

**Albany Unified School District
Board of Education**

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

MINUTES OF: May 5, 2009

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Member Black, Member Low, Member Walden, Vice President Rosenbaum, President Glasser

MEMBERS ABSENT: Student Member Kang, Student Member Mau

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Superintendent Stephenson, Assistant Superintendent Harden, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Hornada, Director of Special Education and Personnel Marie

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR CLOSED SESSION: No public comment

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION: 6:35 pm

RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION: 7:30 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION:

1. Denied expungement of student personnel ID# 201565.
2. Approved contract for Assistant Superintendent. Copy available for public viewing. Congratulations.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:

Certificated

Classified

Consent Calendar Discussion

3A. Independent Contractor Agreement for Ivey Chen Puberty Education for 5th Grade
Member Black asked why Marin and Cornell had hours, but Cornell had none. Director Hornada will correct this. Superintendent Stephenson said this is over and above core curriculum, paid for by PTA. President Glasser recommended pulling 3a. Member Walden recommended approving 3a with correction.

3C. National Finals for the U.S. Dept. of Energy Science Bowl, Washington D.C., Peggy Carlock, AHS Science Club

Member Rosenbaum questioned why it was not submitted until after trip Superintendent Stephenson stated that was held by the Vice Principal until certain that they were going, not realizing that a request could be submitted in anticipation. Member Rosenbaum asked who paid teacher expenses. Director Hornada will find out this information and get back to board. Member Low asked what gender of team is. Superintendent Stephenson will email this information. Member Rosenbaum acknowledged that department is working on issue of gender balance.

4B. President Glasser noted that there is a 2500 donation. What is procedure?

Asst Supt said that policy will be coming to the board as there is not a defined limit at this time. Want to increase accountability for donations.

Member Walden noted the board discussed that since her time on the board that donations used to go to the teacher. When it was formalized, the teachers were told that the practice was not to take away teachers' control of money. Also, board stated that they would not accept donations that were too earmarked.

Member Rosenbaum will provide spelling corrections on 4/14/09

Moved by Member Walden and Seconded by Member Black. Consent calendar approved unanimously.

Staff Reports

Swine Flu H1N1 – when it was put on the agenda, it was felt that identification in Albany was anticipated and that emergency procedures would be explained.

CDC recommended, as of today, that no schools be closed, that H1N1 cases follow normal flu guidelines. Student to stay home for 14 days. Will continue restroom/door handle disinfecting. Kudos to custodial staff for stepping up to the plate. Auto dialer was calling all absent children. Auto dialer, as of tomorrow, will provide directions to parents. This showed us that there was a lack of vision for what to do with staff should one of the schools have to close. This was an excellent trial for what we will do in a real pandemic. We will emerge with a stronger emergency plan. Member Black recommended that district provide students who are out with computer to communicate with teachers, and possibly loan computers to those without. President Glasser pointed out that if the student did not have a computer, they probably did not have internet, either, perhaps go back to paper. Member Low asked about communication with day care and after-school. Superintendent Stephenson responded informing re public relations piece, notifying local media, local public radio and top providers to get the word out.

6B. ACC, Director Stephenson reported that center is fully enrolled. Starting to think about summer programming. Reported that all contracts had been met. Reported numbers of each program. All are at capacity. Celebrated National Week of Young Child. Superintendent Stephenson complimented Director Stephenson on doing a good job. Member Walden stated that she hears that the Village does not contribute, but Director Stevenson's report shows, \$60,000. So, it is not true to say that the University is a drain on the village. President Glasser stated that the report shows there is a crying need for more childcare. Additional facilities are needed. He applauded Director Stevenson for making this work in an adverse environment. Member Walden asked age of wait list. Director Stevenson said the PK wait list is about 200. Wait lists are based on eligibility category, not numbers. There were about 70 on after school wait list. Member Low thanked Director Stevenson for being welcoming when she visited. Member Low reported that Superintendent provided a copy of survey; Member Walden provided an older document from 1989; this was provided to Superintendent Stephenson with a copy and asked her to disseminate it. Many of the issues continue to be what they were 20 years ago. Member Low collected a number of surveys to supplement those that have been previously used. Superintendent Stephenson commended the board with the action they have taken to look at solving childcare. Member Walden stated that we need clear goals, that the district sends contradictory messages; the board rejected additional space for childcare, would like to clarify philosophies prior to specific items. Member Low recommended that the President and Vice President go to the 2x2x2 meetings.

6C. Director Marie presented special education staffing, district services, classification data, In/Out

SELPA placements, and how Albany USD compares with SELPA. Discussion re ethnic rates in special education versus general student population and current status of various programs.

Superintendent Stephenson explained the new format for Board Agenda, minutes, and cablecast including quick link to a specific location in the video for viewing. She is hopeful to bring hourly secretary to the board and is hopeful the Granicus system will be functional in June.

7. Persons to Address the Board on items not on the agenda

Craig Bryant, HS music teacher, distributed handout on Tears for Priorities.

Told this item was on the agenda so he would need to wait until the item was discussed.

