



**+Ratification of Contracts Executed Pursuant to Board Policy 3300 and Resolution  
Number 09-0064**

**+Approval of Donations**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the regular meeting of September 28 and the special meetings of October 14 and October 21 were considered.

**MOTION: Member McMahon**  
That the minutes be approved.

**SECONDED: Member Jensen**

AYES: Jensen, McMahon, Mooney, Spencer, Tam  
NOES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Written Correspondence:** Since the last regular Board meeting, the Board received 35 e-mails and letters regarding closure/consolidation and 80 regarding the parcel tax.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Superintendent Vital reviewed follow-up items from previous meetings, site visits, and other news.

**Oral Communications:**

*Jack Boeger, parent*, addressed the Board regarding the need to pass the parcel tax and the inequity of a 7-12 on the West End with a K-6 on the East End.

*(Oral communications were suspended to cover item F-2 due to participant time constraints)*

**CITY OF ALAMEDA NAMED ONE OF THE 100 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

Member Jensen introduced the item.

The *100 Best Communities for Young People* recognizes and celebrates extraordinary community-wide efforts to improve the well-being of youth and end the nation's dropout crisis. More than 350 communities registered for this year's competition – including the City of Alameda – representing large cities and suburbs, counties and rural towns in all 50 states.

This year's winners represent 37 states and 30 of them are first-time recipients of this honor, including Alameda! The 2010 winners were highlighted at a September 21<sup>st</sup> ceremony in front of the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

On Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, the City of Alameda held a celebration event aboard the USS Hornet where County Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker, Mayor Beverly Johnson, and Board of Education Trustee Tracy Jensen – the co-chairs of the Alameda Collaborative for Children, Youth and their Families – accepted the award from America's Promise Alliance honoring Alameda as one of the nation's *100 Best Communities for Young People*.

Board Member Jensen shared the “Push Pin” award presented at the November 6<sup>th</sup> celebration event and presented certificates of thanks to both Jim Franz and Cyndy Wasko for their efforts in the application process.

*(Oral communications were resumed)*

*Greg Mauldin, Ruby Bridges PTA*, addressed the Board regarding support for the parcel tax and urged the Board to unanimously support it.

*Margaret Chinn, parent*, addressed the Board regarding the negative effects of increasing class size, unique challenges of the community, and urged the Board to unanimously support the parcel tax.

*Jane Grimaldi, parent*, addressed the Board regarding K-8 vs. 7-12 configurations.

*Randolph Daar, parent*, addressed the Board regarding cost savings and economic benefit and the lack of equal access to all students in Alameda.

*Craig Elliott, community member*, addressed the Board regarding being bold leaders, asking the Board to consider all possibilities and think about the idea of equity rather than equality. Make sure students get what they need rather than ensuring they get the same .

*Shelley Patterson, teacher*, addressed the Board and presented copies of the coloring book she created during Measure H.

*Christine Strena, PTA Council President*, addressed the Board, urging unanimous parcel tax approval and expressed personal support for a 7-12 configuration.

*Bob Reilly, community member*, addressed the Board regarding support for adult education and invited Board Members to visit adult school classes.

*Marilyn Schumacher* addressed the Board regarding the parcel tax, asking how the burden could be spread out. What about a sales tax increase or exploring an assessment with the electric company?

*Steve Schiesser* addressed the Board, urging unanimous approval for the parcel tax and keeping small class size in K-3.

*Steve Smith* addressed the Board regarding support for the parcel tax.

*Adrienne Lakadat* addressed the Board regarding supporting the parcel tax and urged the Board to look into the accuracy of the data collected by the County as square footage calculations are often inaccurately recorded and reported.

*Michael Schmitz* addressed the Board regarding support for the parcel tax and emphasized that education is core to what makes Alameda special and is one of the key reasons people stay, live, shop, and work in Alameda.

*John Gilles* addressed the Board regarding a lack of an effort to close the achievement gap with Plan B, but creates a disparity between EHS and AHS even further. AHS will continue to be maintained as an excellent high school, but EHS will suffer from a larger disruption and potential detriment. This seems inequitable.

*Jen Laird, Parent*, addressed the Board, thanking them for their commitment to engage the community in this difficult discussion about the future of our schools. Thank you for reaching out to the stakeholders and listening to our concerns.

*James Pruitt, resident*, addressed the Board regarding support for the parcel tax. We need a parcel tax to make sure we retain and recruit teachers, staff, and administrators.

*John Howard* addressed the Board, urging support for the parcel tax. It makes a difference when the community hears that the Board is unanimously behind it.

