

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

Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2009

5:30 p.m.

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the North Monterey County Unified School District held on September 17, 2009.

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Absent

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

Nick Nelson, Dean Lines, Linda Lines, Natalie Navarro, Irene Austin, Justin Estigoy, Julie High, Virginia Morales Terran, Joel Teran Jr., Kim Link, Timmy Link, Marilyn McLoughlin, Kristi Burns, Aida Ramirez, Birch Badger, Sarah Turner, Rex Despair, John Dominguez, Eloise Milam, Christy Herring, Ayana MacShate, Martha Chavarria, Valerie Bigham, Margarita Palacios, Ofelia Navarro, Natalie Navarro, Brianna Baughman

Adoption of the Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Laage, seconded by Mrs. Polly Jimenez to approve the agenda with an amendment to table item K-III-2, Approval of 2008/09 Unaudited Actuals. Motion carried 4-0.

Business From the Floor

There was no business from the floor.

Board Reports

Mrs. Polly Jimenez reported that Girls Inc. at the high school is already in place and was also happy to report that on October 10th she will be helping with SAT testing at the high school with 113 students signed up to take the test.

Mr. Laage reported that he attended an ROP meeting with Dr. Linda Mann and North County High School Principal Terri Gill and reported that at this time there are no changes to funding.

Mrs. Diana Jimenez reported that starting October 26th at the Family Resource Center she will be conducting a 12-week course for anyone with a family member with a mental illness. She noted that she is volunteering her time and encourages families from North County to attend.

Consent Calendar

It was moved by Mrs. Polly Jimenez, seconded by Mr. Manuel Osorio to approve/amend the consent agenda. Motion Carried 4-0.

- Approval of September 3, 2009 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. \
- Approval of School Discipline Plans.

- 2009-2010 Articulation, Planning, and Training Plans.
- Approve Adoption of “Keeping Financial Records for Business” Workbook for ROP Recordkeeping Course
- School/Program of the Month Update
- Approve California Reading and Literature Project Memorandum of Understanding with North Monterey County Middle School for Professional Development for the 2009-10 School Year.
- Approve North Monterey County High School Field Trips.
- Approve resolution 2009-1012 reducing a classified position that would take effect with the 2009-2010 school year.
- Approval of employment of Krisma Donna Garcia as a Speech/Language Therapist-Variable Term Waiver.

Motion Carried 4-0.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Acknowledgements and Recognitions

Superintendent Montenegro recognized Castroville Elementary school staff members Marilyn McLoughlin, Kristi Burns and Aida Ramirez for continuing the First Tee of Monterey County After-School Program at Castroville School and securing funding from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation in the amount of \$7,500. Also, Castroville School Teacher Estella Lachino was recognized for volunteering her time during the after school program and this year’s summer program, and the Director of Programming for the First Tee Program Nick Nelson for all his help in bringing and supporting the program at Castroville Elementary School.

Mrs. Ramirez acknowledged Mrs. McLoughlin and Mrs. Burns for their collaboration with the directors of the First Tee Program for all their time in planning, scheduling and bringing the program to Castroville Elementary students. She stated that the students are motivated, excited and at the same time life skills, and conflict resolutions are being taught.

Mrs. Burns gave a brief explanation of what the program entails and stated that at the beginning of January the program was established during the after-school program for 3rd and 4th grade students. The program was for 1 ½ hours every other week and it taught basic golfing, life skills and communication skills. After 10-weeks the students were able to practice on Salinas Twin Creeks golf course covered by the First Tee program. She added that 150 students participated in the program.

Timmy Link, Castroville Elementary School student, expressed that golfing is really fun and he was excited to participate in the Wal-Mart First Tee open and meet celebrity golfers like George Lopez.

Justin Estigoy, Castroville Elementary School student, expressed that he has been involved in the First Tee program and also in the summer program.

Joel Terran, Castroville Elementary student, expressed that it’s a really fun program.

Natalie Navarro, Castroville Elementary student, expressed that she learned a lot of swinging and putting techniques.

Mrs. McLoughlin added that this has been a great opportunity for the students and they now know what a golf course looks like.

Ms. Estella Lochina, Castroville Elementary School teacher, expressed that the First Tee program has been a fantastic opportunity for her 3rd grade class. She stated that her students look forward to Wednesday’s golf lessons, and it has increased behavior and attendance. She added that most importantly it has reinforced positive behavior, self respect, self esteem and students have grown from the program. She added that she loves seeing her students shine.

Mr. Nick Nelson, Director of Programming for the First Tee Program, thanked the district for allowing the First Tee to work with Castroville Schools students and teach them youth development skills. He commended Castroville School Elementary for their commitment to the students and school.

Superintendent Montenegro recognized the following students with a certificate of excellence: Mariana Medina, Logan Gregg, Timmy Link, Justin Estigoy, Natalie Navarro, Brianna Baughman, Joel Terran and Paulina Medina.

