

Unapproved Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Sequoia Union High School District
Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Call to Order	The regular meeting of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees was called to order by President Olivia Martinez at 4:35 p.m., Wednesday, March 21, 2007, in the Sanford Building in Redwood City.
Roll Call	Trustees present: Don Gibson Gordon Lewin Olivia Martinez Lorraine Rumley Sally Stewart Kara Mantani, Student Trustee (5:30 p.m.) Trustees absent: None
Recess to Closed Session at 4:36 p.m.	The Board of Trustees recessed to Closed Session at 4:36 p.m. to conference with legal counsel regarding existing litigation (Town of Atherton v. SUHSD) as permitted by Government Code Section 54956.9 and to discuss labor negotiations as permitted by Government Code Section 54957.6
Return to Public Session at 5:30 p.m.	The Board of Trustees returned to Public Session at 5:30 p.m.
Invitation to Audience	President Martinez welcomed the audience and explained that the Consent Calendar consists of routine or previously discussed items to be considered as a unit and voted upon by roll call vote. She explained the Communications – Oral section of the agenda for permitting members of the audience to make presentations totaling no more than 10 minutes.
Pledge of Allegiance	President Martinez led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Approval of Agenda	Student consent – “yes.” On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Gibson, the Board of Trustees approved the agenda as presented.
Report Out on Closed Session	President Martinez reported that no action was taken in Closed Session.
Amendments to Consent Calendar	Delete: 8f Acceptance of Gifts
Approval of Consent Calendar	Student consent - “yes.” On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Gibson, the Board of Trustees approved the Consent Calendar as amended. Voting “yes” – Trustees Gibson, Lewin, Martinez, Rumley, and Stewart; voting “no” – none; absent – none.

Minutes for 3/21/07 Board Meeting

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Approval of Minutes
for the 2/21/07
& 3/7/07 Bd Mtgs

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the revised minutes for the February 21, 2007, board meeting and the minutes for the March 7, 2007, board meeting.

Approval of Personnel
Recommendations

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Personnel Recommendations as indicated.

Approval of Expulsions

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the hearing panels' findings and expelled: (1) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2006-07 semester and the Fall 2007-08 semester and established December 8, 2007, as the date the student may apply for readmission and set conditions for readmission to include that the student was satisfactorily involved in educational and counseling programs designed to address the behaviors that led to the expulsion; (2) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2006-07 semester and the Fall 2007-08 semester and established December 8, 2007, as the date the student may apply for readmission and set conditions for readmission to include that the student was satisfactorily involved in educational and counseling programs designed to address the behaviors that led to the expulsion; (3) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2006-07 semester and the Fall 2007-08 semester and established December 8, 2007, as the date the student may apply for readmission and set conditions for readmission to include that the student was satisfactorily involved in educational and counseling programs designed to address the behaviors that led to the expulsion; (4) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2006-07 semester and the Fall 2007-08 semester and suspended the expulsion, and (5) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2006-07 semester and the Fall 2007-08 semester and suspended the expulsion.

Approval of Warrants

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved Warrants No. 0295 through 0332 totaling \$3,045,028.88 for February 2007.

Approval of Monthly
Financial Report

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Monthly Financial Report for February 2007 for February 2007.

Approval of
Construction Bid

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees authorized the Superintendent to approve the bids for renovation of four science classrooms in F-Wing at Woodside High School.

Approval of
Management Services

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved AlfaTech Cambridge for construction management services for the Carlmont High School Performing Arts Center Project; ratified pre-construction services provided by Blach for the Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center Project, and approved Blach Construction as Construction Manager for Phase II of the Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center Project, utilizing the lease/lease-back contract (contingent upon acceptance of contract language).

Approval of

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved:

