

March 8, 2004

A. Call to Order

The Board of Education of the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District met in special session at 5:31 p.m. on the above date at the Instructional Materials Center, 540 Canyon Del Rey, Monterey, California.

The meeting was called to order by President Lauterbach.

B. Roll Call – Establishment of Quorum

Board Members Present: Terri DeBono
Robert Eggers
Resa Foss
Regena Lauterbach
Shanda LeBoeuf
Carlos E. Noriega
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.

C. Public Comments

No public comments were made at this time.

D. Closed Session

The Board adjourned to closed session at 5:32 p.m. to discuss the following:

1. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release – Government Code section 54957
2. Conference with Labor Negotiator – Government Code section 54957.6
 - a. *Agency Negotiator: Robert Costa*
Employee Organization: Monterey Bay Teachers Association
California School Employees Association

E. Reconvene Open Session

The Board reconvened at 7:00 p.m. to take the following action:

F. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Board Member Troutman.

Report Action Taken in Closed Session, if any

No reportable actions were taken in closed session.

G. Opportunity for Public Comments on Agenda Items

Teri Adam, Foothill School parent, referred to an article in the local paper regarding the passage of the bond measure and approval for \$85-\$90 million for new school construction of a high school, middle school, and four elementary schools, and asked about the long-range plans for developing the elementary schools.

Dr. Callahan said the Facilities Planner checked with the Office of Public School Construction and the District is not qualified for new dollars for new construction.

Anna Macaluso, California School Employees Association (CSEA) President, urged the Board to take into consideration the recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee and the Facilities Utilization Committee, to move forward, and to plan for the future.

Joanna Medina, teacher representing Foothill School staff, urged the Board to put time and energy into their students so they can continue to have a safe learning environment, and to make the best decisions that are least disruptive to all involved.

Karen Kessler, Foothill School teacher, referred to students leaving the District and said the best way to retain students is to offer a quality program and not take away choices.

Liz Risenbichler, Foothill School parent, said the composition of the Facilities Utilization Committee was biased and the criteria developed was narrowly based and doesn't give students learning opportunities. She urged the Board to determine if the criteria is appropriate and whether the process is objective.

Barry Perkins, Monte Vista School parent, urged the Board to reconsider using the reserve fund, look outside of the recommendations of the Facilities Utilization Committee for alternatives, and make appropriate long-term decisions.

John McCutcheon, Marina resident and member of the Business Advisory Committee, said the District is facing an embedded operating deficit due to declining enrollment and increasing expenses. He reminded that Board members are elected trustees, not parents, and the only real solution is for the Board to not put off the decisions needed now until the next year, and to make the hard decisions.

Heather Issvoran, Foothill School parent, commended Board Members Foss and Noriega for thinking outside the box. She encouraged alternative thinking and looking at criteria that would make sense.

Carol Saxton, CSEA Vice-President, said the two committees don't deserve the criticism they are getting. She said if a school has to be closed, the students, parents, and spirit can be moved to the new school. She said a parent has to do whatever they have to do for their child even if it means pulling them from the District, and that this is really an adult issue because the students are flexible.

Gary Wilmot, Marina parent, concurred with Mrs. Saxton, and said it is not about buildings. He said the last thing a committee wanted to do was to close a school, and they thought out of the box. Mr. Wilmot said if the Board bows to political pressure, they will have to go through the process again. He said the hard decisions are not being made, and all should be fighting about the quality of education, not finances.

Sherilyn Marcuson, parent, disagreed with Mr. Wilmot and said she didn't believe parents and students going to a school and having that spirit. She referred to the fund raising group and said there are members in the community fighting to raise funds to keep all schools open.

Kim Reisenbichler, Foothill School parent, urged the Board to make their decision objectively and look at the criteria based on the facts.

Kathie Buaya, Foothill School parent, said it was disconcerting the way the Facilities Utilization Committee arrived at their vote. She said no one had time to look at the information. She also expressed concern about Colton being a K-8 configuration and said the scenario is not realistic. She proposed keeping Foothill School open as a school of choice or there will be a possibility that the District will lose students in the process.

Denise Eldred, Foothill School parent, requested that the School Messenger product be agendaized at a future meeting.

Helen Rucker, Seaside resident, said she was told that minorities deemed underperforming who are attending Foothill School did not make the gains that the same category of students made at Highland School. She said it is nice to hear Monterey people who say they want the Seaside students, but she expressed an interest in whether students bussed to other schools are making the gains.