Board Goals 2009-10 Update

Dr. Mann reported that the 2009 Program Improvement Status update and Academic Performance Index results are in. She explained that results from these assessments are used to evaluate student individual academic growth in the areas of math and language arts as well as site and district performance in these areas. Growth targets are established each year showing the required increase in academic achievement that sites and districts must reach in order to meet their state and federal goals. She explained that schools and districts that fail to meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets or Academic Performance Index (API) targets for annual student are designated Program Improvement (PI).

Dr. Julie High presented a powerpoint presentation on the State and Federal Accountability Results. She explained that the target for the State API Performance standard is 800. She reported that from 2007-2009 there has been some steady growth at each school site. She reported that the district's API score is 650. The following schools API scores are: Central Bay High School, 511; Castroville Elementary School 628; North Monterey County Middle School and North Monterey County High School, 683; Echo Valley Elementary; Elkhorn Elementary School and the Independent Study Program, 703; And, Prunedale Elementary, 723.

She explained that only schools that receive Title 1 funding can be identified as Program Improvement (PI) and schools that are identified after missing AYP for two consecutive years. The district is required to carry out interventions and reforms that increase over time in PI and in order to exit PI status a school must make AYP for two consecutive years.

Dr. High reported that NMCHS, Central Bay High School, and the Independent Study Program are exempt from program improvement. The district is in year one of PI; Elkhorn Elementary is in Year 2; Prunedale Elementary is in Year 4; Castroville Echo Valley Elementary, North Monterey County Middle School are in Year 5. She added that although Echo Valley Elementary School met AYP target this year and will exit PI if targets are met next year.

Mrs. Ramirez expressed that her demographics are very different from the other elementary school sites in the district and Monterey County Schools. She mentioned that she did some research to compare Castroville School to other California schools and found that her school is the most comparable to urban schools in Southern California. She stated that those schools have similar demographics and have API scores in the 700's. She added that she is planning on partnering up with other similar schools that are also in program improvement status to get additional information to help raise Castroville School's scores.

Superintendent Montenegro added that Castroville Elementary school reminds him of an urban school and has different dynamics that the other elementary schools.

Superintendent Montenegro also commended Echo Valley Elementary school for making huge strides and gains in their API scores. He acknowledged Principal Rachelle Morgan-Lewis for all her hard work.

Dr. Mann explained that all schools would fall under PI because it's at the district level. She added that Michael Butler, Public Works Consultant, will be doing a presentation on what all the ramifications would be for the district.

Ms. Sara Turner, Prunedale Elementary School Teacher, expressed that the school has good scores and it's a reflection of staff working hard. She added the last year's there was some staffing issues and feels that substitute teachers should not be teaching in the class for an extended period of time.

Ms. Williams reported that the additional items for Goal #2 are: Develop our facilities to the level that our community and students deserve. The following items were added ; 1) The QSCB Financial Study Session; 2) High school parking lot and lighting project; 3) QSCB Facilities Study Session; And, 4) Provide a history of construction and modernization projects.

Ms. Williams reported that as part of the process for determining potential use of QCSB's the district will be reviewing history and status of district construction and modernization projects. This information will be incorporated into the QSCB Facilities Study Session. The recommended process is that the district go through 10 million dollar construction bond.

Mrs. Jimenez requested that an updated list of the modernization projects be distributed to the Board. In response, Ms. Williams stated that she would provide a list before the November Board meeting.

This item was presented as an information/discussion item.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Infinite Campus Student Information System Update

Dr. Julie High gave a brief update on the process of implementing a new student information system, Infinite Campus. She gave a brief background on the previous student informational system SASIxp and stated that every school had their own data. She added that overall the secretaries felt that they were wasting time their time with the SASIxp system.

Dr. High explained the new Infinite Campus student information system and reported that the system has the following components: 1) Teachers take roll on a computer connected to the internet; 2) Teachers can use an online grade book that automatically calculates grades for progress reports and final grades; 3) Special Education staff can document IEP meetings; 4) Personal Learning Plans can be created for any student-to document accommodations and intervention services; 5) Households can be described accurately; 6) Parents can determine communication access rights; 7) There will be a parent portal and a student portal where student attendance, fees, grades, and school information can viewed.

Dr. High gave a brief overview regarding the implementation of the informational system and stated that all the new computers were set in classrooms that did not have functioning computer connected to the internet, and all user accounts were set up for over 400 different users. She added that all teachers took attendance on computers the 1st day of school.

Dr. High reported on the next steps in implementing the student informational system. She stated that there are still some completions of the systems that need to take place and open the parent portal and inform parents about portal use.

Mrs. Eloise Milam expressed that she is grateful to leaders for putting this program together and she's one of the coaches that is helping spearhead this project.

Mr. Laage asked if the teachers could use this system as an online yearbook. In response, Dr. Mann stated that there are already using it for grading and it will be much easier for progress reports.

Ms. Birch Badger, Prunedale School Elementary Teacher, commented that the grade book at the elementary school is going to translate different on to the report card, since it's a different reporting system.

Mrs. Eloise Milam stated that the student information system will get faster and registration for students will start earlier.

