

April 26, 2004

A. Call to Order

The Board of Education of the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District met in special session at 6:37 p.m. on the above date at the Instructional Materials Center, 540 Canyon Del Rey, Monterey, California.

The meeting was called to order by Clerk Vice-President Foss.

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

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

Board Member Absent: Regena Lauterbach

Staff Members Present: Jim Burnis
Daniel Callahan
Robert Costa
Yvonne Despard

DLI/POM/NPS Representative Present: Ron Graddy

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

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

C. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Board member Noriega.

Clerk Vice-President Foss acknowledged Seaside City Councilman Steve Bloomer in the audience.

By Board consensus, Action items were moved up on the agenda.

E. Action

1. Consider Closing Marshall School with Consolidation at Fitch as a K-8 School - *Strategy 1*

Dr. Callahan stated that this item was placed on the agenda as a result of a previous meeting. He said that staff and administration met and discussed the pros and cons of closing Marshall School.

Chief Business Officer Jim Burnis said that with the proposal to close Marshall, the cost of transportation would be an important factor. He informed the Board that approximately 316 students would have to be transported to Fitch and that the cost to transport those students would be an additional \$200,000. Mr. Burnis said that the average savings to close a school would be \$327,714; therefore, on the basis of enrollment and the additional cost to transport students, it would not be logical to close Marshall Elementary School.

Discussion was held among Board members as to what to do if they made the decision to not place this item on the agenda, and it was decided that a motion should be made and voted upon so that this item would not be considered in the future.

Board Member Troutman motioned and Clerk Vice-President Foss seconded to close Marshall School with consolidation at Fitch as a K-8.

Mary Frances Dunn, Marshall teacher, asked for clarification of their discussion.

Clerk Vice-President Foss explained that the Board discussed whether to put the item on the agenda, but it did not preclude some Board members from changing their mind at a later date with a motion to close Marshall School as a separate item.

Further discussion was held and it was agreed that the public would express their opinions before a vote was taken.

Mary Frances Dunn, Marshall teacher, expressed support to keep Marshall School open.

Beth Parsons, Marshall teacher, expressed support to keep Marshall School open and voiced her concerns about the cost and effort of closure.

Stacy Shelton-Farmer, Marshall teacher, voiced her concerns about safety and security of students.

Rebecca O'Brien, Marshall teacher, expressed her concern about the appropriateness of combining Marshall and Fitch to create a K-8 school.

Sally Cline, Marshall parent, voiced her concern about the impact on military families from the proposal to charge for transportation. She said that transporting Marshall students would create a financial burden on military families.

Joan Wood, Marshall teacher, expressed support to keep Marshall School open.

MAJ Cliff Harrison, Marshall parent, expressed his concerns about the scenario presented.

Lisa Harrison, Marshall parent, expressed concern about the safety of students and the exposure of the younger children with the older students.

Gayle Greenhoe, Marshall parent, said that the students' welfare had to be considered. She said that safety is an issue because of the traffic on Coe and General Jim Moore Boulevard with limited street lights and cross walks.

Surry Patel, Monte Vista parent, asked why it took so long to make a decision? He reminded the Board of what their goal are; and said if the criteria keeps changing then the Monte Vista closure should be revisited.

Adrienne Kendrick, Marshall parent, said that she worked the Facilities Subcommittee of the Strategic Action Plan team and said preparation should have been made to re-district. She asked at what point will the Board lead?

Ellen Collard, Monte Vista teacher, spoke of the vengeful, angry, infighting that occurs as the schools vied to keep open. She said she thought the closure decisions were to be based on criteria and not on who had the loudest voice. Ms. Collard said the process was destroying the Board, schools, and the community. She urged the Board to pull together on the criteria and apply it objectively.

Kathy Buaya, Foothill parent, agreed with comments made by Ellen Collard. She urged the Board to determine the criteria.

Dena Blaylock, MPUSD parent, asked the Board to decide what criteria would be used.

Gary Wilmot, MPUSD parent and member of the Facilities Utilization Committee, urged the Board to look at the criteria and recommendations, and base their decision on that information. He said the Board did not consider the recommendations from the Business Advisory Committee and the Facilities Utilization Committee.

