



Albany Unified School District

Albany Unified School District Board of Education

904 Talbot Ave.
Albany, CA 94706

MINUTES FOR MEETING

August 18, 2009

Albany Community Center
Albany, CA 94706

I. OPENING BUSINESS 6:30 p.m.

- A) Call to Order
- B) Roll Call

PRESENT : Member Black, Member Low, Member Walden, Vice President Rosenbaum, and President Glasser.

ABSENT : None.

STAFF: Superintendent Stephenson, Director Hornada, and Rebecca Martinez.

- C) Identify Closed Session Pursuant to Agenda Section III Below

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

III. CLOSED SESSION 6:35 p.m.

IV. OPEN SESSION 7:30 p.m.

- A) Reconvene to Open Session
Reconvened to Open Session by President Glasser at 7:30 p.m.

- B) Roll Call

PRESENT : Member Black, Member Low, Member Walden, Vice President Rosenbaum, and President Glasser.

ABSENT : None.

STAFF: Superintendent Stephenson, Director Hornada, and Rebecca Martinez.

Student board members will be present first board meeting in September.

- C) Pledge of Allegiance
- D) Report of Action Taken in Closed Session
Regarding Employee ID 1597, approved settlement agreement.

Regarding Superintendent, extended contract with thanks.

- E) Approval of Agenda
Vice President Rosenbaum asked that item 8D be moved to the top of the agenda.

*Motion by Member Walden, seconded by Vice President Rosenbaum to approve Agenda
The Board was polled. Members: voting AYE*

- F) Approval of Consent Calendar
 1. Approval of Minutes

- a) June 30, 2009 - Special Board Meeting
 - b) June 30, 2009 - Regular Board Meeting
- Vice President Rosenbaum has outlined a couple of changes in the minutes.

President Glasser noted that June 30, 2009 minutes are here for review and it is wonderful for keeping more current with minutes.

Member Black also has a few changes and will hand them in.

Superintendent Stephenson asked that changes be handed to Rebecca.

Questions on Consent Calendar:

Vice President Rosenbaum: 5c

Member Black: 5b

Member Low: 3a and 4a

Motion by Vice President Rosenbaum, seconded by Member Black to approve Consent Calendar minus item 5b.

*The Board was polled and passed unanimously. Members: Member Black, Member Low, Member Walden, Vice President Rosenbaum, and President Glasser voting AYE
Member Walden abstained from item 4b.*

President Glasser abstained from item 6a.

3. Personnel

a) Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators

Member Low referred to page 2 of 3 and asked for background on CLAD and BCLAD numbers.

Superintendent Stephenson explained that the declaration is the only opportunity for a district to hire someone with less than a full credential. In the past the Board was able to authorize an emergency hire or someone to teach outside of their subject area. Now it must be approved by the county. Every year the district must make a guess and declare how many teachers might be needed throughout the school year who may not be fully qualified. Superintendent Stephenson takes a conservative approach, looking at the greatest possible number of teachers that may be required. Normally none are actually needed.

Member Walden confirmed that the Board authorizes teachers under the declaration individually.

Superintendent Stephenson added that the Board would then take action, but that it starts at the county level.

4. Curriculum and Instruction

a) Approve Student Teaching Agreement Between St. Mary's College and Albany Unified School District

Member Low referred to page 9. Has not seen agreement with UC Berkeley program.

Director Hornada stated that last year a three year MOU was signed with them sometime last year. Will confirm via review of files.

Member Low commented that they have produced some very fine teachers.

5. Business and Operations

President Glasser noted that dollar amounts are not listed for contracts under Business and Operations, but are

for Student Services, and that the information would be helpful for the public.

Superintendent Stephenson will adjust the format to include the cost information.

a) Approve the Independent Contractor Agreement for Mary Townsend for Facilitating the AUSD Strategic Planning Process

Approving 17,200 contract and 200 of additional expenses for that contract.

b) Approve Alameda County School Insurance Group JPA Agreement

Member Black referred to page 29 to 30, "Such returns may very well come along at another time but the JPA place." It appears that something is missing, some text, perhaps a page.

Superintendent Stephenson will look into it.

Member Walden suggested that it can be approved and then Superintendent Stephenson can see that the file is corrected.

Member Black referred to page 32 of the agenda, page 2 of the contract, under purposes of ACSIG the first sentence doesn't quite work, perhaps isn't finished.

Superintendent Stephenson noted that this page was from the JPA and she will have Laurie check into it and send out an email to complete these items.

Member Black suggested that perhaps it was a cut and paste error.

President Glasser noted that what seems to be missing is the word and at the beginning of the 3rd line. Question about not ratifying the agreement.

Member Black suggested that we can ratify with that change and then look at it again if they meant something different.

President Glasser discussed withdrawal from the JPA and returning of any properties or monies could be significant. If there are changes to that, Board should know what they are. Asked about the consequence of delaying ratification, if the policy is still in effect.

Superintendent Stephenson is not certain. Noted that there is reference to no later than October 1st, assumes that it can be brought back with additional information.

Vice President Rosenbaum understands that they want to get everything into compliance and then have it signed by October 1st, so there is some time.

Member Walden commented that they can show good faith effort by fixing their contract.

Superintendent Stephenson suggested that the item can be pulled.

President Glasser noted that letter was dated May 22, 2009 and wants to be sure there isn't a problem.

Superintendent Stephenson will bring it back to next Board meeting.

c) Approve Cougar Field Sound Fence Contract Change Order #2 - Fencecorp Inc

Vice President Rosenbaum referred to page 38, item 1, questioned cost for screws, 25,000 screws at a cost of 21,896 dollars.

Member Black noted that it includes putting them in.

Vice President Rosenbaum still questions the cost.

