

Unapproved Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Sequoia Union High School District
Wednesday, February 6, 2008

- Call to Order The regular meeting of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees was called to order by President Rumley at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 6, 2008, in the Birch Conference Room, Sanford Building, at the District Office in Redwood City.
- Roll Call Trustees present:
- Don Gibson
 Gordon Lewin
 Olivia Martinez
 Lorraine Rumley
 Sally Stewart
 Megan Fisher, Student Trustee
- Trustees absent:
- None
- Recess to
Closed Session at 4:32 p.m. The Board of Trustees recessed to conference with legal counsel regarding existing litigation as permitted by Government Code Section 54956.9, and to conference with real property negotiators as permitted by Government Code Section 54956.8.
- Return to Public
Session at 5:35 p.m. The Board of Trustees returned to Public Session at 5:35 p.m.
- Special Appreciation President Rumley stated that the Board was celebrating the passage of Measure “J,” which was a great accomplishment for the community. Mrs. Rumley thanked the staff and community for the hard work they did on the bond election, with special thanks to Trustees Gibson and Lewin for their leadership and drive to pass Measure “J.”
- Invitation to Audience 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 President Rumley led the Board of Trustees and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Agenda On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approved the agenda as presented.
- Report Out on
Closed Session President Rumley announced that while in Closed Session, the Board voted to execute a settlement agreement with the Town of Atherton.
- Amendments to
Consent Calendar Delete:
- a. Approval of minutes for January 16, and 23, 2008, Board Meetings
- Approval of
Consent Calendar Student consent–“yes.” On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approved the Consent Calendar as amended. Voting “yes”–Trustees Gibson, Lewin, Martinez, Rumley, and Stewart; voting “no”–none; absent–none.

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 adopted the hearing panels' findings to expel: (1) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Fall and Spring 2007-08 semesters and establish May 15, 2008, as the date that 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 Fall and Spring 2007-08 semesters and establish May 15, 2008, as the date that 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 Fall and Spring 2007-08 semesters and establish May 15, 2008, as the date that 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 Fall and Spring 2007-08 semesters and establish May 15, 2008, as the date that 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; (5) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Fall and Spring 2007-08 semesters and establish May 15, 2008, as the date that 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, and (6) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Fall and Spring 2007-08 semesters and suspend the expulsion with the stipulation that the student be allowed to attend school beginning on January 9, 2008. During the suspended expulsion the student must satisfy the following conditions: the student shall not engage in any conduct that would lead to suspension or expulsion pursuant to California Education Code Section 48900 et seq; and, the student will be allowed to enter or be on other school campuses only if accompanied by at least one parent or a legal guardian, as the case may be. After the suspended expulsion period, and continuing throughout student's enrollment with the District, the student will be allowed on the other school campuses only if accompanied by at least one of the student's parents or a legal guardian, as the case may be. During the suspended expulsion period, the student shall continue private therapy sessions, at no cost to the District. Upon student's request, the student shall be permitted to participate in online Nova-net credit recovery programs and all other tutorial programs offered by the school site. If, during the suspended expulsion period, the administration of the school finds that the student has failed to satisfy the conditions outlined, the settlement parties agree that the suspended expulsion may be revoked and that student may be expelled immediately, without further process or hearing, and without the opportunity to appeal such expulsion. Upon satisfaction of the conditions named above, and upon written request from student's parents, school site shall recommend to the District, expungement of any and all records of student's expulsion, the expulsion proceedings, and the suspended expulsion. Including, but not limited to, any documents or other materials concerning or relating to the District's claims as outlined. The District shall place student's expungement as an item on the Consent Agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board following parent's request. Student and parents are not required to attend the Board meeting. The District shall provide student and parents with written confirmation of the recommended expungement as a Consent Agenda item by no later than June 20, 2008.

Rescission of
Suspended Expulsion

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees adopted the hearing panels findings to expel: (1) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the remainder of the Spring 2007-08 semester and establish May 15, 2008, as the date that the student may apply for readmission and set conditions to include that the student was satisfactorily involved in educational and counseling programs designed to address the behaviors that led to the expulsion.

Approval of
Obsolete Textbooks

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees declared the listed items as obsolete, and unsuitable for use, and authorized the Superintendent to dispose of textbooks in accordance with Education Code provisions.

Approval of
Construction Bid

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the low construction bid received from Eggli Landscaping in the amount of \$60,149, for the landscaping and irrigation work at Sequoia High School.

Approval to Incr. Classified
Staffing for Nursery
Attendant at Adult School

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the increase in classified staffing for an additional Nursery Attendant at the Adult School.

Approval to Hire Architect
for Physics Classroom Renov.
at Sequoia High School

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved hiring Cody Anderson Wasney Architects in the amount not to exceed \$68,050 for drawings for the Physics classroom renovation at Sequoia High School.

Acceptance of Gifts

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted the gifts and requested the Superintendent to send letters of appreciation to the donors where appropriate.

Approval of Field Trips

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the field trip requests for Carlmont AVID students to tour colleges in Southern California, February 14-15, 2008, and the Woodside/Carmont Robotics Team 100 to compete in Portland, Oregon, from February 28-March 2, 2008.

