

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 8, 2018**

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: Joshua Barrow, Ida Green, Debra Turner, Caroline Van Alst

Interim Superintendent: Terena Mares

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Turner led the pledge of allegiance.

REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA

Trustee Van Alst said that concerns have been raised by the County Superintendent that she has a common law conflict of interest in decisions that affect the relationship between the district and the charter school, arising from the fact that she has a child attending the charter school. She continued: Although I do not believe that a conflict exists, given the nature of the allegations and the ongoing investigation of the district by the Attorney General, I am recusing myself from several items on the agenda: Items 8.01 and 8.02, correspondence from the Marin County Office of Education regarding the District and Willow Creek Academy 17-18 unaudited actuals; item 11.02, Review of LCAP Goal 1; item 11.03, Review of LCAP Local indicators and item 11.08, Receipt of WCA's 17-18 unaudited actuals.

M/s/c Van Alst/Green to Approve the Agenda

Ayes: Barrow, Green, Turner, Van Alst

Noes: None

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Trustee Green said she attended a student voting event organized by Falicia Gaston of Performing Stars at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy.

Trustee Van Alst reported that her daughter, who is now in high school at Tamalpais, has been studying alongside BMLK graduates at the library. She praised the Ascent, a transition program at Tam that takes place over the summer for incoming 9th graders from small feeder schools, mostly Bayside MLK and Willow Creek students, with some from Bolinas or Marin Horizon. This program focuses on helping students become familiar with the campus and develop relationships with staff and faculty. It also focuses on previewing some important academic concepts as well as social and emotional skill building.

Trustee Turner said that she attended a California School Boards Association advisory committee meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Jayvon Muhammad of the Marin City Health and Wellness Center said that the Center has purchased the current home of the Learning Center at 100 Phillips Drive and plans to build a new clinic as well as 20 units of affordable housing on the site. She asked the Board to consider either an easement or a long term lease of a portion of the grounds at 200 Phillips Drive for a parking lot which would be used by both parties. In exchange, the Wellness Center would take on the cost of building and maintenance of the lot. She said that the housing

units would be set aside for Marin City's low income workers, as well as foster youth who age out of care and other at-risk residents. There will also be room for The Learning Center in upgraded facilities. This matter will be brought to the Board as an action item at its next meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Amy Prescott, Interim Chief Business Official, October 2016 – October 2018

Superintendent Mares said that Amy Prescott initially came to the district for three months and stayed for two years as interim CBO. She offered a lot of calm and confident expertise for which we are very grateful. Trustee Van Alst thanked her for doing so much of the cleanup work that needed to be done. All trustees joined in thanking Ms. Prescott and emphasized that she was a joy to work with.

PRESENTATIONS

Writer's Workshop: Student Narratives

Principal Finnane introduced two middle school students, Jamelle Namocatcat and Asia Williamson, and invited them to share their contribution to the narrative writing assignment. The Board and audience members praised their outstanding effort.

Freedom School Assessment Analysis – Bettie Hodges, Hannah Project

Ms. Hodges said that despite the fact that Freedom School this year only lasted 4.5 weeks, teachers carried out "before and after" testing of about 30 students. She then shared the results, showing that the majority of children improved their reading skills. Ms. Hodges said that she hopes to collaborate with the district and have the district adopt the Freedom School as its summer program to offer Marin City children academics, enrichment, recreation as well as a camp experience.

AT 6:26 pm, trustee Van Alst left the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent Mares said that as is customary every year, the board receives letters from MCOE outlining its response to the District and Willow Creek Academy's unaudited actuals.

At 6:28, trustee Van Alst returned to the meeting.

REPORTS

Superintendent

Superintendent Mares said that the lighting at BMLK and WCA has been upgraded. This work was funded by a Prop. 39 energy grant.

Ms. Mares said that she has scheduled a meeting with Willow Creek Academy's treasurer to go over the basic aid excess calculations for 2018-2019. She will plan more meetings to discuss the next Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the charter school.