8A. Allocation of 2005 Parcel Tax

Superintendent Stephenson maintained recommendation that allocation be withheld until after May election, but advised 350,000 to maintain library at each site and the mental health program. Member Walden clarified that the board does not value those positions over others, but this is the minimum.

Moved by Vice President Rosenbaum and seconded by Member Low

No further discussion from board

No public comment

Roll call: Item passed unanimously

8B. Waive First Reading and Adopt Board Policies Section 0000

Member Black asked to bring the item back. He does not feel this is urgent but it is very important.

President Glasser will distribute suggested changes. President Glasser asked if there was any legislative or legal requirement to adopt or approve. Superintendent Stephenson reported that it has been years since policies were adopted. 0000 are least critical. She recommends that this be tabled and brought back. She recommended that all policies be brought to the board at the next meeting, that the board approve them so the District would be in compliance, then review and revise them. Vice President Rosenbaum explained the process of the updating of board policies. Superintendent Stephenson referred board and public to the matrix on page 22. Once policies are in final form and board approved, all policies will be linked on District website. Member Walden said some of the policies look urgent. Superintendent Stephenson said that waiting for the next meeting would suffice.

Member Walden moved to consider today the first reading and bring them back next meeting with the rest of the policies. Seconded by Vice President Rosenbaum.

Roll Call: Motion approved unanimously.

8C. Resolution No 2008-09-28 Reduction of Classified School Services

Superintendent Stephenson reported on current state of state budget and its impact. Member Walden said what she would have said last week that this represents a worst case scenario and we would be able to replace some of these positions. What we need to be clear about is that the worst case scenario is that all these cuts would have to be sustained. Delay of parcel tax funding of programs in order to have funds available for positions. Discussion re soft and hard funded positions.

Public comment

Anthony Douglas, lead custodian, stated that the union has always had a good relationship. Lately, members feel disenchanting, that there is distrust with the District and it is a sad state right now. Unit sees a lot of technicality going on. Feels compelled to tell Board there are a lot of dedicated employees. Reminded board that there are lives attached to the cuts.

Joe Howell, Vice President of SEIU, spoke on behalf of self and members. Requested that comments be reflected in the minutes. Has a concern re ethical wrongdoing, specifically conflict of interest in hiring friends and family by superintendent in direct retaliation for his dismissing HVAC agency that her son in law works for. Requested auditors review of procurement practices and agenda time to present evidence to the board. Appeal to other employees whose jobs are threatened or who have information to come forward with evidence. Difficult but necessary. Provided documentation of his job and savings for the District. His job deals with hazardous material and requires a license, which comes with a cost. He loves staff and students.

Member Walden asked if he was referring to the skilled maintenance position. He stated he was. Member Walden asked about complaint re contracting and definition. Joe stated he was requesting an audit of procedures relating to contracting and District procurement practices and policies. President Glasser stated there are procedures to follow to file a complaint and he needs to file it. Member Walden stated complaint has been made and needs to be followed up on by following up with the board president to be sure that it is placed on the agenda for either open or closed session. President Glasser offered complaint form after meeting. Joe clarified that it is an audit of procurement practices that he wants. Member Walden stated that a complaint about the superintendent is very different than a complaint about practices.

Jackie Rydman, President of CSEA union. The list seems longer than it was before. People approached her and said that they had been promised they would not be cut. A lot of people are very upset and wonder if they will have a job in September. When she sees cuts, she sees faces. It is not a position; it is a career, a life. She acknowledged that it is not the District's fault; all one has to do is turn the TV on to see another business has gone under.

Eddie Gonzalez, AHS custodian. Trying to understand it as he is a custodian, but the position is listed as pool mechanic/custodian. Asked board to take a look at it. Member Walden asked if the position was being laid off or Mr. Gonzalez? Superintendent Stephenson said that it was the position, which is a unit position. Mr. Wong and Mr. Gary Mills told him that he is not maintenance, he is a custodian, but Superintendent Stephenson is telling him different. Member Walden and Member Low said these were questions his union could work out with Marla.

Angela Thomas, worksite coordinator for SIEU, contacted lobbyist in Sacramento and was told that this week Districts would be notified about Title I and IDEA and that the level of funding would go back to September 2008 funding. She asked that the item be tabled until we know more. The lobbyist said we would receive enough money to restore all the positions. Superintendent Stephenson reported that the District will receive \$81,000 in Title I funds for Title I schools, which are Cornell and OV; and \$270,000 for IDEA Special Education funding.

John Kindle asked about the Special Education para education cuts. He asked where the cuts are. He said if a para is working with 2 kids in a classroom and then it is 4 kids, it will cost more. Superintendent Stephenson reported that it is a re-staffing for the anticipated need and as Director Marie reported, special education fluctuates, and restaff as needed. Not an increase in caseload for existing para educators.

Member Walden addressed two members of the audience and thanked them for coming and thanked them for all the contributions they make for the District. Acknowledged how bad this situation is.