President Glasser suggested that the bigger question is about a very large change order that seems to be because it wasn't done properly when it went out to bid.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that item one was a DSA change order. Not only did they deepen the footings, but it required one more screw to each face board and labor costs. The other items, no longer in the bond rather things the district wanted to do with district building fund monies, include adding gates and fencing, item 4. Roots of large trees on a neighbor's property were unforeseen and had to be taken out. The miscellaneous gates and fencing were required by the Albany and El Cerrito fire departments, above and beyond the DSA requirements, for a 20' opening for access by emergency vehicles, causing the redesign of the area. These are accumulated things that Superintendent Stephenson approved that were outside of the contract or required and were unexpected.

Vice President Rosenbaum stated that they all made sense except the screws.

President Glasser noted that the board is looking at a 30% change order which is significant. Something commented on in the past with regard to change orders is that there are change orders that are required because of the original scope of the project and unforeseen conditions and there are change orders that are beyond the original scope of the project. President Glasser cannot distinguish between the two on these items.

Superintendent Stephenson spoke with facility supervisor and Laurie Harden about this because there are probably three or four items that should have gone on the warrant list, that were not change orders but were done by Fencecorp and were rather minor. Within the scope of the entire contract for Cougar Field it is nowhere near 30%. Cautioned facility supervisor that we want to re-prioritize how this is done so that it is more transparent to the public.

President Glasser wants to be sure that this perspective is clear to the public. Sometimes there are things that were done under a contract to do a specific piece of work and it can be easy to have them do an additional piece of work, but must be mindful of some of the public bidding requirements when it goes up into the 10s of thousands of dollars. Need to confirm good value for the dollar and doing best practices.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A) *Summer School/Extended School Year Update - Oral Report*

Superintendent Stephenson introduced Nick Berger, who served as principal of two program, extended school year and abbreviated summer program.

Nick Berger thanked board for experience as principal. It was a very positive summer. The 4 week extended school year program run out of the Albany Adult School with 6 classes, pre-school up to the adult transition program. Had great teachers, most taught their own students from the school year. Big emphasis on writing over the summer with teachers spending a lot of time out in the community and used Cougar Field as an incentive which blossomed as student wrote about exercise, walking, running and wheeling themselves over 570 laps, which they were very proud of. English teacher, Ms. Surowitz, did a great job teaching two English classes getting 57 students some credits to make up for English credits because many were looking at more than 4 years. She kept them coming and working on their tasks. Thanks also to the Writers Coaches, 10-12 volunteers came and worked one on one with the high school students, which was a great experience producing great writing. No problems in the program. Thank you to Mr. Shapiro for use of the building and helping to set up the summer school. Thank you to the Albany high school counselors. This is the first year they were asked to help coordinate, they know the kids best, took on the extra work, and were happy to help.

Member Low commented that it sounds like a wonderful summer program when so many districts can't afford summer programs at all. Thank you.

Vice President Rosenbaum offered kudos.

VII. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Lisa Norman, runs an art program for Marin School and is here to voice concern about a policy memo regarding donation funded programs. Understands that there is a need to make a policy change and is here to encourage a more optimal implementation. Commitments for the 09-10 programs were made last June. Met last May with the outgoing and incoming PTA presidents of Marin School, John Montag and Alisia Alonzo, to ensure that programs would be in place for this coming school year. Understanding that these programs needed to be separated from the AUSD it was decided that the PTA would step in and that donations would be solicited. Now with school about to begin, the new policy dictates that funding must be paid by school-wide funding efforts to plan, organize and implement an appropriate fund raising program is going to take time which is unknown. Changing the donation procedure may result in a huge delay in securing programs and may also result in cancellation of existing programs. Proposed that for this coming year the donation solicitation procedure remains as in past years, then fund raising campaigns can be organized throughout the school year so that programs will then be in place for the following year. Today is only a week before school starts. The new policy needs to be phased in so that programs and commitments for this year aren't interrupted. Suggested that this be added to the School Board agenda for discussion for the next meeting.

Member Walden asked for clarification of the policy discussed.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that an opinion from the attorney about the change can be sent to the Board.

Member Walden would like to see the details.

Member Black asked if there is a possibility of phasing in the policy.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that there is not, not if district is to comply with the law and various current law suits. Specifically have to change particularly the area of requesting student donations for supplemental programs in the classroom during school time.

Member Black suggested that maybe this needs to be relayed to the public so that people in the schools understand what is going on.

Superintendent Stephenson noted that they can front load as well. The program can continue, it just needs to be front loaded with no student fees requested. Will provide update.

Member Walden noted that if anyone would like to see it on the agenda after seeing the information you just need to let PG know.

Member Black confirmed that there is a possibility that the programs can start.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that this depends on the fund raising aspects, if coming out of PTA or site funds.

Liz Avery, teacher. Piggy-backing on what Lisa said. Wants to say that it seems like changing the structure is reasonable and will work well for teachers, PTAs, etc. It seems that right now, with all of the cuts that are going on, that anything that is going to jeopardize an enriching program like poetry and art, it seems scary to change the whole fee structure. Changing how the money is getting through slows down the money. Hopes that we can

make it work.

Eddie So, Albany resident and property owner. Hasn't been actively involved in catching up on board meetings. Is anything wrong that the agenda isn't on the web site.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that it is on the web site under Board of Education drop down box.

Mr. So stated that he is clicking on the Board Meeting and is expecting to see it there.

Issue is resolutions Board approved on August 5th putting the two propositions into the November 3rd ballot, Prop I and Prop J, and understanding that Prop I is to have a 5 year temporary increase of 159 dollar increase for property tax per property.

President Glasser noted that it is 149.

Mr. So is very supportive of qualified and quality education, son is in middle school and thinks that Albany has an excellent education program which he appreciates along with leadership, but concerned about fairness of the Props. They target property owners, especially residential property owners, understanding exemptions for low-income and seniors. Wants to know if there is existing data from the superintendent's office, if not would like data to be gathered to indicate how many address checks have actually been done in the last 3 years for elementary, middle and high schools, and how many students are not from Albany, including those who's parents work in Albany. What will superintendent's office do to try to prevent non-eligible students coming to the school. We all know that we are short of funds, but if we have students that are not eligible, what will be done. Would like to see some statistics by the next board meeting showing address checks because property owners will be asked in November to take on additional tax burden. Money is hard for individuals as well, property owners do not necessarily have deep pockets, and they shouldn't have to subsidize non-eligible students.

