



Albany Unified School District

Albany Unified School District Board of Education

904 Talbot Ave.

Albany, CA 94706

MINUTES FOR MEETING

November 4, 2009

Albany Community Center

Albany, CA 94706

I. OPENING BUSINESS 6:30 p.m.

A) Call to Order

President Glasser called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

B) Roll Call

PRESENT : President Glasser, Vice President Rosenbaum, Member Black, Member Low, Student Member Chiang, and Student Member Yang.

ABSENT : Member Walden.

STAFF: Superintendent Stephenson, Assistant Superintendent Harden, Director Hornada, and Secretary Suwczynsky.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

III. CLOSED SESSION 6:35 p.m.

President Glasser convened to closed session at 6:44 p.m.

IV. OPEN SESSION 7:30 p.m.

A) Reconvene to Open Session

President Glasser called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

B) Roll Call

PRESENT : President Glasser, Vice President Rosenbaum, Member Black, Member Low, Student Member Chiang, and Student Member Yang.

ABSENT : Member Walden.

STAFF: Superintendent Stephenson, Assistant Superintendent Harden, Director Hornada, and Secretary Suwczynsky.

C) Pledge of Allegiance

D) Report of Action Taken in Closed Session

President Glasser reported that the board took no actions in closed session.

E) Approval of Agenda

President Glasser proposed an amendment moving item 7, persons to address the board on matters not on the agenda, to the top of the agenda, as the first order of business

Motion by Vice President Rosenbaum, seconded by Member Black to approve moving item 7 to the top of the agenda.

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

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

President Glasser thanked people who worked very hard on the Measure I campaign on the board for their work and outstanding success. At meeting on November 17th there will be a broader event for showing appreciation to volunteers who worked so hard and tirelessly on campaigns.

Presented Member Walden with flowers in gratitude in behalf of the board, the community and the district.

Presented flowers and thanked Member Low.

Presented Member Black with a gift in thanks for his contribution to the campaign.

Member Low took opportunity to make a comment. In one of the early parcel tax meetings, Member Walden explained that parcel tax campaigns tend to be stealth campaigns where the primary goal is to win. They did not inform people who might not vote. Relayed that Member Walden then said, "but that is not how democracy should work." Need to present information as clearly and accurately as possible to the public and let them make an informed choice. Clearly, that was an excellent decision because they listened, they made a decision, and they supported the schools. The entire campaign was based on this premise. Proud of the volunteers and the Albany community for proving her right.

Member Low relayed Member Walden explanation that one of the jobs of a leader is simply to see where the people want to go and open the door. She proved that theory right. Astounded by the volunteers, the parents, the teachers, and the community, but she worked harder than any one to make campaign work. Thanked Member Walden on behalf of the board, the community, and the schools for leadership, organization, her hard work and her determination. Thanked family for loaning her unselfishly.

Loring Barker, President of Albany Teachers' Association thanked the board and Superintendent Stephenson for taking the gamble and putting the parcel taxes on the ballot and supporting them. Member Walden has been amazing in running the campaign and thanked her for all of her hard work. There are many other people who worked on this. Thanked the school employees who worked on this and the community who looked at the issues and stood up for schools. Work is not done. Take a deep breath and pat ourselves on the back, but the state can so easily undo what has been done, with further cuts. One of the issues that came up while canvassing is that it is not right that there are children in California that do not have a community that stands up for them like Albany does and we need to ensure that all children in California are able to have an appropriate and excellent education. The state needs to step up to it's responsibilities. Community needs to be clear with the state that they need to do that.

Superintendent Stephenson added a thank you from the entire staff of Albany School District. Have watched Member Walden work tirelessly on behalf of the school district in 2005, working amazing wonders. Now have exceeded that with this last campaign. Due to determination and faith in staff, school district, and children now have even more fiscal stability. Thanked Member Walden on behalf of the staff.

Member Walden relayed that after the last parcel tax campaign she was asked to do this sort of work for money in other places. Looked at what they were doing and realized that it is only possible to do this kind of work the way that we do it and as well as we do it in this community because there is such an excellent product to sell. When talking to people about the schools, can look people in the eye and say that teachers are doing the best job that they can, that administration is as careful as they can be with the music, that we do a good job with very little money, and that we will do a better job with a very little bit more money. Can say it, know it, and prove it with facts and figures. Realized could not do this for any one else. Excused self for the remainder of the evening. Thanked everyone.

F) Approval of Consent Calendar

President Glasser pulled the minutes for September 1st and October 6th from the agenda. Asked for other items

members would like to pull. Vice President Rosenbaum pulled item 2b, 3b for separate consideration.

President Glasser noted for the public that several of the athletic positions are here this week due to the Athletic Booster funding. Were pulled from last weeks agenda because funding had not yet been received. Thanked the Athletic Boosters for their tremendous fund raising. Again demonstrating the wonderful support the district enjoys in the community. Asked for other items.

Confirmed pulling the minutes for September 1st and October 6th, and pulling for discussion the athletic clerk.

Motion by Member Low, seconded by Vice President Rosenbaum to approve Consent Calendar with the exception of the three items.

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

President Glasser stated that someone will present on item 3a, Poetry Enrichment Program because this is an enrichment program that will be taking place during school hours as part of core instruction program.

Vice President Rosenbaum noted board policy that states that any curriculum within the school day has to be approved by the board.

Vice President Rosenbaum wanted to vote on the athletic clerk position separately. At the last meeting there was a report that showed that there are no public schools in the immediate area that was looked at that has an athletic clerk. Does not think it is a necessary position and would be voting no on that. Thinks that the money should be spent otherwise within athletics.

Member Low asked about the procedure.

President Glasser stated that the consent calendar has been approved apart from this item to be discussed separately.

Member Low understands and respects Vice President Rosenbaum's point of view. Member Low has a concern about student safety, making sure that students are as safe as possible in school and in extra curricular activities such as athletics. Interesting to hear the discussions about how people were coping with the reduced positions. Main concern, especially as the year progresses and the teams start to have to have their medical clearances, want to make sure that every student has their safety clearance and the medical clearance and everything that they need to participate as fully as they can.