*Mary Clarke-Miller, parent*, addressed the Board regarding support for a 7-12 at EHS. This is not a new model worldwide and it does work.

*Diana Kenney, teacher*, addressed the Board regarding hope for the possibility of going 7-12. It's time for a change and a 7-12 configuration can be a positive and timely change for students.

*Kelly Alterman, adult school teacher*, addressed the Board regarding investing in the adult school, which is vital to the community.

*Marshall Cromer, community member*, addressed the Board, stating he doesn't believe we have a revenue problem. Teachers hold you hostage from weeding out the bad teachers and administrators make too much money. Come back to reality instead of taking it all yourself. Give yourselves a 10% pay cut.

*Anne Faria-Poynter, teacher*, addressed the Board regarding the importance of physical education in schools and what standards are covered.

*Mi-Anne Chan, student*, addressed the Board regarding the importance of offering artistic electives such as drama, which she personally has benefitted from.

*Eric Ladenburg, parent*, addressed the Board regarding his happiness with Washington Elementary School, increasing class size and its educational impact, and unanimously voting for the parcel tax.

*Nancy Landreth, AHS PTSA President*, addressed the Board regarding unanimously passing the parcel tax. It's important for the community to engage those who don't have students in the school, and it will help to show that the entire Board supports the parcel tax.

*Sylvia Kahn, parent*, addressed the Board regarding the possibility of a 7-12 configuration at Encinal to meet the needs of students on the West End.

*Ed Hirshberg, Alamedans for Fair Taxation*, addressed the Board regarding the parcel tax.

*Barbara Mooney, parent*, addressed the Board regarding the possibility of a 7-12 configuration at Encinal as a pilot program – an idea supported by many parents.

*Jennifer Mansfield* addressed the Board regarding supporting the parcel tax.

*Patricia Sanders, AEA President*, addressed the Board regarding teacher salaries, which start at \$41K, which is not excessive. It takes way more than \$80M (our budget) to educate children in Alameda – it's more like \$125M. Ms. Sanders reminded everyone about the survey results she shared last year about how much extra time teachers contribute which would equate to over \$20M, and urged the Board to support the parcel tax.

*Kimberly Buckingham* addressed the Board noting she has already signed up to be a street captain to help pass the parcel tax and is motivated by the possibility of increasing class size.

*Linda Bytof* addressed the Board regarding concerns about a 7-12 configuration and pushing kids ahead too fast. Research shows that their brains are not ready, yet and that we are forcing students to become more mature at a much faster rate. Ms. Bytof urged the Board to consider an open enrollment scenario so that students who don't want to attend a 7-12 have an option.

*Heather Demarest and Marie Ratto* addressed the Board regarding programs being cut and supporting the parcel tax. Elementary PE equals benefits to students and contributions to the overall climate of the schools.

*David Teeters, parent*, addressed the Board regarding the 3% for charters and passing the parcel tax.

*Sean Svendsen* addressed the Board regarding supporting the parcel tax and the mutual trusting relationship developed between the District and local business community. Mr. Svendsen thanked the Superintendent for the outreach she has done and staff's tireless efforts put into the process.

*John Spangler, community member*, addressed the Board regarding the parcel tax and the need to avoid Plan B.

*Lori Keep* addressed the Board regarding supporting the parcel tax and protecting arts in the classrooms.

*Patrick Montgomery, US Coast Guard*, addressed the Board regarding concerns with going to a 7-12 configuration anyway even if the parcel tax passes.

## **STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Student Board Member Dietz from ASTI noted Spirit Week; Karaoke Night; signing up for College of Alameda classes; safe driving presentation; silent auction.

Student Board Member Singh from EHS noted football update; “Anne Frank” production; marching band; winter concert; AP Songfest; helping seniors with applications in the college/career center; honor roll; Jet Setters; Adopt-a-Family program; thanks to Member Jensen for her work and dedication.

Student Board Member Hunter from AHS noted Native American Month; numerous fundraisers; ASB Senate procedure changes; prom planning; sports update; drama auditions; club meetings; Deck the Halls; applications due 11/30.

## **CALENDAR REVIEW**

President Mooney reviewed the Calendar of Events for Board Members.

## **CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT**

There was no action taken in closed session.

## **RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER TRACY JENSEN**

President Mooney introduced the item.

The Governing Board provides leadership and citizen oversight of the District’s schools. The Governing Board establishes a long-term vision for the District, maintains a basic organizational structure and adopts policies, curriculum, budget, and collective bargaining agreements.

