

April 5, 2004

A. Call to Order

The Board of Education of the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District met in regular session at 5:32 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.

Roll Call – Establishment of Quorum

Board Members Present: Terri DeBono
Robert Eggers (arrived at 6:40 p.m.)
Resa Foss
Regena Lauterbach
Shanda LeBoeuf (arrived at 6:20 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 Present: 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.

B. Public Comments

Susan Woodward, Monte Vista School parent, said any decision made would be detrimental to fundraising efforts, and asked the Board to review a plan she developed to meet the \$2.2 million budget deficit.

May Higuera, Monte Vista School teacher, recommended an immediate hiring freeze on at least two or three top administrative positions for the upcoming year.

Neal Maldonado asked the Board to take planning and literacy under consideration when they discuss Public Employee Performance Evaluation.

Glen Harrell, Monte Vista parent, felt there is an agenda that was being withheld from Monte Vista parents, and that he was troubled that this would be discussed before any decision had been made about Colton and the location of the K-8 school.

C. Closed Session

The Board adjourned to closed session at 5:50 p.m. to discuss the following:

1. Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Gov. Code section 54957)
Superintendent of Schools
2. Conference with Real Property Negotiator (Gov. Code section 54956.8)
*Property: 2995 Rendova Road, Marina
225 Normandy Road, Seaside
190 Seeno Street, Monterey
251 Soledad Drive, Monterey
Negotiating Parties: Daniel Callahan
Under Negotiation: Term and Conditions*
3. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release (Gov. Code section 54957)

- D. Reconvene Open Session** The Board reconvened open session at 7:29 p.m. to take the following action:
- E. Pledge of Allegiance** The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by President Lauterbach.
- F. Report Action Taken in Closed Session, if any** No reportable actions were taken in closed session.
- G. Take Action to Items That Arose Since Posting of the Agenda and Approve Agenda (2/3 Vote Required if Any Item is Added to the Agenda)** No additional items were added since posting of the agenda.
RESOLVED that the agenda be approved as presented.
- | | |
|-------|-------------|
| MSC+ | Eggers/Foss |
| AYES: | 7 |
| NOES: | 0 |
- H. Public Hearing**
1. Manzanita School and Seaside High School - Cohort 3 Schools, Immediate Intervention/Underperforming Schools Program - *Strategy 3* The Board President opened the public hearing at 7:33 p.m.
John Lamb, Associate Superintendent, informed the Board that a public hearing was required according to Education Code 52055 for schools that failed to meet their annual short-term growth within 12 months following receipt of the Immediate Intervention/Underperforming Schools Program (II/USP) Implementation Grants.
There were no public comments.
The public hearing closed at 7:35 p.m.
2. Monterey Bay Charter School John Lamb, Associate Superintendent, informed that the Monterey Bay Charter School, chartered by the San Lorenzo Valley School District, requested that the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District become their local education agency. Per Education Code 47605, once a formal petition has been submitted to the governing board, consideration must be made for approval.
Helen Rucker, Seaside resident, expressed concern about being asked to comment on something that she did not have information on, particularly since it would be presented for Information at the next meeting.
Kim Reisenbichler, Foothill School parent, said that the District is in disarray, and if the Board considered making a decision on the charter school, they did not deserve being on the Board.
- I. Certificates/ Presentations/ Recognitions**
- *1. Implications Resulting From Closing of Monte Vista School Dr. Callahan referred to next year's State budget and said California will be in the bottom 10% of all states in the nation per pupil funding. He said half of California school districts are in declining enrollment, and that approximately 158,000 jobs were lost in Monterey County over the last three years. He said the State asked school districts to make further budget cuts and noted there are seven school districts that have been taken over by the State. Dr. Callahan said that it wasn't his or Chief Business Officer Jim Burnis's recommendation to make budget cuts and school closures, and it wasn't their wish to have some community members discuss the possibility of the formation of a separate school district. He was asked by some Board members to do a presentation outlining what some of the possibilities might be with the closure of Monte Vista School. He said there were several issues related whether staff should begin to operate administratively or wait for Board direction. Dr. Callahan

