

**Albany Unified School District  
Board of Education**

**Cornell Elementary Multi-Purpose Room  
920 Talbot Avenue  
Albany, CA 94706**

**MINUTES OF:**

Regular Board Meeting  
February 24, 2009

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

President Calloway called the Regular Meeting of February 24, 2009 to order at 6:33P.M.

**ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Board Vice-President David Glasser; Board Member Ron Rosenbaum; Board Member Pat Low;

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

President Jamie Callaway, Board Member Miriam Walden; Student Representatives, Patricia Mou and Jean Kang.

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Superintendent Marla Stephenson; Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Laurie Harden; Director of Curriculum and Instruction Lynda Hornada; Director of Special Education and Personnel Diane Marie

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR CLOSED SESSION:** None

**CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION:** 6:36 P.M.

**RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION:** 7:31 P.M

**ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

President David Glasser; Board Member Ron Rosenbaum; Board Member Pat Low;

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

President Jamie Calloway and Board Member Miriam Walden (will be late) Student Representatives, Patricia Mou and Jean Kang.

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Superintendent Marla Stephenson; Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Laurie Harden; Director of Curriculum and Instruction Lynda Hornada; Director of Special Education and Personnel Diane Marie

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

**REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION:**

Vice President Glasser reported that The Behrens's Street Neighborhood Association has accepted the District Settlement offer.

Vice President Glasser reported that the School Board upheld the stipulated expulsion and suspended the order of Student # 202433.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Certificated

1. Teacher
2. Tutor
3. Head Wrestling Coach
4. Band Director
5. Yearbook Advisor
6. Boys 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Coach
7. Choir Director
8. Boys 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Coach
9. Asst. Wrestling Coach
10. Theatre Director
11. Substitutes
12. Psychologist

Classified

1. Varsity Women's Basketball Coach
2. Substitute
3. Asst. Wrestling Coach
4. Boys 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Coach
5. Varsity Men's Soccer Coach
6. JV Men's Soccer Coach
7. Varsity Women's Soccer Coach
8. Tutor
9. JV Women's Basketball Coach
10. JV Softball Coach

11. JV Women's Soccer Coach
12. Translator
13. JV Men's Basketball Coach
14. Hourly Scorekeeper
15. Student Worker
16. Workability Students
17. School Transportation Driver
18. Volunteer

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

**STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT: None**

**STAFF REPORTS:**

County Office Budget Overview

Carlene Naylor, Assistant Superintendent Business Services at the Alameda County Office of Education. Spoke about the fiscal reporting requirement of school districts. If the interim report indicates that a district is unable to meet its financial obligations then the county must provide some level of oversight.

If a district is unable to make the budget reductions necessary to retain positive certification then AB1200 – County oversight is required. Approval of a district budget requires the County Office to review the budget and interim reports then certify and agree if budget can be certified as positive. The County Office works closely with districts so there is not a negative certification. State standards are used in the review in all districts. Assistant Superintendent Naylor then cautioned that even though the State has passed a 17 month budget bill, there are significant variables that might require a second budget. It is based on economy staying the same or getting better. If this is not the case, there could be more mid-year cuts. Until the critical special election results are known, there may still be further cuts to education. The current budget includes more flexibility in categorical programs. She explained the three tiers of the categorical programs. There has been a lot of controversy over flexibility of categorical programs. There must be a public hearing for the use of money for anything other than what grant was written for. The purchase of instruction materials has been delayed 3 years. 2007-08 balances can be used to offset the revenue reductions. They should be used for one time expenditures.

Member Low thanked Ms. Naylor.

Member Glasser asked if the district continued to need 3% reserve. Ms. Naylor said yes. The county does not recommend that districts even consider this but recommend they build the reserve. The State is withholding payments to districts so cash flow will be a problem for districts. Ms. Naylor stated that there are two ways a district can end up with state trustee: 1. Negative fund balance 2. Run out of cash and not have ability to borrow. This will be a very tight cash year.

