

**Albany Unified School District
Board of Education**

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

MINUTES OF:

Regular Meeting
February 3, 2009

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

President Calloway called the Regular Meeting of February 3, 2009 to order at 6:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Board President, Jamie Calloway; Vice President, David Glasser; Board Members Miriam Walden arrived at 7:40 p.m.; Ronald Rosenbaum; Dr. Patricia Low and Student Representatives, Patricia Mou and Jean Kang were excused at 9:00 p.m.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marla Stephenson, Superintendent; Laurie Harden, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services; Lynda Hornada, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Darlene Mock, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR CLOSED SESSION: None

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION: 6:35 P.M.

RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION: 7:05 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: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:

Certificated

1. Teacher
2. Speech Language Therapist
3. Girl's Basketball Coach (6,7, 8 grades)

Classified

1. Volunteer
2. Special Education Para Educator

3. Café Assistant II

Member Rosenbaum had questions about Item 2A on the assignment order. Member Low asked about Item 4E. Member Rosenbaum asked about the \$17,000 stipend of Everyday Math for professional development and asked for a future report of the implementation and are we getting our monies worth. Superintendent Stephenson reported that there is a direct reimbursement from the State for this cost and the teachers need professional development especially when there is a new curriculum adoption. Lynda Hornada, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, stated there would be a presentation/update at the February 24th Board meeting and Member Rosenbaum thanked the staff for the explanation. Member Low asked for an explanation of CASHEE and Superintendent Stephenson explained. Member Low asked about ESL and Superintendent Stephenson stated ESL and CASHEE support are provided through AHS tutoring program. Member Glasser asked about a cap on a contract and Ms. Harden explained. Member Glasser reviewed the warrant list. President Calloway asked about the CELDT expense on the warrant list. President Calloway asked about the cost of fingerprinting the volunteers and who incurs the fingerprinting cost (District or volunteer). Member Glasser asked about the San Francisco Chronicle Newspaper expenses and stated this newspaper is on-line; Ms. Harden stated she would check which school sites received the papers and how many are received.

With respect to the Consent Calendar Member Glasser moved and Member Low seconded to approve the Consent Calendar with the amendment to Item 4E not to exceed \$4,000.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT:

Student Member Kang reported that on March 4 the high school will be involved in a "job share" and everyone involved would complete a consent form. Also, the sophomores are taking CAHSEE(a mandated test) and can retake the test in their junior year if they don't pass.

Student Member Mou reported on the Winter Ball. The event was successful and 450 students attended. A high school blood drive for participants 17 years old or older was held and the blood was donated to the American Red Cross. The event was successful and most donors were walk-ins.

Member Rosenbaum thanked the Winter Ball volunteers. He stated he attended the Winter Ball.

President Calloway asked about the stress levels for the sophomores taking the High School Exit Exam tests and Ms. Mou stated the test material was covered in their studies and there was minimal stress.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

Albany Rotary Club

Superintendent Stephenson introduced the Albany Rotary Club and highlighted their contributions, support and volunteer time to the District. Dana Milner and Christina VanHorne represented the Albany Rotary Club. The Board presented a certificate of appreciation. Mr. Milner spoke about MacGregor's garden project. Superintendent Stephenson thanked Ms. VanHorne and Ms. VanHorne for the decorator colors for the District Office and Christina thanked the D.O and stated she enjoyed working with the staff and it was a pleasure adding color to the District Offices. Member Rosenbaum thanked the Rotary Club for its support in the community.

Albany High School Fall Scholar Athletes

Debbie Wanlin, Albany High School Athletic Director, informed the Board that tonight the Winter Scholar Athletes are being recognized. Ted Barone, AHS principal, and Debbie Wanlin presented certificates to the athletes. Principal Barone acknowledged that the students achieve high grade point averages in addition to their athletic achievements. Ms. Wanlin reviewed each teams' status in its league.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Bruce Rice, Albany resident, represented the Albany Music Fund. He spoke about next year's anxieties. He advocated for music programs and stated any FTE cuts would harm the music curriculum. He reviewed the Albany Music Fund's funding priorities (instruments, scholarships and travel arrangements) and acknowledged its success. He emphasized that music is not outside the "core" subjects. He asked that the Board preserve music because children need music. He acknowledged the difficulties during these budget times and asked that the Music Fund be included in the discussions.