Vice President Rosenbaum agrees, but thinks that it can be done without a clerk. Albany has done it, other schools do it, have been pretty thorough. Agree wouldn't sacrifice student's safety.

Member Black shares Vice President Rosenbaum's concerns. Saw in survey that other public schools don't find it necessary to have an athletic clerk. Also heard from coaches and Athletic Boosters that they felt that the athletic clerk was absolutely essential. Need to support the athletic clerk because asked by the community to support the position. They don't feel that the athletic program is going to continue successfully without it. The Athletic Boosters are putting up the money to pay for it.

President Glasser thought that some of the duties would be incumbent on the coach to ensure that medical things are processed. Would like to see better job descriptions for what these people are doing. Would like to see what other schools are using for job descriptions for some of these things, arranging transportation, etc. Seems that a lot of the work is at the beginning of the athletic season. After that, does not understand what the need of the ongoing piece of the position is. Maybe this is putting too much on the coaches. May need a more robust discussion about that. Right now, need to insure that these programs get up and running and don't know if we can do that without having that position in place. The community has graciously provided funding for the position.

President Glasser asked for questions from the public and further comments from the board.

Motion by Member Black, seconded by Member Low to approve Position of Athletic Clerk as proposed.

The Board was polled. Members: President Glasser, Member Black, Member Low, and Student Member Chiang voting AYE and Vice President Rosenbaum, and Student Member Yang voting no.

3. New Hire

b. Athletic Clerk

3. Curriculum and Instruction

a) Approve the Independent Contractor Agreement for Alison Seevak's Poetry Enrichment Program at Cornell School. Cost not to Exceed \$2250.00. Funding Source: Donation Fund

President Glasser invited Alison Seevak to talk about the poetry program. Stated that the program has been approved. Would like to hear about the program so that the community can be aware of it.

Alison Seevak thanked the board for the opportunity to come and talk about the Poetry Enrichment Program. Has worked as poetry teacher with 4th graders at Marin since 2000, and 5th graders at Cornell since 2002. Background is published poet whose work has appeared in anthologies and literary magazines. Has been teaching in public schools and community settings since 1998 when began working as a teaching artist with the San Francisco Writers Core. Lived in Albany since 1995 and the parent of a Marin 1st grader.

Read "Hiding Poetry", a poem by a previous 5th grade student at Marin School.

Some students are just born poets. The point of the poetry program is not to turn every student into a poet, rather further their ability to relate to and analyze text. Elements that make up a good poem are the elements of good writing in general. Hope to make them stronger readers and writers in general.

Reviewed structure of classes. Does poetry residencies that last from 8 to 10 weeks, meeting weekly with each class for an hour. Each session has three parts; reading and responding to model poems brought in, perhaps of a famous poet, perhaps of a previous student. Each week focus on a different standards based craft concept. After discussing and analyzing the model poem, write in response to model poem, practicing the discussed concept. Usually follows a group warm up session, brain storming, etc. Presented "Ode to a Snail" and discussed some of the student's ode topics. After writing for 30 minutes comes sharing. All students are encouraged to share their work. Work hard to have each student share at some time during the residency. Spend some time working on revision. Poems of the Marin 4th graders are published in class anthologies. In 5th grade at Cornell the students do very beautiful handmade art books. At both schools do final readings, inviting family and friends in the spring. All of the 4th and 5th grade classes get together and they get to hear each other's work.

Poetry is a very effective way to reach ELL students and those with learning disabilities. Shorter form, emphasis on image, and slightly freer rules on sentence structure and punctuation gives students at all levels a sense of accomplishment, allowing them to work alongside their peers as equals.

Read "My Heart" by a student who had just come from China and was silent for 8 weeks and wrote poem at his last session.

Poetry involves the heart as well as the mind. Writing and reading poetry builds community in a classroom. Students write about what really matters to them, developing a greater understanding of themselves, their classmates, and the world around them.

Jacque Wiley, Miesje Child, and Julie Allen supported poetry program over the years.

Miesje Child, teach 5th grade at Cornell. Referred to letter that goes over the standards that Ms. Seevak covers. Shared story about a student who 6 months before coming to class crossed into country in the trunk of a car, very

shy by nature. At poetry night she read a poem in English, claiming her voice and her place in our community.

??? stated that it has been a privilege to have Alison Seevak as a guest teacher in our classrooms for the last 8 years. Have many stories of children who start very shy, and see their voices emerge, having writing come alive. Reading is really a time of celebration within the community. One student read in class with head turned down, at poetry night she claimed her voice and stood proud. Truly a phenomenal experience. Thanked Ms. Seevak and the board for allowing the program to continue.

Liz Avery of Marin School loved presentation. In a bigger context, guest teachers have been in our schools for many years, now we are being asked to share about them. This wouldn't happen if it wasn't so rich and wonderful. Suggest inviting other teachers to come and talk to the board to see more about the work that is happening.

Member Low thanked Ms. Seevak for coming and for presentation. Having a professional poet in class makes a difference to young people in class, knowing that they have been published. Tying into the standards, when you look at this type of enrichment activity, you see the kind of curriculum and enrichment that you want to see for the way we want to educate children. The standardized tests have been criticized lately because there has not been enough verbal language. The push toward standardized tests has people focused on the right answer. With poetry you think about creativity, choices, the work skills needed to succeed in life. Not fluffy, filled with the things of good education.

President Glasser stated that this is the type of program that we want to bring into our schools. Concern is don't offer it to all sites and that means that enrichment is not occurring at all sites during the school period. Have to work on that. Want to be sure that everybody has that opportunity for enrichment moving forward.

Vice President Rosenbaum has a similar concern and stated that these are wonderful things that are happening, but would like staff to look more to this type of in depth program and find ways to make it available to every single school across the board. Tonight looking at some policies on that topic.

Ms. Seevak is happy to be involved in thinking that through and happy to go to other sites or find colleagues that could do that. Would love to see the program expand.

President Glasser asked why wait until the end of the year. If there are some poems that you might want to pick, we can put them on the website. Director Hornada would be the best person to get them to.

- b) Approve the Independent Contractor Agreement for Allison Seevak's Poetry Enrichment Program at Marin School. Cost not to Exceed \$1800.00. Funding Source: Donation Fund*

V. STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

A) Student Reports

President Glasser asked for input from student members on some of issues that the student leadership is dealing with or some of the other issues that the board needs to be aware of from the student body.