Member Low asked about safety and security and asked about safety and security at each site. She wonders if there is a site plan for MacGregor. President Glasser stated that this is not about that, it is about a lay off list. Member Low said she would wait. Member Walden said that we have recommendations of lay off for worst case scenario, then the board will be discuss parcel tax money and replacement priorities.

Angela Thomas came back and thanked Member Walden. She asked when District would know. President Glasser said that we would use Governor's Budget to adopt our budget. The reality is that it is going to be a long, protracted battle in Sacramento and if the last 10 years are any indication, it will be September. Ms. Thomas asked if Task Force has been established so everyone gets their share. Member Walden said that District is so short staffed that we are looking at the Task Force, the rest of the District Office has been cut. Vice President Rosenbaum said that the District is looking everywhere. Lady reported she did not contact lobbyist because of distrust.

Oscar, maintenance, reported they are not only custodians or maintenance, but security and safety. They not only fix things, they watch kids, use of chemicals, etc.

Member Walden moved to approve the list as presented with all concerns noted and the desire to restore positions as soon as funds are clearly identified; seconded by Member Black.

Roll Call: Aye: Member Black, Member Low, Member Walden, President Glasser; Abstain – Vice President Rosenbaum
4-0; 1 abstention

9. Review and Discussion Items

9A. Review 2008-09 Categorical Funding in Anticipation of 2009-2010 Budget.

Superintendent Stephenson reported that ELAP was staffing at reduced level, CSR 9 writer's coach for individual instruction which supports, not supplants education, art and music block grant was due to stop as it was one time fund –balance was transferred to general budget. Work with sites to provide CAHSEE Intervention – at this time, the balance will be transferred to the general fund. Counselors will be missed but District is counseling rich at HS. Peer Assistance and Review has been used for BITSA matching funds – BITSA will no longer require a match so this is an easy one to turn into the general fund. Member Walden asked if we had money for BITSA. Director Hornada stated she was attending meeting tomorrow and would report to the Superintendent would keep them informed.

9B. Board Protocols and Board Training

President Glasser stated that this was his item. He suggests that the board have a three-hour training for board members so that contentious issues can be dealt with, operating under Brown Act, etc.. Superintendent Stephenson recommends using Mr. Walt Buster with Total School Solutions, retired Superintendent and Navida Brown with Lozano Smith. President Glasser stated he wanted the training as the board was a relatively young board and asked for discussion. Vice President Rosenbaum stated that the board had agreed to have this and is in favor. Member Low said that she is always in favor of training. Member Low asked what Cadre Center is. President Glasser stated he would leave content of presentation to Mr. Buster. Member Walden stated President Glasser is putting two things out, one is list and the other is scheduling the training. Vice President feels that the training should be scheduled and the agenda can be developed later. Member Walden asked that Superintendent Stephenson email cost; Superintendent Stephenson stated that the training was free.

9C. Reallocation of 2005 Parcel Tax

Superintendent Stephenson presented the prioritized restoration recommendations. Yard aides and campus supervisor have been removed from the parcel tax and put in general budget. Vice President Rosenbaum and President Glasser asked about the MS principal. Superintendent Stephenson reported that 0.5 of AMS principal was taken out of parcel tax and put in general fund and the other 0.5 of the AMS principal (#4) was moved to #2.

Music Teacher at AHS distributed document with current offerings at AUSD. Music staff is new and have put a lot of work into making sure all programs feed each other. He spoke of artistic, humanistic, scholastic opportunities that the music program provides. He stated that he has never worked in a place where he had such a strong shared vision and philosophy of what a music program should be with a co-worker. Vice President Rosenbaum thanked Music teacher.

President Glasser said it was 10:00 and asked for a motion to extend the meeting. Member Walden made a suggested extending the meeting for 10 minutes.

Member Black asked about first item, largest item on the list. Superintendent Stephenson recommends we build a 6 period schedule then add and restore as many 7 period classes as possible. Once threshold is met of restoring to meet demand, then we can rebuild the schedule on a 7 period day. Vice President Rosenbaum noted that 6 periods are longer to meet required minutes that were met in a 7 period day. Member Walden said that partial restoration is tricky as equity between sites needs to be monitored.

Member Low asked about funding for the funding for reading specialist. Superintendent Stephenson reported on funding for specialists.

President Glasser stated that he prefers the board not be caught off guard and asked for lists to show where District will cut if we are told we need to make additional cuts before June 30th. Superintendent Stephenson agreed that this was possible, however she is fairly confident that the District has made sufficient cuts to get through.

Vice President Rosenbaum said that he heard Member Walden say she was satisfied with the list and that he was as well and was thankful for the list. Member Low thanked staff for the work on it and consideration of school safety. Member Walden talked about perception. President Glasser said realistic message needs to be put out. Superintendent Stephenson said it is easy to say it but difficult to believe it; she does not feel that the District is in the acceptance stage. Member Walden stated that she was talking with families about leaving fliers at each house in Albany.

10B. Superintendent Comments.

Superintendent Stephenson reminded board to read items that are coming up and asked them to attend as they can, particularly graduation.

President Glasser adjourned the meeting at 10:00.