Adult School Classified
Staff Member
Rosemary Alvarez
Recognized

Patricia Torres Cocconi, Director of Sequoia Adult School, recognized Rosemary Alvarez, Administrative Secretary, for her 40 years of dedicated service to the District. Ms. Alvarez started working as a student aide for the District in 1963 while she was a sophomore at Sequoia High School. Rosemary Alvarez plans to retire on March 1, 2008.

Innovative Teacher
Elizabeth Weal
Recognized

Lionel de Maine, Assistant Director of Sequoia Adult School, recognized Sequoia Adult School English teacher Elizabeth Weal for her innovative teaching methods. Mr. de Maine stated that Ms. Weal has been a transformative leader in the Adult School, and many times has contributed her expertise and leadership for the good of the school.

Public Comment

None

Correspondence

None

Progress Report on
Adult School WASC

Patricia Cocconi thanked the Board and Superintendent's Staff, especially Francisca Miranda, Deputy Superintendent, for all the support provided to the Sequoia Adult School. The CBET program with Cañada College is very successful, Family Connections is opening a site in East Palo Alto, and the GED classes are being expanded.

Lionel de Maine reported on work place development classes, and advised that the Adult School was adding a vocational nursing program, to a program that already includes medical and pharmacy technician training.

Trustee Lewin stated he was impressed with the changes and ongoing learning at the Adult School, especially the Adult School's articulation with Redwood High School.

Trustee Gibson said the Adult School is doing a great job.

Trustee Stewart suggested putting out online surveys.

Trustee Martinez acknowledged the hard work and progress that has been made regarding starting classes in East Palo Alto.

Superintendent Gemma said that when the portables at Sequoia are moved, some will be placed on Ravenswood elementary sites, as well as on two church properties in East Palo Alto, to house adult school classes. Mrs. Cocconi advised that child care will be offered in conjunction with those classes.

Trustee Rumley advised that she attended Yoga class at Woodside Terrace and she commented that the Adult School really has the best interests of the community in mind. The Adult School distributes its mailers to 94,000 homes.

Public Hearing on
Res. No. 1357, Sufficiency
of Textbooks &
Instructional Materials

President Rumley opened the Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m.; there were no comments, and the Public Hearing was closed.

Adoption of Res. No. 1357,
Sufficiency of Textbooks &
Instructional Materials

Student consent—"yes." On a motion from Trustee Gibson, seconded by Trustee Lewin, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1357, a Resolution on Sufficiency of Textbooks and Instructional Materials as presented. Voting "yes;"—Trustees Gibson, Lewin, Martinez, Rumley, and Stewart; voting "no"—none.

Aspire Public School
Charter Petition
Tabled to March 5, 2008

Dr. Gemma advised that on December 5, 2007, the Board and Aspire had mutually agreed to postpone the decision regarding the charter school petition; and at this time he is recommending that the Board approve the petition and MOU for three years.

Joanna Garcia, Thomas Madson, Nick Romagnolo, and Don Shalvey, Executive Director of Aspire, spoke in favor of the petition.

Trustee Lewin suggested that the petition request be tabled for 30 days so there is time to discuss it with Ravenswood City Elementary District to see if an arrangement can be made to convert the elementary district's existing charter with Aspire from a K-8 charter to a K-12.

Don Shalvey advised that he would be willing to postpone the approval for 30 days.

Trustees Gibson and Stewart both stated that they liked Trustee Lewin's suggestion.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Rumley, Superintendent Gemma advised that he would meet with the Ravenswood Superintendent to determine if the elementary district might reconsider a K-12 charter proposal from Aspire.

Mr. Shalvey advised that he would cooperate and wait to see what happened. He said that if all else failed he was confident that the Sequoia district will approve the three-year charter on March 5, 2008.

Trustee Martinez said that she was appreciative of Mr. Shalvey's support; however, it was very difficult to get any bureaucratic entity to move quickly and suggested that the Board approve the petition now.

Trustee Lewin said he understood Trustee Martinez' skepticism but there was a lot at stake. Ravenswood had turned down Aspire before because it believed there was nothing in it for them. The SUHSD Board has to do everything possible to offset a \$1 million expense against the District's General Fund.

Trustee Rumley proposed that the Superintendent consult with legal counsel to determine if charters were transferable; meet with the Ravenswood elementary; place the Aspire Charter Petition/MOU on the Consent Calendar for March 5, 2008, and keep Mr. Shalvey informed about the situation.

Addition of Special Board Meeting on March 12, 2008

Superintendent Gemma advised that an additional board meeting needs to be scheduled to approve the non-reelected list of teachers for the Fall of 2008, because this list will not be available until after the March 5 board meeting. Dr. Gemma recommended holding a Special Board Meeting on March 12, 2008, at 4:30 p.m. The Board accepted scheduling an additional meeting.

