

**Albany Unified School District
Board of Education**

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

MINUTES OF:

Regular Meeting
September 16, 2008

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

President Blanchard called the Regular Meeting of September 16, 2008 to order at 6:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Board President, Charles Blanchard; Vice President, Jamie Calloway; Board Members, David Glasser and Ronald Rosenbaum

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Board Member, Miriam Walden and Student Representatives, Patricia Mou and Jean Kang were excused.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marla Stephenson, Superintendent; Laurie Harden, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services; Diane Marie, Director of Special Services; Laura Casdia, Principal, Marin Elementary School; Robin Davis, Principal Albany Middle School; 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: 7:30 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:

President Blanchard reported the Board approved a settlement for student I.D. #40508.

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. Member Glasser abstained his vote from Item 5C.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:

Certificated

1. Teacher
2. Counselor

Classified

1. Special Education Paraeducator
2. Paraeducator
3. Yard Duty Aide
4. School Transportation Driver

5. Library Tech
6. Behavior Specialist
7. Career Coordinator
8. Van Driver

With respect to the Consent Calendar Vice President Calloway moved and Member Glasser seconded to approve the Consent Calendar with the August 19, 2008 minutes omitted and the Writer Coach contract for AMS corrected to \$29,000 funded by the 2005 parcel tax.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: None

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT: None

STAFF REPORTS:

WISE Project at Albany Middle School

Robin Cooper, AMS teacher, reported that WISE (web based inquiry science environment) is a collection of excellent online science projects developed by University of California at Berkeley. This curriculum challenges students to think deeply about difficult science concepts by working with computer models of the various units. The models embedded in the projects make use of interactive technology to allow students to experiment with the scientific concepts. UC Berkeley, in partnership with Martinez Middle School and Albany Middle School, received a 5 year grant from the National Science Foundation in 2005 to work with using this WISE curriculum. The university has provided teachers with training in how to use the technology, how to analyze assessment data from the projects, and how to then make customizations to the projects based on the assessment evidence. In addition, the university has been training teachers in site-based mentoring so that when the grant ends; we will be able to carry on the work ourselves. Over the past three years of this grant, interest in the projects has spread. We now have teachers at the Martinez and Albany high schools who have also decided to run the projects. Assessments show that students are making increasing gains over the years we have been involved with this grant. Data from the university shows that student knowledge integration is higher when they learn science concepts using this type of technology than it is when they learn the same concepts by traditional methods.

Member Rosenbaum requested that the District's technology improve and asked for a comparison/status of hands-on vs. technology and Robin Cooper stated "hands-on" should always be included. President Blanchard stated on the Board's behalf that technology needs to evolve in the teaching of education and stated "how do we level the learning process". Member Glasser asked if this project can be done at home and at school and asked if this project is a public domain. Robin stated this is a public domain. Vice President Calloway stated her son liked this program last year and asked what type of training do the teachers need to teach this program. Robin stated the teachers are getting training during the summer and as more teachers use the program a school based mentoring evolves.

REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS:

Accept 2nd Round of SchoolCARE Funding for 2008-09

Teresa Barnett presented the SchoolCARE donation. She summarized the sites' enrichment needs and stated that an amount was set aside for MacGregor's future request.

She noted that this is SchoolCARE's ninth year of fund raising. Superintendent Stephenson asked what other fundraisers donate to Albany Unified. Theresa reported that the Fall "Noche" has been a successful fundraiser, but will not occur this year. Theresa stated that she hopes to involve more families to fundraise. The Board thanked SchoolCARE for everything it does for the school district and Albany's children.

Vice President Calloway moved and Member Glasser seconded to accept and approve the second round of SchoolCARE funding for 2008-09. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

Accept and Approve Unaudited Actuals 2007-08

Laurie Harden, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, narrated a PowerPoint presentation. She reviewed the restricted and unrestricted program accounts and commented on the future spending should begin with spending down/maximizing the restricted accounts before spending the unrestricted accounts. The Board thanked Ms. Harden for the clear and concise reports. Member Rosenbaum asked what the plans to maximize spending from the categories are. Ms. Harden stated she would inform the sites of their budgets and encourage them to spend the restricted funds first. Member Rosenbaum complemented Ms. Harden for directing the sites wisely. Member Rosenbaum asked if our negative spending is typical of other school districts and she stated yes.

