

BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 23, 2010
Alameda City Hall Chambers
2263 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, CA

ADOPTED MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING: The regular 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 5:05 PM.

PRESENT: Jensen, Mc Mahon, Mooney, Spencer, Tam

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION TOPICS: None at this time.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION: By President Mooney at 5:05 PM to discuss:

RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION: By President Mooney at 6:34 PM.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Encinal High School Student Board Member William Mooney.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF: Board members and staff present introduced themselves.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA/APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:

MOTION: Member McMahan

SECONDED: Member Jensen

That the Board of Education adopt the agenda with the following changes: Consider item F-5 after F-2.

AYES: Jensen, McMahan, Mooney, Spencer, Tam

NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED

CONSENT CALENDAR: The Board of Education approved the following consent items (such items are identified by a plus (+) mark in the body of the minutes):

+Certificated Personnel Actions: The Board of Education approved

+Classified Personnel Actions: The Board of Education approved

+Approval of Bill Warrants and Payroll Registers: The Board of Education approved warrants numbered

+Approval of Donations

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the regular meetings of January 26, 2010 and February 9, 2010 were considered.

MOTION: Member Spencer

SECONDED: Member McMahon

That the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular meetings of January 25, 2010 and February 9, 2010 with revisions as provided by Member Spencer.

AYES: Jensen, McMahon, Mooney, Spencer, Tam

NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS:

Written correspondence: E-mails received February 23 from Christel Reynes and Alex Stevens regarding the Master Plan and from Celine Perrin regarding preserving small class sizes; an e-mail received February 22 from Jeni Marr regarding magnets and charters; e-mails received February 18th from Bradley Cook and Alaina Stewart regarding the Master Plan and from Carrie Luo regarding K-3 class size; and from Leland Tremain regarding taxing sq footage of a lot vs. sq footage of a building.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Vital reviewed follow-up items from previous meetings, site visits, AVID data follow-up, noted a Special Board meeting scheduled for March 2, and thanked the elementary music teachers who provided music prior to the start of the meeting.

Oral Communications:

Ed Winberg, former EHS teacher, addressed the Board, noting Master Plan option A is the only option. Mr. Winberg provided a history of his 40-years of teaching at EHS.

Patricia Sanders, AEA President, addressed the Board and informed the public about a statewide activity on Thursday, March 4 for "Stand Up for Public Education." Ms. Sanders described local activities that will be taking place.

Alaina Stewart, parent, thanked the Board for listening to community concerns and getting feedback, but warned against catering to special interest groups to the detriment of the whole community. Ms. Stewart provided feedback about the Master Plan, and asked that the community be presented with a plan we can all support.

Peter Hagberg, attorney, addressed the Board regarding the continuance of Lesson 9 and why so many parents of faith oppose it. Mr. Hagberg urged the Board to approve curriculum that honors different belief systems equally and to stop teaching Lesson 9 after this year.

Carla Greathouse, teacher, addressed the Board regarding the Master Plan and the detrimental effects of not passing a parcel tax.

Ben Cook, student, addressed the Board about his kindergarten class and asked the Board for a better Master Plan.

Jeni Marr, teacher, addressed the Board about the teaching profession, noting not many jobs have such big responsibilities with so little stability. Ms. Marr urged the Board to send RIF notices to temporary teachers to offer them some rehiring rights.

Michael Schmitz, community member, addressed the Board regarding the Master Plan and support for option A to keep quality education in Alameda.

Sarah Olaes, parent, addressed the Board regarding the devastating effects on Alameda if the community doesn't band together to pass a parcel tax. Ms. Olaes asked the Board to unanimously support putting a parcel tax on the ballot to allow option A to be implemented.

Ash Jones, community member, addressed the Board, noting all school boards should band together to tell the president that the education system is suffering because we are wasting money in the Middle East.

Tony Daysog, community member, addressed the Board to voice his support for the Master Plan and a new parcel measure.

Board Oral Communications:

Member Jensen noted proclamations passed on the consent calendar, including Art is Education Month and Read Across America Day. Also approved was the annual Close-Up Field Trip for Encinal High School students.

