

San Mateo-Foster City School District Minutes

SPECIAL MEETING~BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 13, 2020, 4:30 PM

1170 Chess Drive

Foster City, CA 94404

1. CALL TO ORDER: 4:30 PM

The Special Board Meeting was called to order at 4:31 pm.

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. ROLL CALL

All Board members were present:

Kenneth Chin
Noelia Corzo
Rebecca Hitchcock
Alison Proctor
Shara Watkins

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: February 13, 2020 (v)

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Kenneth Chin and a second by Alison Proctor.

Yes Kenneth Chin
Yes Noelia Corzo
Yes Rebecca Hitchcock
Yes Alison Proctor
Yes Shara Watkins

5. STATEMENTS

5.1. Public Statements related to agenda item(s). Please limit statements to three minutes.

Public Comments:

Randi Paynter requested that material for the Special Board meetings be available for the public that attend the meetings.

6. SUPERINTENDENT SERVICES/BOARD

6.1. Study Session - Transportation Program in the San Mateo-Foster City School District

Patrick Gaffney, Chief Business Official, presented a short history of voluntary desegregation in the District, cost of the transportation program, routes, students served, partnership with SamTrans, challenges, and concerns. He noted that the District is seeking options for improvement in transportation. He shared that some of the challenges include a trend in losing instructional time due to buses being late, difficulty in retaining drivers, traffic issues, and parents drop offs slowing down bus drop offs. He provided a summary of monitoring routes for on-time and late schedules for both programs, General and Special Education.

Dr. Rosas presented potential options to alleviate the transportation challenges such as changing route schedules, changing bell schedules, change drop-off/ pick-up times (which would affect the bell schedules). Another option she suggested was changing to quadrants, which may attract smaller bus transportation companies to bid.

Board Comments:

Trustee Watkins was interested in seeing data of the sites whose students are significantly late and broken down by General Education and Special Education groups. She also thought that the District should place students in their own neighborhood schools. She is open to the idea of changing the bell schedules to have students be on time for school and that this should be communicated to the parents as early as possible.

Trustee Corzo thanked Mr. Gaffney for the presentation and asked questions regarding transportation costs and how to retain bus drivers. She asked about the previous transportation partnership with the San Mateo Union High School District. Dr. Rosas noted that years ago SMUHSD increased their fees substantially, an amount that the District could not afford. As a result, the District went out for an RFP.

Trustee Hitchcock wanted to make sure that details are communicated should a new plan be implemented. She asked to look into getting free bus passes for socioeconomically disadvantaged students.

Trustee Chin also thanked Mr. Gaffney for the presentation and appreciated the history on desegregation. He wanted to see a percentage column and a breakdown of the two programs, General Education and Special Education, to make an informed decision. He thought that one bid is not enough for a competitive process and the District should look for other methods of transportation.

Public Comments:

Deborah Carson shared that Highlands changed their morning bell schedule and provided early hours of library use to accommodate a new bus schedule. She thought that there are options such shifting bell schedules for a later start since after 9:00 am all buses become unutilized or reaching out to companies requesting to use their shuttle busses when they are not in use. She shared her concern for Spanish speaking parents whose children miss the bus and whose schools aren't accessible to them. She thought that parents should have a choice where to register their child if they don't have a neighborhood school. She asked to think of the socioeconomically disadvantaged students for school placement as part of addressing equity. She also asked for a status on the North Central School project.

Lisa Warren thanked Mr. Gaffney for the information. She thought that it is important to look at the location of the schools and their neighborhoods as major renovations create challenges for big busses driving through and getting to places on time.

Cristina Blanco is a Special Education Teacher. She spoke about the difficulty of reaching out to Special Education students. She thought that community and neighborhood schools are important but Special Education transportation can be challenging, as the students are grouped by skill levels.

7. ADJOURNMENT

7.1. Adjournment (v)

The Special Board Meeting adjourned at 5:36 pm.

Board Secretary

Date