

UNADOPTED MINUTES

POLLOCK PINES SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting
Board of Trustees
May 12, 2009

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by President Dennis Cullen in Room B-1 at the Emigrant Trail Educational Center.

Members Present Dennis Cullen
 Dave Campbell
 Tom Griffin
 Dean Smith
 Cindy Stetler

Adoption of Agenda It was moved by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Smith, to adopt the agenda. Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Minutes It was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 14, 2009. Motion unanimously carried.

Public Comment Music Teacher Betsy Fulmer requested approval of an additional allotment of \$3,500 in addition to the previously approved allotment of \$5,000 from the Governor's Art, Music, and P.E. Grant for 2008-2009 Music Department expenditures. Approval of a budget allotment of \$6,500 for 2009-2010 Music Department expenditures was also requested. This item will be placed on the June agenda.

Paula Rogers, 2009-2010 RSP teacher at Sierra Ridge, requested an item regarding Resource Program concerns and success be placed on the June agenda.

Presentations and Hearings

Presentation - Principal Rich Callaghan gave a brief overview of the AVID Program implementation of the AVID program at Sierra Ridge. The AVID Regional Director recently visited to review the program and said it is performing well above what would normally be expected in the first year.

Leeann Stewart, 8th grade AVID teacher and program coordinator, reported there are twenty-eight 8th grade students and thirty-one 7th

grade students participating in the Sierra Ridge AVID program. Following interviews, fifteen of our 8th graders have been accepted into El Dorado High School's AVID program for 2009-2010.

Nine AVID students briefly described various aspects of the program which has helped them improve their grades and organizational skills.

Award Presentation -

Fran Oswald, Manager of the Placerville branch of the Schools Financial Credit Union, presented this year's award from that organization for Educator of the Year to Leeann Stewart, along with a check in the amount of \$500. Mrs. Stewart was chosen for this award from a field of educators nominated from the entire El Dorado County.

State Budget Outlook -

Superintendent Spencer stated that she and CFO Martin met with staff at both sites yesterday to review the latest budget information and its potential implications for our district.

CFO Sean Martin reported on the budget outlook for 2009-2010 based on information available as of May 5. Potential loss of revenue to the district includes:

- A cut of \$225 per ADA or \$160,000 in 2008-09 revenues
- A cut of \$600 per ADA or \$420,000 in 2009-10 revenues
- An additional cut of \$450 per ADA or \$315,000 in 2009-10 revenues if Propositions 1A-1E do not pass

Mr. Martin reviewed one-time funding which will be available for 2009-2010:

- Flexibility of approximately \$90,000 in categorical funding which can be used to help offset deficit spending in the unrestricted general fund
- Additional Title I funding estimated to be approximately \$30,000 which can only be used for Title I approved options and must supplement, not supplant, existing programs
- An unknown amount of Federal Special Education (IDEA) funding which will be allocated to the SELPA, not directly to the district
- State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) estimated to be equivalent to the 08-09 mid-year budget cut of approximately \$190,000

Based on this information, the district would have additional budget cuts of \$895,000 with a potential recovery of \$310,000 for a net decrease of \$585,000 for 2009-10. Added to the estimated deficit of \$446,000, this is a potential deficit of over \$1 million and

would leave an ending fund balance of \$715,000. The ongoing cuts in the amount of \$895,000 with no offsetting funding, create a potential deficit of over \$1.3 million for 2010-11 and a negative balance of \$600,000.

There is an additional projected loss of \$110,000 in ADA for 2009-10 due to continued declining enrollment which may be further exacerbated by rising unemployment numbers due to the state of the economy and the closure of the Sierra Pacific Mill.

Discussion -
Single Bus Run and
Change in School Schedules
for 2009-2010

Superintendent Spencer opened the discussion regarding the change to a single bus run with a corresponding change in school start times for 2009-2010 with an explanation of how schools receive funding. Funding is based on students' actual time in seats which is about 95% in our district. Funding goes down when the student population declines. The number of teachers and aides are based on the numbers of students. The same is true of the number of buses operated. We are currently running half-full buses to the school sites. We have determined that all of the district's students can be safely accommodated on one bus run with buses operated at 90% capacity and a significant fiscal savings of \$40,000-\$50,000.

