

LOS ALTOS SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
Los Altos School District Board Room
201 Covington Road, Los Altos
January 24, 2011

CALL TO ORDER	The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cooper at 5:30 p.m.
PRESENT	Mr. Bill Cooper, President; Mr. Mark Goines, Vice-President; Mr. Doug Smith, Clerk; Mrs. Margot Harrigan, Member; Ms. Tamara Logan
ABSENT	None
ADMINISTRATION	Mr. Jeffrey Baier, Superintendent; Mrs. Alyssa Gallagher, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Randall Kenyon, Assistant Superintendent, Business
STAFF	Marcy Birnie, Jim Grijalva, Kris Swenson, Linda Figone, Julie Jenkins, Martha Gomez, Kerri Seymour, Dorothy Cowell, Leslie Ward, Andrea Jones, Genie Sitler, Niki Mitchell, Raquel Matteroli, Susan Goforth-Mautes, Maggie Harris
PRESS	Traci Newell
OTHERS	Gene Coussens, Irene Coussens, Joe Seither, Vladimir Ivanovic, Robert Lerch, Janet Kolstad, Lara Daetz, Jennifer Carlstrom, Nikki Selden, Christine Brown, John Brown, Dan Haley, Nancy Carlson, Kristine Bardman, Jay Gill, Shobana Gubbi, Margaret Brooks, Tom Campbell, Su-Jen Hwang
CLOSED SESSION	The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 5:31 p.m. for employee evaluation and anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code §54957 and conference regarding negotiations with LATA, CSEA and non-represented groups pursuant to Government Code §54957.6.
RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION	The meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Mr. Cooper asked the public to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
CLOSED SESSION REPORT	Mr. Cooper reported no action was taken in Closed Session.
AGENDA APPROVAL	MSC: Mr. Smith, Mrs. Harrigan to approve the agenda of the meeting. AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSENT: 0
SCHOOL PRESENTATION	Student Council members Katia Gibson, Theresa Landi, Ryan Fisse and Lauren Limbach shared students from the Yucai School in China will be visiting Almond School the week of February 7, 2011. Student Council Representatives in grades 5 and 6 will pair up with the Yucai students during the day and the students will be staying with Almond families while they are here. Other activities and programs highlighted included: the Halloween Carnival, a food drive in November, a toy and pajama drive in December, Pennies for Patients for children with blood cancers and Project Cornerstone. To promote school spirit students participate in Crazy Hat Day, Crazy Hair Day, Pajama Day and Western Day. The Student Store is run by the Student Council and the profits are donated to the East Palo Alto Kids Foundation and for making improvements to Almond School.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
UPDATE

Mr. Baier shared he will make his comments during the agenda items.

CONSENT ITEMS

MSC: Mrs. Harrigan, Mr. Goines to approve Consent Items 1.1 through 1.5:

- 1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, January 10, 2011
- 1.2 Purchase Orders
- 1.3 Resolution #10/11-10, Joint Use and Lease Agreement with the Los Altos Parent Preschool
- 1.4 2011-12 Budget Calendar
- 1.5 Personnel Actions

Classified

1. Resignation

- 1.1 Monique Miyahara, Instructional Assistant – Special Education
Effective: January 28, 2011
- 1.2 Ronald Schillage, Gardner
Effective: January 20, 2011 (placed on 39 month re-hire list)

AYES: 5

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0

EMPLOYEE
REQUESTS TO
ADDRESS THE
BOARD

Jim Grijalva, LATA President, reported he attended a conference last week to look at how health benefit costs can be minimized and how the Health Act might affect costs. The basic thought was there is not much waste in the employee area. They are looking at how the insurance companies pay out to hospitals and physician groups, and coming up with incentives outlined with outcomes. Kaiser, Blue Cross and Anthem are beginning to talk about restructuring their costs. CTA is working to create a trust for all public school employees for better rates.

Kris Swenson, CSEA President, had no items to report on at this time.

COMMUNITY
COMMENTS

Janet Kolstad provided public comment on the Los Altos Parent Preschool.

INFORMATION/
ACTION ITEMSSanta Clara Valley
Water District
Proposal for
Blach School

In response to questions raised by board members at the January 10, 2011 meeting, representatives from the Santa Clara Valley Water District presented additional information on the flood control project at Blach School.