Student member Chiang reported that the school is really excited about all of the hand sanitizers, soap and towels, and they are being used. Reported that the homecoming dance mostly went well. Since the canned food drive was combined with the homecoming, almost all of the barrels were filled. There were no issues on color war day. The only issue was egging, which happened on decoration day. Resolved by limiting the hours for decorating and limiting the decorations to balloons, paper. There only major issued went on during the homecoming dance.

Member Low asked about someone she saw that was all dressed in pink and if it was part of class colors.

Student Member Chiang described color war days. Each class has their own color to represent their class, seniors are orange, for example. Monday through Thursday each class has one of the day. On Friday everybody wears red and white to represent the school.

Member Low asked if the color was arbitrary or if the pink was selected because October is breast cancer awareness month. The response was that no, they are not connected.

Vice President Rosenbaum confirmed that the students have seen a major change in the bathroom and thanked the superintendent.

Student Member Yang discussed the issue at the dance. There is not much clarity between the students and administrators and parents about what is expected at dances. Has an appropriate dancing task force last year to hammer out an agreement between the students and administrators about what would be considered acceptable. But due to ignorance of the dance agreement or perhaps other reasons the message has not gotten across. There are still some issues. The last dance was not one of the more successful ones. The students are working with administration to try to figure out the problem. Have some ideas as to how this issue can be resolved on the dance floor; perhaps a humorous reminder such as the DJ playing country music, had a student survey two years ago, but the results were largely ignored, would like to have a focus group or forum for students to voice their opinion. In the past this has been very effective for other issues. Need more education about the issue. Not all students realize that appropriate dancing goes beyond just going to dances, but is also part of societal ideas and possibly misogyny and things like this. Peer helpers could help with this. Would really like to use the health class curriculum to educate people about this issue. Another option is taking a break with the dance agreement, like a warning. Students who get a warning during the dance from an administrator or parent chaperon would go read the dance agreement for 15 minutes and cool down. Other ideas include more chaperons and educating chaperons on what is expected, and new dance policy agreements. Incorporating the student voice is obviously very important. A lot of students care about the issue, will try to incorporate them in an organized way. Clarity is very important as well. At the dance there was clearly a lack of clarity and common understanding about what was appropriate and what would get students kicked out. This misunderstanding has made people angry on both sides. Leadership had a meeting with administration last Friday and will continue to have meetings to see which idea will be adopted. Will make guidelines more clear, there are things that are not currently included and there needs to be more of a framework for communication on this issue. Lastly, very importantly, music effects dancing so will be looking into DJs that can play a variety of music that is still entertaining and discourages inappropriate dancing.

Member Low had a couple of questions. Mentioned something about a survey that had been taken, but the results were largely ignored. Asked who gave the survey, who took it, and who ignored it.

Student Member Yang noted that the inappropriate dance issue goes around in cycles and resurfaces. About 2 years ago when new administration came in, discussed this issue and leadership took it upon themselves to send a survey out to advisories, all students that are in advisory, mostly everyone. Sent survey out with questions that asked about how people feel about the dancing that is going on, what keeps people from going to the dances, etc. Presented results at an administration meeting, but were unclear about what was to be done with the survey results so no action was taken on that.

Member Black asked about the results.

Student Member Yang wished that the students had taken the survey more seriously, it is sometimes hard to get them to do that. Most of the results reflected that students were comfortable with the dancing that was happening at the dances. Only received one survey that was an indicator that maybe something was wrong. That person said that in their culture it is not appropriate to dance like this. Personally, did not look at survey, but it was reported by someone who had been tallying the surveys.

Member Black asked if either of the student members were at the dance.

Student Member Yang attended, but works at coat check. Cannot speak to exactly the kinds of concerns you have.

Member Black stated that some kids reported that there was alcohol at the dance. Kids drinking at the dance because they were breathalyzed going in. Asked if the student members knew or had heard anything about that.

Student Member Yang knew that they were breathalyzed. Beyond that point, there are chaperons and we try to sort that out. It hasn't been a particularly large issue, if at all. Wouldn't say that it is in complete relevance to the inappropriate dancing issue.

Vice President Rosenbaum noted some rumors that some students snuck alcohol in to the dance. The dance issues before the breathalyzers were much larger because the alcohol changes some behavior patterns.

Student Member Yang stated that they will try to address that with the student leadership and the administration.

Member Low commented that students appear to have a strategy laid out and some ways to address it, incorporating the student voices. At this point, have to see where it goes. Thanked student members for their attention to this issue.

Vice President Rosenbaum agreed that clear communication is very important.

Member Black asked Superintendent Stephenson to what extent this is being followed and how is it being follow up with the administration at the high school.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that she met with the administration at the high school, developed some strategies, a letter should be going out to parents today or tomorrow, outlining steps that need to be taken to insure student safety and that they have a good time at the winter ball.

President Glasser stated that in light of events at recent districts, shares concern of board members of student safety at these events. Looking forward to having something that the school community feels is a workable solution for an enjoyable event, safety, students feeling heard, and everyone feeling positive about these events. Thanked student members for clearly articulating the issue and looking forward to hearing more about the dialog and administrative steps going forward.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

- A) *Plans for a Bikeway Easement and Right-of-Way For the Buchanan Bicycle and Pedestrian Path Project*
Superintendent Stephenson introduced city staff. Project is continuing and has an impact at Ocean View Elementary, so it is important that the board be kept abreast of this proposal.

Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Transportation Planner with the City of Albany, have Anna Bernardez (??) Senior Engineer with the City of Albany.

Member Low recognized and thanked Ms. Andrino-Chavez as a parent in the district who has brought a huge amount of grant money to the district the Safe Routes to School Program.

