

**Albany Unified School District
Board of Education**

**Albany Community Center
1249 Marin Avenue
Albany, California 94706**

MINUTES OF:

Regular Meeting
January 20, 2009

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Vice President Glasser called the Regular Meeting of January 20, 2009 to order at 6:04 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice President, David Glasser; Board Members Miriam Walden, Ronald Rosenbaum, and Dr. Patricia Low; Student Representatives, Patricia Mou and Jean Kang

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Board President, Jamie Calloway was excused.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marla Stephenson, Superintendent; Laurie Harden, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services; Diane Marie, Director of Special Education; Darlene Mock, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent; Ruth Alahydoian, bond council from Kelling, Northcross and Nobriga

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR CLOSED SESSION: None

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION: 6:05 P.M.

RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION: 7:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Board of Education & audience joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION:

The Board reported it approved the expulsion of student I.D. # 80015 with a stipulated agreement. No other action was reported.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

With respect to the Agenda, it was moved by Member Low and seconded by Member Walden to approve the Agenda as presented. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:

Member Glasser asked about the expenditure report. Member Low asked Assistant Superintendent Harden about the auditory process and Special Education Director, Diane Marie, stated the audiologist performs the testing and evaluates a student's auditory processing. Member Low asked about the declare surplus property resolution. Superintendent Stephenson explained as a good steward of taxpayer's money, when there is a declaration of surplus

property; we try to find a home before disposing. Superintendent Stephenson stated filing cabinets and tables were replaced. Member Walden explained the gift of funds procedure to Member Low. Member Low asked about a carry-over and Superintendent Stephenson explained. Member Low asked about the District's students' eligibility process for the free and reduced lunch program mentioned in the Con-Application's direct certification and how long we use this process. Superintendent Stephenson stated we use the "direct certification" process and it began one year ago. Member Low referred to the Consolidated Application and asked how many counselors are bilingual. Superintendent Stephenson answered to the best of her knowledge. Member Glasser questioned the e-mail address of a State form and Superintendent Stephenson stated this was a preprinted form. Member Glasser asked about a warrant for the cabling of ROP and Superintendent Stephenson stated our ROP is a consortium of Contra Costa. Member Glasser reminded the District Office staff that he prefers wireless and Superintendent Stephenson reminded him that ROP owns their own equipment.

With respect to the Consent Calendar, Member Rosenbaum moved and Member Low seconded to approve the Consent Calendar omitting the minutes of December 16, 2008.

STUDENT RECOGNITION:

AHS Duet with Guitar Accompaniment

Three choral students performed. Nelson Cheung and Rachael Rhee are Choral students and Raymond Chung is a Jazz Band and Choral student. Mary Low, teacher thanked Albany Music Fund for its generosity and support.

STAFF REPORT:

Measure E Bond-Issuance Report

Member Glasser reviewed the thresholds for the District and the window of opportunities to see the District's bonds. Member Glasser reviewed the District's bond rating and suggested the District search for a bond upgrade.

Ruth Alahydoian, representative for KNN/Bond Council presentation explained the process for the sale of bonds and the background of bonds. Handouts were distributed. She reported a combination of different options and the most probable scenario is to issue the full 10 million and then refund some of the existing bonds and stated this is doable. She stated the bond attorney said tax wise; this can be done. Ruth reviewed two other options. She noted that the issuance of a resolution will be presented to the Board in the next few weeks; so, the District would be ready to go forward.

Member Walden para-phrased a few of Ruth's comments to gain/confirm her understandings. Member Low stated this was a clear presentation and she understood the school financing presentation. Member Rosenbaum asked for future presentation of how the money can be spent. There were no questions from the audience.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: None

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT:

Student Mou reported every class viewed the inauguration. There are ongoing improvements/murals created by the Art class that was funded by a grant. Ms. Shibano, AHS art teacher, is accepting donations or volunteer talent for projects.

Student Kang reported that the freshmen debating teams have returned to AHS. The Winter Ball is Jan 31 and its theme is, "Alice in Wonderland Through the Looking Glass". Superintendent

Stephenson asked if the debates are opened to the public. The debates are Jan 20-Feb 13. Member Rosenbaum directed that the debate information placed on the District's website.

REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS:

Approve 2007-08 School Accountability Report Cards for Albany High, MacGregor, Albany Middle, and Cornell, Marin, Ocean View Elementary Schools

Superintendent Stephenson explained that these reports are mandated. She noted necessary corrections before distribution. Most of the information in these reports is derived from other information.

Member Low commented that she is interested in the data that would close the achievement gap; so, she asked how the data was gathered. Superintendent Stephenson stated that the State provides the data from past STAR tests. Member Low commented positively about MacGregor's reduced number of suspensions and expulsions and how Mac has improved; also, the graduation rate has improved at Mac High. Member Low mentioned that the Cornell Elementary mission statement is a fine statement written by its teachers.

Member Walden commented on the reduced suspension rates. Member Rosenbaum confirmed the Mac High staff was happy about its graduation rate. Member Glasser stated he was happy the financial distribution is even between the sites and the reduced number of suspensions and expulsions.

Superintendent Stephenson stated after approval the SARC they will be on the District's website. There were no comments from the audience.