The current proposed project at Blach School is a 65 acre-foot open storage detention area with a pipeline connection to the Cuesta Annex. Two options for building underground detention at Blach School include a 150 acre-foot storage area that would eliminate the Cuesta Annex detention area and the pipeline connection. This option would have an additional cost of \$38M. The other option would be a 65 acre-foot storage area with the Cuesta Annex and pipeline connection remaining unchanged at an additional cost of \$36M. Due to the increased costs, neither option would be feasible.

For Alternate S to be viable, the same amount of space currently proposed in the north part of the Cuesta Annex would be needed in Cuesta Park. Following the master planning process in 2008, the City of Mountain View would only offer the north part of the Cuesta Annex to the water district for this project.

Santa Clara Valley
Water District
Proposal for
Blach School
(continued)

The handling of any potential issues during construction are included in the EIR. The water district is not anticipating any archeological discoveries, as they will only be digging to a depth of 10 feet. They will consult with an archeologist if any discoveries do occur. Based on the initial review, no hazardous materials in the soil are anticipated and no major utilities cross the planned digging sites.

The water district would be responsible for post-flood site clean-up and maintaining the site drainage.

Gene Coussens, Nancy Carlson, Lynn Hawley-Wildmoser and Michael Hayden provided public comment.

MSC: Mrs. Harrigan, Ms. Logan to approve Santa Clara Valley Water District's Alternative Z as presented.

AYES: 1

NOES: 4 (Cooper, Goines, Harrigan, Smith)

ABSENT: 0

Audited Annual
Financial Report

Mr. Kenyon introduced Sheldon Chavon, the district's auditor, who shared the district's financial results from 2009-10. Mr. Chavon shared background information on the audit standards. The key financial results were: the district met the minimum reserve requirement, instruction and instruction related services were 71% of total expenses, capital assets were 82% of net assets, cash and investments were 94% of the governmental fund balance sheet and the annual net OPEB obligation was \$654,844. The audit showed no material weaknesses or exceptions.

MSC: Mrs. Harrigan, Mr. Smith to approve the audited annual financial report as presented.

AYES: 5

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0

Financial Update

Mr. Kenyon reported the governor's proposals for the budget deficit include cuts to programs, realignment of services and extending the temporary tax for an additional five years. The governor has asked for the tax extension to be placed on the June ballot. Although there are no significant cuts proposed for education, the program cuts do include a decrease of \$19 per ADA which amounts to \$85K for the district.

Most districts will be preparing for two different budget scenarios: one if the taxes are extended and one if they are not. Our district will need to prepare four different scenarios:

- If state taxes are extended and the district parcel tax is approved
- If state taxes are not extended but the district parcel tax is approved
- If state taxes are extended but the district parcel tax is not approved
- If state taxes are not extended and the district parcel tax is not approved

If the state taxes are not extended, all programs would share equally in the cuts. Education would receive a \$330 per ADA funding reduction which amounts to \$1.5M for the district.

The governor has also proposed to extend the flexibility options for another two years and add \$2.1B in year-over-year deferrals, bringing the total of K-12 funding deferrals to \$10B.

Potential program reductions to address the district's budget deficit may include:

- Raising class size to 30:1
- Combination classes and 30:1 class sizes
- English Language Learner program
- Library program
- Elementary school computer specialists, music/art, PE and science specialists
- Junior high teacher-in-charge and counseling program

- Financial Update
(continued)
- District office support staff
 - Custodial services
 - Maintenance and operations services

The March 15 deadline for issuing certificated layoff notices is prior to the parcel tax election and the decision on an extension of state taxes. The short-term and long-term budget planning will assume a worst-case scenario.

Parcel Tax Feasibility
and Planning Update

Mr. Baier reported at the January 10, 2011 meeting the board came to consensus on placing the parcel tax measure on the May 3, 2011 all mail ballot, the tax will expire in six years, there will be no inflationary factor and there will be a senior exemption. The 75-word ballot language and the amount of the tax still need to be determined. An additional meeting will be needed for the board to take action on the parcel tax resolution.

Following board discussion, the 75-word ballot language was agreed upon and the dollar amount of the tax will be \$193 per parcel. The board will hold a special meeting on January 31, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. to take action on the parcel tax resolution.

Tom Campbell provided public comment.