Ms. Andrino-Chavez enjoys working with the schools and teachers who have been very responsive. The Buchanan Bicycle and Pedestrian Path is part of that grant. It is to close the gap between the Ohlone Greenway and the Bay Trail, an existing bicycle gap. On July 20, 2009 the City Council approved the development of 35% plans and specifications. Will walk through are adjacent to the Ocean View Elementary School. Does not have a complete set of plans due to a printer issue. Project consists of extending the bicycle lanes between Cornell and San Pablo Ave. This is west of Jackson. From San Pablo, through Jackson, to Pierce planning on constructing a class 1, or separated right of way bicycle path, adjacent to to the Gill Tract, Ocean View School, Ocean View Park, and USDA, and will have a crossing at Pierce St.

Plan also has bump outs on the south side of Buchanan. Will be used to plant trees and will have the effect of

calming traffic, reducing the speeds. This is a grant through the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority and the proposal is the highest priority on the Alameda County bicycle plan for 35% design. In order for project to concretize, need to get a right of way from the school district. In August and September, city staff met with stake holders and talked about what is required from each of them. The stakeholders are the United States Department of Agriculture, AUSD, and the University of California for the University village. Met with them on several occasions, including Superintendent Stephenson and Director Lynda Hornada, to discuss the plans. Plans show will need about 5,400 square feet of right of way in order to develop these plans. Important to mention that existing right of way, see page 3 of 6, right now goes 3' into the existing planting are, along the curb. That is included in the 5,400 sq. ft. needed for the right of way. In that section, the last page, section E, shows that the existing fence will have to move between 2 and 2.5 feet from where it is in the grass area. That is the effect of this plan on Ocean View School.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that the actual impact to the site is important. Currently the easement goes all the way out to the middle of the sidewalk. Part of what is being discussed is already an easement that is in existence. What the city needs from the district is an easement that would bring the fence in approximately 2 to 2.5 feet in addition to where it is now. Have walked that area. It is currently just dirt and weeds. Really just a ball catching area, not paved, would not negatively impact children's play space.

Anna added that the proper line of the school district is a line that is 3 feet south of the existing curb on Buchanan. Right now you think of the sidewalk and the planting area behind there as belonging to the city, but it does not. It belongs to the district. That area is already used by the public. With this encroachment, will use that area that is already used by the public and move the existing fence about 2 to 3 feet in to the school on the ground area. The black top at the school is about 6 or 8 feet away from the existing fence. Just talking about a very thin strip. During the park renovation project, the city moved the existing fence that you have there to the position needed for the bike path. This is a good visual of where the fence will be.

Along with the bike path, would like to comment on the new traffic signal at Jackson that the city is planning to replace. It is very old and there are many limitations on what can be done to provide safety at that intersection. Looking in to grant funds to provide new traffic signals that will provide designated left turns for all four directions. Right now everybody is allowed to turn left with no designated left turn, making the intersection very dangerous. People wait until the very last minute, the light is changing from yellow to red, and pedestrians are starting to cross and the cars are turning. This proposed signal and intersection would make it safer for all pedestrian, including the children.

Member Black asked if there would be walk signals as well.

Ms. Andrino-Chavez stated that there will be a count down and the little man walking. Added that this is part of the Safe Routes to School grant that was received in 2007. 300,000 dollars for Ocean View Elementary School, including 19,000 for the educational component, which allowed the the safe schools at the three elementary schools. Had to ask for an amendment to incorporate Marin and Cornell for the educational component. The engineering component is what Ana just explained. Right now permissive left turns. This project would provide protected left turns which would make is safer. To provide this need left turn lanes on Jackson St. To do that will have to remove 7 parking spaces on the south leg of the intersection, across from the school. Removing 4 of the on street parking spaces. That was approved in September by the City Council.

Superintendent Stephenson asked about the dedication of about 70 square feet and location.

Ms. Andrino-Chavez showed the area needed for the school district.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that this is currently school district property that needs to be dedicated back to the city in order for them to build this 4 way protected turn.

Anna stated that the 70 square feet would be dedicated for part of the cross walk and the handicapped ramp that

will be installed.

Ms. Andrino-Chavez stated that there are not currently funds to build the project. Applied for construction grant for part from Cornell to San Pablo and from San Pablo to Jackson, right before that crosswalk. Recipients will be announced in December. Hope to complete project at least in phases. Total cost will be about 2 million dollars. It includes a traffic signal at Pierce crossing Buchanan, which is badly needed. The environmental document, the Buchanan Path, will be released this coming Monday, on November 9th, and will be out for 30 days. Anybody can comment to Community Development Director. Will forward notice of issuance to Superintendent Stephenson, for the bicycle path.

President Glasser asked if the plan is to keep the 4 lanes on Buchanan, widening the road a little bit to add the bike path and the pedestrian path.

Ms. Andrino-Chavez stated that she does not think that the road will be wider. In the west bound direction it will be narrowed from 12 feet to 11 feet.

President Glasser asked if the roadway will be still 4 lanes, narrower for the cars on the west bound direction. Some of those spots are now used for drop off for Ocean View. Would some of those spots go away because they would now be part of the bike path.

Ms. Andrino-Chavez discussed the bump outs that will be used to calm traffic and replace the trees that will be removed by the construction of the path. It will remove about 9 parking spaces. There will be room between the bump outs to drop off children.

Anna stated that there is elimination of just a few spaces in order to build the bump outs to calm traffic and replace trees. Still have quite a few traffic spaces.

Ms. Andrino-Chavez stated that there are about 25 parking spaces right now and there will be about 16 along Buchanan. On Jackson as part of the safe school project will require removing 7 parking stalls because of the left turn lane.

President Glasser noted that some of the staff parking would be lost. The other question is if the traffic study indicates that any of the traffic that gets off the freeway at Buchanan will be diverted, perhaps to Gilman or Central.

Ms. Andrino-Chavez stated that the traffic study assumes that they will get off at Buchanan.

President Glasser stated that previous traffic studies show that 85% of drivers are going 31mph or greater. If percentage is that high, generally would look at standards regarding what is wrong there.

Ms. Andrino-Chavez asked if looking at ways to reduce the 85th percentile is the question. That is why the bulb outs are being put in. The visual effect of the bump outs with a tree will be calming on the traffic. In addition, as part of the safe schools grant, including solar speed feedback signs. Some have messages that change. Have to go out to bid for proposals for those.

President Glasser asked about cameras on the red light.

