

Unapproved Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Sequoia Union High School District
Wednesday, October 3, 2007

- Call to Order The regular meeting of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees was called to order by Vice President Lorraine Rumley at 4:34 p.m., Wednesday, October 3, 2007, in the Sanford Building at the District Office in Redwood City.
- Roll Call Trustees present:
- Don Gibson
 Gordon Lewin
 Lorraine Rumley
 Sally Stewart
 Megan Fisher, Student Trustee (5:39 p.m. Public Session)
- Trustee absent:
- Olivia Martinez
- Recess to
Closed Session
at 4:35 p.m. The Board of Trustees recessed to Closed Session at 4:35 p.m. to conference with real property negotiators as permitted by Government Code Section 54956.9 and Certificated. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release (Gov't. Code Section 54957.6)
- Return to
Public Session
at 5:39 p.m. The Board of Trustees returned to Public Session at 5:39 p.m.
- Invitation to Audience Vice President Rumley 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 Public Comment section of the agenda was for permitting members of the audience to make presentations about items not on the agenda.
- Pledge of Allegiance Vice President Rumley led the Board of Trustees and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Agenda On a motion by Trustee Gibson, seconded by Trustee Lewin, the Board of Trustees approved the agenda as presented.
- Report Out on
Closed Session Vice President Rumley announced that no action was taken in Closed Session.
- Amendments to
Consent Calendar Delete:
- 8c Approval of Personnel Recommendations
 8d Approval of Purchase of Real Property in East Palo Alto
 8f Approval of Job Description for Bilingual/Migrant Education Ombudsman
- Approval of
Consent Calendar Student consent – “yes.” On a motion by Trustee Gibson, seconded by Trustee Lewin, the Board of Trustees approved the Consent Calendar as amended. Voting “yes” – Trustees Gibson, Lewin, Rumley, and Stewart; voting “no” – none; absent – one.
- Acceptance of Quarterly
Report on Williams Uniform
Complaints Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted the Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints.

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Approval of Minutes 9/16 and 9/19 Bd Mtgs	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted the minutes for the September 16 and 19, 2007, board meetings.
Approval of Gifts	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted the following gifts for Woodside High School \$125 from AVID Center to AVID CSAC Grant; \$6,000 from Dean Ripple for Barbara Ripple Memorial Scholarship; \$250 from Mary Ann Fabian for CPR equipment; \$300 from Kay Adler and Michelle Stanley to Girls' Lacrosse; the Woodside High School Foundations contributed to English Readers (500), Freshman AVID (19,000), KLEAR (20,000, Phoenix-NovaNet (500), Principal's Discretion (10,000 and 24,524), and Website (1,450), and requested the Superintendent to send letters of appreciation to the donors.
Authorization to Pay Volunteer Tutors in Americorps Program	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees authorized the paying of volunteers in the Americorps Built to Last program.
Adoption of Res. No. 1355, Authorization for SUHSD to Act as Fiscal Agent for Americorps' Built to Last Collaborative	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1355, authorizing the District to become the Local Educational and Fiscal Agent for the Americorps Built to Last program.
Approval of NovaNet Agreement	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the NovaNet agreement.
Approval of Field Trips	None
Public Comment	None
Correspondence	None
Approval of Purchase of Real Property in East Palo Alto	<p>Domingo Huerta, East Palo Alto resident, expressed his concern of the District's plan to build a school on this property, and that it would impact his family's quality of life. Superintendent Gemma assured Mr. Huerta that the District would be a good neighbor.</p> <p>Upon roll call vote on a motion from Trustee Gibson, and seconded by Trustee Stewart, the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of real property in East Palo Alto.</p>
Approval of Personnel Recommendations	<p>Greg Gruszynski, Vice President, Sequoia District Teachers Association, asked about the costs for independent contractors to market Sequoia High School programs and the grant writing services for Built to Last. Superintendent Gemma advised that funds for public relations were included in the budget adopted by the Board, and the grant writing costs were funded by the grant.</p> <p>Trustee Gibson requested clarification on the consultant providing college outreach parent institutes for Spanish-speaking parents. Dorothy Burnside, Parent Involvement Coordinator, advised that participation in the DELAC program has increased, and that the independent contractor providing these services at all four high schools is the same group of people the District has used in the past and the name was changed.</p> <p>Upon roll call vote on a motion from Trustee Gibson, and seconded by Trustee Lewin, the Board of Trustees approved the personnel recommendations.</p>

