

March 3, 2004

**Call to Order**

The Board of Education of the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District reconvened at 7:00 p.m. on the above date at the Instructional Materials Center, 540 Canyon Del Rey, Monterey, California, to continue its meeting of March 1, 2004.

The meeting was called to order by President Lauterbach.

**A. Roll Call –  
Establishment of  
Quorum**

Board Members Present: Terri DeBono  
Robert Eggers  
Resa Foss  
Shanda LeBoeuf (arrived at 7:07 p.m.)  
Carlos E. Noriega  
Regena Lauterbach  
Marjorie Troutman

Staff Members Present: Jim Burnis  
Daniel Callahan  
Robert Costa  
Shelby Garrison  
John Lamb

DLI/POM/NPS Representative Present: Ron Graddy

Student Board Members Absent: Michael Leonard, Monterey HS  
Andrew Mahone, Seaside HS

The President declared that a quorum was present and the Board proceeded with the order of business.

**F. Report Action Taken in  
Closed Session, if any**

President Lauterbach reported at the February 23, 2004, closed session, the Board approved an agreement with Daniels and House Construction Company, following mediation in the amount of \$62,500 relating to a dispute regarding the scope of demolition work and other issues which are reflected in Change Order #48.

**P. Information**

It was the consensus that Item P-1, Review Revised Board Policies, be moved up on the agenda.

\*1. Review Revised  
Board Policies -  
*Strategy 3*

Adult School Director Tad Kumagai reviewed revised Board Policies BP 6810 - Adult Education, and BP 6830 - Graduation from Adult School. There were no questions from Board members. This item will be brought back at a subsequent meeting for action.

**K. Suggestions and  
Comments from  
Members and Officers  
of the Board**

President Lauterbach made opening comments and asked the public to respect the rights of people who are addressing the Board, and to respect the opinions of others. At this time the floor was opened for suggestions and comments from members and officers of the Board.

Board member DeBono said the Board has been characterized as being divided and it has been stated that some trustees are in the business for the financial end of education, while others who have been teachers are more polarized on the social issues. She said the Board is a good example of the democratic system working under the scrutiny of the public, and that the Board is not divided when it comes to the District's well being as they try to come to terms with extremely difficult issues that will affect the future of children. Board member DeBono said if it gets hot, then look the other direction because the Board has strong convictions that will be tested and aired publicly. She said when the dust settles, the public will know why, and understand the process and changes the Board will be asking the entire District to make.

(Board Member LeBoeuf arrived at the meeting at 7:07 p.m.)

Board member Eggers referred to a letter from a Seaside High School class that urged the Board to keep the sports program intact.

Board member DeBono reported on the airing times for "Inside MPUSD," a new television show dedicated to connecting the community with what's happening in the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District.

Board member Troutman reported that the issue of school closures was discussed at a recent Monterey City Council meeting. She referred to a newsletter on the school closure crisis and read aloud recommendations for process and objective common criteria to decide which school or schools to close. She shared a letter from Foothill School teacher Linda Figlock regarding the past and present budget crisis, and the need for quality schools, attracting new residents and businesses, and uniting and mobilizing the community behind a common goal of quality education for all children.

**L. Suggestions and  
Comments From  
Visitors – Non-Agenda  
Matters**

At this time, President Lauterbach opened the floor for suggestions and comments from visitors – non-agenda matters.

Linda Sanders, Olson School teacher, submitted a list of questions and options that she felt was not explored adequately or answered, and requested a response before any committee or Board considers the notion of freezing salaries and increasing health and welfare costs.

The following parents and teachers, representing the Foothill Elementary Parent and Teacher Consortium and Concerned Monte Vista Parents and Teachers, expressed concern regarding the process to arrive at school closures. They firmly believed that the Facilities Utilization Subcommittee was an extremely biased group that did not represent the diverse communities, and that the process and criteria were flawed. They asked the Board to seriously consider the recommendations for process and objective criteria development outlined in the School Closure Crisis research report, and to allow the District's reserve to be taken down to 1.5% to give the Board the time to work with experts in the field of school closures and make informed, intelligent decisions for the benefit of all MPUSD children. A copy of their comments was distributed to Board members.

