

**Albany Unified School District
Board of Education**

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

MINUTES OF:

Regular Board Meeting
March 17, 2009

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

President Glasser called the Regular Meeting of March 17, 2009 to order at 6:37 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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: 6:37 P.M.

RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION: 7:34 P.M

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

President David Glasser; Board Member Ron Rosenbaum; Board Member Pat Low; Student Representatives, Patricia Mou and Jean Kang.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Board Member Miriam Walden (will be late)

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: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

Board Minutes

Board Member Low made four corrections to the February 3, 2009 minutes. President Glasser corrected a field trip request from "Middle Eastern" to "South Asian"

Certificated

1. Teacher
2. Track Coach
3. Substitute teacher
4. Speech Therapist

Classified

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:

Each class council is organizing a fund raiser to help with fiscal issues. Grade 9 is organizing music in the park. Grade 10 is organizing a spring dance. Grade 11 is organizing a movie night And Grade 12 is organizing a black tie event. Proceeds for his year's fund raisers will go the make a Wish Foundation.

3/27-4/3: Diversity Week

3/27 – International Food Day

4/1 – Diversity Assembly

Also, Diversity Olympics

5/30-Prom

Advisory Council is meeting every 2 weeks to get information out more fluidly Member Rosenbaum said that International Food Day is not to be missed. Low complimented students on action vs. complaints on students fundraising efforts

STAFF REPORTS:

Enrichment Task Force

Director Hornada stated that an enrichment committee was formed in October 2008. They met twice, and then form a Task Force. The Task Force has had one meeting. Parents and staff from each school site are represented. There is an open invitation to teachers to participate.

The Task Force has looked at a blue print for enrichment from PK though grade 5. They have discussed the enrichment that exists, and looked at other district's enrichment plans.

The Task Force has explored walking school bus-(groups of students walk together from each school site to established enrichment activities in community).All meetings open to the public

The task Force is developing a survey to gather data from parents on their interest in enrichment.

They will also look into community resources.

Member Low stated that if students are given early/late bird assignment in June, the district will not know the need until fall. She asked that the survey be done by site with regard to after-school care and suggests that they do survey in the fall. She offered help with survey.

Member Walden stated that there had been a survey done five or more years ago by former Board Member Marsha Skinner. Member Rosenbaum said it might be worth looking at as opposed to reinventing the wheel.

President Glasser expressed concern over walking school bus. There have been two serious accidents in the area. We have a good record and good crossing guards. Crossing guards should be recognized for their effort at Employee Recognition. He suggested including current day care providers, including them in the process.

Regional Occupational Program

Contra Costa Office of Education Student Services Principal, Kale Alderson – oversees several ROP programs. He stated that The Regional Occupation Program (ROP) is UC certified and that ROP has come a long way.

Ned Purdom reported that ROP is main way students get hands-on instruction. Thirteen sections are taught, ROP funds courses and instructors. Labs are state of the art facilities. School districts can leverage assets and spend its money in other areas. A lot of courses ROP started have now been taken over by school.

Jeff Castle reported that a new student website is under design <http://ahs510.org>. The School loop website has link to video/graphics but it takes you away from School Loop website. The web site that is being developed does both. Much of the website is ROP class work. As students create projects/take pictures they dynamically go up on web site. Pod casts are also on website. As they are generated, they will appear on the website.

Two student reports that they have been taking ROP for two years. They discussed several projects, showing pictures form each project. Stating that ROP is fun and helps students get ready for college.

Another student from Leadership said that AHS dos not have one logo; each team or club have their own logos. There is no one logo to unify the school. In graphic art, she worked on an updated, modernized logo. It is accessible to everyone. One student spoke about ROP video production. He reported that ROP is a unique experience. Played an example of a commercial produced. Thankful for ROP for professional skills.

Superintendent Stephenson thanked the presenters. Member Walden thanked the county representative for being here as it shows network and commitment. She also thanked the county for support, responsiveness and flexibility. Member Low thanked teachers and students. When she moved to AUSD, she was told that the education her kids would get would be good but traditional. AHS has impressed her with innovations such as schools with schools and ROP classes. Member Rosenbaum thanked presenters and acknowledged the support of Kale for the programs. Rosenbaum said that it was a great teaching staff. Member Glasser thanked presenters, the students for sharing their creativity, the staff for their dedication.

A member of the public, Ms. Price, a Cornell grandmother, reported she was enraged over flyer from school. Stated that they are confused over their priorities. Education must be a first priority. She was enraged that the state was taking 2.2 million from AUSD. She asked if there is anything that can be done to stop the layoffs. Member Walden said they are working on it. President Glasser stated he board has

adopted a resolution. Fiscal realities are such that we need to come up with creative ways to think outside the box. Ms. Price said that ineffective programs could be redone or removed.

