

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

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - MINUTES

February 23, 2010

The Board of Education of the San Leandro Unified School District met in special session on February 23, 2010, held at the Bancroft Middle School Gymnasium, 1150 Bancroft Avenue, San Leandro, California 94577.

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by President Mike Katz-Lacabe.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mrs. Pauline Cutter (arrived at 5:42 p.m.)
Ms. Morgan Mack-Rose
Mrs. Diana Prola
Ms. Carmen Sullivan
Mrs. Lisa Hague, Vice President (arrived at 5:36 p.m.)
Mr. Mike Katz-Lacabe, President

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Hermy Almonte, Clerk

DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT

Cindy Cathey, Interim Superintendent
Song Chin-Bendib, Assistant Superintendent
Michael Potmesil, Assistant Superintendent
Linda Pollard, Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:35 p.m., the Board went into Closed Session for Student Expulsions, Public Employee Performance Evaluation, Title: Interim Superintendent, Conference with Labor Negotiator, Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant exposure to litigation, and Public Employee Appointment – Title: Interim Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services pursuant to Education Code Sections 35146 and 48918(c), and Government Code Sections 59457, 54956.9(b), and 54957.6. The closed session was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 6:56 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. President Katz-Lacabe said that the Board had been in closed session where the following action was taken:

- On a motion made by Trustee Hague and seconded by Trustee Prola, the Board appointed Debbie Wong as Interim Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services by a 4-0-2 vote. Trustees Prola and Cutter abstaining. Trustee Almonte was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion made by Trustee Cutter and seconded by Trustee Hague, the Board approved the agenda for the special Board meeting, February 23, 2010, by a 6-0 vote. Trustee Almonte was absent.

CONSENT ITEMS

Human Resources

- 2.1-C Acceptance of Personnel Report

Educational Services

- 3.1-C Recommendation to Terminate from Expulsion for students E73-05/06 and E18-07/08
- 3.2-C Recommendation to Terminate from Expulsion for students E23-07/08 and E03-08/09
- 3.3-C Recommendation for Readmission from Expulsion for the following students:

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| E41-05/06 | *EOD02-08/09 | E12-08/09 |
| E17-07/08 | E08-08/09 | *EOD02-09/10 |

- 3.4-C Recommendation to Continue the Expulsion Order of the following Students who have Left the San Leandro Unified School District = unable to Verify Success of Expulsion Order

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| E37-05/06 | E24-06/07 | E15-08/09 |
| E59-05/06 | E03-07/08 | *EOD03-08/09 |
| E24-05/06 | E01-08/09 | E10-09/10 |

3.5-C Consultant Contract Agreement between San Leandro Unified School District and Joaquin A. Newman for the 2009-2010 School Year at Lincoln Alternative High School

On a motion made by Trustee Prola and seconded by Carmen Sullivan, the Board approved the consent items by a 6-0 vote. Trustee Almont was absent.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Louise Shaw, 2nd grade District teacher, addressed the Board regarding the proposed elimination of the first through third grade staggered reading schedule beginning with the 2010-11 school year. Ms. Shaw spoke on how staggered reading benefits students in combination classes, challenges proficient and advanced students, students perform better in smaller groups, noting that before and after school programs at Title I schools would be impacted. Ms. Shaw suggested that the Board consider cutting the time by 15 minutes rather than eliminating staggered reading all together.

PRESENTATION

Staff provided the Board with budget information as it relates to the following:

- Brief review of prior meeting consensus items
- Update from the February 10 Budget Advisory Committee
- Finance Committee recommended reductions
- Tier III funding update
- Budget timeline

At the end of the presentation, the Board posed clarifying questions regarding the information presented specifically related to Tier III funding items, which was addressed by staff.

Prior to discussing and approving a final list of reductions for 2010-2011, the Board received public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals addressed the Board concerning the proposed budget reductions: Jeanette Wood, Roxanne Ansolabehere, Raul Herrera, Julian Nash, Lucima Leota, Linda Fischer-Werk, Robin Michel, Evelyn Garcia, Berniece Garcia, Robert Tinoco, Aamina Guidry, Louise Shaw, Yesica Padilla, Geoff Landreau, Jon Sherr, Mark Hamilton, Brad Bowers, Chantel Goodman, Alex Harp, Anna Laubscher, Ed Carrillo, Kathy Neisse, Carol Alvarez, Carol Delton, Belen Magers, Richard Ellison, Sheila Lawrence, Mary McMahan, Sheila Paul, Hedy Huang, Saul Rodriguez, Blanca Ruelas, Jeffrey Engler, and Brenda Rohrer.

