

**Albany Unified School District
Board of Education**

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

MINUTES OF:

Regular Meeting
October 7, 2008

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

President Blanchard called the Regular Meeting of October 7, 2008 to order at 6:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Board President, Charles Blanchard; Vice President, Jamie Calloway; Board Members Miriam Walden and Ronald Rosenbaum and Student Representatives, Patricia Mou and Jean Kang

MEMBERS ABSENT: Board Member Glasser was excused.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marla Stephenson, Superintendent; Laurie Harden, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services; Lynda Hornada, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Darlene Mock, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Clell Hoffman, Executive Chef

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: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:

Certificated

1. Teacher
2. Substitute Teacher
3. Extra Pay Assignment-Referee

Classified

1. Yard Duty Aide
2. Translator
3. Swim Aide
4. Lifeguard
5. Paraeducator
6. Library Technician

7. Campus Aide
8. Special Education Paraeducator
9. Café Asst I
10. Cafeteria Manager
11. Clerical Aide
12. Secretary
13. Assistant JV Football Coach
14. Assistant JV Boys Soccer Coach
15. Athletic Van Driver

With respect to the Consent Calendar Member Walden moved and Member Rosenbaum seconded to approve the Consent Calendar.

Member Rosenbaum inquired about Item 3A and 3B (short term assignments). The Board inquired about several warrants and Ms. Harden answered their questions. Vice President Calloway asked why a District employee could not provide the public service announcement. Superintendent Stephenson stated that this is a new procedure for the Adult School and will be on cable. The Adult School did not have the resources and needed to contract out. Vice President Calloway asked if a high school student had the ability and thought the students could use the experience, plus the assignment isn't difficult. Member Rosenbaum supported Ms. Calloway's comment. Superintendent Stephenson stated she would share their comments with the high school principal.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT:

The Student Board Members reported that the biggest event, Homecoming, is Friday. Homecoming would be played on the new Cougar Field. Ms. Mou reported Dress-up Day was a fun activity and reported for Color War Day the students earn points to redeem for prizes, but it is unfortunate the class aggression builds up. In the past, hazing occurred. Ms. Kang reported on the SAT issues and President Blanchard asked if Leadership could discuss this issue. Member Walden offered a contact person in Berkeley if the student members need advice.

Member Rosenbaum asked if "egging" has occurred during Homecoming and the student Board members reported no "egging" so far. Ms. Kang reported that Color Day and Homecoming events were scheduled to avoid clashing. Member Rosenbaum stated he would attend the Powder Puff and Rally Days.

STAFF REPORTS:

STAR 2008 Student Achievement Data Analysis

Lynda Hornada, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, narrated a PowerPoint presentation. President Blanchard commented on the presentation and the overall data; he asked Lynda for her thoughts. Ms. Hornada reported there are a lot of variations in standardized testing. The State is trying to take the test apart and align them by variables. Member Walden asked if we could track the changes by the District's populations and to measure the demographics vs. the test results (and this could be a different variable to keep in mind). Ms. Hornada reported the social disadvantages and the ESL subgroups affect our test results. Member Walden asked that we not budget for demographics of yesteryear, but for where the resources are needed. Vice President Calloway asked how we encourage students with disabilities to take the tests. Ms. Hornada stated that as she has attended the IEP meetings, the parents opt their child out of testing and this is allowed in the education code. Ms. Hornada stated a modified assessment and test is now available for students with an IEP and these students could move forward and take the tests and understand the importance of taking tests. President Blanchard asked if we fail to meet the criteria in the next two years and Ms. Hornada noted that we could be put on the "watch-list".

John Kindle, parent, asked what the scores look like compared to the past six years. Ms. Hornada noted that there is a graph reflecting the trend and other information on the State website. Member Rosenbaum suggested taking the results with a huge grain of salt and Member Walden supported Member Rosenbaum. Ms. Hornada stated the State takes the test results seriously.

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

At 10:00 p.m., the Toshiba representative attempted to present his complaint to the Board. President Blanchard informed him that at this time, he missed the appropriate time to present his concerns. Superintendent Stephenson requested the Toshiba representative call her to discuss his concerns.

Physical Fitness 2007-08

This report was requested by Member Glasser. Ms. Hornada reported by grades and comparable districts' results. The criteria was explained. President Blanchard thought there was one activity that no student could score a perfect score (6 of 6).

Ben Driscoll, Cornell Elementary student, eloquently stated that P.E. in grades 1-3 is not sufficient. He stated that P.E. is not physical enough. Don Driscoll, Ben's parent, stated the District's elementary P.E. standards are not in compliance. He suggested that this issue supersede No Child Left Behind. President Blanchard directed a P.E. report presentation at a future Board meeting.

John Kindle, parent, suggested measuring mass body fat. He commented on the state of children's weight. Vice President Calloway explained the mass body fat tests could be bad for self esteem and Member Walden stated this is a privacy issue and our facilities are not adequate for such testing. Vice President Calloway stated that BMI testing is not necessary to determine whether a student has a weight problem. Mr. Kindle stated that nutrition education is not promoted in schools and Member Walden stated nutrition is in the 1-3 grade curriculum. President Blanchard asked about the nutrition component in our health curriculum. Clell Hoffman, executive chef of Food Services, reported as he has met with the science teachers and discussed how to get "harvest of the month" into their classes. Mr. Hoffman stated the gardens and garden bars are a huge success with the kids, but progress takes time. Member Walden complemented the gardens and the curriculum has improved over the years. Vice President Calloway stated the parents must model good nutrition.

