

Unapproved Minutes of Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Sequoia Union High School District
Thursday, March 23, 2006

- Call to Order The special meeting of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees was called to order by President Gordon Lewin at 5:35 p.m., Thursday, March 23, 2006, in the Sanford Building in Redwood City.
- Roll Call Trustees present:
- Don Gibson
Gordon Lewin
Lorraine Rumley
Olivia Martinez
Sally Stewart
Allyson Hillerby, Student Trustee (5:38 p.m.)
- Trustees absent:
- None
- Invitation to Audience President Lewin welcomed the audience and explained this is a public meeting of the Board where remarks from the audience would be entertained.
- Pledge of Allegiance President Lewin led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Summit Charter H.S.
Prop 39 Facilities Req Superintendent Gemma explained requirements under Proposition 39 and the District's obligation to provide facilities for Summit Charter High School.
- Ed LaVigne, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services, introduced the District's construction team and explained that the original proposal was to have modular buildings installed on the James Avenue property to be used temporarily by Redwood High School and in the long term by Adult School or possible school within a school programs.
- Mr. LaVigne explained that after examining the details of the proposed James Avenue project, the project grew from \$3 to 4 million to \$8 to \$9 million.
- Members of the construction team listed the specific areas which added to the increased cost.
- Diane Tavenner, Director of Summit Charter High School, presented the history behind Summit's Proposition 39 facilities request and indicated that she expected the District to stand behind its promise to provide Summit with the Old County Road property.
- Summit parents, students, and teachers listed the special characteristics of Summit Charter High School and how students who would have had difficulty at a large high school were supported by the charter school.
- Michael Radoye, President Sequoia District Teachers Association, acknowledged Summit speakers and described the good faith effort Redwood

teachers had made to relocate. He urged the Board to listen to fiscal, not political, messages and allow Redwood High School to remain at its present location.

Susan Swope, neighbor and community member, expressed concern about moving Summit to Sequoia High School, though she indicated she would not be in favor of displacing one group of students to accommodate another.

Bill Ames, retired principal of Redwood High School, indicated he was overwhelmed and impressed with the Summit presentations but was frightened on behalf of Redwood High School.

Redwood High School staff and students expressed their concern about moving to a location where students might encounter distractions that could impeded their success and their feelings of being disrespected.

Denise Plante, principal, Menlo-Atherton, and former principal, Redwood High School, applauded the Redwood staff for embracing the new challenge but urged the Board to allow the school to remain at its current location.

President Lewin recapped the construction team meeting.

Trustee Rumley apologized to the Redwood staff and students, the Sequoia parents, and the Summit staff, students, and parents for not being able to resolve the difficult issues in the most reasonable way.

Trustee Gibson reviewed the efforts district staff and the board subcommittee undertook to address Summit's facility needs.

Student Trustee Hillerby thanked both Redwood and Summit students for attending the board meeting to stand up for themselves.

Trustee Stewart noted that Redwood was the District's small learning community. She indicated that she looked forward to working closely with Summit staff, students, and parents and thanked the Superintendent and his staff for their willingness to reverse the District's position of moving Redwood to the James Avenue property.

Trustee Martinez expressed concern about the turn of events and regret for what both Summit and Redwood constituents had gone through. She added her apology to both staffs and reported that the Board wants to respond to the letter and the spirit of Proposition 39 facility requirements.

President Lewin acknowledged Summit and indicated that he looked forward to accepting its charter request. He also expressed concern about finding facility for Summit but pledged that the Board and staff would do everything to find a facility for Summit.

Student consent – "yes." On a motion by Trustee Martinez, seconded by Trustee Gibson, the Board of Trustees directed the Superintendent to remove the Redwood High School facility as a facility option for Summit Charter High

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School and authorized him to pursue other facility options, including, but not limited to, temporarily housing Summit in portable classrooms on the James Avenue property in portable classrooms.

Adjournment
at 7:48 p.m.

Student consent – “yes.” By consensus, the Board of Trustees adjourned its meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon Lewin, President

Olivia Martinez, Clerk

dmr