Member Walden asked what happened with Governor's idea to reduce days. Ms. Naylor said that it did not make it into the final budget bill. Ms. Walden asked if Governor could do it administratively. Ms. Naylor said no, it would need a vote.

#### Everyday Math Program

Director Lynda Hornada gave the background of the math adoption. She stated that in August, 2008, 40 teachers were trained for one week. Teachers who did not attend the training were trained with professional development. Elementary Principals and teacher leaders have provided additional support. Karen Adams, district math coach, has offered weekly training. During the week of Feb 9 2009, Ms. Hornada visited all three sites. She observed that routines established. She was pleased to see such a high implementation of the math program. Staff is looking at putting together assessment based on Everyday Math Program. Implementing curriculum is difficult and she is very proud of everyone for meeting the challenge in a positive, professional manner.

Mr. Glasser asked how success was measured. Director Hornada stated that evidence was posted in classrooms, books in desks, students used to routines, teachers using program, and assessments being used. Mr. Glasser asked if staff was looking at test scores. Ms. Hornada said that was not the purpose of this visit.

Ms. Walden paraphrased Ms. Hornada's explanation that staff was professionally implementing program. She then expounded on next steps which included teachers work and experiences. She also said that there were trade-offs and that she would question teacher's professionalism if she did not hear negatives about the new program. She expects that the teachers be given space and a venue for teacher input and discussion. She wants reassurance that this is allowed to happen at the sites. Ms. Hornada said that there are scheduled dialogs at each site. She stressed that we needed to be true to the program in its implementation so the district was aware of positives and negatives and could amplify the positives and deal with the negatives.

Mr. Glasser said that different levels of preparedness were one of the reasons the program was implemented. He would be interested in feedback form middle school on the preparedness of the students next year.

Mr. Rosenbaum is interested in how the program will impact student performance on the STAR.

Ms. Calloway said she is interested in seeing results over a two year time.

Ms. Low said she is deeply interested in curriculum. She thanked the teachers who are here for implementing the curriculum. She stresses that we should not assess by test scores, that research shows that it takes three years to see results in test scores. She hopes teachers would look for what elements of the program are effective for populations, possibility of using differentiated instruction to challenge students. Realizes there are limited resources. Member Low asked who is trained in Data Director. Ms. Hornada said that AMS and AHS are using it; elementary principals are trained but it has not been rolled out to elementary teachers. Ms. Hornada said the information is being put into data director. Member Low asked if Ms. Hornada felt there was

enough money to support teachers. Ms. Hornada said she felt the district has a good start, but always wishes there was more money to provide more support.

Ms. Walden said that it is not too early to ask straight up questions to teachers. "Has the program added to your tools for teaching math, what are three positives and three negatives of program? It is important for board to see impact of standardized program on teacher moral. Ms. Hornada plans to do survey around implementation.

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

Bill Whittaker, Marin parent spoke of the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, enrichment program and increase in minutes. He provided board with an article. The article supports structured play being important to students' lives. He would like the Board to read article with an open mind. He stated that today another article came out in NY Times. Mr. Rosenbaum stated he brought that article and held it up and referred to it.

Loring Barker, President of ATA, stated that the Board blundered when they unilaterally increased length of teacher's day. It created a breach of trust. Ms. Walden wisely and clearly warned the board. Trust is not easily fixed.

Teacher will more tired, have less time for preparation. The Board imposed unneeded minutes to the teachers work day. He stated if this is the way the Board works, we will not work. Article 16 of the teacher's contract was read. Mutual respect and trust, these are words that have real meaning for teachers; obviously not the Board. There will be no peace, no business as usual.

Jackie Rydman, President of CSEA, stated that there will be before and after school care and programs using rooms that are used for other purposes. There will be kids running wild in open space. It will not be enrichment, will be crowd control. It will take away from Children's Center.