Member Jensen noted the Board recently adopted a resolution in support of the Season for Nonviolence and would like to read the daily readings before each Board meeting. Member Jensen read the daily reading for February 23, 2010.

Student Board Member Comments:

Student Board Member Datuin from ASTI noted the Open House on 2/25 and 2nd annual scholarship dinner; interview process for potential students on Saturday; final draft of WASC completed; staff is preparing for the WASC visiting committee, March 22nd through 25th.

Student Board Member Mooney from Encinal noted the women's basketball team is playing this evening as the 7th seed; jazz band/orchestra performing this Saturday; and that he attended PTA Advocacy Day.

Student Board Member Gamalinda from Island noted 9 graduates since the beginning of the school year; after-school program hosting a full cooking class with a waiting list to get in; training sessions this month; weekly video broadcast; producing first full-scale musical; 4th edition of the Tiki Times.

Student Board Member Inlow from Alameda noted Open House this Thursday, 2/25; successful teacher/staff appreciation event; Peter Pan musical starts March 19 at Kofman; Iko's Memorial on 2/18; talent show and winter ball this Friday; Leadership working on honor roll – over 800

students with a 3.5 GPA or above; junior prom on USS Hornet 3/13; spaghetti feed 3/5; progress reports on Friday; CSF Club taking college campus trip to UC Davis.

Calendar Review: President Mooney reviewed the calendar of events for Board members.

Closed Session Action Report: No action was taken in Closed Session.

President Mooney acknowledged the donations received from the community.

Highlighting AUSD Schools –Encinal High School

Principal Mike Cooper, Leadership Teacher Josh Johnson, and Leadership students provided an overview of programs and activities at Encinal via PowerPoint presentation. The students discussed Encinal's API, PSA, SIM, Fusion Literacy Program, Jetsetters, College and Career Center, DECA, JROTC, athletics, drama, band, and leadership.

Possible Implications of Academy of Alameda Middle School (AAMS) Charter School

Chipman Middle School is in No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Program Improvement Year 4 where the regulations require this school to restructure. The school went through a process to restructure as a public charter school in the District. On December 15, 2009, the Board of Education approved the Academy of Alameda Middle School as a charter school. This is an update to provide the Board with factual information on the implications of AAMS and a timeline of opening.

Debbie Wong, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, reviewed the item via PowerPoint presentation, providing a brief background, action updates by the Board, a recap of facts, and a timeline for opening.

The Board discussed the AAMS projected enrollment and when fiscal implications would be discussed. A Board Member also noted concern about Chipman switching from a conversion to a start-up charter and noted specific questions about timing and whether or not the Board would be asked to close Chipman Middle School.

The Board discussed letters sent out to families, one of which was written by AAMS but sent out in District envelopes. Staff indicated this was a mistake and should not have been mailed out in AUSD envelopes as the letter was not from the District, but from AAMS. A Board Member suggested the District send out another letter to families clarifying the status of AAMS and that families do not have to choose to go there.

A Board Member stated families are being pressured to apply to AAMS and expressed concern regarding transportation issues. A Board Member suggested creating options at Washington as a way to help alleviate some issues.

Superintendent Vital clarified that at no time did staff misrepresent that this was not the restructuring plan, and the Board unanimously supported the charter in order to let AAMS become a start-up. Staff also stated previously that a separate process would be followed with regards to closing Chipman Middle School as a school. The current principal of Chipman sent a letter to parents in order to clarify the process and is meeting with families. When staff comes

back in March, we will be able to be very clear around our recommendation for Chipman as a school along with alternative options.

The Board discussed the Prop 39 process for AAMS and a possible closure process for Chipman Middle School.

Superintendent's Recommendation for a New Replacement Parcel Tax

At the February 9, 2010 Board meeting, staff presented background information and analysis of the recommendations of the Superintendent's Parcel Tax Advisory Group (PTAG) for the structure of a new parcel tax that would supersede the current parcel taxes. Staff also presented possible rates and projected revenue for a new replacement parcel tax.