Liz Risenbichler, Foothill School parent  
Diane Mashmeyer, Foothill School teacher  
Kim Risenbichler, Foothill School parent  
Jackie D'Angelo Garza, Foothill School parent  
Julie Heimer, Foothill School parent  
Kathy Capstock, Monte Vista School parent  
Janette Russo, Foothill School parent  
Karen Kessler, Foothill School teacher

Hans Hoffman, Jr., Foothill School parent, expressed his frustration and disappointment in the Board because it has to satisfy a \$2.2 million deficit. He referred to possible school closures, the cost to reconfigure schools to K-8, and whether implementation can be completed prior to the beginning of the next school year. He also expressed concern about safety and said elementary students don't belong on the same campuses with teenage students. Mr. Hoffman said his child is attending Foothill on an intradistrict transfer. He questioned the criteria being used to close Foothill and not La Mesa School, and suggested that the 700 Pacific Street property be sold or leased, and the District Office moved to Foothill School.

Mary Greenfield, Fitch Middle School teacher, referred to school closures in 1993 when Fort Ord was closed, budget cuts and closures in 2000 and 2002 due to declining enrollment, and possible closure of Fitch. She said teachers, parents, and constituents came to the Board to advocate for their site and programs, and that they never sought to pit one community of teachers against another or claim that the quality of education their children receive is better than that of any other child in MPUSD. She said not until this round of closure discussions did she recall a time when teachers or parents felt that if a school was closed, reconfigured, or combined

with another that the teachers of the new school had to be replaced with the ones following the students for quality education to occur. Mrs. Greenfield said it has angered and saddened her to listen to public comments at Board and committee meetings only to realize that the sense of a unified school district is rapidly evaporating in a sea of "me first." She said she was appalled at the lack of respect being accorded to all teachers in the District by these speakers, and that she was insulted by the implication that teachers in one community provide a quality education to children. She referred to the Lori Flagg Award for Excellence in Teaching, and said she and other teachers who taught in schools north of Monterey received the competitive awards for teachers who best exemplify the ideals of the community in the schools. Mrs. Greenfield said for many years, Fitch was looking like the District's stepchild. Now that the school has a chance to endure, she urged that the Board have the strength and convictions to see this through to the end.

Judith Reese, Foothill School teacher, expressed concern that the morale in the District is at an all-time low, and that factionalism, divisiveness, and regional chauvinisms are rampant. She said bargaining units, schools, cities, teachers, community members, and the Board are being pitted against each other. She urged everyone to put negativity behind, come together, and take all the time needed to find positive solutions to a problem that will only escalate if you put a band-aid on a festering wound.

Gary Carlson, resident, husband, father, and grandfather of former and current MPUSD students, said he hasn't heard any cost attached to the closures and shared his personal observations. He said 889 students will be displaced if Foothill and Monte Vista schools are closed, and that the four schools recommended by the Superintendent's committee to house them can only hold 454 more students. He said Fitch Middle School currently houses 603 students, and that they can be totally absorbed by Los Arboles and King Middle schools. Representing the Casanova-Oak Knolls Neighborhood Association, Mr. Carlson invited everyone to a March 17 meeting where a recommendation to reunify MPUSD will be discussed. He said the neighborhood association feels this is the only real way to solve the problem because cities are making decisions for other cities, and that the only true way to represent and support schools, and make the right decisions, is for each city to form their own district.

Marcheta Griffith, teacher, spoke to dispel some of the myths about Foothill School. She said it was a diversified school, it was not run by the PTA, and that parents take an active role at Foothill by volunteering. She expressed concern about Scenario #3 and students will be attending schools in their community if Foothill were to be closed. She spoke about her Latino children and said they will be in segregated schools. She said neighborhood schools don't necessarily mean that they are the best schools, and that parents want the best education for their children no matter where they have to go to get it. She urged the Board to do what is best for the children.

Barry Perkins, Monte Vista School parent, said it is important to acknowledge a milestone that occurred at the State level yesterday where the Governor showed leadership in getting voter support for a \$15 billion bond to provide financing for California's budget deficit. He said the Governor's next challenge is workers compensation reform and he was hopeful that its impact will be felt at the local level. Mr. Perkins expressed support for teachers and service employees, and asked that they not be further alienated with salary and benefit reductions. He said classroom dynamics and parent involvement is indexed to their morale. He expressed support for the funding of school resource officers. Mr. Perkins urged the Board to consider drawing down the reserves and buying whatever time is necessary. He expressed support for "rolling blackouts" to repair schools, as opposed to closing two schools in Monterey for the unforeseeable future.

