

North Monterey County Unified School District
8142 Moss Landing Rd.
Moss Landing, CA 95039

Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2009
6:00 p.m.

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the North Monterey County Unified School District held on November 5, 2009.

Board Members Present

Mr. Gary De Amaral, Mr. Sam Laage, Mrs. Polly Jimenez, Mrs. Diana Jimenez, Mr. Manuel Osorio

Administration Present

Mr. Sergio Montenegro, Superintendent; Dr. Linda Mann, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum; Ms. Monica Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Business; Mr. Scott McColgan, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Yvette Padilla, recording secretary, were present.

Others Present

Ken Jordan, Kathy Cunnane, Toni-Lynn Chetirkin, Cynthia Lipsig, Marilyn McLoughlin, Natalie Castro, Rosio Guardado, Isabel Guardado, Paula Ruiz, Michael Ruiz, Ana Maria Nunez, Julie High, Sarah Turner, Louis Flint, Sandra Cuevas, Roberto Lovato, Sue Kelly, Valerie Bigham, Martha Chavarria, Susannah Lopez, Kristi Burns, A. Sarah Cortes, Mark Dover, Araceli Castillo, Josie Rodriguez, Rachelle Morgan-Lewis, Laura Palmer, Allen Stroh, Cheryl Sandoval, Eric Tynan, Alma L. Morales

Closed Session

The Board adjourned to closed session at 6:00 p.m.

Reconvene to open session

The Board reconvened at 7:43p.m.

Reports of Actions Taken in Closed Session

There were no actions taken in closed session.

Adoption of the Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Laage, seconded by Mrs. Polly Jimenez to approve the agenda.

Business From the Floor

There was no business from the floor.

Board Reports

Mr. Osorio reported that he attended North County High School's football game and the Community Alliance for Safety meeting. He added that there were key local leaders present (i.e. Judges, Monterey County Sheriff, Superintendents, District Attorney's office, Salinas Mayor) addressing gang issues in Monterey County. He explained that they are in the process of putting together a strategic plan on trying to resolve this issue. He added that the he is planning on attending the next meeting on November 18, 2009.

Mrs. Polly Jimenez reported that she has attended five Girls Inc. sessions and is very pleased with the girls' participation. She announced that Saturday, November 7, 2009, the SAT's will be given at the high school and walk-ins will be accepted.

Mr. Sam Laage reported that he attended the Regional Occupational Program (ROP) Executive Board Meeting at the high school. He stated that the program has been experiencing issues with ADA decreasing and the program could lose up to \$300,000 for the next year. He expressed that other school sites have ADA and infrastructure cost issues, but not North County. He added that these issues could have a massive deficit for the program and added that Mr. Randy Bangs, Executive Director for ROP, may need to make a presentation to the Board regarding the implications of the ROP budget.

Mr. DeAmaral reported that he attended the North County High School Football game and the Franklin play at the high school. He also announced that the North County Recreation Center and the North Monterey County Middle School will be hosting the Posada this year at the middle school site on December 5, 2009.

Consent Calendar

It was moved by Mr. Osorio, seconded by Mr. De Amaral to approve the consent agenda.

- Approval of October 15, 2009 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.
- Approval of October 15, 2009 Special Board Meeting Minutes.
- Approval of October 22, 2009 Special Board Meeting Minutes.
- Approval of Donations.
- Monterey County Reads 2009 Spring Semester Report.
- District English Learner Advisory Committee Minutes.
- Approval of Warrants as Listed.
- County Office of Education Approval of 2008-09 Unaudited Financial Report.
- LESBP (Lower Emissions Bus Program).
- Retrofit Grant Acceptance Agreement.
- Approval of employment of the following certificated employees: Judith Belden, effective 10/15/09; Jessica Belmonte, effective 10/20/09; Marlene Hedberg, effective 9/21/09; Mark Huckleberg, effective 10/27/09; Elliot Langford, effective 10/9/09; David Moore, effective 10/13/09; Kai Parker, effective 10/7/09; Abigale Procker, effective 10/20/09; Connie Reader, effective 10/9/09; Meagan Young, effective 10/14/09.
- Approval of classified employment –classified of the following listed: Maria Debora, effective 9/29/09; Jaime Lopez Meza, effective 10/16/09; Deanna Montgomery, effective 10/1/09; Rosa Saldana, effective 10/15/09.
- Approval of certificated leave without pay of the request of Marcia Maunder for Family Care Medical Leave from approximately October 26, 2009 through December 18, 2009.
- Approval of the following resignations-classified: Neil Capito, effective 10/6/09; Steve Campbell, effective 10/27/09; Ronney Grice, effective 10/22/09; Sharon A. Thompson, effective 12/25/09.
- Notifications of topics to be included in 2009-10 Collective Bargaining negotiations between the North Monterey County Unified School District (NMCUSD) and California School Employees Association (CSEA), Local Chapter 6.
- Approval of the agreement with Breon and Shaeffer Attorneys at Law.
- Approval of the agreement with Chapman University.
- Approval of the Field Study Experience contract agreement with California State University, East Bay.
- Approval of resolution 2009-1020 reducing a classified position that will take effect 2009-10 school year and remain in effect in subsequent years unless the position is reinstated.