- Special Recognitions Susan Berghouse, Director, District Information & Communications, presented plaques to Parent Volunteers of the Year who were unable to be at the Opening of School Convocation. Judy Hood, Menlo-Atherton High School Parent Volunteer, and Barbara Patterson, Redwood High School Parent Volunteer.
- Report on Middle College Jen Buchanan, Jen Petroelje, and Mitch Roman, High School Instructors for Middle College, reported on the successful joint collaboration between the SUHSD and Cañada College, which is now in its ninth year of operation.
- Trustees Gibson, Lewin, and Rumley all enthusiastically commended the program. Trustee Lewin suggested changing the name of the program.
- Trustee Stewart would like to see a bus transport students to alternative programs.
- Student Trustee Fisher summarized that students can graduate early, continue on at Cañada, or transfer to a four-year college.
- Report on Address Verification Susan Berghouse, Director, District Information & Communications, reported that the address verification program was in its third year. The program has progressed with the help of exceptional staff at the District and at the sites.
- In response to Trustee Stewart's question, Mrs. Berghouse replied that there has been a good return on investment financially, as well as positive outcomes resulting from the numerous home visits.
- Matthew Zito, Principal, Menlo-Atherton High School, stated that address verification has enabled SUHSD to get better information on families as well as increase attendance.
- Discussion of Possible Bond Election Andrew Ach, Financial Advisor, Northcross Hill & Ach, provided information on revenue the District might receive from a bond. Mr. Ach advised that his responsibilities include (1) selling the bonds for the District and (2) analyzing the cost of a bond and how the many variables translate over time. The calculations were based on a cost of under \$10 per \$100,000 of the assessed value price of a single-family home, and 30 percent of the homes in this area are valued at \$200,000 (which is not the market value).
- At \$9.99 per \$100,000 of assessed value, the District could go to the electorate for a \$140 million bond with a plan to sell the first issuance in 2008 for \$64,750,000 and sell the second issuance in 2010 for \$75,250,000. The average tax rate would fluxuate between \$8.80 and \$9.99 per \$100,000 of assessed value.
- In response to Trustee Gibson's question concerning ballot language, Mr. Ach said a Tax Rate Statement is included on the ballot that indicates the first year's tax.
- Trustee Rumley asked about meeting with a citizens group interested in working on a possible bond committee. Superintendent Gemma reported that on the previous evening he, Edward LaVigne, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services, Trustees Gibson and Lewin had met with 32 individuals representing many facets of the community.
- Superintendent Gemma cautioned that the District needs to be very clear and have substantial contingencies built into the ballot language to ensure the projects are completed. Mr. LaVigne stated the contingency would need to be between 25 and 30 percent. Andrew Ach suggested an expanded bond amount of \$165 million extending the last issuance to 2013 with a maximum tax rate of \$10 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation.

Mr. LaVigne advised that he would bring a draft resolution, project list, and tax rate to the next meeting.

Approval of Job Description for Bilingual/Migrant Education Ombudsman

In response to Trustee Gibson's question, Francisca Miranda, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services, stated this position would be funded through the Migrant and Bilingual programs.

Trustee Stewart suggested more coordination of effort, to which Suanna Gilman-Ponce, Director of English Learners and Categoricals, replied that progress has been made with parent institutes in East Palo Alto and Redwood City, and that parents need more follow-up from within the schools to augment personal contact. There was discussion that programs need to serve all the District's diverse groups of students and parents.

Staff will work with the Coordinator of Special Education and come back to the Board in March 2008, with a plan to enhance services and measure outcomes to impact student achievement.

Board of Trustees' Superintendent's

Superintendent Gemma advised that a mediation session with Summit Charter School is planned for October 15. He asked if any board members would like to participate. Trustee Lewin suggested that board members who might be interested could send the Superintendent an e-mail.

Comments

Trustee Rumley attended the San Mateo County Visioning Forum where goals and objectives through 2020 were discussed. Whenever there are budgetary expenditure requests the county board requires that the expense pertains to a vision or goal.

Morgan Marchbanks,, Principal, Sequoia High School, reported that the school's Master Plan Committee had met the previous week concerning developing a mission statement and master plan for the school.

Trustee Rumley advised that the Family Connections Newsletter had been awarded a \$150,000 grant.

Adjournment at 8:18 p.m.

On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Gibson, the Board of Trustees adjourned its meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Rumley, Vice President

Don Gibson, Clerk