Tom Reddick, Albany resident/parent, is the new Albany Music Fund treasurer. He requested the Music Fund be able to participate in the decisions of the music programs in a thoughtful manner. Member Glasser asked him to get the special meeting dates when budgets will be discussed. Member Walden stated that she would be available to meet with the Music Fund. Superintendent Stephenson stated that she meets with AMF members during the month and is in constant contact with the community. Member Low thanked the Music Fund for their support.

A speaker presented a book and suggested the Board review it because it explains the affect of music on the brain. She supported music as a core in education. She supported a shorter school year to save the music programs and avoid "pink slips".

Craig Bryant, AHS music teacher, thanked the Albany Music Fund for their support. He stated AUSD has a terrific music program. Member Rosenbaum thanked Mr. Bryant for the work he does.

REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS:

Approve Resolution 2008-09-17 Approval of Behavioral Intervention Plans (Hughes Bill) Mandated Cost Claim Settlement and Agreement to Waive Future Claims

Superintendent Stephenson explained the background of the lawsuit. She urged the Board to approve this resolution that would entitle the District to receive funding. Member Walden asked what the chances are of receiving the money and Ms. Harden stated in the view of the State's budget, and in the past, previous mandates have not been paid to the District, so it is unknown at this time.

Member Walden moved and Member Rosenbaum seconded to approve Resolution 2008-09-17. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

Approve the Continuation of 1st-3rd Grade Staggered Reading Schedule and Increase of Individual Student Instructional Minutes to 50,400

Superintendent Stephenson reviewed the issues and its history and stated the issues have been presented at many meetings with various options. She stated that issues of the staggered reading schedule childcare; the length of the instruction day; and curriculum/instruction to maintain a small group schedule. There are benefits of small group settings. She stated tonight's proposal will give a full instructional day with small group reading and after school enrichment programs that are proposed with YMCA. She stated that physical education classes would be

affected on rainy days and reviewed the adjustments for P.E. She stated she is concerned about the economy, and the impact of jobs lost in the community.

Board questions:

Member Low asked for clarifications, because she is new to the Board. She stated she supports small group instruction for both academic achievement and social and emotional development. She stated she does not support tracking for the staggered reading schedule and she doesn't support reduced recess time because playtime is essential for a well-rounded child.

President Calloway asked about the achievement gaps and Lynda Hornada explained. Superintendent Stephenson reported that 30% of our students are below the State standards in Math and English. Member Rosenbaum stated these conversations have been occurring since 2007-08 and asked "What is the role of the Board?" Is it to set the parameters for the staff and to listen carefully and to make the best decisions for the kids? Member Rosenbaum stated he supports a full school day with the state instructional minutes and to commit staff to a full curriculum. The public is asking for further reviews. The Board elaborated on scheduling vs. the length of the school day. Member Low quoted an e-mail from Jonathan Meyers that discussed separating the discussions of the length of instructional day from the need for quality enrichment and daycare at each site in order not to confuse/dilute these issues.

Member Walden stated her understanding of tonight's proposal and wants the decision to avoid spending additional money. She asked Superintendent Stephenson to explain the reduction of recesses. Superintendent Stephenson explained that the purpose of two recesses is to transition the students to their classrooms without interrupting instructional time and this isn't about losing recess time. Superintendent Stephenson stated there is flexibility in conference days and other days that support her recommendation. Member Walden asked about the impact to the teachers' contract and providing the teaching time. She asked about "combo class" issues.

Member Glasser thanked Superintendent Stephenson for writing a solution regardless if he agrees, because it lays a foundation for going forward to take the District from good to great status. He read and supports Dr. Pearson's findings and asked that the District model Dr. Pearson's findings and to do whatever is best for the overall child, because there is no one size fits all approach.