Via PowerPoint presentation, Superintendent Vital presented information on feedback since the last meeting on Structure #4, projected revenue and possible rates, and other elements of a new parcel tax.

Carla Greathouse, teacher, addressed the Board proposing a mail-in ballot and suggested the date of June 22nd to allow more time.

Clay Pollard, parent, addressed the Board adding that a parcel tax is not the answer.

The Board discussed the previous Measure A which denoted tiers clearly identifying where the money would go and asked if the new parcel tax would be structured the same way. A Board member questioned protecting class size reduction, as Measure H referred to it but the replacement parcel tax does not. A Board Member suggested keeping language broad to allow flexibility in how funds will be spend as we have no idea what future changes will be.

The Board discussed a flat rate tax, condos vs. houses, square footage tax, and a split roll tax. A Board Member asked staff to remind everyone of the summary of recommendations from PTAG.

The Board discussed the distribution burden on residents vs. businesses in various scenarios, the \$9500 cap, and a timeline for bringing this to the voters – June vs. November.

A Board Member questioned whether a split roll tax is a uniform tax. General Counsel confirmed that it is, based on the legal definition in the tax code. A Board Member expressed concern about potential litigation.

A Board Member asked about surrounding cities and the structure of their taxes.

The Board discussed the merits of a mail-in vote as well as the cost and whether or not an exemption should be provided to low-income seniors only vs. all seniors.

General Counsel clarified that the parcel tax paperwork needs to go to the Registrar of Voters 90 days before the vote.

A Board Member requested that the total square footage and number of parcels information be put on the District website so members of the public could run their own calculations based under various possible parcel tax scenarios.

The Board discussed holding a special meeting regarding this item to allow greater opportunity for input.

The majority of the Board supported the mail-in ballot provision.

Categorical Program Updates Tier III

The Enacted 2009/10 California State Budget and SBX3 4, Chapter 12, Statutes of 2009 authorized school districts to use funding received from the state for Tier III programs, for any educational purpose, to the extent permitted by federal law. The flexibility to use funds from these programs is authorized for five years from 2008/09 through 2012/13 by Education Code 42605.

Although fiscal year 2012/13 is some years off, school districts need to continually be aware of this sunset date and its impact, particularly if these funds are being utilized to mitigate any unrestricted general fund structural deficit. The Legislature has yet to comment on the use of these funds beyond the sunset date of June 30, 2012.

This report is a 2009-2010 update on the status of Tier III categoricals in AUSD.

Robert Shemwell, Interim Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the report via PowerPoint presentation and covered background information about Tier III flexibility, Tier III programs including Cal-SAFE, Community Based Tutoring, Adult Education, School Safety, Art & Music Block Grant, PE Block Grant, CAHSEE, Supplemental School Counseling, GATE, IMFRP, PAR, Pupil Retention Block Grant, BTSA, Professional Development Block Grant, TIIG, and SLIG.

The Board discussed how principals and the sites are involved in the process, the process if state funding comes up, and future flexibility.

Master Plan Final Recommendations

Since March 2009, AUSD has been working towards a new long-term Master Plan. Staff responded to Board Member and community feedback from the February 9th Board meeting and provided additional clarify of the Master Plan goals and strategies.

Mr. Shemwell shared class size increase data from surrounding districts.

Superintendent Vital provided an overview, clarification on class size, review of magnet/innovative programs, a draft process and timeline, clarified the strategy for a new high school, clarified facility use and space, reviewed Plan B school closure options 2011/12,

reduction in district office staff, average daily attendance (P2), enrollment (CBEDS), ADA (P2) vs. enrollment, clarified philanthropic partnerships, and recommended a parcel tax structure.

Deesha Moore, parent, addressed the Board regarding the Master Plan and closing secondary schools. Ms. Moore noted west end schools should not be sacrificed.

Bradley Cook, parent, addressed the Board regarding parents' wish to see a tiered system in terms of cuts and added that hundreds of people agree there needs to be a Plan C that focuses on core academics only.

The Board discussed optimum school sizes and how to consolidate sites and/or protect facilities and the impact on schedules, teachers, and administrators, the possibility of a bond to build new facilities, the impact of CSR on the effect of narrowing the achievement gap and predicting the success of students, and possible trade-offs.

