

**SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 13, 2018**

ATTENDANCE

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

Interim Superintendent: Terena Mares

Prior to the start of the board meeting, new trustee Bonnie Hough and returning trustees Barrow and Green took the oath of office. Interim Superintendent Mares administered the oath.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Hough 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: Correspondence - 9.01, 9.02, Interim Budget -14.02. She also asked that item 13.02 - Minutes of November 8 and November 27, 2018, be removed from the consent agenda.

Superintendent Mares asked that presenters for items 12.01, 14.01 and 14.07 be moved to the Presentation category at the top of the agenda.

M/s/c Turner/Hough to Approve the Agenda as Re-organized

Ayes: Barrow, Green, Hough, Turner, Van Alst

Noes: None

Absent: None

Election of Board President

M/s/c Green/Van Alst to Elect Trustee Green as Board President

Ayes: Barrow, Green, Hough, Turner, Van Alst

Noes: None

Absent: None

Election of Board Vice President

Trustee Hough nominated trustee Turner to be vice president.

M/s/c Hough/Green to Elect Trustee Turner as Board Vice President

Ayes: Barrow, Green, Hough, Turner, Van Alst

Noes: None

Absent: None

Election of Board Clerk

M/s/c Green/Turner to Elect Trustee Hough as Board Clerk

Ayes: Barrow, Green, Hough, Turner, Van Alst

Noes: None

Absent: None

Appointment of Board Secretary

Interim Superintendent Terena Mares was appointed Board Secretary.

Appointment of Representative to the Marin County School Boards Association (MCSBA)

Trustee Hough was appointed Board representative to MCSBA.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Trustee Green asked for a moment of silence to honor Mrs. Spells, who taught at the Bayside School in Sausalito many years ago.

Trustee Turner said that she was happy to see so many members of the community in the audience and looked forward to making our district a place of opportunities for our students.

Trustee Hough said she is looking forward to working for the district and all of our students.

Trustee Van Alst congratulated all the returning and newly elected board members.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Alison Niederer said that the budget that is before the Board threatens to cut \$1 million in funding for Willow Creek Academy. The Board should find a fiscally responsible way to fairly fund education for all students. She asked for transparency regarding inter-district transfers at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy and an accounting of the number of those students and the cost of their education. She asked for monthly updates with factual information from the district to promote transparency.

Regan Fulton reiterated Ms. Niederer's concerns about inter-district students at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy.

Bettie Hodges said the Hannah Project has begun a program for middle school students who are not currently enrolled in any after-school programs, focusing on leadership and homework assistance. In addition, the Hannah Project is rolling out a parent training program at BMLK.

David Suto said the primary duty of the district is to provide a satisfactory level of education for the children. At the moment, large numbers of children at both schools are not receiving an adequate education. He said that the District should look at what it needs to spend to provide such an education and ask 94965 residents to provide those resources. In the meantime, we should consider an interim MOU with Willow Creek Academy which allows flexibility in changing our structure and the financing of the District.

Marilyn Mackel said the Board owes a fiduciary duty of loyalty, care and obedience to the District and cannot continue to provide funding to the charter school at the expense of the District school. Regarding the materials

in storage in the Annex building, she said that all items should be sorted and inventoried and offered to community organizations if teachers and staff have no further use for them.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Glass Door

Superintendent Mares said that 14 volunteers from Glass Door will assist with the beginning of inventorying and organizing items in the annex and that a list of items will be brought to the Board before being considered surplus. Mares shared that Glass Door has been a very good neighbor to our District and we are grateful for their help.

Sausalito Marin City Electorate

Superintendent Mares said that we are proud to have had an 80.4% turnout during the recent election. This demonstrates our community's commitment to our schools and children

Jennifer Conway congratulated the new Board and said that she is prepared to work with its members on behalf of all the children.

Mindfulness

Chelsea True, who has been leading the mindfulness program funded by Kaiser at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy, said that mindfulness means paying attention with kindness and it can stop the progression of trauma. She explained that she began her teaching by supporting the teachers and demonstrating the practice. She continued: It has been beautiful to see the children learn how to get back to their "self". The response from the children here has been very powerful as they learn to stay with their pain. She then led the audience in a short mindfulness practice.

Social Emotional Learning Assessments

Principal Finnane introduced Amber Fretwell from Seneca who gave an overview of the social-emotional screening program created by her organization. The presentation showed that 109 students were assessed in November. Of these, 18.5% had a low likelihood of needing social-emotional support, 22.7% had a moderate likelihood and 58.8% a high possibility. Mr. Finnane said that these results are borne out by his experience with children and parents at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy. Based on this data, he proposed to share more information with the Board on how to address the academic and social emotional needs of the students as well as capitalize on their strengths.

Marin City Health & Wellness Clinic Proposal

Jayvon Muhammad said that the clinic has purchased 100 Phillips Drive and plans to build a 4- story building to include a clinic, a preschool and 20 apartments. Ms. Muhammad said that the clinic would like to lease a portion of the District property abutting 100 Phillips and develop about 25 parking spaces which would be shared with the school. The Board asked to address concerns for tying up land if lease moves forward. Ms. Muhammad also announced that she is leaving California for a new post in Louisiana and introduced Ms. Khailah Jordan as the interim CEO.