Superintendent Stephenson will send Mr. So the new policy on verification and refer that every kinder, 3rd grade, 6th grade, and 9th grade student was checked. Doesn't know how many checks the prior superintendent did. Every address is not checked unless there is a discrepancy.

Member Walden stated that on arrival all students have to prove their address and at intervals students have to reprove their address and when there is a reasonable suspicion, letter returned, conflicting address, etc., or report of concern then we follow up. That is the procedure. Dr. Wong had a practice of visiting homes where there was a reasonable suspicion. Believes we have been very aggressive where there is a reasonable concern. There are students that are Albany residents. There are students that are inter-district transfers where their address is not in Albany but they have applied for an inter-district transfer that has been approved. Most inter-district transfers come from a period about six years ago when the district was experiencing very low enrollment and had a large number of available classrooms. Once granted, it is a lifetime commitment to the student, which is federal law. Also approve inter-district transfers for the children of teachers, non-Albany residents who may have some relationship with the community, a sibling, work relationship, etc. and when there is room they are approved, which has been a very small number recently. Almost couldn't approve for all of the teachers. Third category may have provided a false address, but until there is a reasonable suspicion, given all of the documentation, they are here. Regardless of their category, all enrolled students bring in State money that comes for each individual student. The amount is in excess of 10 times the amount of any individual parcel tax, which is a significant amount. It would be unreasonable to say that individuals are subsidizing the students when the State sends so much for them. The difference of the parcel tax can be made up by donations of labor or money. Many parents donate far in excess of 500 dollars with PTA, SchoolCare, etc.

President Glasser noted that district is required under state code to verify addresses each year and at certain levels re-verify by requiring utility bills, rental agreements, etc. Superintendent follows up where there may be

some falsehood. Can provide last year's numbers, but unsure what can be provided for previous years.

Vice President Rosenbaum asked that Mr. So be provided information on sections of the board policy that deal with inter-district permits and priorities and which sections of the education code deal with eligible students, etc. Perhaps Superintendent can report to the Board about kinds of verifications.

Superintendent Stephenson agreed including how many kids were exited. Asked for Mr. So's address.

Mr. So wants to clarify that request is for data to be posted on the web site so that everybody can see it because public has a right to know. Hears Member Walden's explanation. If property tax is not a big part of funding, why does it have to be put into the November 3rd ballot. This implies that property taxes are subsidizing these students. Fair and responsible to provide this information. The grades listed leave a lot of students unchecked. How do you know if they've used a falsified address.

President Glasser stated that every year students are required to provide record of their address. Past year went beyond annual request for information to documentation at various levels. Balance is administrative cost of verifying at every single grade level, which becomes very burdensome and costly. Compromise is to look at specific levels, which are the times that people generally transfer in or out of a district. Superintendent Stephenson follows up on an individual basis if there is returned mail etc. Need to balance 100% accuracy with what is reasonable and the board concluded that these levels are reasonable. Many people were not happy to have to provide documentation when they've been living here for 10 years, etc. Issue is taken very seriously, including safety issues of needing to be able to get a hold of parents if there is a problem. Have gone beyond past practice and instituted additional checks, recognizing limited resources. Also have cut administrative staff significantly over the past few years so there are limited resources to do those things. This is a reasonable level of verification.

Vice President Rosenbaum stated that superintendent and other staff go to people's houses, did so individually as a principal. In process of revising board policies and when they are done they should be referenced on the web site and should be transparent.

Member Black agreed that information needs to be available on the web site. The other question is whether asking for parcel tax is justified. Will try to answer these questions during the campaign. If you are not satisfied with the answers, vote against it.

Member Low asked if Mr. So belongs to any of the school e-trees. Offered to email information about how to get on e-tree. Trying in different ways to present more accurate information about why there is a request for additional parcel tax.

Mr. So was not informed that there was an agenda item on this important issue. Property owners were not properly informed and missed the change to come and talk, although didn't follow board meetings. School Board could do better making this information more publicly available.

Mr. So asked that district make information about different types of student transfers and how those determinations are made be more available on the web site and be more transparent because the public has no idea. Discussed growing class size as students move into higher grades in order to accommodate as many students with as few teachers as possible. But if there are too many eligible students there are state funds, but it is unfair to property owners and policy must be transparent.

Vice President Rosenbaum appreciates input and encouraged Mr. So to get more involved in schools, come to board meetings, PTA, etc.

Member Low will send information on e-tree and information on background on parcel taxes in California.

Lawrence Loi. Mr. So addressed a lot of questions. Has a question about Member Walden's comments about state bringing in a lot more money than parcel tax.

Member Walden explained that the state pays per student, from ADA, a per student per day payment from the state. Currently about 5,700 per year per student. Seems like we pay property taxes and they go to schools, but most property taxes, except parcel tax, get paid directly to county and state and the state pay the money back to the districts based on the number of students enrolled regardless of their address.

Mr. Loi referred to extra classes being set up to accommodate extra students. If that class is eliminated do we save money or lose more money.

Member Walden explained trying to balance classes so that there are enough students in each class to justify the teacher. Given balance, if suddenly tomorrow it was found that 10 students were here on false address and had to leave, the district would lose those funds.

Mr. Loi asked about savings for the teacher and classroom if those students left.

Member Walden referred to the balance. It would produce a savings on teacher and space if there were 30 such students and they were all in the same class.