Heather Issorvan, Foothill School parent, referred to a question at the last meeting by Board Member Noriega about support for fund raising to keep schools open. She said parents have gone through tremendous length to make sure they've presented themselves in a logical, intelligent, rational, and competent manner to the Board. Mrs. Issorvan said they are trying to fight a subcommittee who established the criteria and is not open to their suggestions. She said the parents have suggested real

solutions, and she urged the Board to seriously consider them and make good long-term decisions.

Jeff Morris, parent, referred to budget cuts and the closing of four schools in 2002, and said parents were told there would be no more school closures. He spoke about his children being displaced from school to school over the past years, and said it isn't fair to a child to have to keep starting over to make friends. He said the District is here to teach kids so they can learn and grow up to be responsible citizens and adults. He suggested cuts to the America's Choice program and "golden umbrellas" to the last superintendent. Mr. Morris said the District needs to figure out where to find the money and where to stop spending.

Ralph Taylor, parent and U.S. Marine Corp Major, said the leadership is asking its subordinates to take pay cuts and that he didn't see administrative positions being trimmed down. He said there are a lot of directors in the school district; one director equals two teachers and six directors equal one school. He expressed concern about modernization of school bathrooms during the school year. Major Taylor said he didn't see anyone working with the cities and county to generate the money. He did not see the school district getting back to the basics – reading, writing, and arithmetic. He said get our kids to school, teach them the appropriate things, and cut out all the extra stuff. He expressed concern there are no classes for music, P.E., and arts and crafts. He said he couldn't find the Board meeting times on the website, and that the budget should be posted. Major Taylor said he will pull his kids from the District and write letters to people who are considering base closures. He expressed concern about the trust issue between the Board and Superintendent, and that he didn't see a snap decision within two months on a sinking ship that's going to take years to correct and have wide implications.

Tom Ortega, parent, referred to fund raiser "Saving Our Schools," said his forte is raising money, and felt \$600,000 can be raised within two months. He said there are 11,000 children in the District and if each parent gave \$60, the goal would be reached. Mr. Ortega said he spoke to people who would donate \$500, and said Kaufman and Broad homebuilders and other developers will be approached for their support. Mr. Ortega said this is an opportunity in disguise and a way to unite, give strength, and show the children what the community is made of. He said the community has Senator Bruce McPherson and Congressman Sam Farr and other people who will provide support letters for grants and fundraisers.

Shauna Rowe, Foothill School parent, referred to "It takes a whole community to educate a child," and said the committee that was created was unfair and skewed one way or another, and didn't listen. She said all that came out of the committee were cuts and closures. She asked about increasing revenue and a survey for parents just to make people happy and get their opinions. She said District parents are intelligent people or they wouldn't be able to afford to live in the District. She felt the small committee didn't work and that there is a need to look at something else that's more positive. Ms. Rowe said parents are inventive and that they will pull their children out of MPUSD schools, change guardianship so their children can attend Monterey schools, or do what they have to do. She said the Board needs to hear what the community has to say and turn it on a positive note.

Brad Smith, Foothill School parent said, by state law, the Board is allowed to use 1.5% of the school district's 3% reserve. He said this would allow the Board to keep all schools open for another year and put a measure on the ballot for more money. Mr. Smith said if Foothill is closed, he'll have a choice to send his children to a school that rates 3 out of 10, home school, or send his children to a charter school.

A Foothill School parent, said he and his wife initiated an intradistrict transfer for their child to attend Foothill because of its reputation. They felt the District should do whatever it takes to bridge the deficit gap and let parents come up with other solutions throughout the year. He spoke about the budget being 90% personnel, and said there is a lot of room for downsizing and that the District might have to look elsewhere for other cuts. He referred to the March 15 deadline for certificated layoffs and said it looks like the District is trying to save jobs and cut costs elsewhere. He said this is America where we're governed by the people, and the people coming

before the Board don't want any schools closed and that the Board should think about the kids.