Member Walden asked Superintendent Stephenson how she reached tonight's conclusion and Superintendent Stephenson explained. Ms. Hornada elaborated her findings and supported to retain staggered reading and stated this proposal will be able to access the students' needs and close the achievement gaps. Ms. Hornada stated it is important to have the small groups. Member Walden asked for more information and asked about the difference of 45 minutes vs. 60 minutes. Ms. Hornada shared her observations of a school visit that is using this model. Member Walden stated her understandings of tonight's proposal and reviewed her frustration of this process by the Board, herself and the staff. She stated she doesn't support the conflicting opinions of the Board and that this process is a "side-step of the real needs of the families and students." Member Walden stated she supports linking the process and directed making space available in the buildings and to support "on-site" enrichment programs. She stated she does not support "blanket minutes" without instructional goals and she supports the staggered reading without reducing 45 minutes. Member Rosenbaum asked the Board to move forward and to give direction to the staff; what is the curriculum if extended minutes are passed tonight and stated he would support the staff's recommendation.

Member Low stated what type of student do we want to develop? She stated we are discussing young children and that they spend many hours in school by the time they reach middle school.

She stated the Board must take local control for the sake of the Albany children and what does it take to develop problem solving and social skills.

Member Rosenbaum asked Superintendent Stephenson what we would get out of extra minutes. Superintendent Stephenson summarized the anticipated goals of increased minutes. She assured the staff would use the extra minutes well.

President Calloway referred to page 54 and asked what can/will be done with limited funding and/or in better economic times. She stated numerous e-mails were concerned with the lack of space in the District's facilities. Superintendent Stephenson deferred to Ms. Hornada to explain the 1-3 grade scenarios. Ms. Hornada shared the possibilities of using other facilities with the aid of the "walking school bus"; although it is inconvenient she stated. President Calloway asked about the logistics vs. the proposed enrichment rates. Superintendent Stephenson stated the District's rates are competitive. President Calloway asked if overcrowding would be an issue if the enrichment programs become popular and Member Walden asked about scholarship programs to assist families. The Board asked about the proposed scheduling and Superintendent Stephenson stated the sites commit to a standardized schedule and would not affect the enrichment or childcare options. Superintendent Stephenson stated this proposal meets the needs of the employed and unemployed parents in these financial times by providing childcare.

At 9:55 p.m., Member Walden moved and Member Rosenbaum seconded to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m. and to limit public comments by 10:15 p.m. The Board was polled and agreed unanimously.

Public Comment:

Dr. Pearson, Dean at the UC Berkeley, presented his research. He applauded the Board's approach to the dilemma. He stated he could not find research of staggered reading/large vs. small group reading. He stated he is agnostic to either schedule, but suggested reaching the goals for students and teachers. He supported the current program. The Board stated they were honored by his scholarly presence and thanked him.

Member Glasser asked what is the optimal class size reduction size? Dr. Pearson stated what is good for one is not good for all and a variety of group sizes are needed. Dr. Pearson stated, for reading, 8-12 of students and less for younger students. He stated, he supports the motion.

An Albany resident supported more school time and staggered reading within a regular school day. Linda Bishop, Marin teacher and parent, stated twenty minutes have already been added and that all three elementary schools are different and stated the differences. She did not support reducing P.E. to meet other needs.

Steven Naif, Albany teacher and parent, likes teaching in Albany and thinks the District is already a good school district. He asked that there be more input from the educators and parents. He asked the Board to trust the teachers to teach effectively, as they do. He supported more discussion, but did not support more minutes.

Nancy Henderson, AUSD Adaptive P.E. specialist and Cornell parent, stated she travels to six schools. She explained the benefits of P.E. and recess.

Member Rosenbaum moved to approve the continuation of 1st-3rd grades staggered reading schedule and the increase of individual student instructional minutes to 50,400. Member Walden seconded with a non-friendly amendment that the "increase of individual student instructional

minutes to 50,400" be struck The Board was polled. Members Low and Walden voted yes. Members Rosenbaum, Glasser and Calloway voted no and the motion did not pass.

President Calloway moved and Member Glasser seconded 1. The continuation of grades 1-3 staggered reading; communicate the purpose of the reading schedule to parents; give parents the opportunity to indicate a preference regarding AM or PM schedule; give siblings preference to be on the same schedule 2. Increase individual student minutes to 50,400. 3. Provide a fee based, on site enrichment program for students (AM or PM) with a guarantee of space being made available at each site. 4. Staff providing a fall update on the implementation of the elements listed above and a full report made in one year. The Board was polled and passed with an aye vote from Members Rosenbaum, Glasser and Calloway and nay votes from Member Low and Walden.

Select and Approve Special Budget Study Sessions:

Items 9C, 9D and 9E were voted simultaneously.

The Board chose February 10, 2009 @ 5:00 p.m. and February 23, 2009 @ 5:30 p.m. to meet for study sessions to review the budgetary issues of the 2008-2009 and 2009 and 2010. Both study sessions will be held at Cornell Elementary Multipurpose Room, 901 Talbot Albany.

Member Walden moved and Member Rosenbaum seconded to approve the above-mentioned dates and times to meet for special study sessions. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

Approve Special Board Meeting – March 10, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Items 9C, 9D and 9E were voted simultaneously.

Member Walden moved and Member Rosenbaum seconded to approve the special Board meeting of March 10, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. to be held at Cornell Elementary Multipurpose Room, 901 Talbot Albany. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

Approve Alan Riffer to Serve on the Citizen's Oversight Committee for Measure E as a Member at Large

Items 9C, 9D and 9E were voted simultaneously.

Member Walden moved and Member Rosenbaum seconded to approve Alan Riffer to serve on the Citizen's Oversight Committee for Measure E as a member at large. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Conduct 1st Reading of the AP Environmental Science Course at AHS

President Calloway moved to table this item to the next regular Board meeting as a 2nd reading and a Review and Action item. No action was taken.

Conduct 1st Reading of the Energy & Environmental Engineering ROP Course @ AHS

President Calloway moved to table this item to the next regular Board meeting as a 2nd reading and a Review and Action item. No action was taken.

Conduct 1st Reading of the Food Science 1 Course at MacGregor High

President Calloway moved to table this item to the next regular Board meeting as a 2nd reading and a Review and Action item. No action was taken.

Review Status Report of the AUSD Pool/Classroom Construction Project
2009-10 District Budget (American Recovery and Reinvestment Bill of 2009
(American Stimulus Package)

President Calloway moved to table this item to the next regular Board meeting. A Review, no action was taken.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS:

Board:

Member Low asked about the February 12 Pod Cast. Superintendent Stephenson and Ms. Harden stated they are attending.

Superintendent: None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

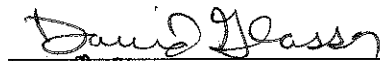
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| A. Enrichment Task Force | March |
| B. 2 nd Interim Report | March |
| C. Parks & Recreation Report | March |
| D. Reallocation of 2005 Parcel Tax | April |
| E. Albany Children's Center Report | April |
| F. Increase of 1987, 1999, and 2005 Parcel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

FUTURE AGENDA MEETINGS:

- A. *Wednesday, February 4, 2009 4:30 p.m., Special Meeting, Cornell Elementary School, 901 Cornell Elementary School,*
- 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*
- E. *Tuesday, April 14, 2009 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Cornell Elementary School, 901 Cornell Elementary School,*
- F. *Tuesday, April 28, 2009 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Cornell Elementary School, 901 Cornell Elementary School,*

ADJOURNMENT:

With no objection from the Board, President Calloway adjourned the meeting at 10:30 P.M.



David Glasser
Jamie Calloway, President
Board of Education



Maria Stephenson., Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Education