It is not an unusual practice to transport K-8 students on one bus. Eight other districts in our county do so. Before-school daycare is provided for working parents through the Polar Bears program at Pinewood. In the morning, students can be transported from Polar Bears to Sierra Ridge, and in the afternoon, students can be transported from Pinewood to the Boys & Girls program at Emigrant Trail. Busing can be provided for after-school programs coordinated at both sites. Students can continue to participate in sports.

Advantages include more sleep for middle school students and the facilitation of staff collaboration and staff development opportunities. In addition, safety will be improved as buses will be on the road less time and will have less exposure during inclement weather. Students will catch the bus later during daylight savings, and younger children can go to the bus stop with older siblings. Students will sit in "zones" on the bus to avoid behavior issues.

Board members discussed the numbers of students transported on current bus routes compared to the numbers of students that would be transported on each route with a single run. Transportation Supervisor Stacy Barraque stated that a single run would need five buses at 90% capacity on reconfigured routes. The proposed

school starting times, 8:30 a.m. at Pinewood and 8:45 a.m. at Sierra Ridge, were also discussed.

Board member Dean Smith presented background information about the budget committee process used to make decisions for budget cuts in the past years of declining enrollment which included cuts in programs, the closure of a school site, and shared administrative staff. He apologized for not using that process regarding this issue and stated there will be a budget committee established to make recommendations for the budget cuts which will be necessary during 2009-2010.

A number of those in attendance, including parents, community members, and District staff members addressed the Board with questions, concerns, suggestions, opinions, and statements regarding the proposed reduced busing and change in school schedules:

- It will be difficult to fill bus driver positions if hours are reduced and shifts are split.
- Transportation makes a profit, and there are other ways to go.
- Potential impact on the district-wide music program created by the change in the order of school start times, interruptions of class time due to participation in after-school sports, and child care
- Loss of instruction when a teacher who is also a coach would be required to leave the classroom early, due to after-school sports
- How students could continue to receive after-school instruction if there is no late bus
- Younger students exposed to inappropriate behavior and language of older students; the physical size of students making it difficult to fit three to a seat; and students who are dropped off early at the school site before supervision is available
- More sleep for the middle school students would be a positive result of a later start time.
- Advantages of staff collaboration
- Hope that remedial classes such as Rocket Math at Pinewood would continue along with after-school classes
- Petition to Board to reopen the busing issue with 114 signatures; distribution and oral review of a letter compiled by parent regarding concerns and some possible solutions
- Cost of child care through the Polar Bears program
- Availability to parents to view tapes from bus cameras

- Safety of special needs students on a full bus transporting K-8 students
- Parents who work “down the hill” will transfer their students to other districts; impact on the Boys & Girls program due to changed site schedules
- Will bus fees be increased for 2009-2010?
- Will students be allowed to ride the bus at no charge on snowy days with only one bus run?
- Increased traffic congestion at Pinewood with additional students transported by parents who do not want their children to ride a bus with K-8 students
- No cuts to the music program; offer to donate two days a month for a before-school program at Sierra Ridge to supervise students dropped off early
- Question whether Polar Bears could be provided at Emigrant Trail instead of Pinewood or whether Boys & Girls Club could provide a morning program
- Sierra Ridge students are wonderful and would never even consider harming another student.
- Exposure of younger students to inappropriate conversation and pictures from older students on the bus, in spite of the best efforts for supervision
- Cuts are always from the bottom; why not from the top?
- Parents could pay an additional fee to keep two bus runs or perhaps use money from an ADA Recovery Day.
- Has there ever been one bus run in the district?
- Would students be able to take the bus to daycare or dance if there is only one bus run?
- A part-time person could be hired to ride the bus every day and assist the driver with supervision; a volunteer in this position would have little or no authority.
- Suggestion that the board and superintendent meet with representatives regarding this issue, making safety and instructional minutes the most important priorities

There being no further comments, Board Member Tom Griffin stated his appreciation for the civility of the discussion and moved to rescind the Board’s previous motion to approve a single bus run for 2009-2010. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith, and unanimously carried.

A short recess followed the discussion regarding busing and school schedules for 2009-2010.

Finance and Business

It was moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Campbell to approve the following items:

Approval -
Request for Allowance
of Attendance Because
of Emergency Conditions

Request for Allowance of Attendance Because of Emergency
Conditions on December 15 and 19, 2009

Approval -
Quarterly Report
on Investments

Quarterly Report on Investments for the period ending March 31,
2009, as presented

Approval -
2008-2009 Master Contract
with Guiding Hands
School, Inc.