President Blanchard's questions were directed to the multi-year report when SELPA became a pass-through account. He asked about the eleven million dollars pass-through process. Ms. Harden explained that the SELPA pass-through account process. President Blanchard asked about the three parcel taxes and the revenue enhancement that the District did not expect. Ms. Harden stated that the substantial carry-overs need reviewing and at this time she could not comment. President Blanchard asked about the deferred revenue and Ms. Harden explained that it is critical to monitor the programs to determine good reports. President Blanchard stated his concern that \$700,000.00 was not spent from the parcel tax and Member Glasser thought it was \$600,000.00. Ms. Harden stated at the 1st Interim the real numbers will be reported.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that some money would be reserved for the Solano Avenue Project. Also, some money would be allocated for technology and the 2008-09 money is not in this 2007-08 report.

Jackie Rydman, CSEA president, stated that in all her years of listening to audit reports, Laurie's explanation is the clearest and most comprehensible report any analyst has ever presented. The Board agreed and supported Jackie's complement.

Member Rosenbaum moved and Member Glasser seconded to accept and approve the unaudited actuals 2007-08. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

Approve Resolution 2008-09-08 – Gann Limit

Member Glasser moved and Vice President Calloway seconded to approve Resolution 2008-09-08-Gann Limit. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

Conduct and Approve 2nd Reading of BP5125 Student Records

Member Rosenbaum moved and Member Glasser seconded to approve the second reading of BP5125-Student Records. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

Conduct and Approve 2nd Reading BP 5125.1 Release of Directory Information

Member Glasser moved and Member Rosenbaum seconded to approve the second reading of BP5125.1-Release of Directory Information. The Board was polled and passed. Vice President Calloway voted no.

Conduct and Approve 2nd Reading of BP1230 Citizen Advisory Committees

Member Glasser moved and Member Rosenbaum seconded to approve the second reading of BP1230-Citizen Advisory Committees. The Board was polled and passed unanimously. Member Glasser requested the AR developed.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Opening of Schools Report

Superintendent Stephenson reported that the District staff gathered information (enrollment, average class size and a description of the first ten days of school) for the opening of schools.

Superintendent Stephenson reported the District budgeted for 3,824 and the current enrollment is 3,819. Albany High School enrollment is 1, 274 with a class size average of 28.19 including the special day class mainstreaming. 97.29% of the 7th period class requests were filled. The attendance is about 80% and there have been two suspensions for smoking on campus during the school hours. Overall, the opening of school was smooth and the administration got excellent reports for the new teachers and late hires.

Albany Middle School Enrollment is currently 924. No new sections have been added. School opened smoothly and the students are engaged and working hard. The average class size is about 30 students with PE classes at 42 - 45 students.

The elementary schools reported that the opening of school went very smooth. Teachers were well prepared.

BP/AR 1310 Uniform Complaint

Superintendent Stephenson reported that the Volunteer Guidelines made reference to this Board policy. The Board requested a review of this policy. Member Glasser asked for clarification of "assistant superintendent".

Edward Lupe', resident, requested that the Board be flexible and that steps to resolve some issues be considered. He offered language that the Board could consider in its administrative regulations and suggested employee training where necessary.

BP/AR 1320 Uniform Complaint Procedures

Superintendent Stephenson reported that the Volunteer Guidelines made reference to this Board policy. The Board requested a review of this policy. The Board reviewed BP/AR 1320.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS:

Board:

President Blanchard asked when the Saturday meeting will be conducted to discuss the District's master facility plan. Superintendent Stephenson stated she is waiting a response from three of the Board members.

Superintendent:

Superintendent Stephenson stated the next 2x2x2 meeting is soon and asked for Board members availability. Superintendent Stephenson reminded the Board that tomorrow night are the elementary schools' Back to School Night, and the other BTS nights for the secondary schools.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

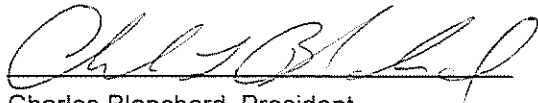
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| A. Interdistrict Transfer Review | October |
| B. Williams Complaint Quarterly Report-3 rd Quarter | October |
| C. Review Facilities Master Plan | October |
| D. Solano Avenue, Adult School & Preschool Locations) | October |
| E. Review BP 6147 Acceptable Use of Technology | October |
| F. Certificated Assignments Outside Credential Authorization | |
| G. Reorganization of the Board | December |
| H. 1 st Interim Report | December |
| I. Staggered Reading Report | December |
| J. Parks & Recreation Report | December |

FUTURE AGENDA MEETINGS:

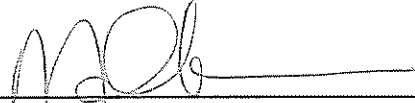
- A. Tuesday, October 7, 2008 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany
- B. Tuesday, October 21, 2008 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany
- C. Tuesday, November 5, 2008 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany

ADJOURNMENT:

With no objection from the Board, President Blanchard adjourned the meeting at 10:00 P.M.



Charles Blanchard, President
Board of Education



Marla Stephenson, Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Education