Patsy Hughs-Irvin, resident, asked how much money the District has received from the California lottery?

Board Member Eggers said in 2002-2003, MPUSD received \$1,371,065. The District expects to receive approximately \$1.6 million in 2003-2004.

Francine Stewart, Monterey Bay Teachers Association (MBTA) President, expressed concern about proposed layoffs for teachers and other District employees, and hoped that it will be kept at a minimum number.

Tom Ortega, parent serving on the committee to raise monies to keep schools open, provided an update, and asked to be placed on the agenda at a subsequent meeting to present a flyer asking parents for donations.

Bob Schaffer, Monterey resident and member of the Facilities Utilization Committee, said all of the committee and subcommittee meetings were open to the public. There was ample time for public comment and discussion, and there was time for people to come up with ideas. He said there is a parade of people asking for more time, but few tendered new ideas. Mr. Schaffer said the pool of new ideas has been exhausted, and the time is now if the Board wants to avoid a financial crisis.

Steve Bloomer, Seaside Council Member, said the concerns of parents are understandable, but the Business Advisory Committee and Facilities Utilization Committee made their recommendations after considering a wide range of options. He referred to the voting structure and said 96% of the vote said to close schools, and 94% said to close Monte Vista or Foothill or both.

H. Certificates/Recognitions/ Presentations

1. Central Coast Section of the California Association for music Education Teacher of the Year – Theresa Hruby – *Strategy 5*

Seaside High School music teacher Theresa Hruby was recognized for being selected Teacher of the Year by the Central Coast Section of the California Association for Music Education. Ms. Hruby was presented with a certificate of recognition and commended by the Board for her prestigious award honoring exemplary music teachers throughout the Central Coast Section of California.

2. School Assistance and Intervention Team (SAIT) Plan for Ord Terrace School – *Strategy 3*

Any Cohort 1 and 2 Immediate Intervention Underperforming School (II/USP) which fails to make their target goal two years in a row becomes a state-monitored school and is subject to state intervention. Ord Terrace School was identified as a School Assistance and Intervention Team (SAIT) school. Associate Superintendent John Lamb, Monterey County Office of Education Program Coordinators Adrienne Meckel and Theresa Rouse, and Ord Terrace Principal Mariphil Romanow-Cole, reviewed the SAIT process, introduced the team, shared their report of findings, recommended corrective actions for Ord Terrace School, and clarified questions from Board members. This item will be brought back for action at the next regular meeting.

3. Follow-Up on Program Improvement Letters Sent to Parents – *Strategy 3*

Program Improvement (PI) is the formal designation for Title I funded schools which do not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years. During Year 1 of PI designation, the identified school(s) must offer choice to attend a non-PI school and the District is responsible for transportation costs. Highland School was designated PI status in spring 2003. Ord Terrace, Fitch Middle, and King Middle schools were added to PI status in fall 2003. Categorical Programs Coordinator Kathryn Knauf provided an overview of the process and clarified questions from Board members.

Mr. Graddy said he received calls from several Fitch Middle School parents who expressed concern about the notification and turnaround time for response, and that the notices were given to their children to give to their parents.

It was the consensus of the Board to move Action #8 up on the agenda.

I. ACTION

- 8. Approve Single Plan for Student Achievement for Manzanita Elementary School – *Strategy 6*

RESOLVED that the Single Plan for Student Achievement for Manzanita Elementary School be approved.

MSC	LeBoeuf, Troutman
AYES:	7

- 1. Approve Resolution #03/04-5: Resolution to Adopt Tie Breaker Criteria – *Strategy 1*

RESOLVED that Resolution #03/04-5: Resolution to Adopt Tie Breaker Criteria be approved.

MSC	Eggers, LeBoeuf
AYES:	7

- 2. Approve Resolution #03/04-6: Resolution for the Reduction or Discontinuation of Particular Kinds of Services and Layoff of Certificated Employees – *Strategy 1*

RESOLVED that Resolution #03/04-6: Resolution for the Reduction or Discontinuation of Particular Kinds of Services and Layoff of Certificated Employees be approved.

MSC	Eggers, Troutman
AYES:	7

- 3. Approve Resolution #03/04-7: Resolution to Non-Reelect Emergency Credentialed Employees – *Strategy 1*

RESOLVED that Resolution #03/04-7: Resolution to Non-Reelect Emergency Credentialed Employees be approved.

MSC	Troutman, LeBoeuf
AYES:	7

- 4. Approve Resolution #03/04-8: Resolution to Release Temporary Certificated Employees – *Strategy 1*

RESOLVED that Resolution #03/04-8: Resolution to Release Temporary Certificated Employees be approved.