Member Rosenbaum said that every teacher we lose not only affects their lives but the lives of the students in our District.

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

Loren Barker, President ATA stated that teachers have gone through wrenching times. 29 pink slips have been handed out. It is difficult for those who are being let go. HE stated that he was angry at the Board's resolution to add minutes. Teachers came to a good faith compromise to add minutes last June. Board can easily rescind the decision. He urges the Board to come back to a relationship of respect and trust.

Yvonne Mansell, a Marin parent stated her support for teachers and urged compromise.

Stacey Uyeda, AMS librarian praised the highly qualified classified staff. Having a Library Tech allows her to concentrate on the children and their education. She gave the Board a letter written by students in support of the Library Tech.

Sarah Ormland, librarian AT AHS, added that there was value of having a library tech and a librarian at each site. On average, a thousand students visit library each day and 24 classes visit the library each week. Both roles provide strong library and support student skills.

Judith Carey, Marin School Librarian, states she checks out approximately 2500 books/month. Techs are there before and after school and at lunch, where approximately 60 students go each day.

Karen Fox-Reynolds, a 19 year teacher at Albany, stated that the Board needs to vote on the decision made 2/3/09. The elementary teachers have shown dedication in unique, time proven reading program. She stated that the teachers are professionals she stated she has always loved her job and the atmosphere, but now the feeling in the school and feeling of her teachers does not provide that wonderful feeling.

Many parents from Marin, Ocean View and Cornell complimented teachers. Feels that the Board is not valuing teachers. Adding minutes is not going to do anything. Urged the Board to support teachers and rescind decision

Liz Avery, a Marin teacher, stated she was always proud to be in Albany. Urged the Board to stop ignoring teachers.

Member Glasser asked the public to limit comments to an additional 10 minutes due to the time (9:00 pm).

Member Walden stated there is conversation going on and hopes it can be productive. Said we need to be focused on doing what is right.

Member Glasser thanked Member Walden as did Member Rosenbaum and reiterated that there is conversation going on.

REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS:

Approve 2009-10 Budget Reductions

Superintendent Stephenson provided an overview of 2009-2010 Budget Reductions and process in reaching the recommendations. One piece of the reductions that has not yet been brought to the Board is

the reduction in classified staff. The Board has also not taken action on non-personnel reductions. Approving 2009-2010 Budget Reductions will allow District to remain positive certification with the county. If May 19th Special Election does not pass, Education will take the biggest cuts.

Member Rosenbaum reported that we have looked at a lot of numbers and heard a lot of reports. He questioned accuracy of net savings. Superintendent Stephenson said net savings is always in question. President Glasser reported that if Board does not make decision it will be made for them. These positions can be reinstated if money becomes available. He stated that the Board needs to move forward with a vote tonight.

Member Walden reported that she respects the list. She does not feel Board has been transparent with their priorities regarding what would be brought back. She feels priorities need to be developed now so the decision can be thoughtful. Positions can not be reinstated until end of May, but stating priorities will tell employees where they are on list.

Member Low supported Member Walden's suggestion and said that she is willing to vote as long as discussion is held.

President Glasser stated the conversation will be made at the next Board meeting. Member Glasser asked what is being provided to employees being laid off. Superintendent Stephenson said employees will be provided a list of resources. President Glasser suggested that the library be made available

Member of the public, Mike Adney, stated that the political realities this year then in subsequent years would be terrible. He stated that District is not cutting enough and urged the Board to make 2.1 million in cuts not 1.9. It is their obligation to cut now.

Member of the public, John Kindle, expressed concern over loss of the School Resource Officer.

Joe Howell Vice President of SEUI, stated he does not envy job of the Board. He wants to put face on a skilled maintenance worker. He feels the figure for his job is incorrect, even with benefits. Urged Board to do their homework and see what HVAC would cost from private contractor. Joe stated that he saves the District more than it cost them.

Eddie Johnson, teacher, spoke on behalf of Joe. Since Joe came, her classroom has been temperature regulated which has contributed to her ability to teach and the children's ability to learn. Joe supports everyone. Urged Board to keep Joe, to put him at top of list.

Board Member Low moved and Member Walden seconded to approve the 2009-10 Budget Reductions. The Board was polled. Members Glasser; Walden and Low voted AYE. Member Rosenbaum voted Aye but abstained from voting on the skilled maintenance worker.