2008-2009 Master Contract with Guiding Hands School, Inc.

Approval -
Revised 2008-2009
Contract with Sierra
Children & Family Services

Revised 2008-2009 Master Contract with Sierra Children &
Family Services

Motion unanimously carried.

Board Policies and Administration

Adoption -
Resolution No.
2008-2009-14

It was moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to adopt
Resolution No. 2008-2009-14, delegating authority to the
Superintendent to approve all necessary appropriation transfers in
the year end closing process. Motion unanimously carried with
five Ayes and zero Noes.

Approval -
Retirement Incentive
Documents

It was moved by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to
approve the Retirement Incentive Documents with benefit plan
administrators, Pelion Benefits, Inc. Motion unanimously carried.

Personnel

It was moved by Mrs. Stetler, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve
the following items:

Approval -
2009-2010 Agreement for
Psychologist Services

2009-2010 Agreement for Psychologist Services with Gold Oak
Union School District

Approval - 2009-2010 Joint Transportation Supervisor Agreement with Gold Oak Union School District and Pioneer Union Elementary School District

Motion unanimously carried.

Approval - Hiring Freeze
In view of the current budget information, Superintendent Spencer recommended that any vacant position not considered absolutely essential to the operation of a program not be filled and that the designation of a position as essential require a decision of the Board. It was moved by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve a freeze on hiring classified and certificated staff for the 2009-2010 school year, except as approved by the Board. Motion unanimously carried.

Discussion - President Cullen stated that Diana Dwyer requested to speak to the Board and was given the option of doing so in either open or closed session. By choosing to speak in open session, Mrs. Dwyer is giving up her right to privacy concerning a personnel matter.

Mrs. Dwyer spoke to the Board regarding her employment background with the district, her past and current health concerns and limitations, previous employment accommodations, the physical requirements for the current Instructional Aide II Position Description versus the previous one, her request for accommodations for her current medical limitations in order to return to work at this time, and the results of an Interactive Accommodation Meeting with the Superintendent and Principal.

Concerns about Mrs. Dwyer's work attendance record, its impact on the educational program, and the safety of both the students and Mrs. Dwyer were discussed, along with details of Mrs. Dwyer's health and current medical limitations.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Mrs. Dwyer requested that she be placed on the 39-month Rehire List and be granted an extended leave of absence without pay.

An employee who has exhausted all Extended Leave paid leave days has the right to be placed on the 39-month Reemployment List. President Cullen stated that the request for an extended leave of absence without pay would be considered in closed session, and Mrs. Dwyer would be notified of the Board's decision.

Staff Reports and Announcements

The Principals, Supervisor of Maintenance & Operations and Food Service, and Supervisor of Transportation had submitted written reports of activities and programs at their sites.

Superintendent's Reports, Announcements, and Communications

The Superintendent reported on the following:

- Thank You – On behalf of everyone, thank you to Charlie Ferris for posting the Board Minutes and Agenda on the district web site.
- Thank You – Thank you to Randy Head who repaired a broken vacuum cleaner with a savings to the district of \$650.
- Spelling Bee – The Spelling Bee will be this Friday, May 15.
- Enrollment – District enrollment remains the same as last month, at 734.

Board Members' Reports and Communications

Future Board
Agenda Topics

The following items will be topics for a future board agenda:

- Consideration of funding request for Music Program
- RSP Program concerns and success

Other Board
Member Reports

President Cullen reported that he received a letter from Vicki Barber stating that the district's budget is still in a positive certification.

Consent Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried with three Ayes, zero Noes, and two Abstentions (Mr. Campbell and Mrs. Stetler).

1. Approval of Warrants

Closed Session

At the hour of 10:44 p.m., Mr. Cullen concluded the open portion of the meeting and the Board met in closed session regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.

Actions from Closed Session

It was moved by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Smith, to take no action on the request from Diana Dwyer for an extended leave of absence without pay. Motion unanimously carried.

Minutes – Regular Board Meeting

Page 9

May 12, 2009

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Mrs. Stetler, seconded by Mr. Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 p.m. Motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Spencer
District Superintendent and
Secretary to the Board

APPROVED:

J. Dennis Cullen, President

DATE: _____