- Construction Projects (1) preliminary utility work, relocation of the modular classroom, and the trimming and removal of vegetation including shrubs and trees, and to informally bid work if needed in preparation for the new Carmont High School Performing Arts Center; (2) the placement of one new modular science/technology classroom, the architectural services from Cody Anderson Wasney in the amount of \$82,300, advertising for bids, purchasing of furnishings and equipment, and to obtain the services of testing labs, and a construction management firm as needed for the Woodside High School Modular Science Classroom Project.
- Approval of Sequoia H.S. Site Plan and Categorical Programs & Budgets Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Sequoia High School site plan budget for 2006-07.
- Ratification of Salary Increases for Classified OT&P & M&O Barg Units Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees ratified the salary increases for classified Office, Technical, and Professional, and Maintenance and Operations bargaining units
- Approval of Field Trips Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the field trip requests for the Menlo-Atherton High School Jazz Ensemble and Combo to compete at the International Jazz Festival, April 27-29, University of Nevada, Reno; the Menlo-Atherton High School Academy field trip to Natural Bridges, Santa Cruz, May 14, and the Woodside High School AP Biology and AP Environmental students field trip to Angel Island, May 19-20, 2007.
- Special Recognitions Superintendent Gemma commended:
- Roman Doyonnas, Suzanne Eldredge, Elisha Glickman, Rachel Gryn, Christy Jones, Jonathan Lam, Kaitlyn Martin, Scott Pense, Betsy Sachs, Amity Sims, Hannah Thomson, and Jeremy Williams making the Fall 2006 Cañada Middle College Dean’s List. Congratulations to all these hard working students. I want to commend the following Canada Middle College students for making the fall 2006 Dean’s List:
 - Carmont High School students Gary Lent and Rebecca Lent for being selected for the All-State Honor Band.
 - Sequoia High School student Luis Guzman for being selected, “Youth of the Year” and winning a \$5,000 scholarship from the Boys and Girls Club. The “Youth of the Year” competition recognizes outstanding contributions by young people to their family, school, and community.
 - The Sequoia High School Girls Soccer Team for winning the Peninsula Athletic League’s Ocean Division title.
 - Menlo-Atherton High School student Matthew Boyd and Woodside High School student Nadia Nothelfer for being honored at the Family Service Agency of San Mateo County and Oracle’s 12th Annual Winners Breakfast: Both students received \$500.
 - Woodside High School students Jarred Hare and Joanna Ingebritsen for being named National Merit Scholarship finalists. To become a finalist, a student must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school,

be endorsed and recommended by the school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier qualifying test performance.

Public Hearing on
Daytop Charter Proposal
Opened at 5:37 p.m.

President Martinez opened the Public Hearing on the Daytop Charter Proposal at 5:37 p.m.

Jim Massey, Menlo-Atherton graduate and resident of the area, reported that he was no fan of charter schools and questioned the legality of providing tax dollars to support a private school.

Joe DiGeronimo, former Superintendent of Jefferson School District and resident of San Carlos, expressed concern as taxpayer and expressed a preference for using tax dollars to support regular educational programs.

Carolyn Hoskins, President of the NFL Drug Prevention Program, reported on how the NFL Drug Prevention Program went into Ralson Middle School after the death of student Irma Perez to begin a drug prevention program at Ralston Middle School. She suggested that the main goal should be education regardless of where funds come from.

Debra Budresa, retired Daytop teacher, indicated that in her years of working with at-risk youth, Daytop was the only program which was effective in addressing substance abuse and integrating family values.

Lia Tealdi, Daytop teacher and 1991 graduate of the Daytop program, reported that the program prepares students for college.

Michael Malone, Principal to Daytop, indicated that all students are residents of Redwood City, and the focus of the program is to improve student learning using diverse learning styles.

Allison Sheenan Daytop teacher since 1988, described the benefit to the District of having a clean and sober school.

Orville Roach, Executive Director, Daytop Village and President of the Governing Board for Garfield Charter School, clarified why the county denied the charter petition and explained why the Sequoia District should approve it.

Public Hearing
Closed at 6:03 p.m.

President Martinez closed the Public Hearing at 6:03 p.m.

Oral Communications

District Nurse Judy Sensenbaugh presented a brief description of how the District Nurse, funded through a \$90,000 grant from the Healthcare District, is being used.

Adrian Dilley, Sequoia High School teacher, reported for Paul Tekis the difficulty of getting sports teams to away games. He asked that the topic of Athletic Transportation be added at the next board meeting agenda.

The Superintendent reported that staff will attempt to find a solution before the next board meeting.

President Martinez asked that Athletic Programs be added to a future agenda to accommodate a broad discussion.

Trustee Stewart asked that staff talk with CIF about scheduling issues.

Correspondence

None

LEA Perf Goal No. 4,
All Students Will Be
Educated in Learning
Environments that are
Safe, Drug-Free, &
Conducive to Learning

Eric Hartwig, Director of Student Services, highlighted the programs at each school which serve students' needs. He reviewed expulsion records and noted that Sequoia expels more students each year than neighboring districts. He indicated that district staff are currently investigating attendance patterns and new ways to support students.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Stewart, Woodside High School Principal Linda Common described peer mediation and other programs that support students. Menlo-Atherton High School Principal Denise Plante described Challenge Day for freshmen who are then paired with peer mentors. Joni Gordon reported that adults on the Carlmont campus "adopt freshmen to provide personal support. Sequoia High School Administrative Vice Principal David Reilly noted that some meaningful intervention is really required for students with serious drug and alcohol problems.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Lewin, Mr. Hartwig indicated that SROs and other adults on campus add to the security and support of students.

