

**Albany Unified School District
Board of Education**

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

MINUTES OF:

Regular Meeting
December 2, 2008

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

President Blanchard called the Regular Meeting of December 2, 2008 to order at 6:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marla Stephenson, Superintendent; Laurie Harden, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services; Lynda Hornada, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Laura Casdia, Principal, Marin Elementary School

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Darlene Mock, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR CLOSED SESSION: None

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION: 6:33 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 Glasser and seconded by Vice President Calloway to approve the Agenda as presented. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:

Certificated

1. Teacher
2. Long Term Substitute Teacher

Classified

1. Paraeducator

2. Lead Paraeducator
3. Payroll Technician
4. Budget Analyst
5. Head Swim Coach
6. Assistant JV Football Coach
7. Benefits Specialist
8. Payroll Technician
9. Athletic Van Driver

The November 10, 2008 minutes were pulled by Member Rosenbaum for corrections to the action taken in closed session and who was present. Assistant Superintendent Harden reported the resignation dates corrected to November 28, 2008 and the effective date January 1, 2009 for the payroll technician and the budget analyst.

The Board reviewed the warrant listing. Member Glasser asked where the carpeting expenses were spent and Superintendent Stephenson reported carpeting was installed at two locations, the District Offices and Special Education Offices. Member Glasser asked what was purchased from the County and Assistant Superintendent Harden stated projector bulbs were purchased from the County. Member Rosenbaum asked about the expenditure for a fire hydrant and Superintendent Stephenson stated this hydrant expense was approved by the previous superintendent and the hydrant is located on Brighton Street and this was thoroughly explored. Member Glasser asked why type of camera was purchased and it was noted surveillance cameras were installed at a site. Member Glasser requested that the funding account(s) numbers detailed with each warrant and Assistant Superintendent Harden explained she requested this detail from the County and the County cannot satisfy our request.

With respect to the Consent Calendar Member Walden moved and Member Glasser seconded to approve the Consent Calendar with the omission of the November 10, 2008 minutes.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT:

Student Board Member Kang reported on the Challenge Day. She explained the event breaks social barriers and increases communication among the students. Both student members endorsed Challenge Day. The event is December 10 and 17th. Member Rosenbaum asked for volunteer adults and students who should contact Vicki Lilienthal.

The IIC of leadership discussed with Principal Barone the proposed community service graduation requirements that would apply to the Class of 2009. Superintendent Stephenson stated this change would be brought to the Board as a graduation requirement change.

Grade posting was discussed and concluded improving School Loop program.

The Student Board members mentioned the ongoing canned food drive and the drop-off locations.

STAFF REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation

Carl Wilmsen, Board appointed member, reported on the Albany Parks and Recreation meetings. The Board thanked Carl for representing the Board.

Ohlone Greenway:

BART will be retrofitting all of the pillars under the raised tracks through Albany. This will mean most of the current landscaping west of the tracks will be destroyed. BART is obligated to replace in kind anything it destroys including trails, plantings and irrigation. The City is negotiating with BART to include enhancements to the current landscaping when it replaces the landscaping it destroys. Has hired Gates and Associates to develop a landscaping plan. Gates and Associates have developed the plan, with input from the Tree Task Force: The plan includes planting as much as possible with native species, planting demonstration trees and under story plants, and using recycled water for irrigation. Now the City is negotiating with BART about exactly how much of the plan BART will implement.

The City Council approved one component of the plan which is to widen the current bike path to 14 feet with 2 feet on either side of decomposed granite for walking and running.

Tree Task Force:

The Tree Task Force, comprised of 3 Parks and Recreation commissioners and 4 members of the public has been meeting since January. They have developed a new approved street tree list for the City. The Tree Task Force is presenting it to the full commission at its next meeting (next week).

The Tree Task Force has been promoting the planting of street trees through organized planting days on individual city blocks. Arborist Tony Walcott has been working with "block captains" throughout the city to carry out these plantings.

Ocean View Park:

At its September meeting, the commission recommended to council that Robert Z-berg grant monies be used for an upgrade sports field to the same level as the fields at Memorial Park. This will assure gender parity, and flexibility in scheduling. Improvements will include an electronic scoreboard, batting cages, a snack shack and a bullpen.

Carl thanked the School Board for providing matching funds for the project.

Terrace Park:

It was recommended to council to limit group size to 40 at Terrace Park, to post signs stating rules, and to remove one picnic table and the unused BBQ stems.

At its October meeting, the commission recommended to council to rename Terrace Park Jewel's Park in honor of Jewel Okawachi's service to the community.

Dogs in parks:

Signs will be posted at city parks asking people to pick-up after their dogs.

100 year celebration:

There were over 2,000 people at the Dinner in Albany event. They would like to do again, but budget constraints may prevent that.

Small Group Reading Task Force

On behalf of the Board, President Blanchard thanked the reading task force for its updated report.. Lynda Hornada, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented updated information per the Board's request. She noted that the presentation is a corrected version from the agenda.

