

**LOS ALTOS SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Los Altos School District Board Room**  
**201 Covington Road, Los Altos**  
**May 23, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER	The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cooper at 6:00 p.m.
PRESENT	Mr. Bill Cooper, President; Mr. Mark Goines, Vice-President; Mr. Doug Smith, Clerk; Mrs. Margot Harrigan, Member
ABSENT	Ms. Tamara Logan, Member
ADMINISTRATION	Mr. Jeffrey Baier, Superintendent; Mrs. Alyssa Gallagher, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Randall Kenyon, Assistant Superintendent, Business
STAFF	Marcy Birnie, Kris Swenson, Janis Tjader, Sandra McGonagle, Amy Romem, Kimberly Attell, Susan Evard, Virginia Harrington, Kim Nero, Niki Mitchell, Tania Granoff, Kirby Conrad, Leslie Ward
PRESS	Traci Newell
OTHERS	Tom Dennedy, Shawn Descouroucz, Drew Descouroucz, Kelly Carlson, Joe Seither, Brooke Scheller, Vaishahi Khandekar, Kelly Cook, Linda Orandi, Linda His, Kate Evard, Mark Burns, Shobanna Gubbi, Vladimir Ivanovic, Tom Campbell, Margaret Brooks, Kristine Bardman, Anna Haggart, Christy Ying, Andrea Eyring, Alan Cyron, Tim Cyron, Adam Montgomery
CLOSED SESSION	The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 6:01 p.m. for 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 7:15 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	<p>MSC: Mrs. Harrigan moved to approve the agenda of the meeting and Mr. Smith amended the motion to remove item 4.5 due to insufficient progress with the bargaining units. Following discussion with staff, Mrs. Harrigan moved to approve the agenda with item 4.5 included.</p> <p>AYES: 3                      NOES: 0                      ABSENT: 0                      ABSTAIN: 1 (Smith)</p>
STAFF AND STUDENT SUCCESSES	<p>Mr. Baier recognized the following students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeffrey Hong, sixth grade student at Santa Rita, for his participation at the state level in the National Geographic Geography Bee.</li> <li>• Eighth grade recipients of the 2011 Rotary Award Jeanette Freiberg and Connor Keane, Blach School and Maya Acharya and Larry Antiporda, Egan School</li> <li>• Eighth grade recipients of the 2011 ACSA Leadership Award Drew Descourouez, Blach School and Kelly Carlson, Egan School.</li> </ul>

STAFF AND  
STUDENT  
SUCCESES

- 2011 Margaret Thompson History House Essay Contest award winners:  
Grade 3: Clair Pan and Nakui Shenoy, Oak School  
Grade 4: Mackenna Kahan and Julia Maguire, Santa Rita School  
Grade 5: Anisha Tammanna, Loyola School and Anna Gabriel Moceyunas, Oak School  
Grade 6: Will Altinger, Claire Hu and Lexi Wilson, Covington School
- 2011 Federated Women's Club of Los Altos Art Contest award winners:  
Grade 3: Carrie Yih, Loyola School  
Grade 4: Kieran Dawson, Loyola School and Daane Mahallati, Oak School  
Grade 5: Alli Yih, Loyola School  
Grade 6: Anna Haggart, Loyola School

## CONSENT ITEMS

MSC: Mrs. Harrigan, Mr. Smith to approve Consent Items 1.1 through 1.6:

- 1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, May 9, 2011
- 1.2 Purchase Orders
- 1.3 Fagan, Friedman and Fulfroft Agreement for Legal Services, 2011-12
- 1.4 Dannis, Woliver and Kelley Agreement for Legal Services, 2011-12
- 1.5 Resolution #10/11-25, Budget Adjustments
- 1.6 Denial of Interdistrict Transfer Requests #11/12-11 through 11/12-13

AYES: 4

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 1

EMPLOYEE  
REQUESTS TO  
ADDRESS THE  
BOARD

Jim Grijalva, LATA President, was unable to attend the meeting.

Kris Swenson, CSEA President, had nothing to report at this time.

COMMUNITY  
COMMENTS

Vladimir Ivanovic spoke on union negotiations.

INFORMATION/  
ACTION ITEMS

## Living Classroom

Vicki Moore and Mike Sanderson reported the Living Classroom is completing its third year in the district. There were 459 lessons taught this year with all elementary schools and Blach School participating. Egan School will be participating next year. This is a 70% growth over last year. The number of docent parents has increased from 12 in the first year to 20 this year. The program is receiving the 2011 Acterra Business Environmental Award for Environment Project – Small Project at a ceremony on June 2, 2011. A video was shared on the program.

2010 Base API  
Information

Mrs. Gallagher reported the Base API was released last month which is a recalibration of the Growth API released last fall. There was no change to the Growth API of 965. The Base API will be used in the fall for comparison with the results of the CST that was just administered. There were no growth targets set for either the schools or the district as none of the scores were below 800. All subgroups received Base API scores over 800, except Students with Disabilities and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged. The Students with Disabilities subgroup has a growth target of 5 points and legally the Socioeconomically Disadvantaged subgroup does not have a growth target as there are less than 100 students, but the district is monitoring this subgroup.

A school's Statewide Rank compares that school to other schools of the same type in the state. All our schools received a Statewide Rank of 10.

The Similar Schools Rank compares a school with 100 other schools with similar demographic characteristics. There will always be schools ranked 1 and schools ranked 10 because of the nature of the decile system. Ten percent of schools will be in each decile. All our schools received Similar School Rankings between 8-10.

Tom Campbell provided public comment.