Ms. Andrino-Chavez stated that the police department is thinking about implementing red light enforcement at the Buchanan, Jackson signal. They will have to do the survey. In order to justify the camera you have to have proof of the red light violations. It seems that this intersection and Marin and Santa Fe, by Marin school, qualify. Also have a grant to reconfigure the corners at Marin, Santa Fe and can talk to the board about that at another meeting.

President Glasser stated that this will provide some safety. Asked about other work down the line on Jackson, with

Whole Foods coming in and other traffic being generated. Board has discussed converting Jackson to just a one way street to eliminate the additional traffic that might be generated. Asked if that has been considered in any of the traffic studies.

Ms. Andrino-Chavez stated that it has not for this project. If going to change the direction of a street, would require an environmental document because it will effect many streets.

President Glasser expressed concern that the road is already very narrow and things are being done to increase the level of traffic on that roadway, that already has a level D which is not a good thing. Also have an elementary school facility there with young children walking to school. Think would look at ways to maintain that level of traffic rather than increase it. Asked about any measures being considered for Jackson.

Ms. Andrino-Chavez stated that outside of the scope of this project. Thinks that a meeting with the school district and the university and the city and some parents is necessary to brain storm what kind of steps can actually be taken. According to the PTA the students are actually coming in from the village across the driveway.

President Glasser suggested that it should be sooner rather than later.

Anna added that, apart from this project, a designated right turn lane is being considered at Buchanan and San Pablo. Sees concern with Whole Foods creating traffic. City is also concerned. Part of the negotiation with the university is not only to provide the bike path, but also for designated right turn at that intersection, inviting more people to use that intersection to reach Whole Foods and other improvements, rather than using Jackson St. Not currently part of the project, but is part of the negotiation.

President Glasser stated that there was already some concern about moving the little league over to Ocean View and their ability to hit the ball beyond the fence. Asked if the fence will be built taller if it will be moved in.

Ms. Andrino-Chavez stated that the fence at the park is already where it needs to be. It will not be moved as part of this program.

Anna stated that the plan will be to extend the existing 12 foot fence along Buchanan to accommodate the baseball field. Possibility of using netting. Fence has already been done. Still waiting for a decision on the netting.

Ms. Andrino-Chavez stated that this is a presentation of the requirements for the right of way.

Member Low asked about the grant for a portion of the project.

Ms. Andrino-Chavez stated that the grant is for building the bike path. Currently have the funds to develop 35% plans, not for construction. Will find out in December. Does not think that any one agency will fund the entire project and will have to find funding in segments.

Superintendent Stephenson understands that in order for the city to apply for the grant they would need a letter from the district stating that the district would be willing to grant the easement and in a different letter, willing to dedicate the 70 square feet. Will bring this back as an action item.

Anna stated that in order to apply for the funds, the city needs to be sure that all of the stake holders are in agreement with the project itself, providing letters of intention.

President Glasser and Superintendent Stephenson thanked presenters. President Glasser asked for any questions from the public. There were none. Some of this information is available on the city's web site.

Ms. Andrino-Chavez noted that beginning on Monday the environmental document will be on the web site for 30 days under community development. There will be a copy of the plans at the district office as well.

VIII. REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS

- A) Open Public Hearing on the Initial Proposal for Contract Reopeners For 2009-2010 Between Albany Unified School District and California School Employees Association Albany Chapter 679**

President Glasser opened the public hearing. Superintendent Stephenson indicated that no action needs to be taken. To reiterate what is in board packet, this brings CSEA into parity with the other bargaining units in the district, 0% increased salary this year and maintain health and welfare benefits as they have had in the past.

President Glasser asked for comments from the public.

Jacquelyn Rydman, current CSEA Chapter President. All in agreement with this, especially being able to maintain medical benefits at the level that they are at this time.

- B) Close Public Hearing on the Initial Proposal for Contract Reopeners For 2009-2010 Between Albany Unified School District and California School Employees Association Albany Chapter 679**

Seeing no other public comment, President Glasser closed the public hearing.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that the next step would be that the CSEA vote for ratification of this.

President Glasser stated that they will bring it back and it will be ratified as a board.

- C) Conduct the 2nd Reading and Approve Board Policy Update/Revision Section 3000 - Business & Operations (Under Separate Cover)**

Assistant Superintendent Harden noted that she had not received any changes other than a typo from Vice President Rosenbaum on BP 33, and have made that correction. Other than that, these are identical to the set from the previous board meeting.

President Glasser noted that 15,000 dollars can be applied for, for GASBY 45 remediation plan. Should have a plan to figure out how to pay for that liability.

Assistant Superintendent Harden will double check. Understanding is that it could be that the particular board policy has been updated since this was printed. That was a one time shot, about a year ago, year and a half ago. Will double check to see that it is the most current policy.

President Glasser stated that if there is money available, it should be utilized in the future, maybe pay for some of the audit costs.

Vice President Rosenbaum pointed out that in 3290a, looking forward to putting it into practice regarding the receipt of donations and providing equal opportunity for all participating students. It is in writing, it is being adopted. Donors are encouraged to donate all gifts to the district, not a particular school. Appreciate all of the wonderful things that the public brings to our schools, but want to be sure that all students can participate.

President Glasser asked for further questions or concerns and public comment. There were none.

Motion by Vice President Rosenbaum, seconded by Member Low to approve Board Policy Update/Revision Section 3000 - Business & Operations (Under Separate Cover)

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

- D) Approve Resolution 2009-10-05 to Deny Request by the Global Tides @ Alameda County to Approve a Petition to Become a Charter School of the Albany Unified School District**

President Glasser believes have gone through this as to why petition should be denied and asked Superintendent Stephenson if there is any additional information at this time.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that this charter school petition was submitted to 98 districts on the same day. There is no one here, although invited to both the public hearing and to this meeting. Recommendation is to deny it based on substantial review of the petition and the inadequacies that have been outlined.

President Glasser asked for any questions from the board.

Vice President Rosenbaum stated that there are some wonderful arguments that were made in exhibit A. There are a number of typos. Will give them to Superintendent Stephenson.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that it came from the district's attorneys and will go back to them.

Member Black commented that it is an impressive set of problems with this application. When first heard of application, if a local board is going to approve a charter school, it should be a locally based school, and there didn't seem to be anything local about this school.