Mr. Loi commenting on confirming addresses. Other districts are very strict, what about Albany. Personally knows of 7-10 students in the district that are not eligible, using friends address. If you sent letter to all parents they could identify many children who are not eligible.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that district follows up on any information received. Should the board decide to allocate resources to fund a person to go out and check addresses, more canvassing can happen. The board has been cautioned about spending monies beyond the current budget because of possible mid-year cuts. Should that be a board priority it could be done. It is a very spartan district office including superintendent, Lynda Hornada, and secretaries, meaning there is a limitation of time. Frankly, not sure comfortable knocking on someone's door at 6:30 asking to see someone's bedroom. Perhaps it is better left to an off-duty police officer, which the district used to do in the past.

Member Black asked if Laurie could do a short calculation about if it would cost the district more to hire somebody and find these students or if we would save enough money that it would pay for someone to do the checks.

Vice President Rosenbaum commented that this brings up another question. It is very difficult for parents to actually produce the names of friends who are non-eligible.

Mr. Loi asked if school could encourage people to post a report.

Member Walden noted that it has just been done as this is televised.

Member Low suggested that, as Member Black suggested, the board can check into the financial reality of whether it would make sense to put a person in that position. Curious about different models for checking on residency, private investigators, etc. Suggested looking at costs so that an informed decision can be made based on what other districts which have had similar problems have done successfully. Cupertino has a big issue. Can review best models and financial aspects.

Mr. Loi reiterated that parents can help too.

President Glasser noted that items not on the agenda are intended for comments. The board cannot have a discussion, take any action, or make recommendations to staff because the public hasn't had a chance to see

that item on the agenda and hasn't had the chance to come and comment on it. Went over the line suggesting that staff to things based on comments. At some future point, may have it on the agenda as a discussion so that public can comment. Encouraged Mr. So and Mr. Loi to come down again at that time.

Member Low appreciates their coming so that board knows what people are thinking.

VIII. REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS

A) Approve the Safe School Plans for 2009-2010

Director Hornada identified Safe School plans that were brought back from the May or June board meeting. There were some revisions made when they were given back to the principals. There was some confusion between disaster plans and safe school plans and each one now has a comprehensive safe school plan that has been recently updated. This is part of what is required by School Accountability Report Cards and is the overall big picture of a safe school and a welcoming school and the disaster plan is a separate component. This is information on reaching out to students, procedures regarding discipline, etc.

Member Black noticed that on several of the plans under 'What we want to do next' there is something about need for water and food for three day self sufficiently. Several schools seem to be lacking these supplies. Is this being addressed? Is there money for these supplies?

President Glasser noted that this is self funded by the PTA. Kids will be asked to bring in supplies during the first week of school.

Director Hornada stated that the schools are in the process of updating their supplies. The high school went through a huge process with their PTA. Part of commitment this year is to have administrative staff work with the committee at each school site in order to complete a disaster plan and get all supplies up to date.

Member Low confirmed that this is true at middle school as well.

Member Walden commented that the ideal situation would be that the PTA would fund it with the schools actually directing the arrangement of the supplies.

Vice President Rosenbaum noted that last year is was student directed by the Red Cross Club at the high school last year.

Member Low also had a question about the earthquake supplies. Noticed in revision that they are a little more similar and that there are some good strategies that go through all of the plans. Noticed that all of the elementary schools mentioned the idea of more outreach to families that are new to the country and thinks that this is a really great idea. Suggested checking with UC about resources and specific models that would work. When at elementary schools ML made several suggestions. Suggest looking at what has really been effective to make these families feel included.

Member Low referred to page 2 of the Albany Middle School plan at the top it talks about tobacco and other drugs and how there's been some confiscation of some drug related paraphernalia, didn't see any specific strategy addressing the drug issue at the middle school. Not an expert but has a memory that evaluation of some of the drug education programs aren't that effective, but wondering what approach is being taken.

Superintendent Stephenson referred to item K under 'Strategies and programs' on the same page. What you see is a sub-heading under Motivation. Many children are being placed in a group that is run by an intern in the mental health program and those challenges are addressed through the counseling group.

Member Low mentioned several families and parents, primarily from other countries, that are concerned about drug use at the middle school and perhaps might need some education themselves about how to address the issues with their children. Understands SS statement that the problem is not that large, but still something to be

aware of, that members of the community are concerned about it.

Superintendent Stephenson suggested that it might be addressed through the EL program or ELAC (?) or DLAC (?), also the PTA does a wonderful job with parent ed. and we may want to have Robin Davis, the principal have some chats with the PTA board.

Member Low thought that would be great. Another comment was on page 11 of the high school plan says that they 'will' have a crisis response plan. Assumes that they do and that this was a grammar error.

Director Hornada confirmed that they do have a plan. Knows that they do have a policy in place and has seen the drills.

Member Walden impressed that such a magnificent job is being done with so few resources.

Vice President Rosenbaum agrees with Member Walden.

President Glasser has two very specific points that he didn't see addressed. The first is at Ocean View School where there is a parking lot and the safety issue of having the kids dropped off in the middle of the parking lot. Two years ago the parking lot was basically closed off to two way traffic, this past year it was opened up again and not only does it pose a safety hazard it blocks access to the only accessible handicapped parking. Very difficult at 3:00 when parents are all lined up to pick up their kids there is no access for the after school buses or the handicapped parking facility. The second thing, perhaps Laurie can address this, we paid for an assessment of all the dangerous chemicals that were stored at the high school site and there are basically a lot of things that are very old and toxic. Doesn't see anything in the plan about doing an annual review of the chemicals.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that an annual review is required by State Law and therefore does not need to be in the plan.

President Glasser noted that a lot of things are included that are also required by State Law.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that it is done at the district level and offered to provide a copy of the plan.

President Glasser would like to see something in this document to memorialize that on an annual basis they will be inventoried, etc. Not only do we need to know, but first responders coming to campus need to know.

Vice President Rosenbaum noted that this would apply to the middle school as well.

*Motion by Member Low, seconded by Member Black to approve Safe School Plans for 2009-2010
The Board was polled and passed unanimously. Members: Member Black, Member Low, Member Walden, Vice President Rosenbaum, and President Glasser voting AYE*

B) Approve One Student Appointment to the City of Albany Social and Economic Justice Commission

Superintendent Stephenson recommends approval Danielle Kim as the next student appointment to the City of Albany Social and Economic Justice Commission.