MSC	Eggers, Troutman
AYES:	7

- 5. Consider Alternative Recommendations for the 2004-2005 Budget Reductions – *Strategy 1*

Dr. Callahan said this item was placed on the agenda by the direction of the Board President for action.

President Lauterbach said she placed the item on the agenda because even though the Board appreciates the members of the community coming forward to work and provide scenarios, she also believed, as a Board, they have a decision to make and there may be other alternatives brought forth that other people are not aware of. She said she wanted to give Board members an opportunity to bring forth any alternatives for consideration.

Board Member Foss said she appreciated the work of the Facilities Utilization Committee and the Business Advisory Committee, but when it comes to things that impact people the way school closures impact people, she believed the Board has an obligation to look outside of those recommendations. She presented a consolidated scenario and said they were ideas from other Board members, staff, and community. She made reference to the military's interest in a pilot program and another suggestion for "rolling blackouts" of schools. Board Member Foss suggested a scenario where the Fitch site would become a pilot K-8 school and that La Mesa and Marshall elementary schools would be closed for one year for repairs and students sent to Fitch since most are military connected. Remaining students could attend another school in Monterey or their home school. She said the current sixth and seventh graders could remain at Fitch or transfer to one of the other middle schools. Board Member Foss also suggested closing Marina del Mar School, because it is a small school, and repairing it so the pain of school closures could be

shared among all three trustee areas. She suggested that impact aid monies from the General Fund be dedicated to up to four teaching positions for flexibility to address enrollment issues. She said Bay View is another small school and is at-risk in terms of staying open. Board Member Foss said there is also interest in having K-6 school configurations. She suggested directing extra time, attention, and resources to those schools which have been identified by the State as underperforming. In terms of a two year plan, she said there is community and District effort to increase revenue and attendance, and hoped that the results of those efforts in the next year would increase revenue and attendance through fund raising and encouraging people to enroll in the District. She said if that doesn't happen, the Board would have to reconfigure or close Foothill, Monte Vista, or Colton at the end of the 2004-2005 school year. Board Member Foss said if Del Rey Woods School is still identified as a School Assistance Intervention Team (SAIT) school, the school could be closed and re-opened after a couple of months as a reconfigured school, possibly with another name, and the school would be out from under the sanction. She also suggested relocating Central Coast High School and Ano Nuevo School to a more central site, and that the current site and Gladys Stone School become a temporary site for a Marina high school. She said it would alleviate some of the overcrowding at Monterey High School in terms of parking impact and field overcrowding, allow consideration of alternative uses with the District Office, and allow Monterey High School to continue with its small school project.

Board Member Eggers said kindergarteners are being bussed out of Marina because there is no room. If Marina del Mar is closed, how many more students will have to be bussed out of Marina to Seaside and Monterey schools? He said all schools are being repaired with state modernization money at minimal inconvenience to staff and students. By closing schools in some rotating order, money can be saved but only for one year, which is minus the cost for closing and reopening the school the following year. Board Member Eggers said he didn't see a significance and that it would disrupt more people in the process. He said elementary, middle, and high school students are currently being bussed out of Marina because there are more kids than schools. Students from Marina and Seaside are currently bussed to Monterey schools because they don't have enough students and too many schools.

Board Member LeBoeuf concurred and saw only one year's savings. She didn't think the bussing of students from Marina to other schools in the District has been examined. She expressed concern receiving alternatives and being asked to consider them as an action item. She said she had issues with some of the ideas and that the Board would have to think long term.

Board Member DeBono said she found Board Member Foss's proposal to be practical, it affects all three cities equally, and is long term. She said to dismiss the proposal because it is late in coming isn't justified.

Board Member Noriega said it was agreed upon at a previous meeting to accept the data and basic criteria from the Facilities Utilization Committee and use them to compare the ideas. He said if the three elementary schools are closed for repair for one year, the only savings is utilities and that the decision for school closures is only being delayed for one year.

Mr. Graddy, military liaison, said if this happened, Marshall may not open again. He said he will be sharing with military parents a proposal for the creation of a K-8 charter school at Marshall and La Mesa schools for the education of military children. He referred to an e-mail he received suggesting that all military children be consolidated into one school.

Board Member Troutman expressed support for Board Member Foss's proposal and that the Board should look at it carefully. She said there is room in Marina schools to accommodate their K-8 students.