Stretching beyond just the boundaries of Alameda, Board Members also provide community leadership and advocacy at the local, state, and national levels on behalf of children, District programs, and public education in general.

These vital roles are integral to the functioning of the District, and as her term in office ends, Alameda Unified wishes to recognize, appreciate, and acknowledge the eight years of service of Board Member Tracy Jensen.

AUSD offers its sincerest gratitude for her service on behalf of the students of Alameda.

Board Members thanked Member Jensen for her service and leadership on and off the Board; working to serve all of Alameda, making sure the entire community of youth is being serviced; focusing efforts around implementing and shepherding the wellness policy; and expertise in areas of state policy.

Member Jensen thanked the Board Members for their well wishes and acknowledged her family and Alameda.

**RESOLUTION NO. 10-0115 TERMINATION OF BAY AREA SCHOOL OF ENTERPRISE LEASE AGREEMENT**

Laurie Mclachlan-Fry, Director of Educational Options, introduced the item.

On October 12, 2010, the Board approved the recommendation to relinquish Public Benefit Entitlement to the Miller Property and relocate Island to Woodstock Education Center in the summer of 2011. Based on facility needs of Island, AUSD must terminate the current lease with Alternatives in Action (AIA) and renegotiate a new lease with new terms.

*Patricia Murillo, Executive Director of BASE*, acknowledge how difficult it is to move Island, but noted there will be some wonderful opportunities for the two schools to be co-located.

*Jonathan Soglin, AIA*, addressed the Board noting that Island needs space and supports renegotiating with the District to find space for all.

*Gail Greely, AIA*, added that the lease to AIA covers all 3 existing programs – BASE, Home Project, and Home Sweet Home. A new configuration could be designed to foster interaction among the programs with island High School.

Board Members discussed issues related to moving to the site; proximity to the new Boys & Girls Club; licensing and childcare programs; facilities usage; common interests; building a collaborative relationship to serve the needs of the children in the West End; timeline; transition; after-school program offerings; partnerships; and opportunities for students who are looking for something different and unique.

**MOTION: Member McMahon**

**SECONDED: Member Jensen**

That the Board approve Resolution No. 10-0115 Termination of Bay Area School of Enterprise Lease Agreement.

AYES: Jensen, McMahon, Mooney, Spencer, Tam

NOES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PRESENTATION OF PRELIMINARY FIRST INTERIM BUDGET AND FINAL STRATEGIC BUDGET REDUCTIONS**

Mr. Shemwell introduced the item.

Twice during the fiscal year, a school district is required to submit a financial report certifying the District's ability to meet its financial obligations for the current year and two subsequent years. The reports examine the District's attendance, spending patterns, fund balance, reserve for economic uncertainties, and multi-year projections.

Staff presented the 2010/11 First Interim which reports the District's financial position as of October 31, 2010.

Staff also presented the final list of budget reductions for the 2011/12 and 2012/13 fiscal years. These reductions, when approved, will support a positive ending fund balance for the three years required by State Education Code 42127.

Mr. Shemwell reviewed:

- Outstanding issues that may possibly impact the budget
- Multi-year projections and assumptions
- Unrestricted general fund, including tier III
- Definitions for net ending fund balances
- 11/12 cuts
- 12/13 cuts (draft)
- Eliminations even with a parcel tax

*Karen Keegan, CSEA 27 President*, addressed the Board regarding resource paraprofessionals, noting they didn't know about it until parents got their notifications in August.

*Patricia Sanders, AEA President*, addressed the Board regarding if the parcel tax doesn't pass, we need to keep the community education process going forward. When you eliminate art, music, PE and media center at the elementary level, it's more than just shifting that burden to the teacher. When there is no prep, every class will suffer. Teachers are at a breaking point.

*Greg Mauldin, Ruby Bridges Elementary*, at some point, elementary parents turn into middle and high school parents so they will be effected eventually. Let's focus on what we do know and get through this.

*J.R. Harrison* addressed the Board regarding support for the parcel tax the horror of Plan B.

*Pat Cronin* addressed the Board regarding honor the commitments made to the communities.