English Language
Learner Program
Update/CELDT
Results

Mrs. Gallagher reported the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) is administered to students whose primary language is other than English. This year 507 students were tested and 345 students were identified as English Language Learners, an increase of 76 students or 28% from last year. Almond, Santa Rita and Covington have the highest number of EL students but all of our schools have seen an increase in EL students. There are fewer EL students in our junior high schools as EL students have advanced their English skills unless they are new to the district.

Staff is looking at restructuring the EL program not only for financial but also programmatic reasons. Currently support is provided using a pull-out model taught by instructional aides. The pull-out model is more challenging with the increase in students and sustaining the quality of the program. Education Code states identified students are to receive 30 minutes of English Language Development instruction per day.

Tom Campbell provided public comment.

Bullis Charter School
Preliminary Facilities
Offer for 2011-12

Mr. Kenyon reported the preliminary facilities offer for the Bullis Charter School includes 18 classrooms, an increase of one classroom from this year. The instruction, administrative and non-teaching spaces is approximately the same as the current year. With the expansion to eighth grade next school year, the shared use of PE facilities at Egan School has been increased to reflect the increased enrollment. The space will be available no later than August 3, 2011, which is 10 working days prior to the start of their school year. Adequate furniture and equipment will be provided per law. The calculation for the pro rata share will be updated to reflect the charter school's portion of the current cost for major maintenance and upkeep of the facility. The charter school will be located at its current location for the 2011-12 school year.

MSC: Ms. Logan, Mr. Smith to direct staff to complete the preliminary offer as described and provide that to the Bullis Charter School on or before February 1.

AYES: 5

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0

Board Election Dates	<p>Mr. Baier reported this topic was discussed at the meeting on January 10, 2011 and is being brought back for further discussion. If the Foothill DeAnza Community College District does move their board elections to even years, Los Altos School District will be the sole agency on the odd year election cycle. There is a significant cost benefit to the district to share the election costs with the neighboring agencies in the even year cycle. If the board does choose to move to the even year cycle, California Election Code states that the term for current board members would be extended one year to transition to the even year cycle.</p> <p>Following board discussion, this item will be brought back for action at the February 7, 2011 meeting.</p>
First Reading of Board Policy 5118, Open Enrollment Act Transfers	<p>Mr. Kenyon reported this is a first reading of a policy for interdistrict transfer requests from low performing districts to high performing districts. Mr. Kenyon shared the sample CSBA policy and the current interdistrict transfer policy. The sample CSBA policy has been revised to match the current policy as closely as possible.</p> <p>Following board discussion, Mr. Kenyon and Ms. Logan will meet to work on the policy. This will be brought back to a future meeting for further discussion.</p>
BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS, UPDATES, QUESTIONS, ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS	<p>The board members used this opportunity to share their participation in district and community events followed by comments and concerns.</p> <p>Mr. Baier reported he and Mr. Kenyon are continuing their visits to each school to discuss the budget with the teachers. He will be meeting with Traci Newell of the Town Crier next week for a future article regarding school budgeting financing for the larger community. He will be attending the ACSA Superintendents Symposium this week.</p> <p>Mrs. Gallagher reported the teachers' professional development was a success. The Writing Committee met earlier today and there was a desire for cross-grade level articulation. A presentation on the pilot program with the Khan Academy was shared with the PTA presidents and an additional fifth grade class at Santa Rita was added to the pilot. Next week a film crew from the The Gates Notes will be filming the pilot classrooms, teachers and administrators for Sal Khan's TED presentation.</p> <p>Mr. Kenyon reported the Grand Jury has requested information from all school districts on alarm systems. This information will be shared at the meeting on February 7, 2011. Mr. Kenyon met with the Compensation and Benefits Committee and the field users on January 20, 2011. He will meet again with both groups on February 3, 2011.</p> <p>Mr. Smith reported the City of Los Altos stated at the City/Schools Subcommittee meeting they would be interested in managing the field space. Logistically there are issues to be worked out as not all the district's fields are within Los Altos. Discussions on this topic will continue at the next subcommittee meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Goines reported the City of Los Altos stated at the City/Schools Subcommittee meeting they would like the district to televise board meetings using reserve funding earmarked for this purpose from the cable company's use and access fees. The city would also like to explore traffic safety and discuss with the district where the crossing guards are placed.</p>
ADJOURNMENT	<p>MSC: Ms. Logan, Mr. Smith to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 p.m.</p>
AYES: 5	NOES: 0
ABSENT: 0	

Date _____

Jeffrey Baier, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Doug Smith, Clerk