Member Rosenbaum moved and Member Glasser seconded approve the resolution 2008-09-25 Honoring Jamie Calloway. The Board was polled Members Rosenbaum, Glasser and Low voting Aye and President Calloway abstaining.

President Calloway thanked all and said she is happy for the reason she is leaving (Marriage) but will miss doing her part for the students and will miss everyone.

Superintendent Stephenson opened nominations for president Member Rosenbaum moved to nominate Vice President Glasser. Member Low seconded. Members Low, Rosenbaum, Calloway voting Aye and Member Glasser abstaining.

2008-09 2nd Interim Report

Assistant Superintendent Harden presented 2008-2009 2nd Interim Report. She stated that this was the most difficult interim that she has ever done. The many budget unknowns created challenges. She provided an overview of AUSD fiscal status as of January 31, 2009. She reviewed the multiyear projections and stated that with the budget reductions that the Board had just passed the District remained in positive certification. She stated Stimulus Package is one-time money supporting Title I, Special Education and Educational Technology. We do not know amount, how we will receive, when it will be received or its appropriate uses. California is considering holding the funds for a period of time prior to releasing it.

Member Walden asked where the list of expenditure reductions is, stated we should not just see the final number. Superintendent Stephenson referred her to page 37.

Member Rosenbaum noted that it was after 10:00.

President Glasser asked for a motion to go past 10:00

Meeting: Rosenbaum moved to continue the meeting for 15 minutes until 10:15 P.M. Member Low seconded. No roll call vote was made.

Member Walden asked where is cash flow was indicated. Assistant Superintendent Harden stated on page 75. Member Walden said that the health and welfare increase seems low and so was ADA. She would like to see historical numbers

President Glasser asked about total FTEs – why were they consistent throughout the multiyear projections? President Glasser asked to spend a little time on fiscal indicators. He would like staff to talk about the factors.

Members Walden and Low thanked Assistant Superintendent Harden for her hard work and calmness. Member Rosenbaum complimented Assistant Superintendent Harden and Superintendent Stephenson.

President Glasser stated he has about 20 questions about the 2nd Interim Report and suggested they bring questions to April 14, 2009 Board Meeting.

Member Rosenbaum moved and Member Low seconded Approving the 2008-09 2nd Interim. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

Approve AUSD Board Candidate Interview Process

Superintendent Stephenson outlined the Board Member Interview Process.

Member Low suggested delaying appointment of Board Member in order to have a transparent, thoughtful process.

Member Walden said that interviews cannot be done in an hour and a half. Superintendent Stephenson said that is why the meeting is being held early. Four hours has been allotted to the interview process.

Member Low asked that it should be announced that letters of support would be accepted from the community. Member Walden agreed.

President Glasser asked if all letters would be part of public record. Superintendent Stephenson said that this information would be asked for in the letter that she would write to the candidates following their application and it would be part of the public record.

Member Low suggested her six criteria be discussed.

Member Walden said she was not asked if she was available at 2 pm. She asked for a separate Board meeting to be scheduled and leave April 14, 2009 meeting for interviews. She suggested the week prior to the April 14th meeting; Superintendent Stephenson reported that was spring break. Member Walden asked about next week. Superintendent reported that staff was not available.

Member Low asked if the interview date could be changed.

Member Walden suggested a Saturday meeting.

President Glasser expressed concern that a decision was made at a previous Board meeting and feels that process should go forward. The parcel tax discussion can be moved to the 28th.

Member Low asked how the District will make the criteria transparent to community.

Superintendent Stephenson suggested that sample criteria be sent out to Board members and this information would be provided to applicants.

President Glasser stated that Board Members send suggestions to Superintendent Stephenson who will make final call.

Superintendent Stephenson suggested Board Meeting be moved from 2 to 4 to allow Member Walden to get there.

Member Rosenbaum made a motion to make amendment to add criteria and to move the regular meeting from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. with the meeting from 4-5:30; closed session from 5:30-6:00; then interviews from 6:00-10:00.

Member Walden stated that she already missed a class.

Member Low asked to move regular meeting to a Saturday.

President Glasser said he is not available on Saturdays.

Member Rosenbaum made a motion to move the regular meeting from 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. with the meeting from 5-5:30; closed session from 6 to -6:30; then interviews from 6:30-10:00 with the parcel Tax to be covered on April 28, 2009. Member Low seconded. The Board was polled. Members Glasser, Rosenbaum and Low voting AYE and Member Walden abstaining.

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,

ADJOURNMENT:

With no objection from the Board, President Glasser adjourned the meeting at 10:27 P.M.



David Glasser, President
Board of Education



Marla Stephenson, Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Education