Board Members discussed 11/12 cuts:

- Total elimination of the Adult Education program
- Negotiating 2 additional furlough days for teachers (total of 10 days)
- Equivalent 10 days lay-off for CSEA 860, 27, and administrators
- Closing 1 middle school
- Eliminating one elective period from the middle schools
- Increasing all K-3 classrooms to 32:1
- Eliminating all freshman and JV athletics – one coach per sport

Board Members discussed 12/13 cuts:

- 8.00% - 9.25% salary reduction for all employees
- Eliminating one elective period from the middle schools
- Increasing all K-3 classrooms to 32:1
- Eliminating electives at the elementary school sites
- Close 3 elementary schools (to be identified)
- Eliminating JROTC program

- Lower the graduation requirement, eliminating 15 FTE
- Complete elimination of all athletics, pool maintenance, operations
- Staffing at 35:1 in all high school classes, 50:1 in PE
- Eliminating tech support to school sites
- Reducing counseling to 2.5 FTE

Board Members discussed eliminations even with a parcel tax:

- Maintain district office reductions
- 2 FTE in special ed, 1 FTE in technology
- Reducing electives to 1 in middle school
- Lowers graduation credits from 230 to 220 over time
- Reducing hours to special education paraprofessionals
- Staffing reduction to maintain true base of 35:1 in all high school classes, 50:1 in PE

Board Members further discussed making cuts at each school level as the current proposal seems to emphasize cuts at the secondary level and not elementary; and transparency.

President Mooney asked Board Members to send specifics to the Superintendent. The First Interim will return for action on 12/14.

**MOTION: Member McMahan**

**SECONDED: Member Mooney**

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

AYES: Jensen, McMahan, Mooney, Tam

ABSENT: Spencer

NOES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

President Mooney called for a 5 minute break.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION FOR SPRING 2011 REPLACEMENT PARCEL TAX**

General Counsel, Danielle Houck, presented the item.

On November 9<sup>th</sup> the Superintendent presented to the Board and community her recommendations for the key terms of a replacement parcel tax for the spring 2011 ballot.

The Board provided staff with direction and feedback as to key terms and requested limited additional information as to possible tax rates with varying maximum amounts.

Without the First Interim Budget, staff was unable to estimate the revenue that AUSD needs from a replacement parcel tax.

With tonight’s presentation of the Preliminary First Interim Budget and Final Strategic Budget Reductions, it is clear that the District requires a minimum of \$12M in additional funding to prevent school closures and the most severe reductions to programs.

To meet the statutory deadlines for placement of a parcel tax on the March 8, 2011 ballot, the Superintendent and staff are seeking the Board's direction on the following specific points:

- Tax rate for real property with buildings
- Maximum amount of tax per parcel
- % allocation of funds for stated purposes

The Board requested staff analyze additional tax rates for a parcel tax based on building square footage using maximum tax amounts of \$7,500, \$8,500, and \$9,000 which are included in this presentation.

Final recommendation:

- March 2011 Measure will replace Measures A and H
- \$0.32 per bldg sqft uniformly applied to residential and non-residential parcels
- No parcel will pay more than \$8,500, regardless of the number of buildings, which equates to a tax on only the first 26,560 of bldg sqft
- All other parcels (those without one or more buildings) assessed \$299 per parcel
- Exemptions for seniors and recipients of SSI
- 7 year term – effective July 1, 2011
- Special precinct election on March 8, 2011

### **Allocation of Parcel Tax Funds**

- Small Class Sizes: 13-14% (~\$1,560,000 to \$1,680,000)
- Neighborhood Elementary Schools: 7-8% (~\$840,000 to \$960,000)
- Enrichment Programs: 9-10% (~\$1,080,000 to \$1,200,000)
- Secondary School Choice and AP Courses: 7-8% (~\$840,000 to \$960,000)
- Programs to Close Achievement Gap: 15-16% (~\$1,800,000 to \$1,920,000)
- High School Athletic Programs: 4% (~\$480,000)
- Attract and Retain Excellent Teachers: 25-26% (~\$3,000,000 to \$ 3,120,000)
- Adult Education: 4% (~\$480,000)
- Technology: 5% (~\$600,000)
- Counseling and Student Support Services: 6% (~\$720,000)
- Alameda Student in Charter Schools: 3% (~\$360,000)

Staff reviewed each item with/without the parcel tax:

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>WITH TAX</b>	<b>WITHOUT TAX</b>
Small class size	13-14	Elementary class sizes maintain student to teacher ratios no greater than 25:1 in k-3 classrooms	Student to teacher ratios will increase to 32:1 in k-3 classrooms
Neighborhood elementary schools	7-8	High quality neighborhood schools remain open	Scenario B is implemented and 3 or more elementary schools close including Otis, Washington, Franklin
Enrichment programs	9-10	Maintain elementary music, media centers, and PE; maintain fine arts in secondary schools	Elementary music, media centers, and PE reduced in 2011/12 and eliminated in 2012/13; secondary school fine arts programs are reduced to minimum levels
Secondary school choice initiative and AP courses	7-8	Maintain or increase current offerings of AP courses; maintain JROTC; Wood remains open with investment in school reform to address Program Improvement status	Reduce AP courses to minimum; eliminate JROTC; close Wood
Programs to close the achievement gap	15-16	Restore school year to 180 days; maintain professional development to accomplish District-wide math initiative and improve instructional practice to advance student learning; maintain intervention classes for students struggling in ELA	School year remains reduced to 175 days for 2011/12; reduce or eliminate professional development in math and instructional practice
High School athletic programs	4	Maintain high school athletic programs at current levels	Reduce high school athletics to varsity sports only in 2011/12; one coach per varsity sport for 2011/12; eliminate all high school athletics in 2012/13
Attract and retain excellent teachers	25-26	Maintain current negotiated salaries and benefits for all teachers	With negotiation, implement 8.00% - 9.25% salary reduction or equivalent reduction in salary and benefits

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>WITH TAX</b>	<b>WITHOUT TAX</b>
Adult education	4	Maintain courses in GED test, courses for English Language Learners and Civics classes; maintain selected enrichment programs for seniors; Adult School remains open	Adult School closes; state and federally-funded courses are integrated with continuation programs
Technology	5	Maintain service and technology support to school sites; upgrade and invest in technology equipment for sites	No funds allocated to replace and upgrade technology equipment at school sites; service and support for school sites eliminated; technology funding will be allocated to compliance needs only
Counseling and support services	6	Increase counseling services to students	Further reductions to counseling services to minimum allowable level and maximize counselor to student ratio
Alameda students in charter schools	3	Alameda students in Alameda's public charter schools, which are in existence at the approval of this Measure, receive revenue from the Measure; revenue will be annually distributed to charter schools in proportion to each charter's enrollment of Alameda resident students	Charter schools receive no funding from AUSD

Tonight, the Board will provide direction to staff to finalize the parcel tax Resolution as to the following:

- Tax rate for real property with buildings
- Maximum amount of tax per parcel
- % allocation of funds for the stated purposes

Significant changes to the language of the tax or the addition of new programs will delay a final vote. On November 30<sup>th</sup> at a special meeting, the Board will vote on the final Resolution to place a parcel tax on the ballot for a March 8, 2011 special precinct election.

*Adrienne Lakadat, community member*, addressed the Board regarding bldg sqft vs. lot sqft, stating she doesn't believe accurate data is being provided by the County; more burden on residential property owners; large increase to owners of multi-unit dwellings; moving the burden more towards large property owners.

*Anne Beireis, community member*, addressed the Board regarding the parcel tax, community values and priorities; burden on secondary level too high.

*Ginger McBride, student*, addressed the Board regarding the percent allocated to charter schools.

*John Spangler, community member*, addressed the Board regarding differentiating between property and buildings on larger parcels, underwater parcels, and shopping centers; equitably spreading the load among the larger parcel owners and building owners in the commercial realm so homeowners don't take quite so much of the burden.

Board Members discussed the accuracy of tax record data; taxing possessory interest; clarifying eliminating staff and not programs for elementary music and media center; spending on adult education at risk of cutting opportunities for high school students; and timeline.

After discussing each item, the Board agreed:

- Cap of \$7,999
- Adding language to the Secondary School Choice Initiative and AP Courses category to clarify that funds may be used to maintain class sizes with student to teacher ratios less than 35:1
- Add drama to the list of enrichment programs
- % of revenues for charter schools increased from a flat 3% to a range of 3% - 4%
- Allocations:
  - Small class sizes 13-14%
  - Neighborhood elementary schools 7-8%
  - Enrichment programs 9-10%
  - Secondary School Choice Initiative and AP Courses 7-8%
  - Programs to close the achievement gap 15-16%
  - High school athletic programs 4%
  - Attract and retain excellent teachers 25-26%
  - Adult education 4%
  - Technology 5%
  - Counseling and student support services 6%
  - Alameda students in charter schools 3-4%

Revisions will be made and the item will be corrected and reposted on Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup> in preparation for the special meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup>. All other items not covered tonight will be re-agendized for the November 30<sup>th</sup> special Board meeting.

## **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Member Jensen noted the Special Olympics event she attended on Saturday.

Member Spencer thanked Debbie Opperud for the incredible job she does providing the Special Olympics bowling program. There was a large community turnout to participate.

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Mooney adjourned the meeting at 12:28 AM.