President Glasser asked for comments from the public. There were none.

Motion by Member Black, seconded by Vice President Rosenbaum to approve Resolution 2009-10-05 to Deny Request by the Global Tides @ Alameda County to Approve a Petition to Become a Charter School of the Albany Unified School District

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

E) Approve the Letter to Albany City Council Concerning Crossing Guard Staffing

President Glasser stated that this item was put on agenda at his behest. Stated that AUSD has no responsibility, does not supervise, does not maintain, organize, or have anything to do with the school crossing guard program. That program is run by the city through the police department. Found out at the beginning of the school year when asked where the crossing guards had gone and found out that there had been a reduction in the number of crossing guard positions, apparently after the fact. The school board was not consulted and did not have any input. The other issue is that even for the positions that are supposed to be staffed, they are only sporadically being staffed. Specifically, the busiest intersection, San Pablo and Buchanan/Marin, has for weeks at a time not had a crossing guard. Have shared concerns with city council. Have been working very hard to provide a safe school program, encouraging people to walk to school and be greener and healthier. This sends the wrong message to the community. While looking to spend a great deal of funds for increasing the biking and walking, we are also making less safe for our children. As a board member, feel that primary responsibility for our children, even before education, is to keep them safe. This has created a great deal of safety issue for getting children to and from their homes. The Oakland school district had a child killed crossing an intersection. Remember that at the funeral the principal of the school said that they had the unfortunate task of riding in the ambulance with the child while she passed away. The only good thing was that she didn't seem to suffer much. Already in to November, have a crossing guard program that is staffed at a lower level and only staffed sporadically. Not certain if these requests or recommendations are strong enough, but very concerned for the safety of our children. Does not believe that it is the board's place to tell the city what their priorities should be. Looking at the 2009-2010 budget, the total staffing amount for the program was 132,000 dollars. This is a drop in the bucket and a basic program that needs to be maintained. Would like board to take action to request that they staff the crossing guard positions at the posted 2009-2010 levels, 12 positions, and set up a program where they would coordinate with the district to be sure that parents are timely informed of any changes in the positions. If there are changes, we know in advance, not after the fact. As far as sporadically staffing, don't know what can be done. Took the step last year of recognizing all of the crossing guards. Invited comments from other members of the board.

Member Black asked if it is possible to have volunteer crossing guards.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that it is possible, but the liability that would be assumed by the volunteer would be almost untenable. Have been working with the city, particularly the police department, on the sporadic staffing

issue and it is a real problem. The police department hires police officers and x amount of crossing guards. When one of them is out the only alternative is to staff it with a police officer. If they have higher priority needs, that officer will be pulled. Suggested that we find individuals within each school, particularly each elementary school, that would be trained by the department and hired by the department as subs. When we know someone is going to be out one of our school people can fill in, and is under the jurisdiction of the police department. Seems to be an idea that may work. It would facilitate safe crossing.

Vice President Rosenbaum stated that the police department is aware of the board's concerns.

Member Black asked if it is a matter of money.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that they are having to make budget cuts in the same light that the district has had to make budget cuts. Perhaps district process was more transparent, or perhaps superintendent was just not aware.

President Glasser stated that the city adopts a two year budgets and that the published budget does not show a reduction. The city should probably be made aware that they should publish an amended budget on the web site. The currently posted budget still shows 12 positions. At first job out of graduate school was as a budget analyst for the Town of West Hartford Police Department and paid out a 10 million dollar settlement because the crossing guard was not at the spot where they crossed. Beyond the financial liabilities, doing all of these things to encourage our families and children to be walking to school and the reality is that people are going to work and are in a rush. They do not stop, including making right hand turns when people are in the cross walk.

Member Low thanked President Glasser stating that the letter is a great idea. Appreciate his following up on this.

President Glasser asked for comments from the public. There were none.

Motion by Member Low, seconded by Member Black to approve Letter to Albany City Council Concerning Crossing Guard Staffing

The Board was polled. Members: President Glasser, Vice President Rosenbaum, Member Black, and Member Low voting AYE and Student Member Chiang, and Student Member Yang abstaining.

President Glasser asked Superintendent Stephenson the check back with the board as the conversation with the city council and staff develops.

IX. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Conduct the 1st Reading of Board Policy Section 6000-6145.5(c) - Instruction

President Glasser stated that due to the size of the section, it will be taken in three chunks. This is the first third. Asked Superintendent Stephenson how questions and comments should be handled.

Superintendent Stephenson suggested that they be taken one at a time and will have Director Hornada lead discussion and get some board input. May or may not be able to get through these in two readings. Will keep coming back until completed first third.

Member Black asked about the packet of proposed changes.

Director Hornada had distributed that to the board and there are some on the table for the public. In November of last year began process of looking at board policies. Had quite a number of pages to look at. Did a side by side comparison of old board policies with the new updated ed code compliant policies. Was very interesting. Views this as a work in progress between the district and the board and the school sites.

Currently spent last couple of months working with principals, getting their feedback on some of these proposed ideas, particularly around the optional policies. Still working on that process with them. The strategic planning process was to create overarching goals for the district and these new policies reflect the current state of ed code

and rules and regulations. Important to have a clear set of board policies. Expect that some things will need to be changed because the state board of education has changed. Will keep board up to date and informed.

Reviewed proposed changes, asked for board feedback, and would like to present recommendations for some of the optional policies. Would like to start with rules and concepts. Starts on page 73. A summary of what is incorporated within curriculum and instruction section 6000s. There are a number of references to other board policies that may or may not be in this packet. There were not proposed changes on rules and concepts. Asked for feedback.

President Glasser suggested that it might be helpful if people have comments as board goes through the pages. Asked for comments on pages 73, 74, 75.

Vice President Glasser underlined no course of study on page 74 because it has been discussed. Wanted to be sure that people remember. Nothing to change.

President Glasser had a question on 5 was adopting text books and other materials. Have talked about making sure that the formats are accessible in audio, braille, etc. Asked where in the policy it is a requirement or if the board can make it a requirement at this point.

Director Hornada indicated that it is not specifically stated in the board policy. This is an optional policy so there can be revision work.