Motion Carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Recognition and Acknowledgements

Superintendent Montenegro recognized Mrs. Diana Jimenez for being nominated and selected for the Human Rights Award from the United Nations Association of the United States of America, Monterey Chapter. He announced that on December 5, 2009 Mrs. Jimenez would be recognized at the Monterey Elks Lodge at a luncheon with a cost of \$28 per person. He added that the keynote speaker is Benjamin Todd Jealous National NAACP President.

Presentation on North Monterey County High School Potential New Scoreboard and Approval of Tax Identification Number for Fundraising

North Monterey County High School Students, Miss Araceli Cuentas and Miss Natalie Castro, gave a brief presentation on behalf of the Teen Leadership Council. They gave a brief overview on the potential new scoreboard for North Monterey County High School. They stated that it would cost about \$25,000 to replace the old scoreboard, but need support of the district and community. They stated that they are in the process of researching advertising cost and preparing a maintenance plan. They expressed that they hope to have the new scoreboard installed by the end of the 2009-10 school year.

Mrs. Jimenez asked if the Teen Leadership Council is merging with the district's Facilities Planning Committee. In response, Mr. Montenegro stated that the students have been working closely with the district and will continue to have the district's Facilities Planning Committee re-visit.

Mrs. Martha Chavarria, parent, added that Ms. Yvette Padilla and local CSUMB college students have been mentoring the Teen Leadership Council and helping them get prepared for marketing the new scoreboard.

Ms. Yvette Padilla added that the Teen Leadership Council along with two other CSUMB Student Service Learners are looking for assistance on researching advertising cost. She also added that the group of 10 high school students will concentrate on creating a maintenance plan for the scoreboard, which could help bring in future revenue for the football field.

Mr. Laage expressed that he was very pleased with the presentation and noticed that the students have been doing their homework and research.

Budget Development Process

Superintendent Montenegro reported on the Budget Development Process action plan and stated that the district is moving on to Phase VII- Site and Department Budget Development. He also reported on the District-Wide Trends and stated that the district is in the process of putting together a detailed list on the answers to the following questions: 1) In your capacity as a stakeholder what do you see as critical in maintaining a high level of performance in our department?; 2) What creative solutions could be utilized to maintain this high level of performance at our school/department? A consequent next step is to establish a Enhancement Revenue Committee based on input from focus groups on creative solutions to maintain a high level of performance at our schools/department.

Status on Echo Valley Water System and Federal Drinking Water Regulations

Superintendent Sergio Montenegro reported that on October 28, 2009, we were notified that the well water at Echo Valley School tested for arsenic and Mr. Eric Tynan, General Manger for Castroville Community, Mr. Richard Alan Strowe, Director of Environmental Health, and Cheryl Sandoval, Manager for Monterey County Health Specialist.

Ms. Sandoval gave a brief overview on Echo Valley Elementary School's arsenic water level. She explained that the water was tested at 12 parts per billion (ppb) for arsenic maximum containment level (MCL); this exceeds the 10ppb MCL set by new standards that became effective in California on November 28, 2008. As a result all drinking water at the school is being provided through bottled water. She added that the water from the well is tested weekly and will continue to be tested weekly.

Mr. Eric Tynan reviewed the data of arsenic levels and expressed that one drink of water will not cause problems.

Mr. Osorio asked about the arsenic removal process. In response, Ms. Sandoval gave an overview on the removal process and stated that the existing media, is not designed to specifically remove arsenic levels, and an iron treatment is currently being used to remove the arsenic.

Mrs. Diana Jimenez asked if the arsenic is in surrounding areas of the school. In response, Ms. Sandoval stated that there is a lot of problems in the surrounding area and suggested that people should be getting their water tested on a regular basis. She also presented a map of the areas that show the different levels of water.