Trustee Turner said that the district would benefit by everything that the clinic plans to do. Trustee Barrow said that it might be premature to give a full green light to the project at this point. Trustee Van Alst cautioned against long term encumbering of district property.

Kahaya Adams said she is concerned parents with children currently at the Learning Center have not heard what will happen to those children who attend school or after school care there while the building is going on.

**M/s/c Hough/Van Alst to Approve Exploration of the Marin City Health & Wellness Clinic Proposal
Conditional on a Yet-to-be-Developed Lease Agreement**

Ayes: Barrow, Green, Hough, Turner, Van Alst

Noes: None

Absent: None

Varidesk Donation

Drew Amoroso, president of StandUp Kids, said the mission of his organization is to have every student gain access to a stand-up desk in the next 10 years. He said that children are sitting for about 12 years a day, increasing their risk of chronic illness. Since 2014, 90K students across the country have begun using a stand-up desk. The Varidesks would be given to Bayside MLK Jr. Academy at no cost.

Trustee Barrow asked if a warranty is offered. Superintendent Mares said that she was assured that any broken desk would be replaced at no charge. Trustee Barrow requested to memorialize arrangements for Varidesk support in the future.

Trustee Green asked if the same offer could be made for Willow Creek Academy. Mr. Amoroso said that his organization hopes to be able to raise enough money to do so.

M/s/c Turner/Barrow to Approve the Varidesk Donation

Ayes: Barrow, Green, Hough, Turner, Van Alst

Noes: None

Absent: None

At 8:38 p.m., the Board took a break. The meeting was reconvened at 8:47 p.m.

At 8:48 p.m., Trustee Van Alst left the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent Mares said that the California Attorney General has sent a letter announcing the conclusion of his office's investigation of the District. The Board will be meeting to discuss a response to the letter during a special meeting next week.

Kurt Weinsheimer, president of the WCA Board, said there is now increased awareness about education in our district. Mr. Weinsheimer suggested a joint board meeting between the two boards to establish long term planning. He asked the Board to take this into consideration.

Superintendent Mares said that joint board meetings are legal and permissible. Typically there are not convened to act on any item but to start a dialogue.

At 8:57 p.m. Trustee Van Alst returned to the meeting.

REPORTS

Superintendent

- District Website Preview – Ms. Mares said that this will go live after the Christmas break.
- Board Workshops – The superintendent said these are critically important due to the challenging issues to address, including the serious nature of the charges by the AG. Ms. Mares recommended a series of two hour workshops that could culminate in a retreat; a recommendation will be brought to the Board in January.
- Community Communications – Ms. Mares shared the intent to work with one or two board members to develop a series of communications to the community.
- 2018 California Dashboard – Superintendent Mares shared a video explaining the function of the Dashboard then showed how to extract data from a particular school from the website.

Site Leadership

Principal Finnane acknowledged Bettie Hodges for the new work that she is doing for our middle schoolers. Mr. Finnane invited community members to come to school on December 21 to celebrate the publication of our students' information writing. The Measures of Progress assessment is taking place in September, December and March to allow us to make adjustments in teaching and meet the needs of students based on the results. The first school site council meeting occurred this week. We have a lot of work to do to meet our goals in English language learner services. A meeting is scheduled for 1/15 to talk to English Language Learner parents.

Willow Creek Academy

Speaking on behalf of head of school Tara Seekins, Marijke Smit said the first trimester ended on November 16 and report cards have been mailed out. MAP testing is underway for 3-8 graders. Huckleberry Youth Programs is conducting healthy relationship and sexual health classes for the middle school. Two teachers, Adrienne Thompson and Jennifer Carrade, have passed their National Board examinations.

Update on WCA Prop 39 Facilities Request

Superintendent said that the district has performed a review and there is nothing to report at this time.

Overview of LCAP State Priorities

Superintendent Mares said that following a request from the Board, she has provided the priorities for each of the district's LCAP goals in the board packet.

Working Committees

Ms. Mares said that a list of existing committees has been provided in the packet. The Community Advisory Committee meets monthly, the Transformation Team meets quarterly, and the School Site Council met for first time this past week. The English Language Advisory Committee is being formed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Roll Call Van Alst/Hough to Approve the Following Consent Agenda item:

Payment of Warrants – Batches 15-18

Ayes: Barrow, Green, Hough, Turner, Van Alst

Noes: None

Absent: None

Minutes of the November 8 and November 27, 2018 Board Meetings

Trustee Van Alst said that she would like to record the following correction to the minutes of the November 8 meeting: She did not recuse herself from items 11.02 and 11.03, Review of LCAP Goal #1 and Review of the Local Control and Accountability Plan Local Indicators and participated in the discussion.

M/s/c Van Alst/Turner to Approve the Minutes of the November 8 and 27, 2018 Board Meetings

Ayes: Barrow, Green, Van Alst

Abstain: Hough

Absent: None

At 9:49 p.m., trustee Van Alst left the meeting.

