a trustee has when voicing a written opinion because it can be construed that one is speaking for the entire Board, she suggested that, through the Communication Committee, the Board begin communicating more frequently with regards to the issues at hand.

- Ms. Perry commended the Superintendent on her presentation to the Chamber of Commerce as part of the Workforce Development Education Panel.

She attended the United Parents' first meeting with an Ice Cream Social, and Back-To-School Nights at Jefferson Washington, and Wilson Elementary Schools.

There was an AC Transit Forum on Friday, September 14, where she received a binder and CD detailing their rapid transit TOD Plan. She appreciated having that time to interface, adding that the forum will be meeting quarterly.

Ms. Perry attended the "Health is Not Just Health" task force. The next meeting will be on October 12, 8:30-10 a.m. at the San Leandro public library.

She attended the Social Justice Academy Community Partners meeting today, where participants engaged in discussions focusing on drugs and alcohol, smoking, fighting beautification, and nutritious foods. She will pass on the information that she received. She expressed how empowering it was to see the interaction and commended San Leandro High School teacher Ari Dolid

for his leadership, and looked forward to hearing more about the class in the future.

She announced that CBSA would be launching a new campaign next year called “Learn More California – Give Schools the Tools to Succeed”. The campaign includes three engagement trainings beginning in Sacramento, Fresno, and El Dorado counties, with expansion to other areas California in the future. Ms. Perry noted that she has been invited to be part of these trainings, and she will keep the Board informed if there will be a training in Alameda County.

She alerted the Board to funding cuts to schools districts for Medicare and Medicaid services on the federal level. Federal register #CMS2287P states that this proposal would eliminate federal reimbursement for school-based Medicaid services that are provided to students with disabilities.

Ms. Perry cautioned Trustee Cassidy that, when writing personal comments to the media, he not use his Board title as it implies that he is writing on behalf of the Board. It was particularly confusing to her that in addition to his letters to editor, he distributed a three-page memo at the Chamber event at the same time information was being disbursed from the District, making it seem like it was part of the District package. She felt that the tone and language phrasing used by Mr. Cassidy played into some of the stereotypes in the District. In addition she said the comments were premature, as the Board was expecting a third presentation which would be delving deeper into the testing data. Mrs. Perry was very disturbed by the article and said Mr. Cassidy’s actions “violated the Board protocol”.

- Mr. Davis was also deeply concerned with Mr. Cassidy’s actions and shared his thoughts and observations:
 - There was a certain amount of irony, in that Mr. Cassidy was so quick to condemn him, as well as a councilmember who used her title when writing an editorial expressing an opinion about our school district.
 - He didn’t understand why Mr. Cassidy had this self-serving agenda, noting that the Board had discussed the protocols on numerous occasions, and Trustee Cassidy had acknowledged that he understood and agreed with the protocols.
 - The entire Board agreed that the voices of the school district were to be the Superintendent or the Board President.
 - Mr. Cassidy is one of the strongest advocates of the Communications Committee, yet he fails to use this medium to craft the appropriate messages, that the entire Board can endorse, to the public.

Mr. Davis noted that many comments relayed to him at the Chamber luncheon included how Mr. Cassidy’s correspondence was construed as being “racist”. He felt that Mr. Cassidy had his own agenda and was not

willing to abide by the majority decision of the Board, stressing that, “You need to stop this detrimental and self-serving behavior.”

- Mr. Katz commented that Bancroft Middle School P.E. teacher, Jim Sorensen, was honored by the San Leandro City Council for his remarkable achievements and impressive accomplishments in setting US and World records in the Masters 1500 and 800 meter mile. He attended the Back-To-School Night at McKinley Elementary School and found it to be very enlightening. He thanked Trustee Cutter for her comments suggesting that we involve some of the non profits in “Shape Up San Leandro,” noting that at the last meeting, the non profit organizations, Davis Street and Building Futures, were not represented. As a way of sufficiently reducing the amount of paper we produce, Mr. Katz suggested that the District could cut down on color copies of presentations.
- Mrs. Hague attended the Monroe and Madison Elementary Schools’ Back-To-School Nights.

She commented how exciting it has been to see the many students participating in the early morning strings program at Muir Middle School.

She noted that tonight’s data presentation only underscores the importance of understanding and predicting the success of those students at the middle school level, and concurred that this was an area that the District needed to focus on.

In support of the District’s effort towards “going green” and walking to school, she asked if middle and high school students are given an opportunity to purchase AC Transit tickets through the District, and if not that might be something to consider.

- Mr. Richards said that he totally agreed with the comments made previously regarding the commentary that was published in the San Leandro Times, The Daily Review, and in homeowners’ newsletters. He reported receiving feedback from many community members, thinking that the comments were coming from the entire Board, and were “racist.” Mr. Richards felt those types of comments were inappropriate and should be filtered through the Communication Committee, which was the purpose of the committee to provide on-going communication (which the Board agrees upon) to the public on what is happening in the District. He hoped that this type of behavior can stop and the Board can come together as a seven-member team for the betterment of the District staff and students, and the educational community.

Mr. Richards attended the Back-To-School Nights at Washington, McKinley, and Jefferson Elementary Schools. He commended all three principals,

adding that the Principal at Jefferson sent an email, thanking those who attended.

Mr. Davis motioned to adjourned the meeting; however, a second was not received, so the motion died.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Mr. Cassidy had an opportunity to respond to comments made with regards to his letters that were publicized. While he appreciates that we all have different viewpoints, each Board member has the right to express their views with regards to the challenges facing the District. He agreed that he would take into account the concern with regards to using his Board title in any future communications. He felt that because the Board hadn't been communicating well with the public with regards to our schools, he chose to speak for himself and try to explain what he felt the reasons were for the tremendous disparities in tests scores between our District and neighboring districts, noting that academic studies across the nation have shown that a tremendous amount of the explanation relates to disadvantages faced by our students such as poverty and English usage, adding that "race" was never mentioned in his commentary.

- Mrs. Cutter would like to see the Board re-address this issue through protocols at an upcoming meeting, adding that in order to be successful the Board needs to work together. Mr. Richards asked for consensus to have Board protocols agendaized for discussion at an upcoming meeting, noting that it has been previously discussed, was currently part of our Board policies and has been approved and accepted by the entire Board.

Ms. Perry felt that it was not necessary to revisit this issue, but to abide by the protocols and work with what is in place, noting that there is no need to venture out individually with ones own agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Board of Education Meetings

- Regular Meeting – October 2, 2007
- Regular Meeting – October 16, 2007
- Regular Meeting – November 6, 2007
- Regular Meeting – December 4, 2007
- Regular Meeting – December 13, 2007
- Regular Meeting – January 22, 2008
- Regular Meeting – February 5, 2008
- Regular Meeting – February 28, 2008 (placeholder)
- Regular Meeting – March 13, 2008
- Regular Meeting – April 1, 2008
- Regular Meeting – April 15, 2008
- Regular Meeting – May 6, 2008
- Regular Meeting – May 20, 2008
- Regular Meeting – June 3, 2008
- Regular Meeting – June 17, 2008

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mrs. Hague and seconded by Mrs. Cutter, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:07 p.m. 7-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Perry, Clerk