Mr. Strowe expressed that it's getting a lot more expensive to bring water to the North County area due to major obstacles in the water systems. He added that it's only been a year since the Monterey County Health Department adopted that new arsenic level standards and is obligated under state code to bring water back to under the arsenic level.

Mr. Ken Jordan, Central Bay High School Principal, asked who maintains the water levels at each school sites. In response, Mr. Jon Lorensen, Director of Facilities, stated that the district monitors the wells with four different filters, and the rest is contracted out.

Mrs. Diana Jimenez asked if in the interim bottled water is being provided to Echo Valley Elementary students. Mrs. Rachelle Morgan-Lewis, Echo Valley Elementary Principal, stated that five gallon bottle water is being provided in the classrooms and all faucets have been turned off. She added the water is only being used to wash the student's hands.

Mrs. Diana Jimenez asked how we develop a long term solution. In response, Mr. Lorensen stated that currently there is a consultant/engineer working on a proposal in conjunction with Monterey County Fire Department for a hydropneumatic tank for the arsenic removal water treatment plant. He added that they are looking into a \$200,000 40-year loan. Mr. Tynan added that we should continue the iron treatment before we hire a consultant.

Mrs. Jimenez asked if we need permits to install a new tank, and if so, how long will it take. In response, Mrs. Sandoval stated that the plans would need to be looked at beforehand, and it would only take days for approval. She added that they would still do the weekly testing.

Mrs. Jimenez thanked Mr. Tynan for volunteering his time.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Elkhorn Elementary School and Central Bay High School Narrative Report

Elkhorn Elementary School

Ms. Sandra Cuevas, Elkhorn Elementary School Principal, gave a brief overview on Elkhorn Elementary School data and stated that the school grew by four points and her Math scores were higher than Language Arts. She added that her staff has been working really hard to meet the needs of all of the students and currently they are looking into research-based strategies that will improve teaching and meet the needs of the students not only on the CST's.

She gave an explanation on the trends and success of the school and stated that with the increase of students in subgroups there were slight gains in all subgroups except white, which we had a decrease. She added that the literacy coaches also spent time with the teachers in helping them use curriculum better and planning lessons to target specific groups. She added that teachers met at grade levels and analyzed their data to finalize and get more specific on their goals for student achievement. She was also happy to report that the second grade CST data went up drastically in Language Arts-they went from 21% to 32% proficient and in math 25% to 69% proficient. She added that the second grade teachers meet regularly with each other and the curriculum coaches.

She reported on the next steps for school year 2009-2010: 1) Staff working with Michael Butler from Public Works on how PLCs function and the Cycle of Inquiry; 2) Continue to investigate different methods of intervention program (during and after school) and which will be successful with our student population; 3) Make sure that the grade level goals, math and language arts are connected to the data and relevant to what students are lacking; 4) Have a comparison on how ELs have been doing on the CELDT test for the last 3 or 4 years; 5) Articulation and APT days to have more focus on data analysis and what staff can do with the data once they receive it and have picked some area(s) of focus; 6) Provide more opportunities for parent education trainings/night.

Mr. Osorio expressed that he liked the way the API/ AYP chart was put together, but would like to know why numbers in the subgroups don't match. In response, Mrs. Cuevas stated that subgroup totals do not add up to total students tested because some students are in more than one subgroup.

Mr. Laage asked if there is any hypothesis on why the white population is dropping and the percentage of proficient. In response, Mrs. Cuevas stated that there are less students testing, class sizes are higher and it's making it harder on some teachers.

Mrs. Diana Jimenez stated that even though their API score dropped, it's still above 700 and commended the staff and parents.

Mrs. Cuevas announced that the Fall Festival at Elkhorn Elementary school will be held on November 6, 2009.

Central Bay High School

Mr. Ken Jordan, Central Bay High School Principal, gave a brief overview on Central Bay High School and stated that it serves as the academic emergency room. He expressed that his staff is fully committed and focused on preparing all students for graduation. He explained that a big obstacle of graduation for many students is the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), and his staff has been successful in reducing this major barrier into a reachable goal. He added that in the history of Central Bay High School only two students have failed to graduate because of the CAHSEE exam, and the success of Central Bay is a result of an extremely dedicated staff and solid support from the District.

Mr. Jordan introduced his staff: Roberto Lavato, Carlos Moran, Cynthia Lipsig, Louis Flint, Toni-Lynn Chetirkin and Michael Ruiz a student at Central Bay High School.