Mrs. Diana Jimenez commented that it's a good progress and it's a transitional process on getting students registered.

Mrs. Ramirez expressed that it's been a very stressful process on the her administrative assistants and commended Dr. High for getting the student systems up.

Presented as an information item.

Closed Session

The Board adjourned to closed session at 6:45 p.m.

Reconvene to open session

The Board reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

Reports taken in Closed Session

There were no items to report.

BUSINESS SERVICES

Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) Financial Study Session

Ms. Williams reported that at the August 20, 2009 Board meeting the Board approved Resolution 2009-1008 authorizing filing an application for a Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB). She reported that the Financial Study Session is the next step and Rex Despain, President of School Facilities Finance, LLC, and John Dominguez of School Site Solutions, Inc are presenting to the board fiscal planning for repayment options. She added that Mr. Despain has 20 years experience in School Facilities Finance and Mr. Dominguez is a facilities planning for the district.

Mr. Dominguez reported on meeting school facilities needs and stated that over the next 9-years, the District projects that it will have 401 un-housed students and currently the District has no state eligibility for new construction. He also went over other potential funding sources for constructing school facilities.

Mr. Despain gave a brief overview on what are Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCBs). He explained that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was passed to improve the condition of the nation's financial markets and to promote growth in the economy. QSCBs are new form of tax-credit bond whereby investors receive tax credits rather than interest payments from issuers. He added that the maximum term is around 15-years and tax credit is determined by the IRS. And, QSCBs are limited in availability and California's allocation to school districts is \$773 million. He explained that QSCBs proceeds can be used for construction, rehabilitation or repair of a school facility, purchase of a site for a school facility, or equipment for facilities included in construction projects.

Mr. Despain reported that California Department of Education received 231 applications for QSCBs and allocated the full \$773 million to 43 school district and NMCUSD was the 19th school district that was chosen to and received a \$10 million allocation. He explained that the allocation provides that: 1) The district has until December 31, 2009 to issue the QSCBs; 2) The District may issue the full \$10 million allocation or less, with any unused portion being returned to CDE for reallocation; 3) The District has 3-year to spend the money and is required to encumber 10% within 6-months of issuance.

Mr. Despain reported on the district situation and stated that finances are tight and it may be difficult to identify funds for repayment of the 10 million. The District is in line to receive \$5.8 million from the State Facilities Program and currently has \$1.2 million in Fund 40. In regards to the State money, the State has \$5.8 billion of authorized but as yet unsold school debt.

Mr. Despain gave different options for repayment the \$10 million. He stated that 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 very little financial resources from which the repay the QSCBs, perhaps forcing the District to forego the \$10 million in QSCBs money. Also, the District could leave the COPs outstanding, investment the money, using the cash flow from this investment to make payments on the COPs and QSCBs for approximately 8-years.

During the 8-year period in which the District would have sufficient fund balance to service the COPs and QSCBs, the District could vote to support a GO Bond and use a portion of the Bonds to pay off the COPs. In the 2018 there would be a COP balance of \$4.03 million and \$3.8 million of future QSCBs deposits to be made. If the COPs were paid off in full, the District would be released of a \$335,000 annual obligation, effectively reducing the net QSCB deposit to approximately \$200,000.

Mr. Dominguez mentioned that the district would need to use the formula the state uses and set priorities on where we are going with the \$10 million.

Mr. DeAmaral expressed his concerns regarding the 15-year pay back of the \$10 million and stated if we can't pass facility budget what is our long term plan. In response, Mr. Despain stated that the district could raise \$66 million in bonds based assessed values on property of District. Ms Williams also mentioned that developer fees could be used.

Mr. Despain expressed that it's a risk either way, especially if you do nothing. He added by improving facilities, test scores could also improve.

Mr. Destain presented the timeline and stated that the Board needs to approve financing and adopt resolutions approving legal documents at the November 5, 2009 Board Meeting.

Mr. Dominguez mentioned that there is a ton of facility discovery planning and time is of essence and we need to get started.

Mrs. Diana Jimenez stated that in the past the Board received updating on all the different modernization projects and it would help to have something like that for each school. She added that visually the Board needs to see what challenges are ahead.

Superintendent Montenegro stated that the QSCBs money have a time limit of 3-years.

The consensus is that the Board wants and needs the money. Mr. Despain to start the legal document process and put a plan together on how the district is to pay the money back.

Approve 2008/09 Unaudited Actuals

It was moved by Mr. De Amaral, seconded by Mrs. Polly Jimenez to table this item.

PERSONNEL

(There are no items to report)

Superintendent Reports

Superintendent Montenegro reported that he met with Dr. Bill Barr former Monterey County Superintendent, Mr. Dominguez, and Mr. Despain regarding the QSCBs. He attended an Echo Valley Staff Meeting, met with North County Recreation Center Director Judy Burditt and attended a LULAC meeting. He also reported that he had H1N1 training at every site and at the district office.

There being no other business the Board adjourned at 8:24 p.m.