Julie Hofer, parent and teacher, said although she's committed to making her neighborhood school better, she said the neighborhood model doesn't always work and that she drives her children to Foothill every morning. She said her children feel the grinch is stealing Christmas and that she wants to tell her children that there is a Santa.

Steve Mayone, Monterey resident, said if the Board chooses to cut the deficit by closing schools, they need to evaluate with objective criteria and begin a selection program or look at improving average daily attendance (ADA). He said 468 additional students will cover the \$2.2 million deficit, and that 300 students were lost following the 2002 restructuring. Mr. Mayone suggested using creativity and local advertising to increase ADA. He spoke about creative scenarios submitted by community members, and said the closing of schools in need of repair and rotating the students to other schools might be an efficient scenario. He urged the Board to move to resolve the deficit in a logical fashion and allow the teachers to announce to their students that their school will not be closed.

## M. ACTION

- \*5. Approve Benchmark Dates for Fund Raising Deposits to Provide a Transition for School Closures - *Strategy 1*

Dr. Callahan said the item is a continuation of the March 1 meeting, and that the Board requested that Charles Eldred, Foothill parent, bring back some suggestions for benchmark dates and amounts for fund raising deposits to provide a transition for school closures.

Mr. Eldred said raising \$600,000 is not an impossible figure, and that the group needs two months to raise it with no benchmarks. He said he would provide fund raising updates and suggested May 3, 2004, be the "drop dead" date to allow the community to raise the money and allow them the opportunity to save their own schools. Mr. Eldred referred to a company in Scotts Valley that has a technical device that hooks up to the District's data base and allows a pre-recorded message to go out to all District parents. He said it is being offered at no cost. Mr. Eldred said the Educational Foundation for MPUSD is in place, and he said the Board needs to encourage the community to step up to the bat and give them a chance.

In response to Board Member LeBoeuf's request for feedback from staff, Chief Business Officer Jim Burnis said the May 3 date wouldn't affect the finances as much as it would affect the amount of planning and implementation time needed to prepare for the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year.

Robert Costa, Personnel Services Director, said the Board also needs to take into consideration the assignment and staffing of schools, determining enrollment projections, boundary changes, and other impacts. Mr. Costa expressed concern that the District might have to start off with more substitutes in the classrooms than in the past, and any delay into April and May will have a direct impact on employees in terms of what positions they may be in the following year. He added in the absence of knowing how configurations will lay out, staff will also be unable to project the students who might be in schools and the kind of staffing it would need. He reiterated if the Board closes any schools, staff will have to be reshuffled and assignments changes. He asked during deliberations, that the Board think about what the schools are going to look like, how they are going to be staffed, and the toll on staff if there is a delay.

In response to Board Member Troutman's question whether it was possible to move the beginning of school forward by two weeks, Mr. Costa said the starting date of calendars are negotiable items and would have to be negotiated with both certificated and classified bargaining units.

Board Member Noriega said he appreciated the ideas and what the community is trying to do. He said when he ran for office, he would try to balance the budget and be open as possible. He said he could not support the fund raiser, and spoke about the closure of Fort Ord, the public's urging to continue to support District programs, and the Board's hope that grants and the development of Fort Ord would continue to fund

the programs. He said for ten years nothing happened, and when he was elected to the Board the reserve was down to \$200,000. Board Member Noriega said he has a very difficult time wanting to cut into the reserve for a promise, pledge, or hope. He said the District has already had ten years of hope, and has had some serious financial problems.

In response to Board Member Foss's question about the process, Mr. Eldred said the District has to be fiscally responsible and continue with their process, but if the community comes forward with the money, the Board will have the option to keep schools open, and staff can address the changes in staffing and implementation at that time.

Board Member Eggers motioned and Board Member Troutman seconded that the Board set a benchmark date of May 3, 2004, to allow the fund raising group to raise the funds to keep either one or two schools open for the 2004-2005 school year.

Board Member Noriega expressed concern that it is assumed that the Board is going to close a school or schools, and the item hasn't even been discussed.

In response to Board Member Foss's request for clarification that it won't matter which school the Board chooses to close, Mr. Eldred said if a decision is made to close a school or schools, the idea is if the money is raised the identified school can be taken off the closure list. If the fund raiser falls short, it will be up to the Board to determine which school will be saved from closure.

