

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 16, 2012**

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Thomas Newmeyer, William Ziegler, Karen Benjamin
Shirley Thornton, Ed. D. via teleconference
Mark Trotter absent
Superintendent: Valerie Pitts, Ed. D.

President Thomas Newmeyer called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

M/s c Ziegler/Benjamin/all to approve the agenda order.

OPEN SESSION

There was no public comment.

Study Session for Community Input on Facilities

Superintendent Pitts introduced a discussion on facilities. The district is responsible to keep up its facilities and to modify and have enough facilities, all of which should be driven by teaching and the education program. Projected enrollment at Bayside Elementary and Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy is holding and anticipates some growth; Willow Creek Academy is growing. She reviewed again the Facilities Needs Analysis prepared for both campuses.

Superintendent Pitts explained that the district's goal is three-fold: (1) determine what the district, the parents and the community need and want; (2) determine what the cost of each need or want and (3) determine whether to go for a bond. Refining needs/wants is a process that will extend beyond June.

Mr. Stan Clark, AIA, Quattrocchi Kwok Architects, was introduced. Mr. Clark distributed materials about Quattrocchi Kwok Architects who have been engaged to assist the district with its Master Plan. He explained that the district begins with the visioning of a Master Plan, which includes what you need/want for the learning environments for the children. The purpose of this discussion will be to hear from parents and community members so that the Master Plan can begin to evolve.

Discussion

- Create adequate recreation space for both school and community needs at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy field.
- Create portable unit space for school and community extra-curricular activities.
- Integrate/unify the MLK campus by creating paths of access between school buildings/field and across Phillips Drive to other services.
- Whatever the design, it must be flexible and adaptable for future possible configurations (form follows function).

- Whatever the curriculum, it must be adaptable to the future too; build adaptable space (form follows curriculum).
- Configuration can take place after the bond passes if envisioned with flexibility in mind.
- When wants and needs are known, dollars can be attached and prioritized.

Trustee Ziegler stated that he was personally not inclined to raise money on the basis of flexibility and would prefer to make clear and specific statements to the public about what is needed and wanted.

Discussion, continued

- It is hard to say we need certain curriculum without having experienced it (i.e.: foreign language).
- What the board does will be education driven.
- Consider soil condition beneath building sites proposed at MLK.
- School buildings in Marin City should capture the historical culture of Marin City in design.
- Facilities must work with the comprehensive education program; the district is also exploring an International Baccalaureate program.
- Expanded curriculum has been slow to develop at both Bayside and MLK.
- Four teachers are being hired at this time to develop art, music, physical education and counseling. Technology and assessment programs such as Study Island were added during the 2011/2012 school year.
- Bond funds can only be spent on facilities; general operating funds are spent for teachers/staff.
- The next board meeting, scheduled May 24, will include a study session discussion on race and isolation issues and continuation of the discussion on bond/facilities for public input.

Trustee Thornton stated that the board must determine whether a quality K-8 in Marin City will address the needs of its children.

President Newmeyer summarized that there are budget issues, race issues and a variety of opinions of what should be done. There has to be a balance between what the decision makers want and what the community wants; the board continues to listen.

Discussion, continued

- Discussions calling for parent/community input should be scheduled at times that are convenient for them to attend; outreach is important.
- Prepare flyers with Spanish translation. Parent, Rocia Novoa, volunteered to help.
- Consider a later start time for the discussion of race and isolation on May 24.
- Consider a 'decision tree' to summarize for people what they are coming to discuss.
- Consider Spanish translation at the meetings; language is a barrier.

The discussion ended at 8:20 p.m.

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD PRIOR TO CLOSED SESSION

There was no public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board and Superintendent went into closed session at 8:25 p.m.

Open session was reconvened at 8: 40 p.m.

President Newmeyer reported that no reportable action had been taken in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.



Signature/Date



Title