outlined some of the implications resulting from the closure of Monte Vista School, and he reviewed two possible scenarios: (1) return Seaside and Marina students to their schools of residence and move Monte Vista students to Colton to form a K-8 school; and (2) close Monte Vista, have Colton remain a 6-8 middle school and re-distribute the Monte Vista students to the other three Monterey elementary schools. Because of the large number of variations on both scenarios, he reviewed a brief series of pluses and minuses to give the Board a framework so they could give direction on how staff should proceed, and clarified questions from Board members. Dr. Callahan noted the complexity of the task involved and the urgency for the Board to move forward. He staff administration was prepared to set up a task force at the various schools three weeks ago, but was directed not to go forward until consideration could be given to which of the issues the Board wanted to make decisions on and which issues staff should work on. He said the scenario that generated the most support districtwide was to close Monte Vista, have K-6 Monte Vista students attend Colton, and retain the 7-8 students from Bay View, La Mesa and Foothill attend Colton for one year only. Then make Bay View, La Mesa, and Foothill K-6 schools for the 2004-2005 school year, and over the course of the upcoming school year, make decisions about whether to have one, two, or three more K-8 schools in Monterey.

Monte Vista School Principal Annette LeTourneau presented a series of interests and Colton Middle School Principal Brenda Alota shared a letter from staff and parents.

Board Member DeBono said if the Board would like to have Colton as a K-8 school, staff should be asked to proceed with the committee suggested to address the issues, in particular transfers and K-8 open enrollment.

Board member Eggers suggests that parent groups be formed to begin examining scenarios that could be brought back to the Board for consideration, to include inter/intra district transfers, open enrollment, and other issues that were discussed.

Board member DeBono said that was the intent, but she wanted the Board to come to consensus that a K-8 configuration is what should be done and that the process begin. She stressed the importance of diversity being facilitated in the consideration of intradistrict transfers as part of the K-8 configuration.

Dr. Callahan said that the Board can give direction to have staff bring back recommendations on any of the issues.

In response to Board Member LeBoeuf's question whether discussion can be held with reference to creating K-6 or two K-8 configurations in Monterey and the implications, Dr. Callahan said depending on the action taken with having a K-8 configuration and which school would be identified as a K-8, a series of recommendations from staff and the communities can be brought back to the Board.

Board member Noriega referred to declining enrollment information from 1999-2003, which reflected school attendance based on students bused, and requested information on feeder schools. He said it appeared that Colton couldn't be a true K-8 unless other students were bused to Colton to keep Colton viable. He stressed the importance of proper representation from all segments of the community, but if this was done, then parents couldn't be charged for transportation.

Board member Foss concurred with Board member DeBono regarding the current transfer policy and school of choice.

DLI/POM/NPS Representative Ron Graddy asked if Colton became a K-8, would there be fewer 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students and if Fitch were to be a Program Improvement (PI) School and parents had the option to enroll their children at another school, where would parents enroll their children? He asked if it was known how many parents would want to enroll their children elsewhere and would consideration be given in the process. It was his understanding that it was required by law to allow parents to enroll their children elsewhere if they wanted to move their children from a PI school. If a middle school is reduced that could enroll those children, what options would parents have?

(Student Board Member Michael Leonard left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.)

In response to military representative Ron Graddy's question regarding Program Improvement (PI) schools and options for parents who decide to transfer their child from an identified PI middle school to a non PI middle school, Dr. Callahan said it is not known if the middle school population will get larger or smaller until Board action is taken. He said one of the options that would increase the number of available seats is if there were multiple K-8 schools in the District which would allow more options for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to attend schools, rather than less.

Discussion continued regarding intradistrict transfers, retrofitting Colton for K-8, transportation, neighborhood schools, programs for students, other schools for consideration as a K-8 in Monterey, and teacher transfers.