The District is interviewing a candidate for the Seneca Unconditional Coach position; we expect to have someone in place by Thanksgiving.

BMLK received a donation check from Schools Rule as did Willow Creek Academy. This year, \$880K was raised for all schools in the county. Ms. Mares pointed out that this equitable method of sharing donations among our schools was spearheaded by County Superintendent Mary Jane Burke.

We expect a rollout of our new website in about a month. Ms. Mares thanked Richard Bohnet for taking photos of teachers and staff in preparation for the new site.

Site Leadership - David Finnane

Principal Finnane said that enrollment stands at 126 students. Our Mindfulness program is taking off and proving beneficial to both teachers and students. We had our very own Voting Day, when kids were able to choose their favorite foods and activities. This was very exciting for the students and a wonderful learning opportunity. On November 6, we invited Momentum in Teaching to conduct a writing workshop for our teachers.

Willow Creek Academy

Head of School Tara Seekins said 4th-8th grade teachers visited Bridge the Gap for their Deep Dive Professional Development session on October 24. Progress reports were sent to parents at the start of the month. The first session of the WCA Civil Rights Film and Lecture Series took place on November 2. The topic was Voting: the 15th and 19th Amendments and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Board Governance Calendar

Superintendent Mares said the calendar has been fine tuned slightly and updated for 18-19. An updated version will be brought to the next meeting.

LCAP Goal #1 - Review

Superintendent Mares shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining student achievement, the main component of goal 1. Our aim is to complete a review of all goals by March 2019, she told the Board.

Board members expressed an interest in looking into the possibility of offering a foreign language to BMLK students. Principal Finnane said that at the moment, establishing an intervention program at BMLK is paramount and that foreign language instruction could be added once more of our students are at grade level. Bettie Hodges said that it is necessary to engage parents and other stakeholders such as the school site council in this decision making process.

At 8:55 p.m., the Board took a short break. The Board reconvened the meeting at 9.00 p.m.

Review of the Local Control and Accountability Plan Local Indicators

Principal Finnane said that he is consulting with principals in various parts of the country, including New York, Georgia and Colorado, where they have had success with a student population similar to ours. He cited a recent study of Bay Area public schools which states that of 239 schools that serve at least 20 African American students, only four are closing the achievement gap and that they are opt-in schools. He said that sadly, statistics show that improvements in culture and climate have not led to greater academic achievement in many of the schools similar to ours.

Mr. Finnane shared the local indicator data that BMLK will be included with the State Dashboard in December, outlining the components of student achievement that have been met.

Social Studies, Science and Foreign Language Curriculum Considerations

Principal Finnane said classroom practice in grades 6-8 is aligned with standards for history /social science and science. The target is to have the standards fully implemented for all grades by June 2020. Next generation science standards are very complex and a big challenge for teachers. So far, we have had two teachers receive training at MCOE and our goal is to have all teachers become familiar with the standards by June 2020.

Willow Creek Academy Proposition 39 Request for 2019-2020

Superintendent Mares said that charter school is required to submit a request and the District will review and respond by December 1.

California Grown Fresh School Meals Grant

Superintendent Mares said that the District successfully applied for this State grant in February to purchase new equipment for the cafeteria kitchen. Installation of the new appliances will entail lots of work.

Receipt of Willow Creek Academy's 2017-2018 Unaudited Actuals

The Board acknowledged receipt of this document.

CONSENT AGENDA

Roll Call Green/Van Alst/to Approve the Following Consent Agenda items:

Payment of Warrants – Batches 11-14

Minutes of the October 22, 2018 Board Meeting

Williams Quarterly Report

Ayes: Barrow, Green, Turner, Van Alst

Noes: None


ADJOURNMENT

M/s/c /Green/Turner to Adjourn at 10:12 p.m.

Ayes: Barrow, Green, Turner, Van Alst

Noes: None

Absent: None

 12/13/18

Signature/Date

Clerk

Title