Mr. Jordan shared the results and trends of their API scores and expressed that the multi-year data analysis instrument to evaluate the merits is based on small numbers of students, and therefore should be carefully interpreted. He gave an example of the 2007-2009 API growth and stated that for the 2006-2007 school years the school dropped to -112 points than in 2007-2008 school year gained 105. He explained this is a small example on how the schools population fluctuates, but that overall the trend is upward.

Mr. Jordan reported on the successful attributes of his site and stated that there is continued strong student attendance, all identified students are enrolled in the CAHSEE preparation classes, all staff has been provided with current student academic data, and the implementation of an After-School-Assistance-Program is in place. He also reported on the challenges and areas of improvement and stated that there is an annual turnover rate of 87%, continued efforts to address greater parent engagement and address the needs of migrant student population, and continued focus on ELL students by implementing strategies to address their academic needs.

Ms. Toni-Lynn Chetirkin, Central Bay High School Counselor, gave an overview on the school's counseling services. She stated that the counseling focus areas are 67% Mental Health Issues, 15.29% Academic Progress, and 17.71% Discipline Problems. She reported that she had a total of 469 session for school year 2008-2009, which included parent substance abuse and poverty, student substance abuse, grief and trauma, interpersonal conflict, mental health diagnosis, and history of abuse.

Mrs. Polly Jimenez expressed that she is impressed with the Central Bay High School staff and was impressed with students' behavior when she was substitute teacher for the school.

Mr. Michael Ruiz, student, expressed that before he attended Central Bay High school he was getting straight "F's" at North Monterey County High School and was happy to report that he is now getting straight "A's". He added that he is also typing at 70 words per minute.

Mrs. Diana Jimenez expressed that this is a great option for students that need the additional help. She thanked the staff for all their hard work.

Mr. Laage suggested that it would be a great collaboration between the high school MESA program and Central Bay students. He asked Ms. Lipsig to see if her students are interested in the MESA program or are interested in a friendly competition.

Student Achievement: Update on 2008-09 Student Subgroup Achievement Data Results

This item was tabled.

BUSINESS SERVICES

Letter from Monterey County Office of Education Regarding Budget Reduction Plan

Ms. Monica Williams presented a letter from Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) approving the district's 2009-10 budget. Based on their review, MCOE had the following comments: 1) they noted that the district has not settled negotiations with bargaining units for 2008-09 or 2009-10. They recommended that if collective bargaining agreements result in additional ongoing costs that the district make additional reductions in expenditures; 2) They noted that we have sufficient spending in the unrestricted general fund; 3) They noted that our multi-year projections indicated we would need to make as yet unidentified reductions to our 2010-11 and 2011-12 budgets; 4) They noted that the federal stimulus dollars are one-time, and we will need to prepare for impact when the federal dollars are no longer available.

Ms. Williams stated that MCOE sent us a reminder that they are requiring the district to submit a detailed action plan for 2010-11 and 2011-12 budget reductions with our First Interim Report, no later than December 15, 2009. She added that MCOE is also requiring a Board Resolution for Budget Reduction to be submitted with the First Interim report.

This item was presented as an informational item.

Public Hearing Regarding Bid for Beverage Contract Including Non-nutritious Beverages

Mrs. Kathleen Cunnane, Director of Child Nutrition and Mr. Mark Dover, NMCHS Activities Director, gave a brief overview on the two proposals that were received at the District Office from Coca Cola Bottling Company of California and 7-up Bottling Company of San Francisco for the exclusive beverage contract for North Monterey County Unified School District.

Mrs. Cunnane expressed that neither proposals meet the needs of the district. Mr. Dover added that there are no benefits to the district. They are recommending that the two proposals be rejected.

It was moved by Mr. DeAmaral, seconded by Mrs. Polly Jimenez to reject both proposals. Motion Carried 5-0.

Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) Financial Update

Mr. Jon White of Chilton & Associates is present to discuss current market conditions and to discuss issuing of Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCBs). Mr. White gave a powerpoint presentation regarding the new information on QSCB's under the current market conditions which are no longer interest free, but rather a tax credit program which requires additional interest.