Superintendent Stephenson is concerned that if in grades K-8 district must adopt state recommended text. Believe that everything coming through at the state level has multiple modalities, but if were to put something into subsection 5 which said it must and didn't have it...

President Glasser stated that a waiver could be given, but this way if there are two different text and one has other formats and the other didn't we go with the one that does. Part of changing publishers philosophies as well. It may push them.

Superintendent Stephenson has not seen any new adoptions that don't come in alternative formats.

President Glasser stated that if there is no alternative available, could just grant a waiver.

Member Black asked if the wording could just say must adopt... when available.

President Glasser would rather put it more on the affirmative, if there is nothing you have to apply for the waiver saying that you looked and there was nothing available. Not so much in the text books, but some of the novels, news media, etc. Want the teachers to only look at books that come in alternative formats. May restrict what is looked at. Would make sure that all students have access to all instructional materials. This is how we do that. If it is not available, can always make the waiver for it.

Member Black stated that there would need to be a waiver that the board can waive this requirement.

President Glasser stated that board does not have to state that they can make a waiver of their own policies. The board can always waive their own policies.

Superintendent Stephenson would like to check with counsel. Does not want the position of not being able to adopt a text that has been approved by the state.

Member Black stated that in English classes, each teacher picks their own novels. They may not be available.

President Glasser wants to be sure that any text that they select is available to every student regardless of their

abilities or disabilities. Access is part of the curriculum.

Director Hornada stated that upon preliminary research, all state required language arts material, all of those programs came with alternative formats. There is a large library that the special education department has access to for alternative formats as well. Have not run into an issue regarding alternative format. Agree that it should be reviewed before limiting flexibility and choices with books.

Member Black wants to confirm that board does not paint themselves into a corner.

President Glasser does not know why would need to check with counsel. Can amend any board policy at any board meeting as long as it is agendized.

Member Black stated that a waiver is different than amending policy.

Superintendent Stephenson asked to check with ed code and counsel for wording and can bring back some samples. This is a first reading, getting input, do not need to hammer out the absolute details right now. The board has given some direction and staff will bring something back.

Director Hornada referred to page 77, academic standards. Policy reflects commitment to state standards and frameworks in providing an educational program that meets the guidelines. Portions of this can be changed to reflect district policies. At the bottom of the page add 'but not supplant'.

Member Black suggested that it is not necessary because the definition of supplement is add to which does not mean replace. Okay if Director Hornada is more comfortable with it. Would say 'does not supplant'.

Director Hornada referred to page 79, parent involvement policy comes directly from old policy. There are a few places where there are upgrades, but for the most part it is the same. Thorough comprehensive policy and not recommending any changes.

Member Black has a question on page 83. Asked if all of the programs offered by the district are listed.

Director Hornada stated that they are not, but it does say 'to extent feasible and appropriate'. If there is something specific that is unique to Albany could be recognized in this policy.

Member Black referred to item g. Asked how parents are informed.

Director Hornada stated that there is parent information that goes out from Title I schools. The county office is our resource. They have a number of programs and things that could easily be distributed here, in terms of information.

Member Low asked if information goes out in different languages.

Director Hornada will check. Want to say yes, but given budget cuts, the amount of translations was reduced. It is a courtesy until there is a certain percentage of students that speak a particular language, then it becomes a requirement. If they are already translated, will check to see if they are being used.

Member Low asked if Director Hornada makes a judgement, depending on the school site, as to whether there is a significant population that has a need.

Director Hornada stated that it is in ed code. Believe that it is 15 percent.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that district does not qualify for any translations, it is a may, rather than a must.

Member Black referred to page 87. Not sure if allowed to modify. On the top of the page item b, and similar thing on the next page. Looks very out of date. Talks about television, but no mention of electronic games and internet. Seems it would be worth adding those.

Director Hornada can add that to the list.

Member Black referred to the bottom of page 88, there is a similar statement at the bottom.

Director Hornada referred to school calendar on page 91. This is a requirement straight out of ed code. There is nothing that can be changed or added.

Member Low mentioned a previous discussion about state budget cuts and shortening the school year, but it was optional. Presented as an option for schools that were in real budgetary need.

Director Hornada stated that there were some proposals that Sacramento did make, but did not make the final round. They were preliminary discussions. It also involved negotiations and a number of other things that were not feasible.

President Glasser suggested that bases could be covered by saying something like the district shall offer the legally required number of school days per year or something like that. 180 is what it is now.

Member Low is fine with it the way it is and thanked President Glasser.

Director Hornada referred to page 92. Not really a change, but does talk about schools as polling places and what the requirements are. There was an issue at Marin and concerns about student safety. Worked with Dr. Wong to come up with a resolution. He felt that using the school as a polling place was not the best option given the amount of concerns.

Vice President Rosenbaum asked Superintendent Stephenson if that will be looked at again because there have been a number of concerns on both sides.

Superintendent Stephenson would like to provide access to the public in any way possible. Could re-look at this with this board policy and create staff development days or non student days on national elections, etc.

President Glasser stated that typically employees are given a couple of hours to go vote, so arranging a staff development day on the same day might mean that staff would be missing a large part of that time period. There are other facilities that might be available; district offices in the lobby, the library, etc., that might be available.

Vice President Rosenbaum suggested a future discussion on the topic.

Director Hornada moved on to ceremonies and observances which is also out of ed code in terms of what needs to be placed on the calendar, on page 94 and 95.

Member Low had some questions on page 95. Asked if these days are required.

Director Hornada confirmed that they are.

Member Low asked if the district is not closed on Monday for some of these days that list Friday. Very specific about days that it is supposed to be done and they don't match the district calendar.

Vice President Rosenbaum noted that these are the days that they are to be commemorated inside of school.

Member Low asked if the assembly has to be done on that Friday.

Director Hornada does not say that there needs to be an assembly, but that it needs to be recognized in some way. An example would be constitution day when some materials were sent out to the sites, but it does not have to be a large scale event or assembly, it has to be some time of recognition. It could be as simple as putting something in the school bulletin. All of these dates have been on the school calendars in the past. Would have to check on compliance.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that last year there were complaints about having all of these dates on the calendar, why one day and not something else. Can now see that this is where it was generated from.