Gary Wilmot, Marina resident, said La Mesa School is surrounded by its student population. He asked why the Board would consider bussing 500+ La Mesa School students to Marshall or Fitch, and bus students 300+ students from the Del Monte area to Foothill. He said it made more sense to close Foothill that has 75 students walking distance and bus them to La Mesa, as opposed to moving students from a full neighborhood to a school across town. He said the "rolling maintenance" proposal made less sense.

Bob Miller, Olson School principal, clarified Board Member Troutman's comment regarding adequate capacity in Marina schools, and said most of the 450 openings are at Marina del Mar School. He said there are not enough classrooms to absorb the students in the three remaining Marina schools, and according to recent figures there is a shortage of four classrooms.

Carol Saxton, Marina resident, said the proposal for the military sounded inviting. She expressed concern that some members of the Board had time to gather data to support Board Member Foss's proposal, and said she heard that other Board members received the information this evening. She said there are rules and regulations that govern the Board, and questioned whether they have been followed or not.

Board Member Foss said the Board has been listening to Mr. Graddy about the needs of the military and charter schools. She said the Board has to be very cautious about those types of discussions.

Board Member Troutman said Board Member Foss also mentioned that there could be no discussions, and that the Board is abiding by the rules and regulations.

Francine Stewart, Monterey Bay Teachers Association President, referred to comments about the Facilities Utilization Committee and Business Advisory Committee, and said there was a lot of time and effort that went into the teams. She said she didn't vote on any of the scenarios because there was not a scenario presented that had the theory of not closing schools. She commended Board members willing to look outside the box, and reiterated the committees have solid numbers to apply to the alternative proposal.

Liz Reisenbichler, Foothill School parent, thanked Board Member Foss for thinking outside the box and considering the military. She said the Board has heard from the subcommittee that represents Marina interests and those who live in Monterey. She said Seaside is caught in the middle. She said there is a need to be inclusive and not segregated, and the Board should look at the entire District. She said Foothill School can bring students into the District because of the quality of education.

John McCutcheon, Marina resident, said the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process is military oriented, has set criteria, and doesn't consider the school quality. He referred to the District's demographics and said the City of Monterey has gone publicly stating they have no room to grow. Mr. McCutcheon said the Board is not doing the District a favor by bussing students to protect schools; they should be serving MPUSD, not emotional parents associated with a particular school.

Board Member Noriega expressed concern about comments of a Marina contingent and said the city has nothing to lose in the process. The members volunteered their time, experience, and knowledge to help the process. He referred to comments about Monterey wanting to be its own school district, and said the growth is in Marina and the District will see a richer district financially that will be shared with all schools in MPUSD.

Helen Rucker, Seaside resident, referred to six-month enrollment for La Mesa, Marshall, and Fitch and said it added up to 1701. She noted Fitch's 958 capacity and asked what school will the excess students attend? She did not support the closing of Marina del Mar School, and said La Mesa School parents might not want their child being bussed all the way to Fitch. She said the kids are the losers who can't afford to be lost.

Kim Reisenbichler, Foothill School parent, said the City of Monterey is updating their General Plan and the State, through AMBAG, has been asked to add a growth of 1,302 new residences in Monterey by 2007. He said the District is also planning to put 300 new houses on Tarp Flats when water is available. If Marshall is renovated, it could be the school that could serve as the fast track growth school for Marina.

Sally Smith, Facilities Utilization Committee member, expressed disappointment and said a number of people worked long and hard to create good data on enrollment, capacity, and growth in order for the Board to make good and wise decisions. She supported the K-8 concept for Fitch, but not at the expense of closing La Mesa School – a school that is full, is a neighborhood school, and doesn't require busing. She hoped that the Board could see the District as a whole as a challenging, diverse, growing district, but the Board has chosen the past. Mrs. Smith said if the military takes it kids out of the District, a thousand students will be lost and the Board will lose control and the funding.

Pam Haze, Monte Vista School teacher, expressed disappointment in the facilities utilization process, and said she heard that the Presidio is taking back the Larkin site and that the International School of Monterey has already made arrangements with the committee to take over the Monte Vista campus.

Board Member Troutman motioned and Board Member Foss seconded to consider and discuss Board Member Foss's proposal at the next meeting.

Board Member Foss requested that the motion be tabled until the Board goes through the rest of the agenda.

Mr. Noriega expressed concern that the Superintendent and staff have not had an opportunity to look at the proposal, and to put it in a proper format for the Board and public to review.