Mr. White reported that the QSCBs is a new form of tax-credit bond where investors receive tax credits rather than interest payments from issuers, and NMCUSD received a \$10 million allocation. He explained that the district may issue the full \$10 million allocation or less, with any unused portion being returned to CDE for relocation. The district has 3 years to spend the money and is required to encumber 10% within 6-months of issuance (approximately June 15, 2009) the grant of a 3-month extension, the District will have until March 31, 2010, to sell and close the QSCBs issue. Since last discussing QSCBs with the Board several QSCBs have come to market giving him a better understanding of market conditions.

Mr. White gave an explanation on different market considerations for the district and stated that the district finance team will have to work diligently to develop market interest and to persuade investors to buy district QSCBs. Since the tax credit only is no longer viable, the district may wish to consider either adding a supplemental interest rate or selling the QSCBs at a discount, substantially decreasing the proceeds.

Mr. White gave the following two options: 1) The district could apply the \$5.58 million from the State towards the payment in full of its outstanding \$5.11 million COP; but this option would leave little financial resources from which to repay the QSCBs, perhaps forcing the district to forego the QSCBs money; 2) The District could leave the COPs outstanding, invest the \$5.58 million from the State and the \$1.2 million in Fund 40 in a higher yielding investment vehicle (3% return as opposed to the 1% option currently available at the County or LAIF), and using the cash flow from this investment to make payments on the COPs and QSCBs for approximately 5-6 years.

Mrs. Jimenez expressed that this information is very discouraging and now we are looking at paying interest on a \$10 million dollar loan during these times. Mr. John Dominguez, School Site Solutions, expressed that the district needs to apply for the QSCBs and we had no idea that the market was going to do this. He suggested that the district file for an extension with the Department of Education.

Mr. Osorio asked why the QSCBs are no longer interest free. In response, Mr. White stated that QSCBs never existed until September 19, 2009 and now there is no market for tax credit at 0%, which investors don't like. Mr. Laage expressed that the market is volatile and the district will pay.

Mrs. Jimenez stated that the bottom line is that there is no free money. Mr. White recommended that the district ask for extension so they could continue to explore their options.

The Board consensus was to explore further options and ask for a 90-day extension.

Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) Facilities Study Session

Ms. Williams reported that at our last meeting the District Facilities Committee gave a brief report regarding the QSCBs including their facility priorities. The following are the facilities priorities in order: 1) Complete High School fire alarm system; 2) Campus-wide upgrades and repair at Castroville Elementary School, including replacing re-locatable classroom with 2-story modular building and restroom; 3) Address ADA settlement issues at the High School; 4) Complete Echo Valley ADA as required by DSA for project close-out with certification; 5) Repair restroom floor at Central Bay High School; 6) Repair High School fire damage restroom.

Mr. Dominguez expressed that Castroville school identified 14-15 priority items at their school site.

Mrs. Martha Chavarria, expressed that the district needs to look into the modular buildings that are being stored before we can't use them.

Mrs. Kristi Burns, Castroville School Elementary Vice Principal, expressed her concerns regarding the facilities at Castroville and stated that it has a lot of needs and we should fix what we have along with putting in the new modular buildings.

Mrs. Ana Nunez, parent, expressed that we need to fix everything at Castroville School especially if want safe schools.

Ms. Araceli Castillo, Castroville School Elementary Teacher, mentioned that she is advocating for an expansion in the cafeteria and is asking for Board support to make improvements at Castroville School.

Mr. Osorio expressed that he doesn't want parents going away thinking that the Board isn't listening to their needs and concerns. He explained that we should take the \$10 million and go for a bond. He added that it's crucial that we let the community know that the district is investing in their schools.

Mr. Laage expressed that he is concerned about violating the Brown Act and feels that discussing a bond should be agendized in the future.

Mr. DeAmaral expressed that the priority list needs to be refined and list what are the most critical needs. Mr. Osorio added that he would also like to know what other schools needs are. Mr. Laage mentioned that Castroville Elementary School and the high school fire alarm continue to be at the top of the priority list.

The Board asked John Dominguez to bring back more information to the next Board meeting.

Approval of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) IDEA Budget

Ms. William gave a brief overview on the ARRA and stated that the funding source is designated for Special Education. She explained that this one-time funding and must be spent by September 2011. She explained that this one-time funding is funding a 1.0 FTE Resource Teacher and .4375 FTE Special Education Instructional Aide. She also added that Special Education is also funding one-time expenses related to web-based IEPs' (Individual Education Plan), being implemented countrywide.

It was moved Mr. Laage, seconded by Mrs. Polly Jimenez to approve the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) IDEA budget. Motion carried 5-0.

PERSONNEL

No items to report

Superintendent Reports

There were no items to report.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.