Acceptance of Election Results	<p>Mr. Baier presented the Measure E election results from the Registrar of Voters for board acceptance.</p> <p>MSC: Mr. Smith, Mrs. Harrigan to accept the election results from the Registrar of Voters as presented.</p> <p>AYES: 4                                      NOES: 0                                      ABSENT: 1</p>
Financial Update	<p>Mr. Kenyon reported the state's unemployment rate is still high but revenues have increased. The May Revise included an increase of \$3B in Prop 98 funding for 2011-12; however, this is not considered new funds for school districts as the governor intends to use these monies to reverse the funding deferrals. Funding will remain flat if state taxes are extended.</p> <p>There was an increase of \$30K in property tax revenue from February to May. The district still has \$200K in a countywide reserve for property tax appeals. The county assessor is expecting to use all the funds in the reserve on the pending appeals. CACF will be reviewing property tax growth assumptions.</p> <p>Employee compensation reductions and the LAEF funding level have not been resolved. There are also risks with the state budget of \$1.5M if the taxes are not extended and \$0.5M for the revised maximum additional funding loss. The district's budget will be based on the May Revise and will show a balanced budget for next year and three years into the future. Due to the uncertainty at the state level, programs should not be reinstated until the state budget is approved. This could change with other local funding sources.</p> <p>The district will continue discussions with the employee groups and LAEF. A study session with CACF and the board will be held on June 6, 2011.</p> <p>Tom Campbell provided public comment.</p>
Program Priorities	<p>Mr. Kenyon reported information from previous meetings was shared with the board, in addition to class loading of 30 per grade and combination classes based on current data. Staff is looking for direction from the board of their highest priority for reinstatement if funding becomes available, not necessarily the ranking order.</p> <p>Anita Wood provided public comment.</p> <p>Following board discussion, the board was in agreement of class size and keeping students in their home school as the highest priority.</p>
City/Schools Subcommittee Meeting	<p>Mr. Goines and Mr. Smith reported on the following agenda items from the City/Schools Subcommittee meeting held on May 17, 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rosita Park: There were no discussions on either the playground sharing as the district needs to determine the requirements for the Los Altos Parent Preschool or opening up the back of the school for access as it is not known at this time if that will be needed, but it is not in the short term plans. The park is scheduled to open in the fall.</li> <li>• Webcasting Meetings of the Board of Trustees: Granicus, the company that provides the webcasting service for the city council, will need to assess the building and then the city will provide a proposal to the district. Granicus will store footage of each meeting online by agenda item.</li> <li>• Project Cornerstone Developmental Assets Survey Results: Information was shared from the Project Cornerstone survey regarding students not feeling appreciated by the community. The city would like to work with the district on this and this topic will be discussed at upcoming city council meetings. The city will also place this on the Youth Commission agenda.</li> <li>• Field Maintenance/Management: The city is interested in exploring the possibility of scheduling field use during non-school hours and maintaining the fields. This would simplify the process for user groups and might help balance fairness amongst the groups. This agreement would apply only to the schools within the Los Altos boundaries.</li> </ul>

City/Schools  
Subcommittee  
Meeting  
(continued)

- School Parking Lots: There is an issue with the parking lot at the charter school and the Egan gym. Both the Blach and Egan gyms are under city jurisdiction after 3:00 p.m. The charter school would like that time extended due to their longer school day. Both the city and district would need to renegotiate the agreement to extend the hours. There may be unwanted consequences of extending the hours that will need to be looked at. Due to current litigation with the charter school, there may be issues with discussing this in public.
- Recap of the District's Response to the Water District's Proposal: The board voted against this project as other alternatives that may have been better options had not been explored.
- LASD Financial Outlook: An update of the district's financial outlook was presented.
- Safe Routes to School Update: There are current projects in process but no new major projects are planned. Traffic congestion at West Portola was discussed.
- Bicycle Safety Update: The budget for bicycle safety education expires this year and it is unlikely the city will be able to fund this again due to their financial constraints. There are other resources that can be used for bicycle safety.

The next subcommittee meeting will be in August.

2011-12 Board  
Meeting Calendar

Mr. Baier presented the 2011-12 board meeting calendar for discussion or approval. The proposed calendar includes the same number of meetings as the current calendar and all meetings are on Mondays.

MSC: Mrs. Harrigan, Mr. Smith to approve the board calendar as presented.

AYES: 4

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 1

Resolution #10/11-26,  
Support of  
County Assessor's  
Recommendation to  
Eliminate  
Proposition 90 in  
Santa Clara County

Mr. Kenyon reported the county assessor will be making a recommendation to the county board of supervisors to eliminate Proposition 90 in Santa Clara County. The proposition allows a homeowner over 55 a one-time transfer of the assessed value from a primary residence outside the county to a new primary residence within the county that is of equal or lesser value. The rationale is to potentially increase tax revenues. There are only eight counties that continue to do this. San Mateo is one of the eight counties and they are also looking at eliminating this. The resolution presented in is support of the county assessor's recommendation to eliminate Proposition 90.

Adam Montgomery and Mark Burns provided public comment.

MSC: Mr. Smith, Mr. Goines to approve resolution #10/11-26 as presented.

AYES: 2

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 1

ABSTAIN: 2 (Cooper, Goines)

This will be brought back to the next meeting for a majority vote.

BOARD AND  
ADMINISTRATION  
COMMENTS,  
UPDATES,  
QUESTIONS, ITEMS  
FOR FUTURE  
AGENDAS

The board members used this opportunity to share their participation in district and community events followed by comments and concerns.

Mrs. Gallagher reported the Khan Academy pilot is generating positive media attention. NPR and *The Economist* will be here this week. President Obama's chief technology officer will be visiting a classroom on May 25, 2011. Discussions are continuing with Khan Academy on a larger district rollout of the program and foundation funding for the rollout.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Baier, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Smith, Clerk