

Albany Unified School District Board of Education
904 Talbot Ave.
Albany, CA 94706
MINUTES FOR MEETING
March 15, 2011

Albany, CA 94706

- I. **OPENING BUSINESS** 7:00 p.m.
 - A) *Call to Order*
 - B) *Roll Call*
 - C) *Identify Closed Session Pursuant to Agenda Section III Below*
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR CLOSED SESSION ITEMS** *General public comment on any Closed Session item will be heard. The Board may limit comments to no more than three (3) minutes.*
- III. **CLOSED SESSION** 7:05 p.m.
 - A) *With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: Superintendent's Evaluation*
 - B) *With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: Assistant Superintendent's Evaluation*
 - C) *With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to Education Code Section 35146: Student Personnel Matters*
 - D) *With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (Superintendent Marla Stephenson, District Representative), Regarding Negotiations as pertains to:*
 - a. *California School Employees Association (CSEA)*
 - b. *Albany Teachers Association (ATA)*
 - c. *SEIU Local 1021*
- IV. **OPEN SESSION** 7:30 p.m. *Depending upon completion of Closed Session items, the Board of Education intends to convene to Open Session at 7:30 p.m. to conduct the remainder of its meeting, reserving the right to return to Closed Session at any time.*
 - A) *Reconvene to Open Session*

President Low called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

 - B) *Roll Call*

PRESENT: *President Low*, Member Rosenbaum, Member Knight, Member Maris
ABSENT: Member **Black**
STAFF: Superintendent Stephenson

 - C) *Pledge of **Allegiance***
 - D) ***Report of Action Taken in Closed Session***

President Low stated the Board approved the Assistant Superintendent's contract until 2013.

President Low stated the Board approved the stipulated expulsions of students #201510 and #206374.

E) Approval of **Agenda**

President Low clarified a modification to the agenda. Under section VI. Staff Reports, add item Conflict Managers Presentation.

Member Rosenbaum motioned to modify the agenda.

Member Maris seconded the motion.

Votes

Member Maris, Aye

Member Knight, Aye

Member Rosenbaum, Aye

President Low, Aye

F) Approval of **Consent Calendar**

(The Consent Calendar includes routine items that may be handled with one action. Board Members

may request any item be removed from the Consent Calendar without formal action)

Member Rosenbaum stated he had a question on item 2a. Member Knight stated he had a question on 2a. President Low stated she had a question on item 1e. Member Maris stated he had no questions on the Consent Calendar.

Member Knight motioned to approve the Consent Calendar.

Member Maris seconded the motion.

Votes

Member Maris, Aye

Member Knight, Aye

Member Rosenbaum, Aye

President Low, Aye

1. Personnel
- a) **Certificated Personnel Assignment Order**
1. **Amendment**
- a. **BTSA Mentor**
- b. **Mental Health**
2. **Leave - none**
3. **Extra Assignment - none**
4. **New Hire**
- a. **Home/Hospital Teacher**
- b. **Long Term Substitute**
- c. **Teacher**
5. **Separation of Service**
- a. **Substitute, Long Term**
- b. **Teacher**
6. **Status Change - none**
- b) **Classified Personnel Assignment Order**
1. **Amendment - none**
2. **Leave - none**
3. **Extra Assignment - none**

4. *New Hire*
 - a. *Athletic Clerk*
5. *Separation of Service - none*
6. *Status Change - none*
- c) *Uncompensated Service Assignment Order*
1. *Volunteer*
 - a. *Classroom*
- d) *Approve Resolution 2010-11-20 in the Matter of Release of Temporary Certificated Employees*
- e) *Approve the Independent Contractor Agreement between Albany Unified School District and Jennifer Stewart, Grant Writer*

Regarding the Federal Emergency Management Grant, Superintendent Stephenson stated the federal government has a vested interest in states, cities, and public agencies being prepared for emergencies. She said the grant that we are eligible for could bring us as much as \$150,000.

President Low asked if there would be better luck winning this grant if AUSD went in with other small districts who may not have the resources but have the need. She asked if the grant writer would want to survey nearby small districts. Superintendent Stephenson said the grant writer commented AUSD should develop partnerships with other city and public entities. Ms. Stewart is employed by the Napa County Office of Education.

2. *Curriculum and Instruction*
 - a) *Approve the contract between Albany Unified School District and Project GLAD for professional development services*
- Member Rosenbaum said he'd like to know more about the program before approving. He asked how this differs from the CLAD and SDAIE training that every teacher is expected to have. He asked what justifies the amount being \$48,000. Member Knight had the same questions.*

Director Hornada stated she wanted to explain the process that brought this training to the district and go through some of the important aspects. She stated at the end of this year, two of our teachers will be GLAD certified trainers.