Member Glasser (in reference to Mr. Barker's statement) said that you need to look at big picture. Language like "no peace" is a threat. Member Walden said Member Glasser was negotiating in public. Member Glasser stated he was concerned with rhetoric.

Yvonne Mansell, Marin parent, stated there is the parcel tax issue. In listening to Board Member Walden it became clear that it would take a lot of time. The District will be dependent on financial contributions of the community. Going for a parcel tax will need parents and teachers that support schools. She asked the Board to reconsider their decision.

Jacque Wiley, a teacher in Albany, stated that increased minute's impacts what makes sense for kids. Developmentally it does not make sense not to have breaks. Teachers used to be able to create curriculum, curriculum that got kids thinking critically and built kind, caring human beings. They had time to do this. Now that time is being eroded by NCLB and district's desire to increase test scores. To increase test scores takes time and money. Teacher creativity is being squelched. Kids who are struggling are not getting the support they need. She asked the Board to look into their hearts and let teachers provide creative, engaging curriculum that people move to Albany for. Having enrichment in the morning will put teachers of music, PE and art in classrooms on rainy days.

Susan Adams, CSEA member and Library Tech at OceanView, reminded the Board of the support, which is what they provide, support for teachers, students, and parents. They keep students safe and assist in library and office. When you cut support and increase teacher's day, the rug is being pulled out from under teachers. She also reiterated that enrichment portion of proposal encroaches on children center.

**REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Waive 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Conduct and Approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the AP Environmental Science Course at AHS.

Principal Barone reported that they are in the process of developing (EDSET) Environmental Design, Science, Engineering, and Technology Program. It is a direct result of WASC. It is designed to provide alternatives to the mainstream program. They have established partnerships with community agencies and wrote and submitted a grant to EPA.

Ms. Low stated it sounded exciting and congratulated Mr. Barone. She asked if it could be implemented with the proposed cuts to the budget. Mr. Barone said that the school needs to move forward to implement WASC action plan in order to move forward with accreditation.

Mr. Rosenbaum asked Mr. Barone to clarify how community service would work. Mr. Barone said the day set up so kids go to community service site, and get a real world guided community experience in semester one and career exploration for second semester.

Member Walden moved to waive 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Conduct and Approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the AP Environmental Science Course at AHS. Member Low seconded the motion. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

B. Waive 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Conduct and Approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the Energy and Environmental Engineering ROP Course at AHS

Member Walden moved to waive 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Conduct and Approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the AP Environmental Science Course at AHS. Member Low seconded the motion. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

C. Waive 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Conduct and Approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the Food Science I Course at McGregor

Principal Ritchie reported that Food Science I would be offered to AHS students. It is a food and hospitality pathway designed to develop interest. Future course offerings would include Food Science and a ROP culinary arts program.

Member Walden said that there is a lot to work out, but she approves of the idea.

Member Rosenbaum stated that Principal Ritchie has been working on the idea for three years. He asked her to discuss how the program could generate income.

Principal Ritchie said they are inviting elementary students in as a field trip. This could increase as more students attend. Other ideas include renting out the kitchen to Boy Scouts etc.

Member Low acknowledged the possibilities.

Member Walden said that her son wears his McGregor t-shirt and says McGregor is the coolest high school in the world

Member Glasser moved to waive 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Conduct and Approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the AP Environmental Science Course at AHS. Member Walden seconded the motion. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

D. Approve Recommendation to Designate Certificated Teachers to Permanent and Probationary Status.

Ms. Stephenson stated that this was an annual event that the district conducts to match up temporary people with teachers on leave.

Member Walden moved to Approve Recommendation to Designate Certificated Teachers to Permanent and Probationary Status. Member Rosenbaum seconded the motion. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

E. Approve Resolution 2008-09- 18 Release of Temporary Teachers

Ms. Stephenson reported that this is an annual event, approving release of temporary teachers. Temporary contract ends June 12<sup>th</sup>, this is formality.

