

Oxnard Union High School District

Oxnard, California

Minutes of the September 13, 2007, special meeting of the Board of Trustees

1. **OFFICIAL OPENING OF MEETING:** The special meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order by President Jaquez at 2:00 p.m.

Trustees present:

Dick Jaquez, President
Irene Pinkard, Vice President
Socorro López Hanson, Member
Robert Q. Valles, Member

Administration present:

Jody Dunlap, Superintendent
Roger Rice, Assistant Superintendent-Human Resources
Martha Mutz, Assistant Superintendent-Educational Services
Randy Winton, Assistant Superintendent-Business Services
Nancy R. Serros, Executive Assistant

Guests present: Phyllis Throckmorton, Ed Ellis, Al Velasquez, Doreen Learned, Chris Parker, Val Rains, Bob Burrow, Al Duff, Sr., John R. Hatcher, III, Nancy Lindholm, Becky Buettner, Chas Boyd, Walt Dunlop, Stephen McFarland, Kathleen Misewitch, Edward Bib, Linda Valdez, Sandy Berg, Tod Deardorff, and other interested persons.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Trustee Pinkard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** On motion of Trustee Valles, seconded by Trustee Pinkard and carried 4:0, the agenda was approved as submitted. *Items, questions and discussion were than considered in the order in which they appear in these minutes.*

(Late arrival)

Trustee Stocks arrived.

4. **PUBLIC MEETING AND DISCUSSION:**

President Jaquez stated *"There are some questions/concerns as to why the meeting was being held in the afternoon when everyone is working, and, there was an article in the paper that some of our critics mentioned that we are trying to hide something. We are not hiding anything; if we were we wouldn't be here. This meeting is an informational meeting, there will be more meetings, and we will get information out and allow for discussion and questions."*

President Jaquez asked members of the audience to sign-in so that notices and minutes could be sent to them and turned the meeting over to Superintendent Dunlap. Dr. Dunlap echoed President Jaquez' statement and announced Trustees would take no action during the meeting. She stated this was an opportunity for the Board of Trustees and members of the audience to dialogue over the information presented - specifically demographics, our housing capacity, and what might or might not be future needs of the district.

Dr. Dunlap introduced Dr. Tom Griffin, district counsel and facilitator. Dr. Griffin stated this meeting was for the Board to receive information from the public, for the public to ask questions and have questions addressed, and an opportunity for the Board and members of the audience to dialogue over the information presented. He explained the difference between a regular and special board meeting, the posting requirements for each and stated the District was well within the 24-hour requirement for today's meeting. He clarified that the meeting was not a continuation from last night's regularly scheduled Board meeting. He stated at least three areas would be addressed today 1) how many unhoused students does the district have, 2) what is the projected growth or decline, and 3) where are the unhoused students. Dr. Griffin introduced Assistant Superintendent-Business Services Randy Winton.

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Using a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Winton reviewed each topic on the Agenda (items are printed in italics and bolded); comments from Administrative Staff, Board of Trustees and the audience are included.

Current enrollment:

Comparative student enrollment as of September 11, 2007 from each of the comprehensive and alternative high schools was presented. Mr. Winton stated overall the District continues to grow at a slow rate.

Trustee López Hanson inquired how many students Pacifica and Oxnard were designed to house. Mr. Winton stated 2,200 to 2,500 students; each school is 1000 students over capacity.

Historic enrollment trends:

Over-all the District is growing, at a slow rate, even though the feeder districts are showing a decline in enrollment.

Current capacity of schools:

The comprehensive high schools' 541 classrooms are at capacity. Originally, schools were designed to house 2,220 to 2,500 students for a grand total of 13,775. Based on 2006-07 CBEDS count there are 15,733 students. There are a total of 1,998 "unhoused students" in portables.

Mr. Chris Williams, City of Oxnard
Planning Department

Mr. Williams commented that perhaps the eighth and ninth graders are switching over to private schools.

Project growth or decline:

Dr. Griffin stated the State conducts a census every year on the first Wednesday of October, this is the number the district uses to determine the growth or decline of incoming freshman. A ten-year projected growth chart was presented.

Mr. Al Duff, Sr., resident of Oxnard

Mr. Duff asked if the district was aware of the housing development along Hueneme Road and how many acres were required to build a high school.

Mr. Winton stated the district was interested in purchasing a 40 acre site near the Hueneme Road area, but was informed this was not a suitable site due to the proposed LNG Pipeline that runs close to the property, and 50-55 acres are required for a school site.

Mr. Duff further recommended the district consider building a high school west of Ventura Road going towards the ocean.

President Jaquez asked what affect the Camarillo base housing would have on the district.

Mrs. Velia Rains, resident of Camarillo
and former Pleasant Valley School
District Board of Trustee

Mrs. Rains commented only a few families remain in the Catalina Heights base housing, families are transferring out of the area, the entire area will be demolished, the Navy has contracted with a builder for new housing, and more units will be available than before with the military receiving first choice. Lastly, Ms. Rains reported completion is expected Fall of 2009.

Mr. Bob Burrows, City of Camarillo
Planning Commission

Mr. Burrows stated he met with the Navy earlier this week and reported the housing units will be completed by 2009. The units will be 3-4 bedrooms with Ventura County military families receiving first choice.

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Dr. Griffin stated the timeline for building a school is six years and there are currently 2,000 unhoused students. In the time that it takes to build a school – six years – the district would have an additional 1,000 unhoused students. He emphasized it was important to plan accordingly for the next six, eight and ten years; and asked the audience to please share their ideas, concerns or questions.

Mr. Alfred Velasquez, resident of Oxnard

Mr. Velasquez addressed the issue of enrollment projections. He stated it was very critical that the district receive the latest information on the cities of Camarillo and Oxnard. That projections be based on Master Plan Development, projects that are proposed, projects already approved, and projects on plan check and under construction. Mr. Velasquez opined, once this information is gathered, this information should dictate where the next school should be built.

Current condition of schools:

Older school infrastructure recently modernized -\$53 million and on-going school improvement projects with more than 50 major projects completed during summer of 2006.

Trustee López Hanson stated for clarification purposes that Adolfo Camarillo, Rio Mesa, Channel Islands and Hueneme high schools received \$50 million plus in renovations.

How long does it take to build a new school?

Timeline to build a new high school is six years. The majority of that time is spent waiting for the State to approve the plans.

Mr. John Hatcher, resident of Oxnard

Mr. Hatcher inquired as to how this affects unification.

Effect of Unification:

Mr. Winton stated there would be a need for a new regular high school to replace the continuation high school in Camarillo, and the unissued Measure H Bonds would stay with OUHSD.

Current enrollment by school boundary address:

Mr. Winton explained how the numbers were calculated for the next ten years and that students can attend schools other than their home/neighborhood school.

Superintendent Dunlap clarified there are several reasons why students do not enroll in their neighborhood schools: rules and regulations under No Child Left Behind, child care, program purposes, and the student may have a sibling attending another high school.

Ms. Val Rains

Ms. Rains provided further details on projects in eastern and western Camarillo where anticipated growth is projected and inquired what would happen to the 700-800 students who currently attend Rio Mesa.

Mr. Chris Williams

Mr. Williams reported on the development of River Park/Jones Ranch stating 2,500 additional units is anticipated and possibly a trade in commercial space for an additional 100 units for very low and moderate income families that will affect student numbers.

Trustee Valles asked Mr. Williams what the projected population and housing numbers are for the City of Oxnard. He stated up to the year 2040, the growth rate for Oxnard is between 2,500 to 3,000 additional people per year and 1,000 units per year.

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- Mr. Bob Burrows
- Mr. Burrows reported on the projected housing numbers for the City of Camarillo. He stated 350 units per year is the average, and long term until 2040 the city is tapped out. The housing pattern in Camarillo is outlined to preserve open space and the agricultural areas surrounding the city. He reported there is a decline in numbers throughout Ventura County.
- Mr. Alfred Velasquez
- Mr. Velasquez stated that from the numbers presented for both cities that Camarillo is showing a definite decline in numbers; whereas, the numbers have tripled in Oxnard – overcrowding exists in the city of Oxnard. Mr. Velasquez opined this should automatically dictate what direction the Board should take, there is horrific future build-out, and the city of Oxnard is in need of a school today vs. the decline in numbers in Camarillo. He further stated he was not present to choose where the high school should be built, but giving his observation based on the testimony and facts presented.
- Dr. Griffin commented that there is an increase in the number of retirees purchasing homes in Oxnard and Camarillo for the purpose of a vacation/weekend getaway home; thus the decline in growth for elementary and high school schools.
- Mr. Ed Ellis, resident of Oxnard
- Mr. Ellis opined overcrowding at the schools could possibly be connected to the multiple families living in one house.
- Current high school attendance boundaries / scenarios:*
- Mr. Winton presented several tentative attendance boundaries and school scenarios that could resolve the issues presented by overcrowding and unification. The tables show the projected enrollment of students over the next ten years, rough modeling of boundaries, and new schools.
- How large should schools be?*
- Several options were presented: a comprehensive high school(s); student academies; magnet schools; educational parks (property with facilities shared by elementary, middle, or high schools); or smaller learning communities.
- Trustee Stocks pointed out that smaller high schools mean additional administrative costs and same courses can not be offered as a large high school, and there are disadvantages.
- Who would pay the \$62,724 per pupil cost for a new high school?*
- Mr. Winton reported the State would pay 32 % of the cost, 62% from bond money and six percent from developer fees; if property is owned by the district it could be less.
- New high school cost model:*
- Mr. Winton reviewed the table for New High School Cost Model and stated the costs could vary.
- Mr. Chris Ochoa, district counsel
- Mr. Ochoa asked if the cost per pupil would fluctuate with the size of the high school, or if it was only operational costs that fluctuate. Mr. Winton stated it is based on the number of students you have.
- How should the schools be paid?*
- Mr. Winton reported the following options are available: Measure H bonds, purchase another general obligation bond, and the formation of a School Facilities Improvement District.

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President Jaquez commented that the district's bond has lost 40 to 50 percent of its value due to the long, drawn out unification process, and it is his opinion it is time to move forward.

Trustee Pinkard commented smaller learning communities of 500 provide higher student achievement, it is not necessary to have a principal per se but a director, there are ways of dealing with smaller communities, less costs in terms of staffing, and opined this seems like a good way to go.

Superintendent Dunlap reported that information published on smaller communities are positive "smaller is better"; however, it depends on how it is packaged.

Ms. Val Rains

Ms. Rains thanked Trustees for having the informational meeting and asked that when conclusions are reached that they be beneficial to both the communities, and on behalf of the citizens of Camarillo asked that a public meeting be held in Camarillo so that the citizens could attend and share their concerns.

Mr. Alfred Velasquez

In closing, Mr. Velasquez asked the Board to make a decision with a clear conscience and leave politics out, make a decision based on the needs of the community that has excessive overcrowding – Oxnard. He stated Camarillo is growing, but very gradually and when the Board makes a decision, make it for the betterment of the community that needs it.

Mr. Tim Weir, Director of Assessment, Accountability and Categorical Programs, Ventura County Office of Education

Mr. Weir reported, at the request of State Superintendent Jack O'Connell, Superintendent Dr. Charles Weis of Ventura County Schools Office formed the Ventura County High Performing High Schools Commission. The Commission, comprised of representatives from each of the districts in Ventura County, teacher unions, local institutions of higher education, representative work force, and community groups, spent many hours researching the types of learning communities that would produce a far greater number of graduates who are prepared for further education and the workplace. He encouraged Trustees to look beyond the "same old high school" setting and review the research presented by the Commission to help determine which changes to high schools will best work for the Oxnard Union High School District. Lastly, Mr. Weir stated this was the perfect opportunity for the district to design a new high school. Mr. Weir distributed copies of the Commission's report to Trustees and administrative staff. Additional copies for the public are available at the district office.

Dr. Rice informed Trustees the Report is available online at www.vcoe.org. He stated the report is such prepared in a series of recommendations based on school size, school structure, the infusion of technology, staff development and all the various elements that the research supports in running an effective high school and staff development.

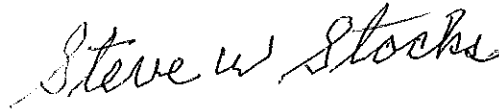
Trustee Stocks opined that various trends come along and the trend now is smaller is better, the key is successful teachers – if you have great teachers – you will succeed. He stated that in 2004 a bond issue for \$135 million was approved. At that time, the district could have built two schools. Unification came up and the district has lost a lot of money waiting for unification to be resolved. He recommended moving ahead and not loose any more of the bond money. Trustee Stocks said he appreciated Mr. Winton's presentation, and comments and questions from the audience.

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5. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further items of discussion, President Jaquez adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Steve W. Stocks, Clerk



Jody Dunlap, Ed.D., Secretary

Approved as read
(or approved as corrected)
October 10, 2007

ns: 09/28/07