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Dawn Kawamoto asked the Board for a commitment to address the crowding, given the District's facilities. The Board informed Dawn that they are not able to respond, due to the Brown Act and the issue is not on tonight's agenda. The Board suggested she e-mail the Board. Superintendent Stephenson suggest Dawn meet with her.

John Kindle stated that the District's on-line "School Loop" is great, but commented that the District's website calendar is not user friendly. Superintendent Stephenson stated we are taking small steps and we are working to improve the website.

REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS:

Approve Food Service Department Delinquent Account Procedure

With respect to the Food Service Department delinquent account procedure, Member Walden moved and Member Rosenbaum seconded to approve the procedure with the following amendment: The elimination of a charge procedure and added that a cheese sandwich would be provided for a student without adequate lunch money; also on a daily basis the food service department would call the child's parent with the information of the cost of lunch and their child's account balance. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Ms. Harden reported the budget was 85 days late and maybe the budget will be reopened. She reported that essentially there will be no cost of living allowance(COLA) and reported there will be a very challenging years for public education. She reported our healthy reserve can help us "weather the storm. She reported that the District will be more resourceful to deal with the budget and the 1st interim report will give us a better idea of our fiscal responsibilities and we should be proactive.

Member Walden stated she is looking forward to the mid-year numbers. Superintendent Stephenson reported Ms. Hornada and Ms. Harden and she are looking at the categorical funds to prepare and avoid any mid-term reductions.

Loring thanked the former superintendent and Superintendent Stephenson for building the reserve for the rainy days that are here. He asked the Board to continue watching the budget. President Blanchard supported Loring's comments. Member Walden asked for a soft landing with budget.

BP5117 Interdistrict Transfers

Superintendent Stephenson reviewed the policy and the Board requested this policy return for review after the opening of school. She stated the enrollment did not materialize as projected and the staff could accommodated but no guarantee of staffs' priority.

Deborah Rolph explained her situation with her children entering the school. After meeting with the staff of all grade levels, she thanked the Board and Marla's efforts. She stated the staff invests their devotion to the District.

President Blanchard directed the lay-offs be made in a timely manner. Ms. Rolph supported the enrollment of the their children in the Spring and Member Rosenbaum supported this idea too. Member Walden stated that controlling the enrollment is too difficult and the interdistrict transfers are the only way we can control the enrollment issues for flexibility. Member Walden stated we are not trying to control our enrollment on the backs of the employees and the vagueness was intended in the Board's policy. Member Rosenbaum agreed the facility issue is part of the issue and supported employees' children enrollment. The Board directed reviewing this issue again in the Spring 2009. Loring thanked Member Rosenbaum for his serious commitment to allow children of employees to attend Albany schools. John Kindle asked for the breakdown of interdistrict transfers by grade and site. Superintendent Stephenson stated the information would be on the website.

Dawn Kawamoto asked what is the criteria used in making a policy priority. What is the trigger for the policy to kick-in? Member Walden explained that facility vs. grade level enrollment process is a key factor President Blanchard added that an AR explains more detail. Superintendent Stephenson stated Ms. Kawamoto will receive the administrative regulations. Ms Kawamoto was most concerned about the matriculation of enrollment vs. the facilities and requested a future discussion and number crunching by the business office at a Board meeting. President Blanchard responded that Mac High accepts non-impact student(s) at its site.

Dr. Tony Hale, Stacey Uyeda's husband, stated he supported the Board's decision.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS:

Board: None

Superintendent:

The superintendent reminded the Board that the Homecoming game is this Friday. Homecoming will be play on our new Cougar Field.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

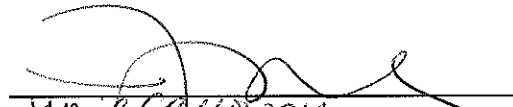
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| A. Review BP 6147 Acceptable Use of Technology | October |
| B. Albany Children's Center Report | October |
| C. Solano Avenue, Adult School & Preschool Locations) | November |
| D. 1 st Interim Report | December |
| E. Parks & Recreation Report | December |
| F. Reorganization of the Board | December |
| G. Staggered Reading Report | December |

FUTURE AGENDA MEETINGS:

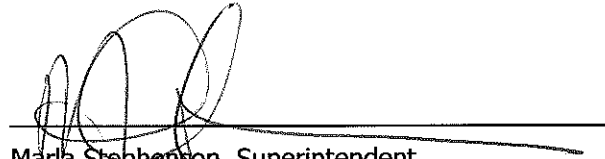
- A. Tuesday, October 21, 2008 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany
- B. Wednesday, November 5, 2008 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany
- C. Tuesday, November 18, 2008 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Albany Community Center, 249 Marin Avenue, Albany
- D. Tuesday, December 2, 2008 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany
- E. Tuesday, December 16, 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 10:05 P.M.



Charles Blanchard, President
Board of Education



Marla Stephenson, Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Education