After a brief discussion and concern that the proposal was not made available to staff and the audience, it was the consensus of the Board for staff to look at the recommendation, and provide information as to its feasibility and whether it is cost effective.

Dr. Callahan said there is concern in some parts of the community that staff is bias. He said the information that staff will bring back for the March 10 meeting might fall victim to that, and asked if the Board is interested in having the Facilities Utilization Committee brought together or whether the Board wanted the Superintendent and available staff to analyze it.

Board Member Troutman requested numbers in terms of how many students go where and what will happen to the students displaced; is busing the students from La Mesa practical; can part of the proposal be used and encompassed in some other ideas?

Board Member DeBono requested the opinion of staff. Is it feasible and worth our effort?

Board Member Noriega said it sounds like the Board is doing the same thing a previous Board did several years ago – sidestepping the inevitable. He felt some Board members were trying to come up with every kind of scenario so they don't have to make the decision. He felt all proposals should be formatted similar to the work of the Business Advisory Committee and Facilities Utilization Committee, and then the Board can compare. He said the Board spent two hours on the issue this

evening and there were only a lot of opinions and no solid information to make a decision. He suggested utilizing District staff, and stated time is marching and the Board is not making any decisions.

Kathy Buaya, Foothill School parent, felt everything is going too fast, and there are other ideas she's heard in the community. She wanted the Foothill consortium to submit by tomorrow what they would see is an ideal solution.

Board Member Troutman said no specific deadline was made. She distributed a sheet consisting of questions, concerns, recommendations for cost reductions, ways to bring in new money, and property reconfiguration/disposition proposals.

President Lauterbach requested that the following information be included under alternative recommendations at the March 15 meeting: total of travel and conference for the Board, Superintendent, and administrative staff in the unrestricted part of the budget; and the amount of site discretionary funding at each school.

6. Consider Business Advisory
Recommendations – *Strategy*
7

Chief Business Officer Jim Burnis said the Board reviewed four of the five Business Advisory Committee (BAC) recommendations on the summary page, and the only issue is closing schools. He clarified an article in the local newspaper several days ago and said the BAC did not recommend the closing of a middle school. The committee was recommending to close two schools, the Board's choice.

Board Member LeBoeuf said she was at a loss, and that the Board is just sidestepping and playing a dance game. She concurred with an earlier statement and said she has been hearing things in the public about rumors, about certain people saying they were saving schools and no schools were going to be closed. She expressed concern about bringing up last-minute alternatives to closing schools, and if it was true, she said there is a trust issue on the Board and if that's the case, there would be a trust issue with the public. Board Member LeBoeuf said unless the Board makes some serious decisions, they will be here until May trying to figure out what they are going to eliminate just to get around doing the big job. She said the Board is here to make the hard decisions, and if you can't stand the heat, you shouldn't have run for this office.

7. Consider Facilities Utilization
Committee Recommendations
– *Strategy 6*

Dr. Callahan clarified earlier comments and said the Facilities Utilization Committee reviewed everything that was in their packet prior to their making their recommendations. In regard to comments made about restructuring, he reminded that the K-8 structure was a single possibility among many possible scenarios. Regarding the makeup of the committee, he said it represented all aspects of the District. Dr. Callahan said on March 4, 2004, the Board directed administration to develop a sample for Scenario 3. He said Facilities Planner Colette McLaughlin, Transportation Director Bill Martin, and he spent all day Friday developing one scenario. He recommended that the Board review, discuss, and at some point take action on closure recommendations and direct staff to work on facilitating discussions among staff of the affected schools that would include the development issues of all students. At this time, Dr. McLaughlin spoke about the methodology used to develop the sample for Scenario 3, and Mr. Martin shared his reflections on facilities utilization. Dr. Callahan proceeded to distribute a sample implementation for Scenario 3 elementary school enrollments and sample implementation for Scenario 3 middle/K-8 school enrollments, as well as the current MPUSD boundaries for current elementary and middle school enrollments. He said he would explain the sample scenarios and entertain questions from the Board.

There was brief discussion among Board members regarding the lateness of the hour, and it was the consensus of the Board for Dr. Callahan to present the sample implementation for scenario 3 at the March 10 meeting.

J. INFORMATION

1. Review Responses to Communication from" Foothill Elementary Parent and Teacher Consortium and Concerned Monte Vista Parents and Teachers
- Due to the lateness of the hour, this item was tabled to the next meeting.

K. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Callahan, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary

DC/jif

^Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Presidio of Monterey & Naval Postgraduate School
+Motion/Second/Carried