Member Glasser asked when we find out when teachers on leave are returning. Ms. Stephenson said that we learn this by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Glasser stated this is roughly 13% of our staff.

Ms. Stephenson said we do not have enough temporary teachers to match teachers on leave.

Ms. Walden acknowledged the difficulty for temporary teachers. Ms. Stephenson acknowledged that this is a particularly difficult year with the budget situation.

Member of the public, J Wiley, commented that there have been some hiring problems; some teachers who have been here longer do not have tenure. Incredibly talented dedicated teachers are being affected by mistakes that have been made.

Member Walden stated that we are aware of this and that with cuts to District administration, district opens itself up to more errors.

Member Glasser said that it is a delicate balancing act.

Member Glasser moved to Approve Resolution 2008-09- 18 Release of Temporary Teachers. Member Low seconded the motion. The Board was polled and passed unanimously. Member Glasser pointed out that there were two “D” on the Review and action items. The second “D” is corrected to “F”.

F. Approve Resolution 2008-09-19 45 Day Lay-Off

Superintendent Stephenson recommended the layoff with a great deal of reluctance

Member Glasser said these positions are critical and asked Ms. Stephenson to speak to how district will take over duties.

Superintendent Stephenson said that her administrative assistant – will be partially replaced by moving the Special Ed. secretary to assist D.O. then other secretary to support Special Ed. The Personnel Coordinator will be replaced by the Director of Special Education who will become Director of Special Education and Personnel.

The Network administrator will be replaced by the Student Data systems manager and the Director of Curriculum and Instruction. The Computer support specialist cut of 0.5 will back filled with .5 network technician. Superintendent Stephenson said we cannot reduce staff at sites without having drastic cuts at the District Office. We will get the job done. We may not be as efficient as we would like. We will move more slowly until we get through this.

Member Glasser said if district does not make cuts, they will be made for the district.

Member of the Public, John Kindle, expressed concern over technology cuts and the impact on kid’s education.

Member Rosenbaum said that we will be short changing everywhere.

Member Glasser asked if we have considered placement resources for these people. Ms. Stephenson said that we are working on this. Some of these people have job rights within the district.

Member Rosenbaum moved to Approve Resolution 2008-09-19 45 Day Lay-Off

Member Glasser seconded the motion. The Board was polled; Members Glasser, Rosenbaum and Low voting AYE; Members Calloway and Walden abstaining.

G. Approve Resolution 2008-09-20 to Proposed Budget by Governor Schwarzenegger

Member Glasser introduced G, formerly E. Superintendent Stephenson said the resolution reflects the district’s concerns. Discussion ensued. Ms. Walden would like to add specific language at the end to say we are in favor of raising revenue. Ms. Walden will write out language for staff.

Member Rosenbaum moved to Approve Resolution 2008-09-20 to Proposed Budget by Governor Schwarzenegger with the proposed changed by Member Walden. Member Glasser seconded the motion. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

H. Approve CSBA 2009 Delegate Assembly Election



G changed to H. Superintendent Stephenson explained that the Board can vote for up to four delegates. Mr. Rosenbaum picked Mike McMahan. Mr. Rosenbaum said he has been active with school board association for six years. His name was not in packet. Ms. Low recommended Sarah Gonzalez, EdD and Nancy Riddle and Ron Rosenbaum.

Member Walden moved to approve to nominate McMahan, Rosenbaum, Riddle and Gonzalez. Member Glasser seconded the motion. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

#### REVIEW AND DISCUSSION ITEM:

##### A. Review Status Report of the AUSD Pool/Classroom Construction Project

Superintendent Stephenson stated there has been a lot of discussion on the pool. A communication from city administrator is being shared with city council and the School Board tonight. Superintendent Stephenson recommends that district continue the project with non-negotiable caveats:

1. Operate as close to revenue neutral as possible
2. Classrooms must be included in current budget
3. 9% owner's contingency reserve be built into the budget

Member of the Public, Dawn Kawamoto, stated she is alarmed with this proposal. It would sabotage anyone's political career to go ahead with this in this economic time. The district is not managing pool project with its current budget and is now looking at additional property tax. The project should be scaled back.