Board Member DeBono said she believed in the people's efforts and expressed support for the fund raiser.

Board Member LeBoeuf said she was at a crossroads. She was excited that the community is committed to fund raising, but she also hesitated giving a date that would push back the operations of the District relative to staffing and implementing the 2004-2005 school year.

President Lauterbach expressed support for the fund raiser and said she believed that one person can make a difference in this world. She asked the Board to vote on the following resolution: Resolved that May 3<sup>rd</sup> be the benchmark for the fund raising deposits to provide a transition for school closures to be approved.

A member of the audience came forward and asked what has happened to the lottery money and can the District ask for an audit of the money? She also asked why the decision for school closures is being made by the Board and not on the ballot for public voting?

Board Member Eggers briefly responded the lottery monies are state controlled and decisions for school closures are made at the local level, not by ballot.

There was brief discussion whether there should be a targeted amount in the resolution. It was the consensus that no amount was included because the Board has not yet determined whether any schools will be closed and that the group will raise as much funding as possible between now and May 3.

In response to Board Member LeBoeuf's question about the group not being able to raise enough funds to keep one school open, Mr. Eldred said the Foundation will determine the disbursement of the monies raised to fund programs. If it is above the targeted amount to keep all schools open, the remainder will be used by the Foundation to improve schools.

**RESOLVED** that the Board approve May 3, 2004, as the benchmark for the fund raising deposits to provide a transition for school closures.

MSC            Eggers, Troutman  
AYES:        6  
NOES:        1 (Noriega)



them to support those programs. She said if the Board is going to feed on the misconceptions that Seaside schools are bad, then turn down the program, but the Board will be sending the wrong message to the rest of the community.

**RESOLVED** that the Consent Agenda be approved with the exception of Item N-6, Approve Single Plan for Student Achievement for Manzanita Elementary School.

\*1. Approve Minutes

February 17, 2004, Regular Board Meeting

February 23, 2004, Special Board Meeting

\*2. Approve/Ratify Personnel Items

3. Approve Gifts to the District

From	To/Purpose	Amount
Bay View School PTA	Bay View School Field trips	\$292.30
Waste Management Service Center	Olson School 5 <sup>th</sup> grade Outdoor Science program	\$300.00
Granite Construction Company	Olson School 5 <sup>th</sup> grade Outdoor Science program	\$500.00
Monterey Peninsula Avenue of Flags	Olson School 5 <sup>th</sup> grade Outdoor Science program	\$900.00
Gregory Harmon	Monterey High School Jean Harmon Scholarship Fund	\$2,100.00

\*4. Approve Preparation, Submission, and Acceptance of a Cal-SAFE Program Continued Funding Grant, 2004-2005 (\$120,000)

\*5. Approve the Submission and Implementation of the William McCaskey Chapman & Adaline Dinsmore Chapman Foundation Education Grant for Bay View School (\$10,000)

\*6. Approve Single Plan for Student Achievement for ~~Manzanita Elementary School and Fitch Middle School~~ – *Manzanita postponed to the March 8 agenda*

\*7. Approve Submission and Implementation of the Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Grant by King Middle School (\$134,000)

MSC	Troutman, LeBoeuf
AYES:	7

## O. Reports

### Strategy 1

1. Committees/  
Conferences

No reports.

2. Superintendent's  
Report

- *Celebrating  
Successes  
"We need to  
celebrate  
successes."*

Dr. Callahan reported that "Inside MPUSD" will be broadcasted on the Monterey County Office of Education Channel public access channel. He referred to information that was distributed to Board members at the March 1 meeting regarding a summary of a variety of research projects on the efficacy of K-8 and 7-12 schools for the Board's consideration. He said the issue of reconfiguration arose when there began to be discussion about closing schools and some people showed interest and wanted to gather data. Dr. Callahan referred to a request from a parent for information on student discipline at Colton Middle School and that he has responded to the parent. Dr. Callahan referred to responses to communication from the Foothill Elementary Parent and Teacher Consortium and Concerned Monte Vista Parents and Teachers. It was the consensus that the questions and responses be agendaized for information at the next meeting. Dr. Callahan highlighted successes at Seaside High Schools, Highland School, Foothill School, and Marshall School.