There was discussion regarding the surveying parents of Colton and Monte Vista schools. Board member Noriega suggested that the Board give permission for the Superintendent, Cabinet, and Colton and Monte Vista principals to discuss with the community and teachers how the configuration should look.

President Lauterbach said that she had a problem with the committee in that she did not want the committee making decisions for Foothill, Bay View and La Mesa. If a K-6 is created at one of those schools, then staff/parents and community members of those schools should be invited to participate and provide input to that committee. She also said that students should attend their school of choice, and stressed that the Board is asking for an advisory committee.

After further discussion, consensus was given for the Superintendent to work with a committee composed of the two principals, and parents/staff from Colton and Monte Schools to bring back recommendations to the April 19 Board meeting as to what a generic K-8 would look like.

Dr. Callahan asked if it is the Board's direction to address the issues, and to do so with a committee representative of the Monterey area. He said unless action is taken that Colton Middle School will not be a K-8, then Colton would be used. He said the committee's composition will consist of three parents each from Foothill, La Mesa, and Bay View; six parents each from Monte Vista and Colton, and staff members from both schools. The committee will bring a recommendation to the Board at its April 19 meeting with models that will best fit the community. Dr. Callahan clarified that the direction was the items included on the annotation in addition to those items discussed: (1) account for any additional dollars associated with retrofitting, (2) account for diversity, and (3) provide an estimate on the bussing of students to determine if there is a cost savings or higher transportation cost.

In response to a question from Board member DeBono regarding the configuration, Ms. LeTourneau and Mrs. Alota said they would like to see a decision made about a K-8 at Colton, and for the Board to give Dr. Callahan direction to move forward so both schools can plan accordingly.

I. Student Board Member Reports

Andrew Mahone reported on activities at Seaside High School including the spring expo, academic excellence banquet, a visit from NASA astronaut Captain Daniel Burst, JROTC training camp, class rings, and the scholar-athlete football banquet.

(Andrew left the meeting at 9:10 p.m.)

J. Communications

President Lauterbach acknowledged communication from the Monte Vista neighborhood, Tom Mancini, Microsoft class action suit, FORA, Judith Reese, Stephanie Mahoney, Karen Kessler, Sharon Enea, Sally Schafer-Harr, Naomi Pollack, Susan Woodward, Terry Adams, Liz Love, Sean Rowe, Carolyn Greving, Lori Huelga, Jennifer Stone, Christine Short, Kathy Williams, Richard Grahlman, Nick and Maria Holvick, Carrie Compango, Bob Riefe, Education Foundation, JPA Presentation, Barb Mansiquerra, May Higuera and League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

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

Board member Foss reported on Monterey and Seaside High School students who were on an all-county team.

Board member Troutman said that there were five or six Colton students participating in the Science Fair.

Dr. Callahan announced that Board member Noriega was elected member of the California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly, Region 9B. He reported that the State completed a District Coordinated Compliance Review (CCR) and commended the Adult Education Program, King Middle School, and Highland Elementary School for their efforts.

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

Susan Woodward, Monte Vista School parent, spoke about the formation of the committee and K-8 schools in Monterey. She said that based on the confusion and lack of direction, the Monte Vista closure is a mistake and asked the Board to reconsider the closure. She expressed concern about K-8 schools and the limited choice in Monterey. She suggested re-opening Monte Vista, and to make sure that there is representation from all groups

Donna Kiernan, Highland principal, referred to the Coordinated Compliance review and acknowledge Highland staff in the audience.

Yvonne Despard, Crumpton principal and Monterey Bay School Administrators Association President, read aloud a statement of support and confidence in the Cabinet. Their efforts were acknowledged and successes celebrated.

Barry Perkins, Monte Vista School parent, recommended to not start an outreach to parents when there is only one week to come up with suitable alternatives and feedback necessary for decisions. He said an ongoing outreach to parents should be done so that there is a better line of communication to and from parental groups. He made suggestions as to what should be included on the survey to parents.

Barbara Dangerfield, Monte Vista and Colton parent, spoke on behalf of the parents about trust and the Board saying no decision has been made about a K-8 and there were other alternatives. She said building trust is a key strategy in the Strategic Plan, and that it is time for the Board to trust the community that developed the facilities use recommendation.

Rick Heurer, Monterey resident, asked the Board how they could make a decision to create a K-8 if they don't know the cost? He said the Neighborhood Improvement Commission for the City of Monterey has funded and authorized improvements over the last 10 years in some schools in Monterey, but has not received recognition from the Board for those improvements. He asked why were only Monterey schools under consideration for closure?

A Monte Vista parent, spoke about the uncertainty of where his child will attend. He asked to see a budget, scenarios, and plans for upgrading Colton as a K-8 school.

Liz Spadaro, Monte Vista parent, urged the Board to make decisions based on fact and to proceed in a timely fashion.

A parent urged the Board to make a decision so that parents can move forward.

A parent spoke about equitability, and urged the Board to allow parents a choice of school for their children.

Surry Patel, Monte Vista School parent, said he did not understand the plan to close Monte Vista, requested alternatives, and for the Board to make timely decisions.

Allison Bohenen, Highland School teacher, expressed concern about the District accepting teaching applications for next year when teachers who have received their layoff notices have not been notified of being hired for next year. She asked that

before the District goes to the expense of recruiting, that it should consider the people currently working for the District.

May Higuera, Monte Vista School teacher and volunteer for the Education Foundation for MPUSD, urged immediate hiring freezes on at least two of the top administrators retiring, and to not pay overtime.

Larry Raussa, Seaside School Resource Officer, asked if children affected by the school closures would receive psychological services/counseling.

Karen Kessler, Foothill School teacher and Colton Middle School parent, felt that her choice as a Monterey resident has been taken away from her. She felt that parents need choice as to where their children go to school.

Kathy Buaya, Foothill School parent, expressed concerned that the Board isn't ready to make a decision any more than they were three months ago, and more time is needed to make a decision. She said each parent has a right to choose where their child should attend school.

Liz Reisenbichler, Foothill School parent and volunteer of the Education Foundation for MPUSD, asked everyone to make a donation to keep schools open.

M. Action Items

1. Establish K-8 School for 2004-2005

Dr. Callahan said this item was placed on the agenda at the Board's direction.

Board Member Foss motioned and Board Member Troutman seconded that the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District establish a K-8 school for 2004-2005.

Dr. Callahan described the scenario – Monte Vista closing, Colton becoming a K-8 this year with K-6 Monte Vista students and 7-8 Bay View, La Mesa and Foothill students. Bay View, Foothill and La Mesa would become K-6 schools. Over the course of next year, a decision would be made as to whether there should be another K-8 school within the City of Monterey.

Board member Eggers said that he couldn't support a motion that did not have a date when it would be implemented.

In response to Board Member DeBono's questions about the cost to retrofit a school, Chief Business Officer Jim Burnis said the budget savings from closing a school are General Fund continuing budget savings, whereas retrofitting a school is one-time comes from another fund.

Board member LeBoeuf said that she did not feel comfortable without a date in the motion.

President Lauterbach said there was no vote to establish a K-8 school when the decision was made to close Monte Vista, and she felt that people should have a choice when closing schools. She expressed concern about the type of education that will be at Colton if students are sent back to Seaside, teachers being displaced and going to schools that are not of their choice, the cost, the time and what is being done to the kids. President Lauterbach said it isn't a good idea have kids at Colton, and that according to the Strategic Plan, K-8 implementation was to happen in 2005-2006 and the District should wait to implement a K-8 configuration.

Board member Troutman said selecting the word "primary" will give the people working on the scenario the option to choose the best type of program for students. By not putting a date, would give them greater flexibility in the determination when any possible primary – 8th school can be put into place.

In response to Board Member DeBono's question whether a decision regarding the school of choice has been decided with the transfers, President Lauterbach said there was no decision. Board Member DeBono said she presumed those involved in the committee would make the best recommendations and asked why put a date if the assumption is next year?

Board Member Eggers said the Board gave direction to staff, by consensus, to consider intradistrict transfers.

Board President Lauterbach said the Board gave consensus to look at it, not to approve or disapprove the fact of it being done. She said the Board will look at intradistricts.

Board member Foss said she would entertain an amendment to put a date, if the Board agreed before implementation for 2004-2005 that there are hard figures and numbers as to the cost and who would go where.

Dr. Callahan said by putting contingencies, action could not be taken until the Board approves the completion of the contingencies. He suggested eliminating contingent from the motion and taking action on the motion. He said recommendations will be brought back to the next meeting that will answer those contingencies.

Board Member LeBoeuf motioned that the Board consider the amendment that the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District establish a primary - 8 school for the 2004-2005 school year.

The motion failed due to lack of a second.

Board Member Foss said if there was consensus, she would motion that the Board consider the amendment that the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District establish a primary through 8th grade school.

Board Member Troutman seconded the motion.

Board Member DeBono asked if consensus was action.

Dr. Callahan said Board action is by vote, not by consensus. He said the Board could (1) vote on the motion with contingencies, which did not mean action until contingencies were met; (2) make a motion without any contingencies, knowing that direction has been given to administration to report back at the next Board meeting with information to answer those contingencies; or (3) the item could be tabled until the next Board meeting when administration comes back with contingency information.

Board Member Foss said if the item is tabled, they would never get answers to the questions they have been asking for months.

Following further discussion, the following action was taken:

RESOLVED that the Board consider the amendment that the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District establish a primary through 8th grade school contingent upon how much it will cost, who will go where, and whether it is educationally and financially sound for the year 2004-2005.

MSC+	LeBoeuf/Troutman
AYES:	3 (Foss, Lauterbach, Troutman)
NOS:	4 (Noriega, Eggers, LeBoeuf, DeBono)

The motion died for a lack of a majority vote.

2. Establish Colton Site as a K-8 School for 2004-2005

Board Member Noriega motioned and Board Member Eggers seconded that the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District establish the Colton site as a K-8 school for 2004-2005.

Board Member DeBono requested clarification of the motion, and said she was not prepared to vote. She disagreed with President Lauterbach's reminder that there was not enough time to vote due to the lateness of the hour.

President Lauterbach said a motion to extend the meeting past 10:30 p.m. should be made.

Board member Eggers explained that when the vote is called, everyone should be prepared to vote. If for some reason Board Member DeBono felt that the information conflicts with something she is thinking about, she should discuss it.

Dr. Callahan said the issue is critical and noted the meeting can't end with a motion on the floor. He said there is important Board discussion going on and felt the community would not be upset if the meeting was extended beyond 10:30 p.m. Dr. Callahan recommended that the Board extend the meeting, continue its discussion, and then call for the question.

In response to Board Member DeBono's request for clarification, Board Member LeBoeuf said the Board is closing Monte Vista, but it has not decided where those students will be sent. She said a decision has to be made because the previous item failed.

Board member Troutman suggested that the item be tabled because information has not been received.

After further discussion the following action was taken:

RESOLVED that the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District establish the Colton site as a K-8 school for 2004-2005.

MSC+	Noriega, Eggers
AYE:	4 (DeBono, Eggers, LeBoeuf, Noriega)
NOS:	3 (Foss, Lauterbach, Troutman)

Due to the lateness of the hour, it was the consensus of the Board to continue the meeting to Tuesday, April 13, 2004, 6:00 p.m., at the Instructional Materials Center, 540 Canyon Del Rey, Monterey, beginning with Action Item M, Approve 2004-2005 Budget Guidelines.

N. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 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