Director Hornada said that six teachers were sent to the training in January. She said the teachers reported good things on the program and felt it is a great opportunity. She said that there has been an offer to look at dates to train at AUSD. At the last count there are 36 teachers who are interested in taking the training.

Director Hornada said GLAD is a set of instructional strategies that helps teachers engage ELD and other students in the classroom. She said there's a lot of information about respect that plays into Strategies 1 and 2 in the Strategic Plan. She said it differs from CLAD because CLAD is a certified program approved by the state. GLAD originated in Southern California and is sponsored by the Orange County Office of Education.

Director Hornada stated the cost is \$1,025 per teacher for the six day training. President Low asked if more standards are woven into the program. Superintendent Stephenson said that these are instructional strategies. She said the ELL population is struggling to reach the proficiencies in the annual measurable objectives. She said teachers need any and all strategies to assist these

children in the classroom. She said these children need total access to rich and rigorous classroom instruction.

Director Hornada said this will be paid with categorical funds.

Member Rosenbaum asked if there is a more cost effective way to achieve the same result. Superintendent Stephenson said the district has not experienced success in terms of EL achievement. She said, if there is support of staff, she feels they need to be given the tools they feel they need in the classroom.

b) Ratify the Independent Contractor Agreement between *Albany Unified School District and Ralph Cantor for a presentation at Albany Middle School on the dangers on substance abuse*

3. *Business and Operations*

a) *Approve Warrant Listing - February 2011*

President Low asked if the reimbursements for EL classes were from classes that were not held and were cancelled due to low attendance.

Assistant Superintendent Harden said this could be because the class did not meet the minimum enrollment of 15 students.

4. *Student Services*

a) *Approve the Master Contract between Albany Unified School District and Transparent Therapy*

V. *STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS*

A) *Student Board Member Report*

Student Member Zhang said the Anti-Bullying Poem Contest ended. There were three winners who won money prizes. The poems will be on the Albany Patch. Student Member Kim said the Diversity Week will take place the last week of March and first week of April. International Food Day will take place on March 30.

Student Member Zhang said there will be a fundraising effort to help the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

Student Member Kim said book drive was started last week. Books will be donated to Books for Africa. They've already collected 408 books. The student who donates the most books gets 50% off of their prom ticket.

Student Member Zhang said the planning has begun for the Relay for Life.

Member Maris thanked the Student Board Members for their report and for informing the public about the Relay for Life.

Student Member Kim mentioned the Blood Drive taking place on April 20, 2011 at Albany High School.

Student Member Zhang said the Essential Standards Learning Results (ESLR) Project have been working with ROP Journalism and ROP Graphic Arts to create a mission statement to promote education.

Student Member Kim said there will be a theatre ensemble production on March 24-26 and March 31.

Student Member Zhang said the AHS Science Club placed first in the regional competition. They will be going to the national competition on April 28 through May 2.

Student Member Kim said the annual spring dance is not likely to happen due to the lack of support from students and the lack of funds.

Member Maris said the Swing Into Spring dance will be on March 25. Superintendent Stephenson said it is a fundraiser through Albany Music Foundation. Member Rosenbaum said he appreciated the student effort in assisting the victims in Japan.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A) Conflict Manager Report

Deborah Brill (AUSD teacher) *said she has been coordinating the Conflict Manager Program* at the three schools. She gave an overview of the program. She said the AEF donated money for jackets for the Conflict Managers.

Billy, student at Marin, read a statement about the philosophy of the program. He said Conflict Managers help students find peaceful solutions to their problems.

Simone, student at Ocean View, spoke about what a Conflict Manager is and is not.

Skylar and Ezra, students at Cornell, Agusta student at Ocean View, and Phoebe, student at Marin, gave a demonstration of a conflict on the handball court.

Ms. Brill said it does take time to work out a conflict and the children do a great job.

President Low thanked the children and said that learning how to get along with other people and how to solve problems is going to make a big difference in their lives. Member Rosenbaum thanked Ms. Brill for all the work she does.

B) City of Albany Active Transportation Plan

Aleida Alonzo-Chavez presented the *Albany Active Transportation Plan*.

Member Maris thanked her for the presentation. He asked if a median strip on San Pablo will be proposed. She said it depends on CalTrans.

Member Knight said he was very excited and thinks it will make getting to school safer for kids. He asked how this plan will be funded. She said the plan development was funded by the Measure B grant. The projects are not currently funded. They need to seek grant opportunities to fund these projects.

President Low asked if there was a clear directive from the community on this project. Ms. Alonzo-Chavez said the reaction was positive.