3. DLIFLC/POM/NPS  
Representative

Mr. Graddy referred to comments made about deunification and expressed his opposition. He expressed concern about the timeliness of a letter that was sent home through students to Fitch Middle School parents regarding the school being designated as a Program Improvement School. Mr. Graddy spoke about future growth in the District. He said the military is still looking into charter schools for its students, and if it happens there will be less students in the District and it will affect the whole community. He referred to Impact Aid and the high percentage of military students in special education classes, and said based on his research, there is not a higher percentage of special education children in the military in Monterey than there is anywhere else. He thanked Mrs. Rucker for speaking about segregation at a previous meeting. He reported on a partnership with the military, La Mesa, Marshall, and Fitch schools for school clean-up days. Mr. Graddy reported that the Porter Youth Center is mainstreaming special education students from Communication Development program at the Stilwell site. He expressed concern about the criticism of students who spoke in support of their school, and said the people supported students during the last round of closures.

Carlos Ramos, community member, said he was one of several people who was upset at what had occurred on Monday evening, and said the difference two years ago and now is regarding rumors that there are teachers making negative and divisive statements to students that he said was confirmed that evening. He said it is one thing to have students being involved, but when the line is crossed and the word racist is issued, he said that it not right. He referred to two years ago and said the students who spoke did not mention other schools to close down. He expressed concern about teachers instigating and pinpointing schools that should be closed.

Carol Saxton, District employee, said she's heard some of the ugliest things at Board meetings the past few weeks as a result of possible school closures. She said there is no good or bad school, and that the children are watching what the adults are doing and modeling their behavior.

**P. Information**

\*2. Consider Facilities  
Utilization  
Recommendations  
for School Closures  
- *Strategy 6*

Dr. Callahan reviewed additional pieces of information that was requested by the Board to include third month enrollment by school within each city and the percentage of children in each grade level, capacity by city, loss of students by city based on fifth month enrollment, information about the location of students at each individual grade level in the areas of east Casanova, west Casanova, Del Monte, north Del Rey Oaks, and south Del Rey Oaks, accessibility, home languages of K-8 schools residing within 1.5 miles of the school, ethnic and racial distribution of students within 1.5 miles of each school. He said a logistical issue that would need to be dealt with is the master schedule staffing for secondary schools. Another implication is that staff is working at full capacity to develop their plans for next year, whether it be the master schedules at the secondary level or staffing patterns at the elementary level. He said, depending on this evening's action, that another implication would be that the staff would have to prepare three separate plans: (1) if no schools are closed and the attendance areas remain the same, (2) if one school is closed, depending on which school, (3) if both Foothill and Monte Vista were closed.

President Lauterbach said the Board has seen the recommendations of the Facilities Utilization Committee, and when a committee brings a report forward it is turned over to the staff to show what that configuration would be. She felt that she needed the time and plan that would be put into place if Foothill were closed, where would those students go? If Monte Vista is closed where will those students go? If they're going to Colton, she wanted to see the configuration of what Colton would look like before making a decision.

Dr. Callahan said staff can bring forth suggestions. He said ultimately each would be Board decisions. In the committee's original planning, the thinking is first the Board would need to make a decision about school closures, and then a variety of implementation plans would need to be brought forward and for the Board to come to conclusions about what the configurations and boundaries would be. Dr. Callahan said staff can bring forward a test pattern, recognizing it would only be a test pattern. It would have to wait until the actual closure decision before staff can make decisions

about what implementation would look like. He said once the closures are decided, staff can go to the individual communities and involve them in the planning and discussion process.

President Lauterbach expressed concern about inter- and intra-district transfers. Will they be forced back to go to a school they don't want to attend? She said parents need to have neighborhood choice.

Board Member DeBono said the Board needs time to look at closures, and if a short term answer can be figured out, it would be the least disruptive. She felt the least disruptive plan would be closing only Fitch Middle School for a year, and reorganizing it so it is not an underperforming school. She said she wasn't sure what school(s) the students would attend, but the Board needs to start leveling the playing field across the District.

Mr. Graddy said Fitch is 18% military and when the tentative closure of Fitch came up before, it was an issue.

Board Member Eggers referred to the schools' Single Plan for Student Achievement and said he didn't know what would be accomplished if the school was closed for one year.