Member Black asked how she was chosen.

Superintendent Stephenson stated she was chosen through Leadership. It is sometimes very difficult to get even an applicant on some of these committees. In this case there was one, she was the only applicant, and approval is recommended.

Motion by Vice President Rosenbaum, seconded by Member Low to approve Danielle Kim as Student Appointment to the City of Albany Social and Economic Justice Commission

The Board was polled and passed unanimously. Members: Member Black, Member Low, Member Walden, Vice President Rosenbaum, and President Glasser voting AYE

C) Conduct the Second Reading of the Text - Environment - 6th Edition for the Albany High School AP Environment Science Course and Approve the Adoption

Director Hornada noted that the first reading was conducted at the last meeting for the text book environment AP environmental course and that the Board had a number of questions. Would like to start to answers to those questions and then address any further questions.

One of the questions was if this is the only text that the course will use. There is only one text for the class which will be the hard cover book environment, 6th edition. The second question was about supplemental lab text that may need to be purchased with the books. According to Peggy Carlock and Derick McNally at the high school, the students do not need separate lab manuals. The labs are being drawn from a variety of sources. Another question was about an online software component that supports or enriches the text. There is some online enrichment, mostly quizzes and other self guided materials. The current plan does not include using those, but the possibility is still being explored. There was a question about alternative formats such as large print and audio versions. Yes, any time there is a need for alternative text, if it is not provided by the publisher, there are a variety of agencies that can provide them. Lastly, there was a question about how many sections. There will be two sections of this course. Approximately 60 students could be involved in the course.

Vice President Rosenbaum asked if Director Hornada is aware of what the current enrollment look like.

Director Hornada does not have the master schedule with her, but knows that it was very popular.

President Glasser mentioned that there are some Federal dollars for green job curriculums that may tie in with that or some other programs and he will forward the information.

Director Hornada commented that Peggy Carlock did mention that this course outline, the text selection, and all the other materials have already been approved by the AP Board, which went through on the first reading. Certification is set for the course. All that is needed is to get the text book ordered as soon as possible.

Member Black took the book home, went through it, and found it very comprehensive, readable, and quite reasonable. Didn't see anything that raised any red flags.

Member Low also took a quick look and wishes she could take the class.

Motion by Member Black, seconded by Member Low to approve Adoption of the Text - Environment - 6th Edition for the Albany High School AP Environment Science Course

The Board was polled and passed unanimously. Members: Member Black, Member Low, Member Walden, Vice President Rosenbaum, and President Glasser voting AYE

Member Low asked Director Hornada to thank the teachers. Knows how much work it is to create a syllabus to get approved by the AP exam and we're really looking forward to hearing about the class.

Member Walden also thanks Peggy and her colleagues.

D) Approve Resolution of Honoring Barry Shapiro: In Recognition of His Services on the Albany Unified School District Board of Education

President Glasser invited family members to join him at the podium for the reading of the resolution.

President Glasser read resolution 2009 10-03 honoring Barry Shapiro.

Whereas Barry Shapiro, Principal of Albany Adult School, retired on June 30, 2009 after completing outstanding service to the Albany Unified School District since 1992 and, whereas Mr. Shapiro received his Bachelor of Arts

degree from Long Beach State University in 1964, a Masters of Science degree from the University of Southern California in 1969, and, whereas Mr. Shapiro has held responsible positions in industry as a professional photographer from 1974 through 1992, and, whereas Mr. Shapiro began his esteemed career at the Albany Unified School District in 1993 as a teacher for MacGreggor Continuation High School and inspired his students to persevere and achieve, and, whereas Mr. Shapiro provided excellent leadership and service to Albany Unified School District by serving as the principal of MacGreggor Continuation High School, and the principal of the Albany Adult School from 2002 through 2009 and made a significant contribution to the district including bringing new and innovative classes to the adult school (President Glasser added that these two were done simultaneously which is holding two hats which he finds incredible.), and, whereas Mr. Shapiro has earned the admiration and respect of his students and colleagues at the Albany Unified School District for his dedication, collegiality, enthusiasm, professionalism, sense of humor, and hard work, now therefore be it resolved that the Board takes great pleasure in recognizing the significant professional achievements of Mr. Barry Shapiro and herewith expresses its sincere gratitude for the invaluable contributions he had made to the Albany Unified School District. Be it further resolved that this resolution be spread upon the permanent minutes of the Board and that the copies be sent to Mr. Barry Shapiro to share with his family.

President Glasser thanked family members for coming and for sharing Barry with us for this time.

Vice President Rosenbaum commented that he has had the honor to know Barry as a friend and as a co-worker during Vice President Rosenbaum's time as the principal at the high school. Has never worked with anyone like Barry, who cared so much about kids and about making sure that everyone that was under his charge was well taken care of. He did anything possible to help a kid succeed. Never worked with anyone so closely on transitioning kids and trying to figure out what's the best thing for them. Honored to know Barry who has done so many good things for so many kids. Best of luck to you and your family.

Member Walden commented that families of teachers and school staff make huge sacrifices and the family should know that their sacrifice was very much appreciated because he did really good work

President Glasser noted that there are a lot of kids today with their high school diploma that wouldn't be there without his efforts and his programs. So, again, thank you.

Superintendent Stephenson addressed the family, commenting that your dad did an impossible task. In 2002, when the district was in very serious financial straights, the current superintendent then, Dr. Wong asked your dad not only to become principal of MacGreggor High School, but also principal at the adult school and the testing coordinator for the district, as well as your dad also taught two classes at MacGreggor High School. It was an impossible task that he not only performed well, but did it with such a sense of enthusiasm and good humor that it became... you forgot how much he did and the contributions that he made day in and day out. When we were able to move him last year to full time adult school principal, boy did we see changes, positive changes in the adult school because he was able to do something that he does so well, which is to promote, hire and find interesting classes for the community to attend and the adult school blossomed under his leadership. Once again, thank you so much for coming tonight and please give your dad our very best.