Superintendent Stephenson asked if Ms. Alonzo-Chavez could provide her with a copy of the presentation. Superintendent Stephenson said she would like to present it to the principals.

C) AUSD Emergency Procedures

Superintendent Stephenson said disaster preparedness *cannot be ignored*. She said on March 2, 2011 there was a situation that called for rather drastic measures. She gave a chronology of that day. She wanted to talk about the aftermath and her thinking during the incident.

Superintendent Stephenson said a lockdown was implemented and the executive cabinet was deployed to each site to give support to the principals. She stated the Albany Police Department had given different instructions to parents. She said she met with the district emergency preparedness committee after the event.

Superintendent Stephenson said there were varying degrees of lockdown and the district needs to work on what lockdown means. She said parents and the community need to be educated regarding emergency situations. She said the district has upgraded the autodialer. She said emergency supplies at each site need to be checked and restocked. She said an emergency generator is needed at the district office.

President Low thanked Superintendent Stephenson for the effort.

Member Rosenbaum said the initial response was the need for communication. He felt Superintendent Stephenson did everything she could to make sure the students were safe.

Member Knight said he agreed with Member Rosenbaum.

Member Maris thanked Superintendent Stephenson for a successful lockdown. Superintendent Stephenson said during the time the district was in lockdown, the first priority was to ensure student safety. She said she read comments from the community.

President Low said she was impressed that Superintendent Stephenson is looking at other forms of communication. She asked if the new systems will be tested. Superintendent Stephenson said phone numbers and email addresses of parents need to be accurate.

David DeHart, president of the ATA, spoke about the previous AHS lockdown. He said communication is essential. He said all of the teachers appreciated the Superintendent's decision to lockdown.

VII. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA
Board practice limits each speaker *to no more than three (3) minutes*. *The Brown Act limits Board ability to discuss or act on items which are not on the agenda; therefore, such items may be referred to staff for comment or for consideration on a future agenda.*

Elizabeth Friedman-Branoff, parent of a 1st grader at Marin. She said she has spoken before on her concerns with class size and how they have grown over the last couple of years. She thanked the Board for the Interim Financial report provided at the last BOE meeting. She said a more detailed budget report would be helpful. She said she is hoping that class size will be taken seriously enough to have a task force started. She also requested that Measure J be looked at in particular. She requests to know how Measure J funds are being used and what AUSD has done to preserve small class sizes. She said parents are organizing and would like to see this issue on a future BOE agenda, preferably on the April 19, 2011 agenda if possible.

President Low said since it is not on the agenda, the BOE cannot comment on the issue at this time. She said in the coming months with decisions about budgets, this is naturally going to come into the discussion. She gave Ms. Friedman-Branoff some information from a book about educational reforms.

Laura Alley, parent of a 1st grader, is also concerned about class size. She thanked staff for caring about the students. She said she feels class size needs to be looked at. She said she has spent time in her child's Kindergarten and 1st grade classroom and was overwhelmed by the class size. She said both of her child's teachers have said they are struggling with managing the class and teaching the material. She said the teachers said some things are getting left behind and some students are not getting the one-on-one and small group they need. She said parents are organizing. She said she is interested in seeing where Measure J funds are going, to have this as an agenda item, and to have a task force made.

VIII. REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS (Members of the public will have the opportunity to speak on all issues.)

A) Conduct 2nd Reading and Approve Board Policy Section 5030(a) - Student Wellness

Director Hornada presented the proposed changes to the Board Policy. Member Rosenbaum said that 'whenever possible' should be moved to the end of the sentence.

Member Maris said he liked that this involved the community as well. He asked that he motion to approve this item.

Member Maris motioned to approve Board Policy Section 5030(a) - Student Wellness.

Member Rosenbaum seconded the motion.

Votes

Member Maris, Aye

Member Knight, Aye

Member Rosenbaum, Aye

President Low, Aye

B) Approve the 2009-10 School Accountability Report Cards for Albany High School, Albany Middle School, MacGregor Continuation High School, Cornell Elementary School, Marin Elementary School, and Ocean View Elementary School (under separate cover)

Member Rosenbaum motioned to move the Approval of the 2009-10 School Accountability Report Cards from Review and Action to Review and Discussion.

Member Knight seconded the motion.

No Vote

C) Approve the proposed Albany Adult School class fee schedule, effective March 16, 2011

Alexia Ritchie, *Principal of the Albany Adult School*, gave the proposals listed in the Board packet.

Ms. Ritchie stated the University Village does not offer ESL classes.

Member Knight asked if the tech department would be able to service the Albany Adult School website.