Two small staggered reading approaches were presented as follows:

1. A Staggered Reading Schedule involving significant changes in content, professional development, and differentiated instructional practices. This schedule provides 240 minutes of 10:1 small group reading per week for a total of 46,260 instructional minutes for each student.
2. A Common Arrival/Dismissal Day involving pull-aside small group reading strategies similar to those utilized by neighboring districts. This schedule would provide approximately 135 minutes of small group reading per week (though not at a 10:1 ratio) and could exceed the full instructional minutes of 50,400 for each student.

Ms. Hornada presented four scenarios and addressed the strengths and challenges.

President Blanchard asked the Board for serious discussion. Member Walden asked what the Board is considering tonight. President Blanchard stated the Board needs to provide directions to the staff for further intricate research. He noted that public comment would be heard tonight.

Speakers presented their opinions and support for small group reading.

Vice President Calloway didn't support reducing reading to forty minutes and recognized the budget restraints. She stated her support for common arrival and dismissal times.

Member Glasser stated that parents are requesting common arrival and dismissal times. He recognized that parents are requesting after school enrichment programs. He supported a better small group reading program within the instructional minutes. He stated he called the State Department of Education and AUSD is the only District that is below the instructional minutes requirement.

Member Walden supported a 10:1 reading ratio and stated a 20:2 ratio doesn't accomplish the goal even if funding was available.

Member Rosenbaum asked for quality instruction minutes, because longer doesn't mean better. He had questions for scenarios three and four; also, about the instructional minutes calculation.

President Blanchard supported a quality program and not to settle for an adequate program. He supported 10:1 ratio. He reviewed a scenario that he called "scenario five" that addressed p.e. and the math and language arts requirements.

Superintendent Stephenson cautioned the Board of future budget restrictions. She reviewed the State's position that affects school districts. Member Rosenbaum stated that the State of California would need a miracle.

Ms. Hornada stated that the Task Force recommendations remain the same as presented at the November 18, 2008 Board meeting.

Liz Avery presented a report. Oring Barker, ATA president, thanked the Board for not adding costs to new programs or significant changes to teachers' work day.

The Board determined that it would not make any decisions until after the 1st Interim Report. At that time they may consider enrichment and after-school daycare programs.

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

It was moved by Member Glasser and seconded by Member Walden to extend the meeting until 10:15 P.M. Vice President Calloway was excused at 10:00 P.M.

Member Rosenbaum moved and Member Walden seconded to table the Review and Action Items to the next Board meeting. The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS:

Conduct and Approve 2nd Reading BP5117 and Review AR 5117 -Interdistrict Attendance

This item was tabled to the next Board meeting.

Conduct and Approve 2nd Reading of BP 4040- Employee Use of Technology

This item was tabled to the next Board meeting.

Conduct and Approve 2nd Reading of BP 6163 - Student Use of Technology

The Board was polled and passed unanimously.

Approve Change Order #10 – McGuire & Hester Construction Company, Cougar Field Improvement Project. Will Not Change the Current Contract Amount of \$3,854,997.00

This item was tabled to the next Board meeting.

Approve Resolution 2008-09-13 Designating a Chief Business Official to Serve on the Alameda County Treasury Oversight Committee

This item was tabled to the next Board meeting.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2nd Reading AR 4040 - Employee Use of Technology

This item was tabled to the next Board meeting.

2nd Reading AR 6163 - Student Use of Technology

This item was tabled to the next Board meeting.

Board of Education Appointments to the City of Albany Commissions/Committee

This item was tabled to the next Board meeting.

California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly Nomination Request

This item was tabled to the next Board meeting.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS:

Board: None

Superintendent: None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

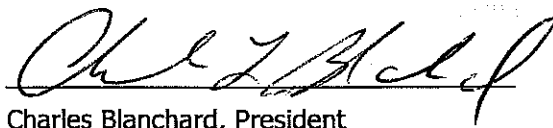
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| A. 1 st Interim Report | December 16 |
| A. Reorganization of the Board | December 16 |
| B. Facility Master Plan Committee Assignments | December 16 |
| C. Minimum Wage Increase | January |
| D. Consolidated Application Part II | January |
| E. School Accountability Report Cards 2007-08 | February |
| F. Enrichment Task Force | February |
| G. 2 nd Interim Report | March |
| H. Albany Children's Center Report | April |
| I. Increase of 1987, 1999, and 2005 Parcel Tax Rate Increase | June |
| J. Consolidated Application Part I for Funding Categorical Programs | June |
| K. Review 1987,1999 and 2005 Parcel Tax Reports | June |

FUTURE AGENDA MEETINGS:

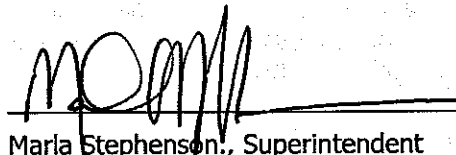
- A. Tuesday, December 16, 2008 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany
- B. Tuesday, January 6, 2009 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany
- C. Tuesday, January 20, 2009 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany

ADJOURNMENT:

With no objection from the Board, President Blanchard adjourned the meeting at 10:15 P.M.



Charles Blanchard, President
Board of Education



Marla Stephenson., Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Education