Leo Manganares, Foothill parent, suggested that all schools remain open, and to minimize MPUSD's bureaucratic system that has the lowest paid teachers and the highest paid administrators.

Heather Issvoran, Foothill parent, said that the Facilities Utilization Committee and the Business Advisory Committee had two foundational problems – one was that the criteria was not brought before the Board, voted by the Board, and agreed to by the Board before the Superintendent's subcommittee implemented it; the second was that the information was found to be incorrect.

Liz Reisenbichler, Foothill parent, concurred with Heather Issvoran regarding the criteria. She urged the Board not to close any more schools and to revisit Monte Vista.

Bob Schafer, Monterey resident, supported the criteria developed by the Facilities Advisory Committee. He said information was provided for the committee's consideration. Mr. Schafer said the Board is not taking a leadership position and acting on expert advice.

RESOLVED that the closure of Marshall School with consolidation at Fitch as a K-8 school be approved.

MSC+	Troutman/Foss
AYES:	0
NOES:	6

The motion failed for lack of a majority vote.

2. Consider Budget
Reduction Items Not
Previously Discussed
– Strategy 1

Chief Business Officer Jim Burnis said additional direction was not received from the Board to research any other items.

Board member Troutman proposed the following:

1. Reduce the Superintendent's Office budget by \$100,000
2. Eliminate one school-based coordinated day program day
3. Combine Manzanita with King Middle School
4. Lease the top floor of the Instructional Material Centers

Board member Eggers suggested that Board members direct staff to provide information regarding the reconfiguration of Manzanita/King as was afforded to other schools considered for closure. He said that the Instructional Material Centers lease would not affect the General Fund.

Discussion was held regarding Board member Troutman's proposals and possible agenda items for the May 3rd meeting. Discussion was also held about the possible recommendations for the budget reduction. Superintendent Callahan urged the Board to make decisions based on the original recommendations because administration did not have any more suggestions to make.

Board member Eggers asked the Board majority to revisit the Business Advisory Committee's and Facilities Utilization Committee's recommendations. He reminded that previously, there was a motion to eliminate \$112,000 from the extra curricular stipend because at this point, the Board is deadlocked. He suggested eliminating all extra curricular and co-curricular programs, which would be a savings of \$336,000. Mr. Eggers said he didn't like proposing this, but he was willing to compromise. He urged the Board majority to make decisions and to trim the \$600,000.

Board member DeBono suggested a one-day furlough.

Helen Rucker, Seaside resident, spoke against placing the Manzanita/King proposal on the agenda. She apologized for comments made by community members against the Board and the Superintendent.

Carol Saxton, office supervisor at Highland, said students need help to stay where they are. She apologized for comments made by community members towards the Board and Superintendent.

Rena Tringali, Colton parent, said that more supervision of students is needed.

Gary Wilmot, MPUSD resident, asked staff to provide a distribution chart of who was bearing the cost and the savings, and asked for the staff to provide a list of recommendations made by the Business Advisory Committee, the savings, and rationale for the recommendations.

Tracy Ross, Marshall parent, spoke against cutting extra curricular activities.

Bob Schafer, MPUSD resident, asked for a chart that compared the savings achieved under the Facilities Utilization Committee recommendation (scenario 3) and the savings prepared/suggested by the Business Advisory Committee with comparison to savings achieved from cutting programs that Board member Eggers suggested.

Shauna Rowe, Foothill parent, suggested a chart of how much money would be made when MPUSD becomes a Title One district, and all of the population that would be in Marina and Seaside. She suggested the creation of a new advisory committee that was not biased to review the accuracy of the data being prepared.

Rick Alexander commended the Board for thinking out of the box. He said that it isn't wise to revisit the committees' suggestions.

Bob Schafer said his goal as a developer is the same as the parents' goal and the Board's goals -- to have good schools. He said, as a developer, he was on the side of the parents.

Jeanne Reeves, Monte Vista parent, asked that the Board revisit Board member Troutman's concern.