Following public comments and President Katz-Lacabe's clarification, supporters of the Adult School thanked the Board for not including the Adult School closure as part of the budget reduction recommendation.

CONFERENCE ITEM

Business Operations

4.1-CF Discuss and Approve a Final List of Budget Reductions for 2010-2011 Required for the District to meet its Statutory Deadlines

The Board discussed and approved the final list of budget reductions for 2010-2011 and ongoing required for the District to meet its statutory deadlines.

Mr. Katz-Lacabe reminded the public that the District's budget woes stem from a lack of funding coming from the state and that these reductions are based on the Governor's proposed budget which was released on January 8 and has yet to be debated and approved by the legislature. Trustee Katz-Lacabe encouraged parents, teachers, and students to contact San Leandro's representatives state Senator Ellen Corbett and state Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi.

Trustee Mack-Rose, Board Finance Committee chair, explained the decision-making process, stating that after hearing from the public and discussing the District's budget situation, the Board directed the Finance Committee to continue the discussion and develop a recommended list of reductions. Trustee Mack-Rose reported that the committee met and completed that challenging task of identifying \$2.7M in budget reductions, reiterating that these recommendations "are not an evaluation of the programs, rather they are a sad statement of where our educational system is today."

Trustee Mack-Rose then walked the Board, line by line, through the Finance Committee's recommendation totaling \$2,746,349 setting aside for further discussion the following reductions: reconstitution of the counseling programs, grade K-3 class size reduction, athletics, and the possibility of sweeping additional Tier III funds.

Tier III funds that were discussed included: mentoring (money has already been swept), BTSA (pass through funds to the district from Newark the BTSA consortium lead unavailable for sweeping), pupil retention (decision was to not sweep), PAR (funds already swept), CAHSEE (funds are on-going and will be used to back fill the School Improvement funds that have already been swept), School Safety and Violence Prevention (\$27,000 agreed to be swept). Board members expressed their concerns regarding specific programs which included:

- Trustee Hague discussed athletics, library para-educators, legal fees
- Trustee Sullivan discussed Vice Principals, campus supervisors, library para-educators, and athletics. Trustee Sullivan also talked about the need to discuss restorations.
- Trustee Cutter discussed athletics including the need to explore pay to play, talking with other districts to see what sports programs they are cutting which might help us decide which sports programs are eliminated.

Trustee Cutter expressed the hope that concessions will be coming from the bargaining groups so that restoration of programs can be made as recommended by the Finance Committee. Trustee Cutter also asked about the savings from the 3% reserve which will help the bottom line.

- Trustee Prola discussed custodial services and the need for an A/B schedule, saving K-3 class size reduction, and exploring some kind of merger between the San Leandro and San Lorenzo Adult School programs.
- Trustee Katz reminded the Board that if they were to remove from the list of reductions an alternative would need to be proposed.
- Trustee Mack-Rose stated that it was not an option at this time to reconstitute the counseling programs but stated the District should explore changes for the future. Based upon staff recommendation, it was agreed that there would be approximately a \$27,000 savings from the 3% reserve that could be used to help the district meet the \$2.7M total in cuts.

The Board decided to treat the Finance Committee recommendations similar to the consent calendar process and approve the whole list, unless a Board member pulled a specific item to be voted on separately.

On a motion by Trustee Mack-Rose seconded by Trustee Cutter, the Board approved by a 6-1 vote, with Trustee Almonte absent, the recommendation from the Finance Committee with the exception of K-3 Class Size reductions, Athletics and Library para-educators which were pulled by Trustees Prola, Cutter, Hague and Sullivan (who echoed Trustee Hague's pulling of library para-educators) respectively.