*Motion by Member Walden, seconded by Vice President Rosenbaum to approve Resolution Honoring Barry Shapiro: In Recognition of His Services on the Albany Unified School District Board of Education
The Board was polled and passed unanimously. Members: Member Black, Member Low, Member Walden, Vice President Rosenbaum, and President Glasser voting AYE*

E) Approve the Posting of Two Vacancies Due to Expiration of Term imits to Serve on the Citizen Bond Oversight Committee for Measure A

Superintendent Stephenson stated that Measure A is school modernization that encompassed all three elementary schools and Cougar Field. Currently in a bit of a quandary: actually come to the end of the road with the citizens oversight committee. Cougar Field is now complete.

President Glasser clarified that we are not talking about the Pool Citizens Oversight Committee Measure A.

Superintendent Stephenson confirmed. All bond money has been expended. The citizens oversight committee must remain in tact in order to complete a final report which will be not be given to the board prior to February 2010 because the auditor must come in in October, that report comes in to the board and to the citizens oversight committee in January. Unfortunately, two members termed out. According to the attorney, there are no other options other than to advertise and replace those board members. Therefore asking the board to approve advertising for two members: one to replace Peggy Thompson, chair, represents someone who is active in the senior citizens' organization, and then Roger Carlson, member at large. Would do a Maddy Act posting and know that those two members are actively looking for replacements for themselves.

President Glasser confirmed that the sole action remaining for the committee is to approve the audit.

Superintendent Stephenson confirmed and to present findings to the board. Both Peggy and Roger have been advised by attorney to shadow the new members to provide continuity. Peggy is the person that is going to write the report.

Member Walden asked about level of overlap between the Measure A committee for modernization and the pool committee.

Superintendent Stephenson informed that there is no overlap, however Peggy Thompson also serves on the Measure E citizens oversight for the pool project.

Member Walden would like to invite additional members from the Measure E committee to apply for these positions so that their minimal tenure of just a few of months can be educational and support them to carry the information from the old committee into the new committee.

Superintendent Stephenson informed will be meeting with Measure E citizens oversight committee on Thursday and will relay the request under topics not on the agenda.

Member Walden would appreciate it if they would volunteer for that one meeting as a way of collecting data that they might find useful for their work in the future.

Motion by Member Black, seconded by Vice President Rosenbaum to approve Posting of Two Vacancies Due to Expiration of Term imits to Serve on the Citizen Bond Oversight Committee for Measure A

The Board was polled and passed unanimously. Members: Member Black, Member Low, Member Walden, Vice President Rosenbaum, and President Glasser voting AYE

IX. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) 1st Reading of Board Policy Update/Revision Section 7000 - Facilities

Vice President Rosenbaum noted typo on next to the last line under recommendations, states will return for second reading at the August 18th meeting. Believes it should be September 1st.

Superintendent Stephenson indicated that this had been a carry over item.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that under the old policies and procedures the entire section was empty. Believes that there was one board policy that vaguely referred that one day the 7000s would come to fruition, and they now are. Wonders if the board has any comments, requested changes, anything at all. Laurie Harden reviewed and made changes back in October. Reminded the board that these have been adopted, but wanted to afford the opportunity for the board to go back over them to be sure that they fall in line with the board philosophy. Noted that most of the facilities policies are dictated by law and to that end they can be a policy or not, actions will still have to be within the limits of the law. Comfortable with the policies as they stand with any suggestions or modification.

Member Black had a question on page 127 about relocatable school buildings meeting ed. code and if the district has any such structures.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that district does have relocatable buildings. All such buildings that house students meet ed. code. There are a number of relocatables that are not DSA approved, built to DSA specifications and/or permanently set with DSA specifications. Those buildings may be used for housing students outside of the school day. They are at Marin for school age program. There are a couple at Ocean View that were DSA approved at the beginning of the school year. There may be one at MacGreggor that is used for and EL adult program.

Member Black confirmed that this section does not need attention. Another minor point, on page 129-130 there are several references to city or county board of supervisors. Believes that was in the law, whichever applies to your district, and since ours is city and not county could strike references to county.

Superintendent Stephenson will make that change. Referring back to page 127, asked if a change was requested.

Member Black was concerned that if there were buildings to worry about, and there is a deadline of September 30, 2015, perhaps something should be added about a timeline for getting started, how far in advance.

Superintendent Stephenson suggested entertaining a discussion about replacing portables that are not DSA approved with ones that are, for the long term, or perhaps going back and determining if they were built with DSA approval and certification, as most were. Can also look at re-siting to DSA standards and certification as two were at Ocean View for about 30,000 including inspector and making sure the siting was done to DSA specifications. Then if there is an emergency, should the facility be needed, school children can be housed there during the school day.

Member Walden suggested putting that into the facilities master plan because the problem is that it causes huge disruption at the site. At Ocean View many other things were being done as well. Going to Marin now would be quite disruptive. It seems that at intervals it should be considered. There are intervals where, for example, black topping is being done anyway and then it might make sense. Suggested that the thing to do in the facilities master plan is to identify the moments when something else is being done that it disruptive and then line this up with it.

President Glasser discussed potential super market coming in down the block from Ocean View, our facilities plan would require that board participate in the planning process. At some point will official action be taken on something like going forward if there is something that impacts traffic flow with one of our schools.

Member Walden noted that the public comment period for that is open right now, which means it expires in 30 days and that some resolution should be looked at.

Superintendent Stephenson received an email saying that the public comment period was open and believes that the environmental impact report is ready for Whole Foods.

President Glasser noted that it is a pretty lengthy EIR. Mentioned some portables that the city is using right down the block from Ocean View that they may not need in the future which may be an opportunity for the district.