Superintendent Gemma reported on a new position the District would like to create, called Attendance and Welfare Officer, who will be addressing the more serious attendance and residency issues on campus. He noted that this position would be connected with law enforcement but would be a district employee. The Probation Department suggested creating the position and seeking retirees from the Probation Department to fill the positions.

Trustee Gibson added that he believes campuses are very safe, though parents have expressed concern. He suggested developing a board policy which would require immediate reports to the Board when serious offenses take place on campus.

Trustee Rumley expressed appreciation for Mr. Reilly's candor about students who abuse drugs and alcohol.

President Martinez indicated she would like to expand security cameras on the campuses and buses as personnel costs are much greater. She also suggested tapping community resources. She expressed a preference for expending additional funds on wellness rather than on the few students who abuse drugs and alcohol.

Trustee Stewart indicated she would be opposed to any proposals about security cameras or drug sniffing dogs.

Ms. Sencenbaugh urged the requiring of physical exams when students are suspected to being involved with drugs and alcohol and are seeking to return to the District after an expulsion period.

Mike Radoye, President of the Sequoia District Teachers Association, applauded comments made by Mr. Reilly and Ms. Sencenbaugh and agreed with the position of not supporting drug sniffing dogs.

Mrs. Common added that expansion of vocational education programs will be a deterrent to students who are not succeeding.

Kiki Gregoriente from ATS indicated that a 90-day course for students who are repeat offenders has been very effective.

In response to an inquiry by Trustees Lewin and Gibson about the possibility of having an anonymous phone line for students and community, the Superintendent agreed to check back with the organization to determine what its success has been over last two years.

Discussion of Revised
BP 4111, Staff Development
& BP 4131.5, Professional
Growth

Debbie Moore Washington, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources and Staff Development, presented Board Policies 4111, Staff Development and Board Policy 4131.5, Professional Growth.

Staff accepted several edits from board members and indicated the board policies will be returned for action at the April 18 board meeting.

Discussion of Revised
BP 3460, Financial
Reports & Accountability

The Superintendent presented a proposed revision to Board Policy 3460, Financial Reports and Accountability.

Trustee Lewin suggested that reserve be greater than 5 percent but perhaps not as great as Palo Alto's.

Ed LaVigne, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services, suggested that \$5 million is a bit short for a \$100 million budget.

President Martinez asked that the discussion on this issue continue at a future meeting.

Discussion of Capital
Facility Improvements
& Bond Expenditures

Mr. LaVigne presented the Capital Facility Improvements and Bond Expenditures Report, listing work accomplished from Measure G and Measure H and the work that will remain when all bond funds are expended.

Trustee Lewin proposed that the Construction Committee meet to discuss this report after the visioning sessions have concluded.

Acceptance of Gifts

Trustee Rumley commended the Menlo-Atherton community for its generous donation of gifts, and noted that the Board needs to be aware that such generosity can cause an inequity among the schools.

Student consent – “yes.” On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Stewart, the Board of Trustees accepted the gifts as listed and requested the Superintendent to write letters of appreciation as appropriate.

Board of Trustees’/

Superintendent Gemma reported on his visit to the Woodside/Carlmont.

Superintendent's Comments
& Committee Reports

and Menlo-Atherton Robotics Teams' final events and noted that both teams went into final rounds. He reported that one of the robotics' mentors and a parent from the Woodside team wrote a grant and received \$25,000 to keep the program afloat.

Student Trustee Mantani reported on the visioning process and indicated that participating students were still talking about the experience the next day.

Trustee Stewart reported on College Board 2007 China Trip. She indicated that districts can apply for a Bridge Delegation.

She reported that two visioning sessions remain on Saturday at the East Palo Alto Senior Center and the Fair Oaks Community Center.

Trustee Gibson reported that he stopped by to see the Sequoia High School IB Art Exhibit.

Trustee Rumley expressed appreciation to the facilitators of the visioning sessions.

She reported that the Communications Committee held a preliminary meeting to talk about a community brochure. She indicated there are some community Issues around enrollment and specifically concerns from some San Carlos families who are requesting transfers out of Sequoia.

President Martinez asked that parents be told as early as possible whether their transfer request was being denied. She suggested that affected students should be required to visit all involved sites. She also asked for a progress report on how High Tech High students were doing.

Trustee Stewart questioned that any school should be allowed to grow beyond 2000 students. She noted that the schools are becoming more out of ethnic and racial balance.

Adjournment
at 8:02 p.m.

Student consent – "yes." On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Rumley, the Board of Trustees adjourned its meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Martinez, President

Don Gibson, Clerk