Director Hornada referred to page 96, which is ed code, and is something that can be controversial. It has not been in board policies in the past under instruction, however it was recommended in terms of having all of the required activities be part of the board policies. With display of flag, can say that district definitely participates fully. Unsure where the district is with the pledge or some kind of daily patriotic exercise.

President Glasser has never seen it done.

Director Hornada does not believe that it is being done, but somebody may be doing it.

President Glasser pointed out that it says 'shall be conducted', not 'may be conducted'.

Director Hornada stated that this is ed code and the words cannot be changed.

Member Black asked what the penalty is.

Director Hornada does not know. Believes it could be an issue if brought to the attention of the courts. Thinking back to some of the legislation that went through about a person's right to say the pledge or not say the pledge. This is based in current policies. It could become an issue if someone filed a complaint, etc.

Member Low asked if it has been a part of the board policies in the past.

Director Hornada stated that it has not.

Member Black commented that the teachers would have to be told if it is in the board policy. Up to the administrators at the school.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that the board has in the past chosen not to include aspects of requirements by ed code. That doesn't absolve the district of the responsibility of following it, but it would absolve the board of liability. In other words, if there is a policy and the board has adopted it and the staff does not follow it, then there the board would be subject to a bit of liability. It does not absolve the school district. The board could exercise its judgement and decide not to place AR6115c in to the policy. If it is there, administration will demand that staff comply with board policy.

Member Low does not feel comfortable leaving it in and having the superintendent writing a letter to the entire teaching staff.

Superintendent Stephenson suggested that there is a bit of a bind. It has always been in ed code, but was not reflected in board policies. Can think about it and bring it back on the 17th.

Vice President Rosenbaum definitely does not want to go to war over this.

Member Low asked if staff could check to see what Berkeley is doing, and then check to see what is happening in a range of schools.

Director Hornada discussed classroom interruptions, straight out of ed code again. BP and AR.

Superintendent Stephenson recommending that the board keep this AR, protecting academic time is key.

Director Hornada stated that AR reflects policies that are in place about minimizing classroom interruptions.

Vice President Rosenbaum asked if something has been added about school visitors checking in at the office.

Director Hornada stated that it is included.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that there is a key piece in the 2000s regarding visitors.

Vice President Rosenbaum stated that there are still adults walking on to campuses and walking straight to classrooms.

President Glasser stated that the program, signs, etc. are in place. It doesn't mean that everyone is observing it.

Director Hornada referred to page 100, curriculum development and evaluation. This is an optional policy and it does reflect the state standards and frameworks in terms of providing sequential, research based programs that lead to building appropriate skills for a student to progress to the next grade level. Research based has several meanings. The best practices that are embedded are actually research based. There are other things out there that are considered research based and have a proven track record. About identifying the best practices and how they are utilized in the curriculum. Want to be clear that do not think research based is implying a lockstep type program. It can, but it does not have to.

Member Black asked about sequential curriculum.

Director Hornada explained that sequential curriculum, the skills that are taught in kindergarten are built upon in greater depth in 1st grade and as you go up through the grades. Addressing what is in the standards and how one grade level builds on another, so students have the time to spiral back and learn concepts in greater detail from grade level to grade level. Asked for any questions.

Member Low noted the statement about 5 down from the top on page 100 about the board's adoption of curriculum. That may be a good long term.

Director Hornada stated that it is the fact that district has adopted the majority of the required frameworks and standards from the state as part of the overall goals of instruction. Are working on the district's goals and vision through the strategic planning process and want to be sure that anything that is done is within the board policy. It is a reference to what is already in place. In the bottom paragraph there is information about providing a process for curriculum development, selection, and adoption which utilizes the different stakeholders, but also students as appropriate. Interesting language, it does say may rather than shall, to remind us that there are other stakeholders other than the traditional ones that may want to have involved in the new programs.

Member Black noted that it is 10:00 and asked if the board wants to continue and extend the meeting.

President Glasser noted that there is still a significant amount of policy to go through.

Vice President Rosenbaum stated that this will not be completed tonight.

Superintendent Stephenson suggested, having seen how long this is taking as it is very important, and noting that this is just a third and there are still the 5000s, might want to consider a special study session prior to the regular

board meeting on the 2nd.

Member Black will not be present.

Member Low asked if Member Black could provide his comments.

President Glasser noted that it would just be the first reading.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that the second third might be added. Need to start getting through this. If it takes through the end of the year, will be cycling around with new changes. Already behind two cycles that are recommended by CSBA, but cannot bring them to the board until the first set is finished. This is an arduous task and will take some board dedication. Can defer to January and can set up a couple of special study sessions. Asked for the board's choice.

Member Black stated that there are some things in the 5000s that need to be resolved. They have been approved them which has changed some long standing policies in the district. They should be discussed soon. If it takes special study sessions, we should do it. Okay to proceed when Member Black is away on the 2nd.

President Glasser stated that there will be other issues in short order that will require additional study sessions; final pool design, something from the state that will require specific action, etc. Keep in mind that this is important, but there will be immediate operational issues to deal with as a board. Maybe a quicker process is needed for this.

Director Hornada suggested the board could forward concerns or comments so that focus could be more specific at the study session, and streamline things.

Superintendent Stephenson will send a Word document of the 6000s to the board for review and changes using Track Changes.

President Glasser agreed to the study session on the 2nd, charging through the policies.

Superintendent Stephenson suggested doing closed session 5:30 to 6:30 and a study session from 6:30 to 7:30.

Board agreed.

Member Low confirmed that the process will be sped up if the particular changes are highlighted and forwarded to Director Hornada. That would be easier.

President Glasser suggested putting notes, questions, etc. in parentheses.

X. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

There are no comments.

Member Low suggested discussion, when Member Walden is present, about some kind of formal thank you communication with the community for their support for having passed the measures.

Superintendent Stephenson stated that there is a formal thank you that will be posted on the web. Can also do that very publicly on the 17th.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no other comments, President Glasser adjourned the meeting at 10:08 p.m.

[The body of the document contains several paragraphs of text that are extremely faint and illegible. The text appears to be a formal record or minutes from a school board meeting, but the specific content cannot be discerned.]