Dr. Callahan said Fitch met every single growth target this year, and that underperforming is a product of history. He cautioned the Board about identifying any MPUSD school as underperforming until staff can look at the complexity of what is going on at the schools.

Board Member Foss concurred with Dr. Callahan. She said the definition of underperforming comes from the federal government which may have different definitions. She said if you walk into any of the schools that are considered underperforming, you'll find excellence just like you will at other schools that aren't identified, and it usually comes down to one segment that didn't meet its target growth. Board Member Foss distributed ideas that she'd heard for Board consideration. She said if an underperforming school like Del Rey Woods School were to be closed, reconfigured, and given a new name, it ceases being an underperforming school. She assumed it would apply to all schools with the federal definition of underperforming. She suggested piloting a K-8 school, combining Fitch Middle School and Marshall Elementary School, placing people who are interested in that concept there, and encouraging La Mesa students, since it is military impacted, to transfer to the school. Board Member Foss suggested that La Mesa be closed for one year for repair work. She said these were theoretical possibilities that our "outside the box" thinking that were not considered by the Facilities Utilization Committee. She said the Board can also go back to the original criteria of the two smallest schools, and close Bay View and Marina del Mar schools and spread the pain to Monterey and Marina. Board Member Foss said there may be other scenarios that deserve a second look. She noted there is an Action item to consider school closures at the March 4 special Board meeting, and that she was not ready to make a decision.

In response to President Lauterbach's question why class size reduction was not a part of the Budget Advisory Committee's recommendation, Mr. Burnis said the District is using \$500,000 of Title II funds to fill the gap between the regular state apportionment for the cost of running the program. If the program were to be eliminated in total, the District would only have the ability to redirect \$500,000 of Title II money into restricted Title II activities. He said the reason class size reduction was on the committee list for discussion was that if the whole program were to be eliminated, thereby creating 60+ classrooms throughout the District; by so doing that, the Board could increase the number of schools to close.

Board Member Noriega referred to the concept of consolidating Monte Vista and Colton as a K-8, and asked what would be the cost savings if the same configuration was done at Manzanita and King?

Board Member DeBono objected to the fact that the Board has to vote tomorrow on the Business Advisory Committee and Facilities Utilization Committee recommendations, and the Board has not had a discussion. In response to a question regarding the

passage of Proposition 57, the \$15 billion bond to provide financing for California's budget deficit, Mr. Burnis said Proposition 57 did nothing more than legalize the plan the State put in place to balance this year's budget. He said the State is still out of balance for next year's budget between \$6-7 billion. Regarding Proposition 58, Mr. Burnis said it is an amendment of the state Constitution to require that the state adopt a balanced budget. He said the Governor proposed a 1.84% cost of living allowance (COLA) for next year, but it is independent of any of the propositions that were on the ballot and depends on the state economy and the legislature.

Dr. Callahan said the Board is not expected to vote tomorrow, and that the items were placed on the agenda as Action items so if the Board chose to vote they could. He said the Board is under no pressure to take action.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to meet in special session on March 4, 2004, 7:00 p.m., at the Instructional Materials Center, to take possible action on the Business Advisory Committee's and Facilities Utilization Committee's recommendations.

**Q. Suggestions and Comments from Members and Officers of the Board and Board Member Request(s) for Information and/or Possible Future Agenda Items**

Board Member Troutman requested a review of the Board and Superintendent budgets at the March 8 special Board meeting for wants and needs in terms of reduction. (No consensus)

President Lauterbach requested that Board Policy 7435, Uniform Complaint Procedures and the minutes of November 17, 2003, be agendized for the March 15 regular Board meeting. (consensus)

Board Member Foss requested a follow-up on the Program Improvement letters sent to parents for the March 8 special Board meeting. (consensus)

Board Member Noriega requested a feasibility study whether to consider the establishment of a student attendance review board to address parents who are not sending their children to school.

Dr. Callahan suggested a presentation on the District's current attendance practice and how the District addresses students who are not coming to school.

President Lauterbach requested that Board evaluations be completed and submitted to her at the March 4 meeting.

**R. Closed Session**

There was no need for the Board to go back into closed session.

**S. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Callahan, Ph.D.  
Executive Secretary

DC:jif

\*Board Attachment

^Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Presidio of Monterey & Naval Postgraduate School

+Motion/Second/Carried