Superintendent Stephenson spoke with the city and apparently UC Berkeley is very interested in moving one of their pre-schools from the campus down to the facilities during a period of reconstruction. Has inquired and apparently, since it is on UC property and the portables are actually being leased from UC, they seem to be claiming an interest. District has expressed an interest and continues to express an interest. The district offices must be moved at some point in order to reclaim some space at Cornell and use critically overcrowded facilities

money which district is eligible for. Superintendent Stephenson is working on it.

Member Low asked where the portables are located.

President Glasser indicated that they are where the fire department and police department are right now.

Member Walden stated it is a piece of land in a really old section.

X. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

A) Board/Community Communication

President Glasser stated item came from some discussion with Member Low and how the board communicates with the public. Superintendent Stephenson thought that it should be brought back, an item Member Low had suggested some discussion on, particularly with regard to dos and don'ts of talking about parcel tax. Superintendent Stephenson has created a two page do and don't for the staff that will be disseminated for staff development purposes in terms of discussing parcel tax, the difference between education and politicalization, etc. It will be discussed at each site and is important to discuss at the board level what types of communications. Would like to open for board discussion.

Member Low has a couple of things for feedback. Has been discussion about various ways of communicating with the public and giving them information. Clearly there has been a lot of talk about improving the district web site, there is Member Black's blog which he started and she likes very much, Member Low's board notes immediately before each board meeting, summarizing the previous meeting and a summary of the agenda of the upcoming meeting, some may have seen proposal by Barbara Grady-White, who has taken over the Albany Today blog, about the idea of citizen journalism, basically she does a wonderful job, but doesn't have the time that the person who started it had. Barbara has proposed that to some extent the Albany Today blog be a citizen journalism vehicle, she would moderate it and suggested that members of the community, including school board members, city board members, etc. could submit articles of interest and so forth and she would look at the content and make a decision about sharing it. Blog, board notes and citizen journalism.

In terms of board notes, with Granicus coming on, and the much more efficient and effective job being done on the minutes and getting them posted, don't feel the need to summarize so much, but would still like to provide the service of presenting some of the highlights and reminding them that there is a meeting coming up, but it would be much shorter. In terms of the citizen journalism, suggested that any board member who thinks something has occurred at a board meeting or a board related issue that they would like to write about that they could compose an article and let the board see it before considering posting it. An example: if it had been a proposal before, might have considered writing a short article about the Greening Committee presentation and some of the work being done around composting at the schools. Asked for the board's thoughts.

Member Black commented that there is a need to be very careful. If you let everybody see it, they can't give you feedback.

Member Walden suggested that it be written up as a scenario and have Superintendent Stephenson run it by the attorney. If talking about something like the greening program, it wasn't on the agenda, a decision wasn't made, it is just a public relations item highlighting something wonderful that happened in the school. For example, it would be almost like you had a guest column in a newspaper. In that case, it may come up later as a big issue and you would have made a public statement, but if it is written as a piece from an individual, there is more freedom that speaking for the board. The only way to speak for the board it to present the entire article to the board at a meeting and have it approved entirely as a board, then board is getting into something that may not need the board's involvement. Suggested framing it for the lawyer as wanting to write an article as an individual, without presenting it to the board, is that a problem?

Member Black commented on need to be careful about stating that it is being presented not as a board member, but as a citizen.

President Glasser stated that the problem is that you are not a citizen, you are a board member and whatever you have to be very careful, again, there is a fine line between providing good information about what's going on in the district and what you as a board member have in your views and opinions in matters that may or may not come before the board. Agree with MW that reviewing it by the board members, one, may not all agree on anything, also, having it reviewed would create legal problems. Again, it is because we can only have these discussions and can only come to agreement in the public venue.

Member Low does see the point. Does not have a great need to write something, rather presenting a hypothetical.

Member Walden thinks might want to think individually about how to encourage that as a volunteer activity that some folks might want to take up. If there was a person in the community that loved to write and wanted to write something every couple of months, they could call and MW could provide a couple of ideas for them to follow up on, which would be a better role as a board member. Wonderful things happen every day that people don't know about. What we want is more information and news available, not just on the controversial issues, but on the stuff no one ever bothers to ask about. If it continues to be the burden of the school board or the staff to be source of that information, then it will always be unnecessarily politicized and unnecessarily constrained. It might be a long term thing, if people are watching and think that they have something wonderful that they want to share, board members can be helpful in recommending a venue or as sources, and people should write about what they know. The more people write about these things outside of the board the better off we are as a community. The board's obligation is how to make what is discussed at a board meeting more transparent. In that way, thinking about a shorter version of the board notes is useful, or even a frequently asked questions. The out of district students is an example of that. It has been discussed in some form or another at a large number of meetings and everyone that comes has not heard the information before.

Member Low concurred that frequently asked questions is a good idea.

Member Walden stated that what members can do that no one else can do is to be a window on to what the board's process is and increased transparency and it is good to think about that in a way that doesn't duplicate what the staff is doing. Would like to recruit some of the great writers in the community for things that are not on the agenda.

Vice President Rosenbaum noted that larger school districts have at times had the luxury of hiring a PR person to do this. Perhaps encourage an op ed piece in the Chronicle.

Superintendent Stephenson noted an op ed author who ended up on KFOG. If we can encourage all staff to do thoughtful op ed pieces it would speak volumes.

Vice President Rosenbaum commented that local papers have cut staff, etc.

President Glasser has concerns about people in their official capacity sending out communications about good or bad what is going on in the schools because we must be careful not to use public resources for political purposes. Again, that needs to be at the forefront of any of these things. Need to find a balance. Need to be sure that the public understands that what provided is information not political discourse or not biased, rather factual information about what is going on.

Superintendent Stephenson commented that there is an expectation from the community, for instance, that the superintendent's office communicate clearly and regularly in all areas of school performance, budget items. As long as it remains clearly informational, regardless of whether running a parcel tax measure or not, that level of communication with the public must continue.

President Glasser asked if Superintendent Stephenson is planning to put out a fact sheet about funding.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that she spoke with Ellen Tomey and she will help with a lay-out. Looking to be a little less wordy so that the public will read all of it and get the fact out. Would like to do a community mailing, usually done every year, and would like to continue to do that.

