

**Albany Unified School District
Board of Education**

**Cornell Elementary School – Multi-Purpose Room
901 Cornell Avenue
Albany, California 94706**

MINUTES OF:

Special Meeting – Study Session
February 10, 2009

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

President Calloway called the Special Meeting-Study Session of February 10, 2009 to order at 5:02 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Board President, Jamie Calloway; Vice President, David Glasser; Board Members Ronald Rosenbaum and Dr. Patricia Low

MEMBERS ABSENT: Board Member, Miriam Walden

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: Diane Marie, Director of Special Education

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

With respect to the Agenda, no action was taken or conducted.

STUDY SESSION:

2009-2010 Budget

This meeting was recorded and not cablecast due to the location of the meeting.

Laurie Harden, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, reviewed the handout "Response to State Budget Crisis". She stated the AUSD efforts are to reduce the 2008-09 budget by not buying supplies, not calling substitutes. The proposal is a minimal layoff for 2008-09 and referred to the 1st Interim Report. She stated all options would be explored.

President Calloway and Member Low asked the audience for suggestions to the budget problem. Vice President Glasser stated he heard a congressman's comments about the president's stimulus package and that it doesn't fix it. He supported Ms. Harden's proposals, cautioned not to use "terms", because no one has seen this historic financial scenario and to plan for proper contingency planning and that 10-20% cuts are possibly in sight. Vice President Glasser stated the Board would do what will keep the schools intact.

Angela Thomas, SEIU 1021 representative, spoke and stated this is hard on everyone. She stated she has a clear picture of how bad the times are and she just finished speaking to lobbyists. She stated Albany is a good place to work unlike other school districts and people in Albany are usually happy, but now they are a little scared and an appointment is scheduled with Superintendent Stephenson in the near future. Ms. Thomas reviewed the proposed reductions

and informed the Board that the pool custodian is already moved to another site because the pool is closed and the 5% reduction is due to the death of an SEIU member, so attrition has already happened. She noted that the SEIU members are present tonight, but don't want to be taken advantage of and they will give what they can. She noted she is new to Unit 1021 and learning its history and SEIU is calculating the numbers. SEIU is asking for a level of fairness.

Joe Howell, Vice President, SEIU Chapter 1021, stated in the maintenance department there are three employees recommended for reduction for tonight's proposed 2009-10 budget. He asked is the entire maintenance department being reduced? Superintendent Stephenson stated to wait and she would explain. He reviewed the numerous (300) work orders performed last school year and distributed a handout that compared the districts proposed cuts compared to a contractor's cost. Mr. Howell explained that the former superintendent, Dr. William Wong, employed him to improve the prior years' billings from past contractors that were paid, but not all jobs were completed or performed. He stated since his employment he has saved the District money and further explained how contractors bill repairs; he stated the in-house repairs have paid his salary and this district is a prevailing wage district. He stated a specialist would cost the district \$180.00 per hour and the district has 30 boilers. Mr. Howell stated in the past, Quest and Yvonne Tom, former director of facilities saved the district thousands of dollars and returned the savings to each school site. He stated the SEIU members work hard for the District and we are all on the same team to care for the schools and children.

Member Rosenbaum and President Calloway stated that this is the first time they have reviewed the documents Mr. Howell presented.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that we must cut costs and the budget. She stated the adult and preschool programs are not being discussed tonight. Tonight's discussions are about the general fund and no intermingled funded programs; programs far from the classroom are being discussed tonight. Superintendent Stephenson stated Lynda Hornada, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Terry Pinol, Student Support Manager would oversee the Technology Department.

Vice President Glasser suggested "value engineering" as a cost cutter at the schools for example "do with less telephones". Member Rosenbaum supported the savings with efficient methods and the savings returned to the school sites. Superintendent Stephenson stated Wendy Holmes, Principal of Cornell Elementary is exploring how to save energy costs. Member Glasser stated the families could donate energy saving light bulbs to the classroom(s).

President Calloway inquired about the sub caller system. Superintendent Stephenson stated the substitute on-line system was implemented two years ago and now, using this exclusively provides many more benefits. Superintendent Stephenson stated that not all teachers have home computers and a person could be available to help with this service. Member Low asked if the on-line system is 24 hours and Superintendent Stephenson stated yes. President Calloway asked how much the system costs and Superintendent Stephenson assured the Board that all contracts would be scrutinized.

Vice President Glasser stated some State workers are on furlough and suggested that some days the offices could be closed rather than lay-offs (Member Glasser defined furlough days at AUSD). Superintendent Stephenson stated furlough days are not on this list because of union contracts and that all employees follow the union contracts. Vice President Glasser stated he understands the connection, but we must think of every option and perhaps, negotiate the issue. Member Rosenbaum stated a reduction of school days was suggested by the State. Vice President Glasser requested a district bulletin board and Superintendent Stephenson stated that a budget webpage has been created. The Board suggested a blog.

