

March 10, 2004

A. Call to Order

The Board of Education of the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District met in special session at 6:02 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 (arrived at 6:20 p.m.)
Resa Foss
Regena Lauterbach
Shanda LeBoeuf (arrived at 6:40 p.m.)
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 6:03 p.m. to discuss the following:

- Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release – *Government Code section 54957*

E. Reconvene Open Session

The Board reconvened at 7:01 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 Eggers.

President Lauterbach made opening comments.

G. Report Action Taken in Closed Session, if any

No reportable actions were taken in closed session.

**H. Certificates/
Presentations/
Recognitions**

1. Responses to Communication from "Foothill Elementary Parent and Teacher Consortium and Concerned Monte Vista Parents and Teachers" - *Strategy 1*

At the February 25, 2004, special Board meeting, the Foothill Elementary Parent and Teacher Consortium and Concerned Monte Vista Parents and Teachers presented Board members with 36 questions regarding the process and criteria selected for closing and restructuring schools, and the overall process to identify budget cuts. Dr. Callahan read aloud each question and response, and clarified questions from Board members and the audience.

**I. Suggestions and Comments
From Visitors - Non-
Agenda Matters**

Cynthia Myers, parent of a special day class program child, expressed concern about the special education program and asked what school her child will be in next year.

Helen Rucker, Seaside resident, referred to comments made by the public criticizing those who served on the Business Advisory Committee and the Facilities Utilization Committee, and said the Board and those who sat through disheartening statements owe the two committees a vote of thanks and an apology. She said MPUSD will have a difficult time finding anyone to participate on a District committee if the Board doesn't say that what has been said is wrong.

Charles Eldred, provided an update on the fund raising efforts to raise \$740,000 to forestall school closures and said the Educational Foundation to Support MPUSD will be accepting monetary donations. He said the budget deficit is state-initiated, urged community support at the local level, and invited all to the fund raising meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30 p.m., at the MPUSD District Office. Mr. Eldred said additional information is forthcoming.

Gary Carlson, MPUSD resident, referred to the recruitment of special education teachers in the Philippines and requested information as to why MPUSD teachers weren't offered the positions, the cost to recruit them and bring them to Monterey, guarantees and contracts, and where they stand in the layoff procedure.

Dr. Callahan said the process was vetted in front of the Board, the hiring of one of the teachers covered the cost of the trip, and there was no District monies put out of pocket to bring the teachers to the Monterey Peninsula. He said there was a net savings from hiring the teachers, and noted special education teachers are difficult to hire from within and out of the District. Dr. Callahan said any other detailed questions could be referred to the Personnel Services Director.

J. Action

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

Dr. Callahan said at the last Board meeting, two alternatives ([1] the closure of Marina del Mar, Marshall & La Mesa schools and [2] the closure of Fitch Middle School) were submitted and the Board gave direction to staff to analyze them. He said all the available data and narratives were forwarded to the Facilities Utilization Committee for their response. He distributed information related to the two alternatives and recommended scenario 3, reviewed the top five criteria --- capacity, density, bus riders, available seats, and neighborhood index --- and clarified questions from Board members.

In response to Board Member Eggers question whether staff had a chance to provide input on Scenario 9 that was submitted at the beginning of the meeting, Board Member Troutman said she wrote the proposal prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Associate Superintendent John Lamb provided logistical and transportation issues if Alternative 1 or 2 were considered.

Chief Business Officer Jim Burnis referred to the increase in ridership and a cost increase as high as \$400,000 to the General Fund if Alternative 1 were to be implemented.

Board Member Troutman reviewed recommendations for cost reductions that were submitted to her by employees.

Board Member DeBono referred to the Business Advisory Committee recommendation regarding a one-day furlough and asked that her proposal to include the Superintendent, Cabinet, and Board be included.

Public comment was held at this time regarding the Alternative recommendations. Comments/suggestions included:

- Keep Foothill School open.
- Keep La Mesa School open.
- La Mesa has a significant role in the world and has a high percentage of international students.
- The main reason the military want to be transferred to Monterey is because of La Mesa School (Naval Postgraduate School student).
- La Mesa community logged over 15,000 volunteer hours which attributes to the high amount of involved parents and close proximity to the school.
- Keep Marshall School open.
- Students in the northern part of the District would have to be bussed further south.
- Marshall School parents received two hours notice about possible school closure.
- Will back up any decision that closes Marshall or La Mesa based on facts and due process. The process began several months ago and recommendations made. If act on alternatives within two nights, is not due process and would be a travesty.
- The Board approved a process a few months ago and set a committee to research the impacts. Can't believe that a decision this big could be adequately researched in two days. If you believe the recommendations the committee gave you missed something, investigate with due process and diligence.
- There was a three-month process to form recommendations, and in the 11th hour new alternatives came in. The decision is being made in crisis mode.
- Eliminate Board member compensation.
- The committees spent three months to develop recommendations (Scenario 3) to the Board.
- If taking a reduction in certain areas, look at attrition and retirements and don't rehire.
- The Board doesn't fully understand the cost or benefits well enough to make a decision tonight.
- Take a pay cut before closing schools.
- Proposition 55 just passed and allows the District a high school, middle school, and four elementary schools.
- Conduct an independent audit.
- Military students move a lot and some of their parents are overseas defending our freedom. They are going through extra stresses.
- Why are 11th hour plans being considered?
- How is the military children represented in the decisions? (Ron Graddy said he is military representative to the Board; Dr. Callahan responded retired military representatives served on the Facilitation Utilization Committee, as well as Mr. Graddy and military school liaison Cindy Rothstein).
- Board Member LeBoeuf said she was a former military student and is aware of the special needs of the military.
- The committee worked with objective criteria and made a recommendation. Board members came up with alternatives. Look at the numbers and criteria.
- How will low income families be able to handle the bus fee?
- Urge parents to support the fund raiser drive; in the meantime, consider dipping into the reserve to save a school or two.
- Stop looking for \$2 million cut. The Board's job is to provide the best education for kids with the resources at your disposal – the community.
- The decision should be the best for kids and makes sense. Plan needs to be fair and well thought out. Use the reserve fund.
- There is nothing else you can cut from the schools at this point in time, except to close another school. You have a committee who did the research. Don't throw out the recommendation because someone comes with a new suggestion.
- Declare the Monterey Peninsula as a disaster area and get financial aid from Monterey County.
- The shuffling of students won't fix the problem. You need to deal with the expenses.
- There is no evidence of net gain for the closures. Allow time to implement permanent solutions through fund raising. The greater community must embrace. Keep the schools open and weather the budget shortages.
- The criteria developed by the Facilities Utilization Committee is narrow and should reflect the quality of education and diverse needs of all students. The District only looks at saving dollars.

- Need a long-term strategy plan to get the community involved. Monterey should not take the brunt. Consider making schools in Monterey schools of choice.
- Seeing how many parents come to a meeting is not the way to determine school closures. The budget crisis is a result of declining enrollment and increasing expenses. Everything staff provided and what the audience has said is none of the alternatives make sense and shouldn't be included. The administration has done more to bring the public into the process to make it transparent. The Board is not acting in the best interest of the District. Bringing in scenarios late and not letting staff look at it is unprofessional and against what you should be doing for the best service of the students.

*Consider to the School Closures
Alternative 1 -- the Closure of
Marina del mar, Marshall, and La
Mesa Schools*

After two and one-half hours of comments/suggestions from approximately 50 parents, teachers, students, and community members, the following action was taken:

RESOLVED that the Board consider to the school closures Alternative 1 – the closure of Marina del Mar, Marshall, and La Mesa Schools.

MSC	LeBoeuf, Noriega
AYES:	1 (Foss)
NOES:	6

*Consider to the School Closures
Alternative 2 -- the Closure of Fitch
Middle School*

The motion died for lack of a majority vote.

RESOLVED that the Board consider to the school closures Alternative 2 – the closure of Fitch Middle School

*Consider Board Member DeBono's
Amendment of the One-day Furlough*

MSC	LeBoeuf, Troutman
AYES:	7

RESOLVED that the Board consider the amendment of the one-day furlough to include Board Member DeBono's recommendation on salary cuts.

MSC	DeBono, Foss
AYES:	3 (DeBono, Lauterbach, Troutman)
NOES:	4 (Eggers, Foss, LeBoeuf, Noriega)

The motion died for lack of a majority vote.

Board Member Noriega motioned that the meeting be extended to 11:00 p.m. There was no second.

2. Consider Business Advisory
Recommendations -
Strategy 1

Due to the lateness of the meeting, this item was tabled to the next meeting.

3. Consider Facilities Utilization
Committee Recommendations -
Strategy 6

Due to the lateness of the meeting, this item was tabled to the next meeting.

K. 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