

SAN BERNARDINO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board of Education
Community Room
Board of Education Building
777 North F Street
San Bernardino, California

**MINUTES
ADOPTED
3/6/12**

January 30, 2012

4:30 p.m.

Present: President Barbara Flores; Vice President Michael Gallo; Board Members Margaret Hill, Judi Penman, Bobbie Perong, Lynda Savage, and Danny Tillman; Interim Superintendent Yolanda Ortega; Chief Business and Financial Officer Mohammad Islam; Chief Academic Officer Eliseo Davalos; Assistant Superintendents Kennon Mitchell, John Peukert, and Harold Vollkommer. Minutes recorded by Administrative Assistant Jennifer Owens.

Absent: Associate Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer Mel Albiso and Superintendent's Assistant Phyllis Gronek.

SESSION ONE - Opening

1.0 - Opening

1.1 - Call to Order

President Flores called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

1.2 - Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

SESSION TWO – Other Matters Brought By Citizens

2.0 - Other Matters Brought by Citizens

Rebecca Harper, SBTA President, reported that CTA voted to support the Governor's tax initiative. Mrs. Harper reported that CTA's lobbyist stated that it is not the Governor's intent to take away Transitional Kindergarten. He is planning to fund it and fund ADA for districts that implement it. Kennon Mitchell stated that he was also given that news and they have continued planning for Transitional Kindergarten. Eliseo Davalos stated that his department has been working with Dr. Mitchell's department to develop curriculum. Barbara Flores stated that teachers need to be involved with planning. Dr. Mitchell reported that he met with Mrs. Harper and teachers. The state has given us a framework suggestion and they are looking at "Little Treasures."

Nancy Sanchez-Spears invited Board members to attend the Mock Quotationals Bee and Family Night on February 9, 4 p.m., in the Community Room.

Charlie LaChance reported that a Human Resources employee is earning around \$500 per day in a position with a pay range of \$277-\$336. Ms. LaChance stated that this is a gift of public funds and asked the Board to look into it.

SESSION THREE – Budget Study Session

3.0 - Budget Study Session

President Flores announced that the budget study session will have an open dialog and discussion format.

Mohammad Z. Islam, Chief Business and Financial Officer, provided a budget update based on the Governor's plan, related to the Fiscal Year 2012-2013. Mr. Islam presented General Fund programs by division (see page ____).

Ron Fletcher asked if the District will lose redevelopment agency program funds. Dr. Flores stated that Michael Gallo will provide an update on the Economic Development Corporation at the February 7 Board meeting.

Michael Gallo asked if there is a formula to decide which programs are cost effective. Harold Vollkommer stated that they are working on a form that would look at returns on investment.

Harold Vollkommer presented the results of a budget prioritization meeting held on January 27, with various associations and groups (see page ____). Yolanda Ortega stated that each group is aware that we may need to touch areas that are their priorities.

Dr. Vollkommer reported he is working with Keenan and Associates for the possibility of offering an 80 percent or 100 percent SERP. The Board will need to decide by the February 21 meeting if they are going to lay off employees.

Danny Tillman proposed reducing the school year by four days.

Barbara Flores asked for Staff's recommendations for cuts. Yolanda Ortega reported they are waiting for Board direction.

John Peukert asked the Board to consider submitting a qualified budget to get more time to evaluate proposals. Danny Tillman said that means you are telling people they aren't going to lay off anyone. Mohammad Islam stated that March 15 is the deadline to submit the Second Period Interim Financial Report. Dr. Flores asked what happens if a district submits a qualified budget. Mr. Peukert stated that it would go on a county watch list. Dr. Flores asked Mrs. Ortega to ask Dr. Gary Thomas what the parameters are for submitting a qualified budget.

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Danny Tillman asked if there is Board consensus for asking Dr. Thomas. Mr. Tillman stated that he would never support a qualified budget. The Board does not want to be in that position. There are variables we can't control and we should only spend the money we have.

Judi Penman stated that she would be curious about what Dr. Thomas says. Mrs. Penman asked Staff to reevaluate the staffing ratio.

Danny Tillman stated that we didn't get our numbers until January 6. It is no one's fault that we don't have time to plan. A qualified budget could affect our chance to get a loan.

Peg Tracey stated that if the District offers a SERP, it would take money out of circulation. Mr. Islam stated that it takes years to realize savings from a SERP. Due to the State deferrals, we are doing internal borrowing to meet payroll and the District is receiving 39 cents on the dollar. Ms. Tracey stated that if the Board decides to cut \$40 million, you have to make your decision based on \$40 million and then restore cuts.

Bobbie Perong stated that a SERP doesn't always have an unfilled position. The Board needs to offer it to all groups and look at the worst case scenario.

Danny Tillman stated that the Board has done a great job on the budget. The reduction of days is the least disruptive. Mr. Tillman asked what the Governor is proposing. Mr. Islam stated the Governor is proposing reducing the school year from 175 to 160 days. There is a possible trailer bill to modify the STRS requirement if the Governor's plan is sustained. Yolanda Ortega stated that any reduction of days is negotiable.

Mr. Tillman recommended freezing for two years all positions that have not been filled for a year and move encroached positions into unfilled positions.

Bobbie Perong recommended realigning schools that don't need a vice principal, eliminate the Enrollment Center, and free steps and columns.

Michael Gallo requested a formalized follow up report and asked staff to read back those requests to ensure all items are included.

Ron Fletcher asked how many employees have spouses who also work for the District. Mr. Fletcher asked why the District should pay benefits for both.

Carl Greenwood asked the Board to beef up Maintenance and Operations so we don't have to hire as many substitutes. Mr. Greenwood stated that all groups need to take the cuts together.

Steve Holt stated that with the addition of new schools, more staff will be needed and there will be higher utility and maintenance costs.

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Yolanda Ortega stated that they will look at all groups' recommendations and bring them back on February 7 with dollar amounts.

Danny Tillman asked that Staff meet with all groups and have them prioritize their recommendations.

SESSION FOUR - Closing

4.0 - Adjournment

By the affirmative vote of the members, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of the San Bernardino City Unified School District will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Board of Education Building, 777 North F Street, San Bernardino.