President Calloway asked what non-personnel items could be discussed tonight. She asked the business office to review contracts. Superintendent Stephenson stated at the February 23rd Board meeting the contracts would be reviewed and stated that most contracts are special education, legal auditing and Ms. Harden stated most contracts are mandated issues. Vice President Glaser requested that the auditing and legal contract fees (except special education) renegotiated for a lower fee/hourly rate(s). President Calloway stated that maybe organic products could revert to non-organic. President Calloway asked what else could be done and Superintendent Stephenson stated the food service department could go back to the previous prepackaging meal service. Member Glaser stated that the meal prices could be increased and President Calloway did not support this increase. Superintendent Stephenson stated that the Wellness Board policy governs the District's food service operation. A food service director could be hired to replace the executive chef. Vice President Glaser asked how do we make this a revenue neutral program. Superintendent Stephenson stated: going back to the old system would save \$40,000, but a reduction of staffing would be a "Catch 22". President Calloway requested that the staff explore the food service department operation.

Member Walden wrote a memo and President Calloway read it. Member Walden asked for a detailed list of the athletic budget and President Calloway supported this request. Superintendent Stephenson suggested examining how all the stipends are paid for i.e. donations, etc. President Calloway asked the Board about cutting school days off of the calendar. Superintendent Stephenson noted that the governor suggested redoing the calendar by reducing five school days. Member Rosenbaum stated we don't want to lose instruction and Superintendent Stephenson noted these could be Professional Development Days that are already on the calendar.

Vice President Glaser suggested a parcel tax with a sunset when the issues disappear. Superintendent Stephenson stated that some superintendents are suggesting an early election to address these issues. Vice President Glaser requested that tonight's discussion shared with others who were not able to attend tonight's meeting.

Bruce Rice, Albany resident/parent, stated tonight's issues are a revenue issue and not a spending issue. He stated that he doesn't know if he could go to the Albany residents for another parcel tax. Craig Bryant, AHS music teacher, spoke in favor of the music programs.

Joe Howell discussed further energy savings by shutting off the school boilers at 5:00 p.m. He stated he advocated reactivating the "CoGen". He noted that AHS is spending \$20,000 for P.G.E and this is with the Albany Pool closed. He stated the thermostats should be upgraded for MacGregor and other sites, because better equipment pays for itself. He reviewed the new installations at the SELPA located next to MacGregor. Member Rosenbaum supported purchasing new equipment for future savings. Mr. Howell asked about the deferred maintenance fund and Ms. Harden stated this fund is not for salaries. Mr. Howell asked if the deferred maintenance funds could be used for upgrades and Superintendent Stephenson stated that some school roofs are in need of repair/replacement. The Board reviewed funding sources and President Calloway directed the staff to reexamine this issue. Mr. Howell stated his efforts are to save everyone's jobs.

President Calloway asked about the pool bonds and about a June 2009 parcel tax election. Vice President Glaser explained the theories of a bond vs. parcel tax and he reviewed property tax issues. Mr. Howell distributed a handout that reflected cuts made by the former superintendent in 2002 to reduce expenditures. President Calloway stated that the pool project feels awkward at this time when we are in this financial state. The Board agreed to research the levying of a parcel tax for a June 2009 ballot and Vice President Glaser stated this is a conceptual idea. Member Low asked if this issue would pass and Vice President Glaser suggested that the parcel tax language state "year to year". Ms. Harden stated a parcel tax must be at least 3 years in

duration and that the reductions must be made by May 2009 otherwise the County won't pass the District's budget.

Angela Thomas, SEIU representative, agreed with Bruce Rice that tonight's issues are a revenue problem. She asked that everyone band together and that the ed. code describes the teacher and county deadlines. She stated she believes we can all work together and knows that we need to make a few cuts this year because there will be cuts next year.

President Calloway reviewed the future Board meeting schedule and requested that we stay away cutting people closest to the classrooms. We need to look at health plans and to look at the pool project, etc. Vice President Glasser asked that we make the decisions otherwise someone else will make the decisions for us.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:


- | | |
|---|-------|
| 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 BOARD MEETINGS


- A. Monday, February 23, 2009 7:30 p.m., Regular 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 10, 2009 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, *Cornell Elementary School, 901 Cornell Elementary School,*
- E. Tuesday, March 17, 2009 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany
- F. Tuesday, April 14, 2009 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, *Cornell Elementary School, 901 Cornell Elementary School,*
- G. Tuesday, April 28, 2009 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, *Cornell Elementary School, 901 Cornell Elementary School,*

ADJOURNMENT:

With no objections from the Board, President Blanchard adjourned the meeting at 7:00 P.M.



David Glasser
Jaime Calloway, President
Board of Education



Marla Stephenson, Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Education