2018-2019 First Interim Budget

Superintendent Mares gave an overview of the budget. The deficit has been reduced from \$667K to \$581K, despite a certificated salary increase. With the expiration of the MOU with Willow Creek Academy in 2019, the District anticipates a reduction in salary expenditures as we will no longer have special education staff on that campus. Ms. Mares said that the statutorily required payments to WCA for the next two fiscal years are included in the budget's multi-year projections. She emphasized that the letter from the Attorney General may likely impact our future financial relationship with the charter school.

Trustee Barrow said that in looking at the Local Control and Accountability Plan provisions for the next two years, we should re-examine the budget in the areas of foreign language instruction, the community school plan and deferred maintenance. He said we should also look again at our debt service and District overhead payments.

Jeff Knowles, a WCA Board member, said that he would like to see the District close the budget gap without taking funds away from Willow Creek Academy. He said that he appreciates the sentiments expressed by the Board about supporting both schools. He cited the letter from Dr. VanderMolen included in the Board packet about best practices for allocating resources to both schools.

Trustee Hough said that she would encourage the formation of a budget committee as soon as possible. She added that in the meantime, she would be reluctant to make any changes to the current budget.

Marilyn Mackel said the facts of the case cited in the letter by Dr. VanderMolen are not correctly interpreted.

M/s/c Turner/Hough to Approve the 2018-2019 First Interim Budget

Ayes: Green, Hough, Turner

Noes: Barrow

Absent: Van Alst

Board Policies Update Plan

Superintendent Mares presented a recommended schedule for adopting the updated policies over time. Trustees asked that policies regarding the budget and immigration be reviewed as a priority.

M/s/c Van Alst/Turner to Approve the Board Policies Update Plan while Prioritizing Budget, Inter-District Transfers and Immigration Policies

Ayes: Barrow, Green, Hough, Turner, Van Alst

Noes: None

Absent: None

Board Committees

Superintendent Mares said that her list of committees is a first pass at what membership might look like for each committee. She asked that the Board consider forming an ad hoc committee to determine membership of each committee.

M/s/c Van Alst/Barrow to Approve the Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee (Hough and Van Alst) to Formulate Future Board Committees and to Disband by June 30, 2019

Ayes: Barrow, Green, Hough, Turner, Van Alst

Noes: None

Absent: None

Facilities Needs Assessment Proposal

Superintendent Mares recommended approval of the plan proposed by Greystone West as outlined in the Board meeting packet.

Trustee Barrow said that a needs assessment was done in 2011 as well as 2.5 years ago, when the charter school, which occupies the oldest facilities in the district, did its own review. In view of these facts, spending \$15K for another study seems wasteful

Trustee Van Alst said that she would like to see an updated price list for the recommended repairs, as costs have certainly gone up in the last three years.

M/s/c Van Alst/Hough to Approve the Facilities Needs Assessment Proposal

Ayes: Green, Hough, Turner, Van Alst

Oppose: Barrow

Absent: None

At 10:37 p.m., trustee Hough left the meeting.

Title III LEP Local Plan Update

Superintendent Mares said that this update shows the Department of Education how we are complying with the Every Child Succeeds Act. Mares reported that at present, the District is not doing enough in parental outreach and this fact is included in the update.

M/s/c Barrow/ Van Alst to Approve the Title III LEP Local Plan Update

Ayes: Barrow, Green, Turner, Van Alst

Noes: None

Absent: Hough

At 10:54 p.m., trustee Hough returned to the meeting.

Superintendent's Goals

This item was tabled until next the next Board meeting.

2018-2019 Governance Calendar

M/s/c Barrow/Turner to Approve the 2018-2019 Governance Calendar

Ayes: Barrow, Green, Hough, Turner, Van Alst

Noes: None

Absent: None

Surplus Equipment Disposition

M/s/c Turner/Hough to Approve the Surplus of Equipment and Notify WCA of Available Surplus Materials

Ayes: Barrow, Green, Hough, Turner, Van Alst

Noes: None

Absent: None

Resignation – Jonnette Newton

Superintendent Mares said that the District has run out of options for obtaining a waiver of the music credential requirement for Ms. Newton.

Marilyn Mackel said that it would be difficult to find a music teacher capable of teaching the variety of instruments that Ms. Newton teaches and asked that the District try to find an exception to the music credential regulation.

M/s/c Barrow/Van Alst to Accept the Resignation of Jonnette Newton

Ayes: Barrow, Hough, Turner, Van Alst

Abstain: Green

Absent: None

Community School Manager Job Description

Trustee Turner suggested enhancing the grant writing and fundraising aspects of the job. Ms. Mackel, speaking for Bettie Hodges, said the job description should include community partnerships, grant writing and sponsorships.

Superintendent Mares agreed to bring back an amended job description.

ADJOURNMENT

M/s/c /Van Alst/Barrow to Adjourn at 11:40 p.m.

Ayes: Barrow, Green, Hough, Turner, Van Alst

Noes: None

Absent: None



Signature/Date

2/14/19

Title