Discussion of Facility for Teen Wellness Center

Dr. Gemma advised that the current facility housing the Teen Wellness Center is a temporary building, and the Construction Department has determined that Phase I of the Sequoia High School Master Plan renovation needs to begin this summer, and this requires moving the Wellness Center facility. Staff had worked with San Mateo County Medical Center staff to design a building costing over \$2 million and had agreed to come back with alternative plan.

Superintendent stated that staff has developed a plan for a DSA-approved modular building placed on a permanent foundation, which will cost between \$1.1 and \$1.3 million. The cost includes architect fees, moving buildings, traffic flow and site work.

Brent McClure, of Cody Anderson Wasney Architects, presented drawings of the existing Sequoia High School campus showing the current location of Teen Wellness Center as well as Phase I of the Sequoia High School Master Plan which includes driveway renovation, realignments, and re-orienting parking on the James Avenue side of the campus.

Mr. McClure advised that the Division of State Architect requires a review period that takes 11-15 months to build a non-modular building, and modular buildings are pre-approved by DSA. He added that the Teen Wellness Center facility would be included as part of the Phase I renovation of the Sequoia High School Master Plan.

Superintendent Gemma stated that the Teen Wellness Center would be out of operation for three to four months. Dr. Chang, CEO of San Mateo Medical Center, advised that this project was important to the County, which spends \$800,000 per year to run the Teen Wellness program.

Trustee Martinez advised that the Board agrees that the Teen Wellness Center is valuable and important to the students, and she confirmed that the District was only responsible for the facility cost. She recommended moving forward with constructing a new modular facility.

Dr. Espinoza, MD., suggested placing a County-owned mobile clinic onto the school site campus where summer school would be held.

Pat Brown, Executive Director of Redwood City 2020, advised that the County is exploring sources of funding, and obtaining reimbursement for a modular building purchase may be easier because they cost less. Trustee Rumley stated that the Board would move ahead with plans to install a permanent modular building on the Sequoia High School campus to house the Teen Wellness Center.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Lewin, Dr. Chang advised that the County has a nurse practitioner who provides intramural services at all of the high school campuses.

Discuss Recruitment and
Selection of Bond Oversight
Committee for Measure J

Edward LaVigne, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services, stated that ads will be placed in local newspapers and on the District website requesting members of the community to submit applications for the Measure J Bond Oversight Committee. Mr. LaVigne said he would like to have the committee in place as soon as the first series of bonds were sold, which should be in approximately two months.

Trustee Gibson suggested placing the application form directly on the website. He said board members will also submit lists of potential committee members to Mr. LaVigne.

Trustee Lewin advised that the oversight committee should report to the Board on an annual basis.

Trustee Stewart suggested that when the bond audit is presented, perhaps the oversight committee could present its report at the same time.

Approval of Minutes for
Jan. 16 and 23, 2008,
Board Meetings

In addition to the written recommendation to amend the January 23, 2008, minutes, Trustee Stewart suggested the following changes to the January 23, 2008, minutes: on Page 4, Paragraph 3, first sentence, change "should" to "would;" and the second sentence shall be revised to: "the program 'could ~~need to~~ be very successful for." and add the sentence, "It could be modeled after MET."

Board of Trustees/
Superintendent's Comments
and Committee Reports

Superintendent Gemma said he wanted to make a public apology to Linda Common, Principal Emeritus of Woodside High School. During the last Student Advisory Council (SAC) meeting, several students from Woodside stated that they had felt imposed upon by the cameras installed at Woodside. In actual fact, Mrs. Common had held a student assembly and informed the students why the cameras were being installed. Dr. Gemma advised that he would be in contact with the SAC students, and he was working with SDTA on statement for staff and students regarding the purpose of cameras.

Dr. Gemma reported that he had participated on a panel with the County Office of Education and State legislators concerning the State budget. County agencies presented reports on the impact of the ten-percent across the board budget cuts, which are not in alignment with values. Superintendent Gemma advised that he will continue to work with legislators to come up with a reasonable plan.

President Rumley said that she attended Senator Simitian's Educational Summit, where they talked about the Governor's proposal to suspend Proposition 98. Trustee Rumley advised that everyone needs to be vocal about the need to reduce the percentage of votes required to pass a Parcel Tax to 55 percent.

Trustee Gibson said he wanted to return to last night's bond election and to thank the public for its support.

Trustee Lewin stated that he, and Trustee Stewart, attended a workshop focusing on instructional strategies. They also attended a seminar put on by the San Mateo County School Boards Association entitled "Mindsets of Learning."

Trustee Lewin advised that on Monday, a group went down to visit MET-Ed, which was very impressive and exciting.

Trustee Stewart suggested writing to the Governor, members of the Senate and Assembly, and the budget committee, concerning suspension of Proposition 98.

Superintendent Gemma advised that on February 20, 2008, lunch will be served at Redwood High School by the SAMP program, and a schedule will be sent to the Board. Dr. Gemma stated that the March 5, 2008, board meeting will be held at the District Office, with the Closed Session at 4:30 p.m., and the Regular Public Session starting at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment at
8:12 p.m

On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Stewart, the Board of Trustees adjourned its meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Lorraine Rumley, President

Gordon Lewin, Clerk