The following is the summary of the action and vote taken on the three items pulled:

- On a motion made by Morgan Mack-Rose and seconded by Trustee Sullivan, the Board approved increasing class-size to 30:1 as proposed by the vote indicated:

Aye: Cutter, Hague, Katz-Lacabe, Mack-Rose, Sullivan
 No: Prola
 Absent: Almonte

- On a motion made by Trustee Mack-Rose and seconded by Trustee Prola the Board approved reducing the athletics program by the proposed 25% by the following 5-1 vote as indicated:

Aye: Hague, Katz-Lacabe, Mack-Rose, Prola, Sullivan
 No: Cutter
 Absent: Almonte

- On a motion made by Trustee Mack-Rose and seconded Trustee Cutter the Board approved eliminating the elementary school library/media paraeducators by the following 4-2 vote as indicated:

Aye: Cutter, Katz-Lacabe, Mack-Rose, Prola
 No: Hague, Sullivan
 Absent: Almonte

As a result, the Board approved the final list of \$2.7M budget cuts for 2010-2011 & 2011-2012 as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| • 30:1 K-3 class size | \$520,000 |
| • Athletics | 82,250 |
| • Campus supervisor (1 full-time equivalent) | 43,000 |
| • Middle school/elementary vice principal (1 full-time equivalent) | 116,000 |
| • Maintenance (1 full-time equivalent) | 57,450 |
| • Custodial staff (6 full-time equivalent) | 264,000 |
| • Site clerical | 46,000 |
| • District Office reorganization | 225,000 |
| • Elementary school/library/media paraeducator | 73,000 |
| • Staff development days | 304,000 |
| • P.E. elementary prep | 339,000 |
| • Adult Education | 200,000 |
| • Legal savings | 75,000 |
| • San Leandro Management Association furlough | 50,649 |
| • Regional Occupational Program | 150,000 |
| • Deferred maintenance | 100,000 |
| • American Recovery and Reinvestment Act | 40,000 |
| | SUB TOTAL |
| | 2,685,349 |
| • School Safety and violence prevention 8-12 | 27,000 |
| • Tier III Miscellaneous unswept balances | 7,300 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | TOTAL | \$2,719,649 |
| | TOTAL TO CUT | 2,746,359 |
| Make up from reduction of 3% Reserve | | (\$26,7010) |

Responding to Trustee Mack-Rose’s suggestion to begin the discussion on the Finance Committee’s restoration recommendation, Trustee Katz-Lacabe indicated that because that discussion was not agendized for this meeting, he suggested that the Board not address this at this time.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Trustee Prola commented that she received the California School Boards’ Association’s proposed resolution endorsing March 4 Day of Action in Sacramento. Suggested activities include a march planned in Sacramento as well as a joint participation of local agencies, students, parents, and administrators, along with the California Teachers Association, in “Start the Day for Students” in support of protecting schools and other essential services from more drastic state budget cuts. Trustee Prola encouraged the District to participate.
- Trustee Cutter requested that staff consider a comment made earlier in the evening and explore adjusting the work schedule for the library tech so that reduction might not be so great.

Trustee Cutter commented that Jason Sweeney toured the 9th grade campus who wrote an extensive article about the campus, adding that an invitation was extended to Jim Knowles from the San Leandro Times as well.

Trustee Cutter commented on the success of the CTA breakfast, adding that it was heartening to see that “we are all on the same side”.

Trustee Cutter commented on her conversation with Andres Cluver, Building Trades Council, regarding the impact of the reductions to the Regional Occupational Program and the importance of union involvement.

- Trustee Sullivan encouraged everyone to go to Sacramento and make their voices heard that “We just can’t continue these cuts anymore.”
- Trustee Mack-Rose thanked the Finance Committee for their hard work and staff for providing timely and accurate information, adding that until negotiations have been completed, things can change. Trustee Mack-Rose hoped that the District can move forward and address these cuts as a team, echoing the importance of March 4.
- Trustee Hague commented on the difficult task that was placed upon the Finance Committee, and appreciated the community coming out and voicing their concerns, stating that throughout the process she remained very mindful

of the impact these cuts would have on the District, especially when it's 100% of something such as elementary library paraeducators.

- Trustee Katz-Lacabe echoed the gratitude to the Finance Committee for their recommendations and thanked staff for providing the information that served as the basis to begin the conversation, making the difficult decisions easier for the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Trustee Hague and seconded by Trustee Sullivan, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:33 p.m. by a 6-0 vote. Trustee Almonte was absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy M. Cathey, Secretary