Assistant Superintendent Harden said the fee structure was heavily analyzed to determine which classes were self supporting and which were not. She said, ideally, if fees are increased, the district can maintain some of the program as is. She said it is possible that despite increased fees, the program may still not be self supporting.

Member Maris said he feels this is a very important program to preserve. He said a lot is learned in these classes. He said he knows a lot of people who really enjoy the pool program.

Member Rosenbaum asked about Principal Ritchie's recommendation to cut the Principal position. She said there is not enough ADA to support a Principal position.

President Low asked if a great part of the ESL class population comes from the University Village. Superintendent Stephenson mentioned talking to UC about subsidizing ESL classes.

Member Knight motioned to approve the proposed Albany Adult School class fee schedule, effective March 16, 2011.

Member Rosenbaum seconded the motion.

Votes

Member Maris, Aye

Member Knight, Aye

Member Rosenbaum, Aye

President Low, Aye

D) Approve the AUSD Board of Education Regular Meeting Schedule for the 2011-2012 School Year

Member Rosenbaum *motioned to approve the AUSD Board of Education Regular Meeting Schedule for the 2011-2012 School Year*.

Member Knight seconded the motion.

Votes

Member Maris, Aye

Member Knight, Aye

Member Rosenbaum, Aye

President Low, Aye

IX. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Approve the 2009-10 School Accountability Report Cards for Albany High School, Albany Middle School, MacGregor Continuation High School, Cornell Elementary School, Marin Elementary School, and Ocean View Elementary School (under separate cover)
Director Hornada reviewed the process she used to complete as much of the SARC's as possible given the budget problems.

Member Knight said the Middle School SARC states AYP was not met. He asked if that would change when we receive updated data. Director Hornada said the Middle School data was accurate and it is what the California Department of Education (CDE) is reporting for us. The only dispute we have with CDE currently is at the High School. Member Rosenbaum asked what the graduation rate at the High School should read. Director Hornada said CDE is currently reporting 88%. She said this is the first year (2009/10 data) that CDE went back 4 years of cohorts to calculate the graduation rate. Director Hornada explained that CDE is using data from districts' CalPADS reports to calculate AYP. She said in disputing our AYP with CDE, they learned that data for the 2005/06 freshman class was incorrect, that the codes used were different from what the CalPADS reporting mechanism needed. They are working to correct the data. She said she is hopeful once the situation is resolved, both the graduation rate and the AYP will be more accurate and reflective.

Member Rosenbaum clarified that this [calculation method] is a change. He asked if in the past [the calculation was based] on the number of seniors who started in the 12th grade and completed.

President Low said she felt [CDE] was trying to create a baseline and then they would begin comparing each year thereafter. She said as they discuss AYP, she'd like to draw a larger picture and make a few comments about it. She said there has been much discussion in Educational Week in the past two weeks about a comment Secretary of Education, Arnie Duncon made about the need to revise the No Child Left Behind/ESEA. She said he predicted over three quarters of the schools in the nation would not be able to meet AYP. Superintendent Stephenson said by 2014. President Low said reaching AYP proficiency is a nationwide issue.

President Low asked if in the last couple of years, was there a subgroup that did not meet AYP in our district. Director Hornada stated there have been various subgroups that have not made AYP, however they have always made it the year after.

President Low asked if there were any other questions. Superintendent Stephenson said they found statistical errors, particularly in the area of teachers' salaries and they will be corrected.

Member Rosenbaum commented that standardized testing is just a tiny piece of measuring whether kids are becoming critical thinkers. He said he is concerned that we are measuring things accurately. He said in looking at the subgroups, he is still concerned about gap, particularly our Latino students. He said we need to look at how we continue to address that. President Low said that although she has been as critical of standardized tests, being able to look at subgroups has been helpful for us. Superintendent Stephenson said what concerns her, and what she would like to remind the board, is that we continue to look for district wide performance based assessments, other benchmarking information that we can include in the [School] Accountability Report Card that goes along side of these standardized test.

Member Maris said its good to have an assessment like this so we can encourage ourselves to do better and evaluate the evaluation system. He said he questions some of the figures we are getting from the state. As an example, he pointed out our ranking against similar schools. Member Maris said he would like [the ranking] explained. (Discussion ensued)
Member Maris said he put in a plug for more ROP classes at the High School.

President Low said she wanted to make two comments. She said since [the SARC] is the public face, it would be helpful to state that at Cornell and Ocean View there are afterschool Mandarin programs and to clarify that at Marin the Tupelo afterschool program includes a Spanish component. Second, she said she was approached by a parent who said her son was concerned that on his Aeries profile it indicated he is Chinese American when in fact he is biracial. She said she is particularly sensitive about it for middle and high schoolers because she thinks as kids reach adolescence it is very important to them to be able to identify who they really are. She asked if Aeries allows more than one race to be indicated.