Member Walden relayed the example of a third grade teacher came to a board meeting and made a beautiful speech and it took about half an hour to do some rewriting and shorten it a bit and she had an op ed piece that was submitted and published in the Chronicle. She was appreciative. They sent her a 75.00 check that she forwarded to MW in appreciation, which she cannot accept as a public official. It was returned to the teacher. It is true that there are things that board members can not do that others can. Board member's role is to encourage and support others.

Member Black offered to edit documents for Superintendent Stephenson, if she'd like.

Superintendent Stephenson has handed out a late minute memo regarding the release of the 2009 STAR data that was released to the public today at 9:00 a.m. Would like to take the opportunity to commend the board, to commend the staff, and to commend all of the management team for really having the rubber meet the road in moving students forward in proficiency. Understand that student achievement encompasses so much more than STAR test scores, but this is one very transparent way to measure some aspect of student performance.

Looking first at math, this is with new adoption, had warned that there could be some regression with such an innovative curriculum, but with time and attention and staff training we had extremely positive results at Cornell, 18% over the prior year. In general you can see a trending upward at Cornell except the 5th grade. You can see a trending upward at Marin except for 5th grade. Huge trends upward. Trending upward in every grade at Ocean View. Will be looking at the 5th grade. There are multiple reasons that we didn't see that growth including a brand new curriculum. The district total over two years shows some strong gains. At the secondary level, AMS math, 8th grade in particular. 8th grade showed a little bit of slippage, but in inflated algebra 1 score. This is because we have only about 40% of 8th graders taking algebra 1. Algebra a,b, which is a two year program puts the rest of the 8th grade students at a disadvantage because they are studying algebra, they have gotten half way through the book, but they may not take the algebra test, they must take the general math test and they are not prepared to take the general math test. This is a weakness that DH is undertaking, creating an algebra task force committee with Robin Davis and the math department.

High school: very please with some of the results, particularly algebra 1. A little bit of regression in general math and geometry in grade 9, but overall algebra 2 and summative math have made great gains.

Commend elementary staff again for their language arts growth, at all levels. It is stunning. It shows the degree of time and attention that elementary has been spending in those two areas, especially given how little time there is in a day. Mandate is to teach kids to read and we're showing strong evidence of that.

At the middle school there is a correction to make, that should be +5% in reading, language rather than 0. Also some gains in language arts. Data is not desegregated, will do so and put it in a datarektor and principals and staff will have some very good data. Will report back in September that will be much more detailed. This is the kind of result that every superintendent would like.

Member Low is very impressed about improvement in math at the elementary when it was the first year of the adoption of Every Day Math, and pleasantly surprised.

President Glasser offered kudos to the staff for coming up with the idea and coming up with the academic rigor for this, and kudos to the teachers in the classrooms for adopting and embracing the curriculum and making, in some cases, amazingly improbable one year results in some of the improvements in these scores.

Member Black asked about a new language arts curriculum coming in.

Director Hornada convening a committee for language arts instruction, intervention, and piloting for new programs. Going to attend a materials fair and look at seven possible language arts programs. Given the results of the increased scores, excited to see what is out there in terms of continuing the upward growth that we're seeing and how we can continue to meet the needs of more students. Commended reading specialists who worked to create an assessment plan. The process was over two years long. This last year was the first year it was in place. All teachers gave the assessments and the information was revisited. Believes it had a lot to do with teachers having more knowledge about where the skill gaps of the students were. Very much appreciates having the plan in place. Part of the committees work to see that it is sufficient, and if not, how it can be improved.

Vice President Rosenbaum very pleased to see results. Concerned about most at risk 9th graders, looking at general math. Need to continue to revisit that. Test scores are just test scores, but this shows that the staff has been very focused on academics and learning.

Superintendent Stephenson commented that those kids can be predicted in 6th grade. Something different must be done.

Director Hornada stated that a visit to the STAR web site will show that the CAPA data across the state have to be re-scored and are not being shown. About 15 districts seem to have had issues with their CBEDS numbers. It looks like the ETS, the testing folks, reversed the numbers so that it looks like we had a serious decline. Will be working with the new technology director to see what district's part in the error might be. Need to go in and correct some of the data around the students with disabilities, which should be done by mid to end of September.

Member Walden doesn't want to assume that because numbers are up and because we had a math adoption that therefore there is a correlation between these two things. Statistically there are a lot of problems with this data, but even so it is useful. Where it becomes useful is when teachers are given information and asked what they think, and then asked to employ that theory in a subsequent year and see what happens. That is when the data becomes meaningful. Interested in hearing the relatively raw analysis that comes from the discussions teachers will have when they sit down and start looking at the numbers. The more Director Hornada can report what the teachers felt successful about and what they are thinking about changing for the future, the more the board can really understand what the numbers mean and how board can support teachers to do what it is they say they want to do. That may in fact be the newly adopted curriculum, but wouldn't want to prejudge.

Member Low would be interested to hear what they say. Assume that part of professional development will include.

Director Hornada assured board that these conversations will happen at each school site.

Member Walden reported that she will probably not be attending very many of the board meetings between now and the election. Not possible to have a much more than full time job, campaign, and attend all board meetings and doing a good job of preparing for board meetings. Thinks it best to try helping people with campaign to do it well. Board policy is that a member who misses less than three months of contiguous board meetings does not lose their position and if missed every meeting between now and the election it would be just a little over two months so it is not a legal issue. When discussed with Superintendent Stephenson originally talked about a leave of absence, but Superintendent Stephenson recommended taking it on a meeting by meeting basis that way should there be a quorum problem or other kind of issue, she can be notified, prepare, and attend. If absence is damaging to board's ability to conduct business, let her know and she will address.

Member Low thanked Member Walden for letting board know and thinks it is a very wise decision. Very much appreciates knowing that Member Walden can support the board if needed.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT