

# Oxnard Union High School District

## Oxnard, California

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### Minutes of the May 11, 2006, special meeting of the Board of Trustees

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#### CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Oxnard Union High School District was called to order by President Socorro López Hanson at 8:30 a.m., May 11, 2006, in the District Office Board Room.

Trustees present: Socorro López Hanson, Dick Jaquez, Irene Pinkard, Steve W. Stocks, and Bob Valles.

Trustees absent: None.

Student Representative: Absent.

Administration present: Dr. Jody Dunlap, Superintendent, Ms. Judy Warner, Assistant Superintendent-Educational Services, and Ms. Sherrill Tucker, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.

Guests present: Dr. Tom Griffin, Attorney at Law, Lou Cunningham, and Steve McFarland.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Steve W. Stocks led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On motion of Trustee Jaquez, seconded by Trustee Valles and carried, the agenda was adopted, as presented. *Items were then considered in the order in which they appear in these minutes.*

#### AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

There were no audience reports or communications.

#### WORKSHOP: OUHSD CONSTRUCTION OPTIONS

Superintendent Dunlap stated that today's agenda is to give Board members an opportunity to talk about a number of things going on in the district: Land acquisition - needs and costs; enrollment, etc. Dr. Griffin is available to answer questions and to provide his input and ideas during today's meeting.

Dr. Griffin provided an update on the meeting of the County Committee on School District Organization. Dr. Griffin stated that the purpose of the meeting was to receive a report from their environmental attorney, Mitch Kahn, and their consulting firm, Environmental Consultants, Inc. Pleasant Valley School District Superintendent Tom Dase and Board member Sandra Berg urged the Committee not to expand the scope of the environmental study because the construction of a new high school on the Somis site is not a realistic option for housing the 750 unhoused Pleasant Valley students. Dean Dennis summarized his letter to the Committee in which he outlined several areas of environmental impact that needed to be addressed, including construction on the Somis site. Dr. Griffin reiterated that he told the Committee in March 2005 that the process was both expensive and lengthy but was inherent in the legislation which the proponents wrote. None of the costs or delay is attributable to the Oxnard Union High School District. Mr. Kahn and Environmental Consultants agreed with the OUHSD position on the scope of the environmental study. It is being expanded at a cost to the County Committee of \$65,000.00. The following is a probable timeline:

- Preparation of a Draft EIR - Early October 2006
- Posting of the EIR and 45-day comment period - Early October to mid-December 2006
- County Committee meets to adopt EIR and take action on Unification - End of November 2006

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Dr. Griffin opined that this timeline is very optimistic. It is possible that the EIR process could be delayed six to eight weeks resulting in the last meeting being in January, rather than November. He also opined that members of the Committee seem determined to approve Unification regardless of the EIR or the criteria.

Trustee Stocks asked if there is anyway that the Board can expedite any of this? June 2007 is the fastest that it can go to the voters. In answer to a question about the original petition to the State, Dr. Griffin said it is third in line at the State Board of Education. President López Hanson asked if OUHSD decides to build a school in Somis, can the same EIR be used? Yes. Is there a timeline? Dr. Griffin explained that the EIR can be used as long as it is still current. Trustee Pinkard echoed Trustee Stocks' comments in asking if the district can afford to wait to build new facilities. Trustee Valles said he is at the point where he would like to see this thing go to the voters.

President López Hanson asked for a summary. More than likely, the EIR will be approved. In July 2007, it is likely that the State will hear the appeal at the earliest. After that there are no more appeals. The State's action is the final word. Dr. Griffin feels there is a 50-50 chance the State will not approve the AB 780 petition or the citizens' petition. He offered another case scenario where the County doesn't get to it until March 2007. It would then go to the State in September or November of 2007 and onto the ballot in 2008, rather than November 2007. Dr. Griffin stated that this is probably a more realistic timeline.

Dr. Griffin then directed the discussion to district needs and what to do about the bond. Are Trustees interested in a new administration building? Are Trustees interested in replacing Hueneme High School with a small magnet-type school. In terms of declining enrollment and demographics, Dr. Griffin presented a chart using the CBEDS figures reflected in the consultant's report to the County. High school growth has slowed, reflecting a decline in the elementary school districts. According to Dr. Griffin, there is not enough data to consider building a new school. The decline in elementary enrollment is going to catch up to the high school district. Dr. Griffin reviewed enrollment trends and reported that California is growing by 400,000 people per year, mostly immigrants and their children. Everything else is stable. The housing market is very expensive. Older people without kids are buying new homes. Superintendent Dunlap stated that the "formulas" don't work anymore, meaning there is no longer a formula that can project an accurate number of kids for enrollment.

Assistant Superintendent Judy Warner reported on the history of Foothill High School in Ventura. About six years ago, Ventura had two high schools that were both getting overcrowded; however, they knew they were on a downhill slope so they came up with a smaller magnet-type school. Foothill High School was built on 5 acres of land in 1999-2000 for \$15 million.

Trustee Pinkard suggested adjusting boundaries and building a small magnet school in Oxnard. Trustee Valles asked how many portables are in the entire district? Mr. Cunningham estimated about 150 and stated that if the portables were eliminated, about 700 students would need a school. Trustee Stocks stated the district has two pieces of property right now that are really worth a lot of money. Dr. Griffin said he thinks it would be a terrible mistake to build a comprehensive school in Somis. President López Hanson said she likes the idea of replacing Hueneme High School. Superintendent Dunlap asked if the funding to replace a school is significant - would the district get as much help from the State? Mr. Cunningham responded by saying no. The district does have eligibility for about 3,500 unhoused kids right now. Trustee Stocks stated he is not in favor of replacing Hueneme High School.

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The \$135 million bond is now probably equal to about \$85 to \$90 million in buying power. Superintendent Dunlap mentioned the 27 acres behind Oxnard High School. Many districts and organizations have asked to use the property. The overcrowding at Oxnard and Pacifica High Schools needs to be addressed. Trustees might consider opening a small learning center, maybe only 1 or 2 grades, and not have to worry about boundary changes.

Discussion held regarding the transportation encroachment and the high cost of gasoline. It was suggested that the district look into sharing public transportation.

Trustee Stocks said Board members need to "visit" small school sites.

Trustee Jaquez summarized that Trustees are looking at a magnet-type school, possibly behind Oxnard High School, that would help Oxnard and Pacifica High Schools. Trustees will begin looking at different models for magnet schools. Superintendent Dunlap stated that right now, attendance at Rio Mesa High School is going up, Adolfo Camarillo, Oxnard and Pacifica High Schools are holding, and Channel Islands and Hueneme High School's enrollment is down.

Trustee Jaquez stated again his understanding that the district will begin looking at small schools instead of spending a lot of money on a comprehensive high school, only to have to close it down the road.

President López Hanson said she wanted to talk about the district office facilities. Assistant Superintendent Randy Winton had provided information about the needs of the district, from air conditioning and heating, totaling a couple of million dollars. She questioned putting anymore money into the structure, and suggested it might be smarter to begin looking at replacing the district office. Trustee Stocks said the district has explored this in the past and, at one time, thought of buying the old Press Courier building, then the old GTE Telephone office, the old Abex facility on Fifth Street, and the new GTE building off of Rice Avenue. Mr. Stocks suggested looking at the Bank of A. Levy building downtown, and Trustee Valles suggested the Elks Building. Trustee Pinkard said it makes more sense to look at something that is already built. There are some buildings around the city that would do well to look at. Mr. Cunningham said the district would need somewhere between 45-50,000 square feet of space. He suggested the new commercial development going in at Del Norte.

Dr. Griffin agreed with Trustee Pinkard and talked about "thinking outside the box." He suggested Trustees may wish to begin thinking about housing for employees.

Trustee Stocks talked about "Eminent Domain" and said we are here for kids so let's not get political. If we need to claim eminent domain then we need to.

President López Hanson asked where the district goes from here? Should Trustees ask staff to begin looking at sites; should Trustees visit schools; should a committee be established to provide options for a new district office?

#### SUMMARY

- Will begin looking for sites to visit for magnet schools.
- Will begin to look at pulling kids from two schools for a magnet school.
- Will explore the possibility of visiting a combination of magnet schools on one site.

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- Will begin the process of looking for a new district office facility and establish a committee to visit the sites. Mr. Cunningham was asked to begin looking at possible sites for a new district office.

President López Hanson stated that she personally would like to serve on the committee looking for new school sites.

Trustees were reminded that the district has an excellent resource in Ms. Judy Warner, who helped design, build, and open Foothill High School in Ventura, and served as its principal for two years.

Dr. Griffin then outlined some options if the district assumes unification is going to pass or not pass. What can change in the next 3-5 years? Does the OUHSD need another high school in north Oxnard? Is there a need for a high school in Somis? If unification passes, what are the district's needs? The district is going to need a high school in north Oxnard. Pleasant Valley School District Superintendent Dr. Dase stood up at the County Committee meeting last night and said there was no need for a high school on the Somis property.

Unification or not, there is still a need for a high school in Oxnard and there is really no need to delay. The district will also begin exploring magnet school sites. Need to think about a strategy to roll this out to the public.

Trustee Valles suggested that Dr. Griffin provide some guidelines from his experience with magnet/charter schools. Dr. Griffin said he could set something up in Sacramento to visit their magnet/charter schools. He reported that they are finding administrative costs to be a real problem with smaller schools. However, they have adopted bell to bell learning and test scores are way up.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, Board President López Hanson adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Irene Pinkard, Ed.D, Clerk

Jody Dunlap, Ed.D, Secretary

st:5/17/06