Director Hornada said she would have to obtain that information from the Database Coordinator. President Low said it seems like a small thing but today's kids are so technology savvy, they are so interested in themselves and their identity, and she thinks it is an important element for us. She said we definitely have a biracial multiracial population and we want to be able to reflect it.

President Low asked what the follow up will be. Superintendent Stephenson said we will review them one more time. We will wait for the CDE to report out the data that is currently missing, if it continues to not be reported by CDE she will make sure that we leave the information blank. President Low said she thinks that is appropriate.

X. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Member Knight said he wanted to talk about the issue surrounding homework since the *screening of "Race to Nowhere."* He said people in the community have been talking about it. He said he has had a chance to visit with the principals at the different school sites to find out their view. He gave the example that at the High School, one of the issues is it is very difficult to monitor how much homework students get. He stated suggestions he has heard for good estimates for homework based on grade levels. He said he has talked to parents who are concerned about homework loads and he has talked to mental health specialists who say they see kids who are suffering from some of the stress issues they saw in the movie. He said it is not just homework. He mentioned school start time, how much sleep kids are getting, and college entrance pressure. He said it is something perhaps for the Wellness Committee. Superintendent Stephenson said it is a perfect focus as we look at our strategic plan and our focus for next year. She said it is time for us to look at our homework plan again as well as looking at those aspects in Strategy 2.

President Low said she and Member Maris had been attending Wellness Committee Meetings. She said a couple of things that have come up there are being aware of past histories of trying to change school start times and so forth. She said [the committee] thought it was very important to have a community dialogue and community education aspect. She said there has been some discussion at the High School of a group of people going to a project at Stanford called Challenge Success. She said one of the things that stuck out in her mind when reading the information in the Challenge Success, is that you really need to dialogue with the community, take your time, and move slowly on these issues because not everyone is going to be in the same place, with the same

understanding, and from the same background about the ideas of homework, about what success means, and what kind of college is important to get into.

Member Maris said he wanted to suggest a couple of things. He said he would like President Low and the Superintendent to consider putting Class Size Reduction on the agenda. He said it seems to him to be important enough to be separate from a budget issue. He said homework is another issue that could be an agenda item.

Member Rosenbaum asked if there was a schedule for when they will discuss the Parcel Taxes because he has a hard time separating [Class Size Reduction] from the budget. He said he agrees it is a very important issue.

President Low stated our major budget item is how we staff and built into that would necessarily be how large classes are. She said it will definitely be taken into consideration. (Discussion ensued)

Member Maris clarified his request. He said this issue of Class Size not be folded into Measure J discussions, not be folded into the budget, but be a separate agenda item where we can hear a broad presentation and broad comments from our community. (Discussion ensued)

Superintendent Stephenson said we have not adopted Board Protocols. Member Maris asked what some of the protocols are. President Low explained some samples. She said she has drafted some protocols. Superintendent Stephenson said that is one agenda item that needs to get on right away.

Member Maris asked how they are following up on Member Knights suggestions about homework. President Low said the Wellness Committee is meeting on May 16th and at that time there will be some reflection on the Anti-Bullying Summit. She said then there will be some discussion about what they will be doing next. She said there has already been attention to homework, start times, and the project Challenge Success. She said one way to follow up on this is to direct the Wellness Committee to take a look at homework policies and research on homework and to report back to the BOE. Superintendent Stephenson advised the BOE to direct her because the Wellness Committee serves to advise the Superintendent. Additionally, she said it is important that they look at BOE direction as it pertains to the Strategic Plan because it will help them refocus before they have the next Strategic Plan meeting in May.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A) Albany Children's Center Update April
- B) Equity Report April
- C) Volunteer Recognition April
- D) SARC Report April
- E) **Pool Update** April
- F) FCMAT Report April
- G) Budget Development 2011-12 - Staffing May**
- F) Board **Governance** Calendar May

XII. FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

- A) Tuesday, April 5, 2011, 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting
Albany City **Hall**, 1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany
- B) Tuesday, April 19, 2011, 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting**
Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany

C) Tuesday, May 3, 2011, 7: 30 p.m., Regular Meeting
Albany City Hall, 1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board believes that late night meetings deter public participation, can affect the Board's decision-making ability, and can be a burden to staff. Regular Board Meetings shall be adjourned at 10:00 p.m. unless extended to a specific time determined by a majority of the Board.

Board Agenda of

March 15, 2011

Page 2 of 4