Steven Starks, MPUSD teacher, spoke about the bias that the Board has against Seaside and Marina.

Kim Reisenbichler, Foothill parent, reminded Board members about the Education Foundation of MPUSD. He asked the Board to look at the scenarios equally and make the best decisions.

Liz Reisenbichler, Foothill parent, urged the Board to not close any more Monterey schools.

Rena Tringali referred to minutes of September 2000 and September 2003 in which the 7-11 Committee proposed that excess properties be sold. She said that this could be an extra source of revenue.

Clerk Vice-President Foss summarized the items for consideration:

1. Consolidate administration at the middle school (\$150,000)
2. Close Del Rey Woods (\$330,000)
3. Lease the Instructional Materials Center (would not generate General Fund monies)
4. Discuss additional budget cuts out of General Fund
5. Eliminate one school-based coordinated program day (\$210,000)
6. Cut additional or all of extra curricular activities (\$335,000)
7. Consider one-day furlough for all employees (one-time savings of \$240,000)
8. Sell excess property and not pay the fee of 1% of the assessed value (\$10,000)

The Board recessed at 9:02 p.m. and reconvened at 9:08 p.m. to take the following action:

Clerk Vice-President Foss asked the Board if they wanted to consider all of the items, some of the items until \$466,000 was reduced, or none at all.

Board member Eggers recommended that the elimination of extra curricular and co-curricular programs be agendaized for the May 3 meeting.

Superintendent Callahan recommended that the agenda item be reworded to say, "reduce general fund contributions to extra and co-curricular activities."

It was the consensus that the Board would continue the meeting until agreement was reached on what should be reduced or not reduced.

Clerk Vice-President Foss said that Board member Troutman will be participating in the May 3 meeting by teleconference.

3. Approve Configuration Options for Colton as a K-8 School - Strategy 1

Dr. Callahan said that the Board reduced the options to B and D based on the Colton Transition Committee's recommendation.

At Clerk Vice-President Foss's request, Gail Morton, Monte Vista parent and member of the Transition Committee reviewed the configuration options for Colton. She emphasized that the composition of the committee included Monterey principals, two teachers from each site, and non-certificated staff members.

Board members discussed the recommended options of scenarios B and D at great length. Clerk Vice-President Foss expressed concern regarding the implementation of a K-8 that would necessitate a policy change to change some schools to K-6 and possibly boundary changes. She felt that policy changes would have to be made before making a decision.

Kathy Buaya, a Foothill School parent, said as a committee member, they wanted to make sure that the Board received all of the information so that it is presented as a proposal without recommending one option over the other. She said, in her opinion, it was important for the group and the students in the Del Monte area and the Casanova area to be able to attend the Monterey schools.

Rena Tringali, MPUSD parent, told the Board of an option that wasn't proposed which was option B -- add in the "Embassy Suites triangle." She said it would give the best of both proposals.

Rick Alexander, parent, said option D will affect his youngest son and asked that some preference be given to him so that he could attend the same school that his older siblings are attending.

Carolyn Grieving, parent, spoke about the "King square" and said that she had heard that most of the parents from that area would like to send their children to closer schools. She urged that the Board consider the bilingual students and keep them with their friends and teachers.

Helen Rucker, Seaside resident, provided history on the attendance boundary composition, and said it was to achieve some form of integration because, in the past, Colton was predominantly white and King was predominantly minority. She encouraged that all schools be equal.

Discussion continued on what Board members were voting for. Board member DeBono felt that the motion should be amended to include the grandfathering option. Board member Troutman also agreed as well, and to maintain the transfer average.

Clerk Vice-President Foss expressed concern that there will be an opportunity to implement a neighborhood policy that might or might not have to do with ethnic diversity.

Board member Noriega motioned and Board member Troutman seconded to accept Option D.

Gary Wilmot, MPUSD parent, urged the Board to support Option D.

RESOLVED that the Board accept Option D.

MSC+	Noriega/Troutman
AYES:	6
NOES:	0

D. Opportunity for Public Comments on Agenda Items

No Comments

F. Adjournment

The meeting 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