Member Rosenbaum moved and Member Low seconded to approve the 2007-08 Accountability Report Cards for Albany High, MacGregor, Albany Middle, and Cornell, Marin, Ocean View Elementary Schools with a couple of changes to the reports (current superintendent, etc.). The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

Appoint and Approve AUSD Board of Education Appointment to the City of Albany Art Committee for 2009-2011

Member Rosenbaum moved and Member Walden seconded to approve and appoint Lisa Norman to the City of Albany Art Committee for 2009-2011. Ms. Norman attended the meeting tonight, but was not able to stay for the appointment. There were no questions from the Board or audience.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Parcel Tax Report -1987, 1999 and 2005

Superintendent Stephenson summarized the Parcel Tax Expenditure Reports 1987, 1999, 2005 and emphasized the ballot language and to keep the intention of the ballot language in mind while future monies are spent. Superintendent Stephenson was queried of her recollection of the Measure A language. Member Walden stated that she asked for flexibility with Measure A funds and she opposed specific language for Measure A funds and gave examples. Marla stated these parcel taxes are brought to the Board early, in so, they could think about what core programs could be supported in these difficult times.

Superintendent Stephenson and Assistant Superintendent Harden stated they cannot find documentation of funds contributed to the Solano Project. Member Walden stated what she recollects. Assistant Superintendent Harden stated that fund #20/GASB maybe where the Solano

Avenue Project was deposited. Member Walden suggested asking former superintendent, William Wong.

Member Rosenbaum asked about the ATA stipend and Member Walden's response summarized the issue. Member Low thanked Member Walden for the summary as it gave her insight to the issues.

Member Walden suggested avoiding lay-offs because if you need to rehire that person; that person may not be available. Member Walden asked how to reduce (non-FTE) spending; intervention support, the athletics budget (for example: ask for travel arrangements in "volunteer time"). Member Walden suggested level/equal considerations at the sites and across the board (i.e. the arts funding at the elementary schools and to match the secondary arts funding). Member Rosenbaum confirmed saving people's jobs is the first priority; then figure out what is working and what is not working (i.e. contracted consulting services, the district vans, athletic items). The Board discussed what budget costs could be reviewed by not reducing the quality of education. Vice President Glasser stated some of his budgetary ideas and suggested working with UC Village to contribute to services that AUSD provides.

Comments from the Audience:

Joe Howell, District SEIU member, asked about the SEIU custodian release time. Mr. Howell stated that there are 3 custodians and the high school needs 5 custodians. Member Walden summarized the District's personnel needs. Vice President Glasser explained the States shortfall funding.

Mid-Year Cuts and 2009-10 Governor's Proposed Budget

Superintendent Stephenson stated Assistant Superintendent Harden and she attended the State's meeting that reviewed the 08-09 and 09-10 budgets. She explained that AUSD must use the governor's budget to budget the District's budget. Superintendent Stephenson complimented the Board and District staff for amassing the money now, as the money will be used over the next 3 years. Superintendent Stephenson further reviewed the State's proposals: no COLA, reducing the school year by 5 days (which is a negotiated issue), etc.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that the Leadership Team has met and devised budgetary suggestions. In the near future, meetings will occur with elementary and secondary site administrators. Presently, the fundraisers are meeting with the superintendent. She suggested the Board meet at special meetings because there is a lot of work to do plus, the District's budget must be passed by June 30. Member Walden asked for early meetings to determine accurate and early lay-off lists; to avoid costly legal fees. Vice President Glasser asked for public dialogue sooner than later and he asked for early job counseling to support the staff and for creative ideas to save jobs by budgeting wisely.

With no objection from the Board, Member Rosenbaum moved and Member Low to extend the meeting to 10:15.

Loring Barker, ATA president, stated this is a sad time for all of us and it will be difficult for the Board and District employees; he asked for creativity and does understand the State's budget position. Mr. Barker seconded Member Walden's comments to try to target reductions sensitively. He asked to be careful not to "cannibalize" each other in the community. He requested a "joint statement" circulated among the District and community.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS:

Board: None

Superintendent:

Superintendent Stephenson stated she needs to calendar dates for study sessions and requested the Board to e-mail her their availability. Vice President Glasser asked if these are day or night meetings and Superintendent Stephenson stated all of the above.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

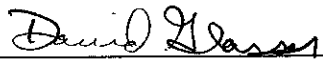
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| A. Redistribution of Parcel Taxes | April |
| B. Early/Late Bird Schedule | February |
| C. Enrichment Task Force | March |
| D. 2 nd Interim Report | March |
| E. Parks & Recreation Report | March |
| F. Albany Children's Center Report | April |
| G. Increase of 1987, 1999, and 2005 Parcel Tax Rate Increase | June |
| H. Consolidated Application Part I for Funding Categorical Programs | June |

FUTURE AGENDA MEETINGS:


- A. Tuesday, February 3, 2009 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany
- B. Tuesday, February 24, 2009 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Cornell Elementary School, 901 Cornell Elementary School,
- C. Tuesday, March 3, 2009 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, , Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany
- D. Tuesday, March 17, 2009 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, , Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany

ADJOURNMENT:

With no objection from the Board, Vice President Glasser adjourned the meeting at 10:15 P.M.



David Glasser, Vice President
Board of Education



Marla Stephenson., Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Education