The Board further discussed over and under-enrolled schools, inter-district students, ADA, magnet schools, money from parcels going to cover administration costs, and AEF's role.

MOTION: Member McMahon

SECONDED: Member Tam

That the Board extend the meeting beyond 10:30 PM.

AYES: Jensen, McMahon, Mooney, Spencer, Tam

NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board discussed flex space and the need for support programs at sites, administrative interns, and principals sharing administrative duties. The Board also noted that most of our sites are already beyond capacity, many with portables providing extra space.

A Board Member reiterated that magnet schools may be a good way to bring students back into the district and urged the Superintendent to look at Washington as a possibility.

MOTION: Member Jensen

SECONDED: Member Tam

That the Board approve the Master Plan final recommendations.

The Board further discussed the Master Plan as a working document used to provide additional guidance to the District. A Board Member noted parents of students in the largest schools want to protect class size at 20:1 and we would need their support in order to pass a parcel tax. We need to come up with a Plan C that responds better to the concerns expressed by the community.

AYES: Jensen, McMahon, Mooney, Tam

NOES: Spencer

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution No. 10-0016 Stand Up for Public Education

On March 4, 2010, a broad coalition of labor unions, organizations, and education advocates from across the state are holding a series of activities all designed to send a message to the Governor and members of the State Legislature that public education envisioned by Article 9, and, in part, guaranteed by Prop 98, must be preserved and enhance public education for its pupils.

Many districts have adopted a resolution of support and staff is proposing Alameda endorse the March 4, 2010 Statewide Day of Action to Defend Public Education as noted in Resolution No. 10-0016.

Laurie McLachlan-Fry, Chief Human Resources Officer, introduced the item.

MOTION: Member Spencer

SECONDED: Member Tam

That the Board of Education approve Resolution 10-0016 Stand Up for Public Education as presented.

AYES: McMahon, Mooney, Spencer, Tam

NOES: None

ABSENT: Jensen

MOTION CARRIED

California School Boards Association 2010 Delegate Assembly Election Vote

The California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly is a vital link to the Association's governance structure. The Delegate Assembly is made up of Delegates who are elected by local board members in 21 geographic regions throughout the state, and ensures that the Association reflects the interest of school districts and county offices of education throughout the state.

Delegates serve two-year terms beginning April 1. They meet twice a year to conduct business, and may also meet with other Delegates and the Director within their region. Furthermore, they participate in CSBA events and they maintain contact with local boards in their region.

The Board must take action on the enclosed ballot material for election of a representative to the CSBA Delegate Assembly for our region. The Board as a whole may vote for up to the number of vacancies in the region or subregion as indicated on the ballot. Regardless of the number of vacancies, each Board may cast no more than one vote for any one candidate. The ballot also contains a provision for write-in candidates; their name and district must be clearly printed in the space provided.

Envelopes with the ballot must be postmarked by the US Post Office on or before Monday, March 15 with no exception.

The Board discussed the candidates for Delegate Assembly.

MOTION: Member Tam

SECONDED: Member Mooney

That the Board of Education vote for Mike McMahon, Gwen Estes, Janice Friesen, and Anne White.

AYES: McMahon, Mooney, Spencer, Tam

NOES: None

ABSENT: Jensen

MOTION CARRIED

Board Member Reports

Member Tam noted he attended the library arts committee meeting, Wood School museum display at the library; Multi-Cultural Center event, and added that Alameda Family Services received a grant.

Member Spencer noted she attended PTA Advocacy Day, the Democratic Club presentation, an event in Berkeley with Member McMahon that discussed how to increase collaboration between Boards and cities to do more.

Member McMahon added he attended ACSBA and suggested everyone visit Fremont's website and pull up their budget plans to see how bad things would be without a parcel tax.

President Mooney noted he attended PTA Advocacy Day and the AHS and EHS joint fundraiser at the Alameda Hotel.

ADJOURNMENT

President Mooney adjourned the meeting at 11:22 PM.