Member of the Public, John Kindle, stated the project must focus on the students.

Pool Advisory Committee member, Peggy McQuaid suggested that the Board listen to what Marla is saying as the district is moving forward in a very responsible manner. Slow it down; look at one pool; study the green technology and go back and almost start again.

Member Low thanked Ms. McQuaid, as she put so much into the original project.

Member Walden appreciated Marla's double and triple checking of the numbers. We should not act as though the people did not do a considerable amount of research. One pool is not easier to operate than two. True the operating cost of an outdoor pool is high due to greater evaporation and need for chemicals in water. Two pools are cheaper to operate because they get greater functionality. The Board cannot bow to misinformation. Information/business plans are never perfect. It is worth looking at again, but it is important to understand that it has been considered. We need to educate people circulating misinformation that an abundance of caution was taken and we continue to evaluate data that was used to make decision.

Superintendent Stephenson said it was important that all strands come to a nexus point. It will require close work with city. It is important to slow down to proceed with caution and come up with great project.

Member of the Public Dawn Kawamoto asked if Miriam is community tax payer.

Member Rosenbaum said that they all are. He agrees with Marla. The project is a good model. We are moving forward with is the best model. It is exciting that the city is ready to buy into supporting what will benefit students and community.

Member Low thanked Superintendent Stephenson for the 2x2 meetings and efforts she has made with city.

Member Walden motioned to extend to 10:15 PM. Member Rosenbaum seconded. Ms. Calloway stated she is leaving at 10:05.

Member of the Public, Michael Barnes, expressed concern that building not look cheap as building needs to last a long time. You need to respect tax payers who voted on project. Urges the Board to give a beautiful functional project, that will become a landmark in the town.

Member Walden has no objection to the added bullet points.

Member Glasser emphasized the line he will not cross. There is a need to cast a wider net beyond the city and a need to continue dialoging with Berkeley and El Cerrito to best serve the region. The project should not encroach on the general fund.

#### Review Parcel Tax Options

Superintendent Stephenson discussed parcel tax. Stating that there was a 2/10/09 discussion at the Board level of proposing a new parcel tax. She reviewed current parcel taxes and what they generate for the district. There was a thought that we might get it on the June ballot. That would need a resolution tonight. It would give staff one week to craft language to have to the County Clerk by March 4<sup>th</sup>. The cost to run a campaign is \$70,000. The superintendent does not feel we could put something out that was well thought out for the June election. We would be better served to wait until November.

Member Walden agreed with proposal. Does not feel it could be done any faster than to be ready before November. She suggests the board recommend developing a committee of two board members and community members to draft language. Ms. Walden would volunteer to be one of the two board members and would run a field poll using volunteers. The committee would consider combining some of the existing parcel tax or renew and up the 2005 parcel tax. She wants to be able to explain clearly with honest, clear, straightforward parcel tax language. Need to be careful to put together a proposal that addresses needs people have and that it is thoughtful.

Member Rosenbaum said it makes sense.

President Calloway made a motion to continue to 10:30 pm. Member's Walden and Rosenbaum said no. Member Glasser said we will have more meetings to discuss it.

Member Rosenbaum said there is a need to move slowly but cannot let educational community down.

**SUPERINTENENDENT AND BOARD COMMENTS:**

Superintendent: None

Board: None

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**


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


**FUTURE AGENDA MEETINGS:**

- A. Tuesday, April 14, 2009 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Cornell Elementary School, 901 Cornell Elementary School,
- B. Tuesday, April 28, 2009 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Cornell Elementary School 901 Cornell Elementary School,

**ADJOURMENT:**

With no objection from the Board, President Calloway adjourned the meeting at 10:20 P.M.

  
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David Glasser, President  
Board of Education

  
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Marla Stephenson, Superintendent  
Secretary, Board of Education

