

June 14, 2004

A. Call to Order

The Board of Education of the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District met in regular session at 7:14 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: Robert Eggers
Resa Foss
Shanda LeBoeuf
Marjorie Troutman

Board Members Absent: Terri DeBono
Regena Lauterbach
Carlos E. Noriega

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

DLI/POM/NPS Representative Present: Cindy Rothstein

Clerk Vice-President Foss declared that a quorum was present and the Board proceeded with the order of business. She informed the public that the June 14th meeting was a continuation of the June 7 and June 8, 2004, meetings.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Associate Superintendent Lamb.

O. Reports
Strategy 1

1. Committees/Conferences
2. Superintendent's Report
- Celebrating Successes
"We need to celebrate successes."

Crumpton School Principal Yvonne Despard and Los Arboles Middle School Principal Carol Weesner, shared a video tape of Associate Superintendent John Lamb's retirement.

Darren Sylvia, King Middle School principal, provided an update on the status of Manzanita and King. He reviewed the new Fitch grades 6-8 attendance boundary and the realignment of King as a K-8 school. Mr. Sylvia said the area served over 1,000 students in grades K-8 and in order to keep the cap of a population of 850 students, 130 K-1 students will remain at Manzanita. He said grades 2-5 will be housed at King, in addition to grades 6-8. Mr. Sylvia said the school has solidified the number of students for grades 6-8 and received a class list from Manzanita. He anticipated having everything in place by Friday and will be addressing staffing issues as well.

Support Services Director Shelby Garrison said a letter was sent to parents informing them that there would be an informational meeting at King School, on Wednesday, June 10, 2004, 6:30 p.m., in order to answer questions regarding new boundary changes, the reconfiguration of King, as well as the new open enrollment window for families who were not interested in sending their children to King. She said the open enrollment window would occur June 16-25, 2004, and that five schools have been designated to receive student transfers.

Clerk Vice-President Foss acknowledged Manzanita School Principal Ron Allen and his staff.

Mr. Allen thanked Clerk Vice-President Foss for her comments and said Manzanita is working hard to ensure a smooth transition.

Mrs. Garrison, Support Services Director, indicated that a media blitz has been prepared to announce the upcoming meeting and that it has been translated in Spanish.

Helen Rucker, Seaside resident, spoke about the open enrollment window and expressed concern about the traffic that would be created for the younger children. She spoke of the concerns from Seaside parents and applauded them for putting their children above all else.

Discussion continued regarding the bell schedule and activities for students.

Blanca Baldivia, Manzanita parent, expressed concern that she did not hear announcements regarding the impending school closure and did not find adequate information in Spanish. Speaking as a Latina parent, she felt that most Latinos had been ignored and not given enough information nor the opportunity for discussion before the decision was made to close Manzanita. She believed that the children deserved more respect and that they needed their own school. She said she understood that the Board wants to save money, but at the same time, they did not take into consideration that the students needed their own space. She said her comments might not change the Board's decision, but she wanted the Board to understand how she, as a Latina parent, felt that the parents were put off to one side.

Board Member LeBoeuf said it wasn't fair because parents weren't given the opportunity to speak and have their voices heard, as were the parents from Monte Vista and Colton. She said that she would attend the meeting and stated that the recommendation was a surprise to her.

Clerk Vice-President Foss said that she would do whatever possible to give parents an advanced notice of any future meetings.

Guadalupe Hernandez, Manzanita parent, stated that she was very angry and asked what would happen if parents kept their students out of school for a week? She said that she wasn't convinced that it was safe for 4th graders to be housed with older children, and as Latinos, would have to organize so that the Board would understand what the parents expected from the District. She felt that the Latino parents need to be considered and hoped that the Board would continue to think of their children, and work with the parents.

Board Member LeBoeuf said that she understood Mrs. Hernandez's concerns, but hoped that the parents would not keep their children from attending school.

Tom Bristol, Manzanita School teacher, congratulated the Board for finally making a decision. He said it could have been done three months ago, but because of politics and likes and dislikes, the decision didn't get made. Mr. Bristol said that the Board owed the community of Seaside and the staff members of Manzanita an apology. Mr. Bristol said when a decision is made, people can adjust, but when the Board keeps considering proposals, it creates a mess. Mr. Bristol said that the Manzanita staff and community felt cheated because Monte Vista was told in February of the Board's decision and had time to bring closure with their students and to develop a relationship with Colton. He said that this didn't happen for the Seaside community and this would never have happened in the Monte Vista area or in the Foothill area, but because this was a Seaside school, it was okay. He said parents weren't informed, although there were "feeble" attempts on Friday, the last day of school, that something would happen on Monday. Mr. Bristol said it was never said that Manzanita would be closed, it would just be reconfigured. He felt that the Board made a poor decision in their planning. He also expressed concern about the involuntary transfers for teachers. He urged the Board to be leaders and asked that they support Manzanita staff.

Board Member Troutman said that the Board Policy Committee will be making revisions for school closures.

Superintendent Callahan celebrated successes from Foothill School, Ord Terrace School, the Under the Big Top at Del Rey Woods School, Even Start Program, and Monterey Adult Education.

3. DLIFLC/POM/NPS Representative

Cindy Rothstein said her concerns about the reconfiguration of King and Manzanita were allayed when she saw how excited Fitch Middle School was in receiving new students.

O. Information

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| <p>*1. Review Notice of Intent to File a Categorical Exemption in Compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Reconfiguration of Walter Colton from a Middle School to a K-8 School.</p> | <p>Chief Business Officer Burnis reviewed the notice of intent to file a categorical exemption in compliance with CEQA for the reconfiguration of Colton from a middle school to a K-8 school and clarified Board member's questions.</p> |
| <p>*2. Review First Reading of Proposed Board Policy 3250: Home-to-School Transportation Fees</p> | <p>Chief Business Officer Burnis reviewed the first reading of proposed Board Policy 3250: Home-to-School Transportation Fees and clarified questions from Board members. He said that there will be two groups of students that will be exempt from paying transportation fees – special education students and students who received free or reduced lunches.</p> <p>Helen Rucker, Seaside resident, expressed concern about the cost of Title 1 funds for transporting students to another school for the purpose of school improvement.</p> |

- *3. Review Board Policy 7345, Uniform Complaint Process
 Personnel Director Robert Costa reviewed the Board Policy 7345, Uniform Complaint Process, and said the revision is a result of a Consolidated Compliance Review recommendation to further elaborate programs that parents, students, and staff could file under. He also delineated who was responsible for each of the areas in which to file a complaint.

- *4. Review Administrative Hiring Practices
 Personnel Director Costa reviewed the District's administrative hiring practices and clarified questions from Board members.

 Helen Rucker, Seaside resident, spoke on behalf of Mel Mason, NAACP. She stressed that recruitment efforts of the District was a vital part in finding good candidates. She said that Mr. Mason, upon receiving information from the District, e-mailed information to all branches of NAACP of available positions. She said that most minority applicants are hesitant about applying, and that most jobs openings have been by word of mouth. Mrs. Rucker said that the District needs to make sure that all ethnic groups are involved. She said Mr. Mason wanted the District to know that there are people in the District who can advance through internships or as management trainees.

 Gary Wilmot, MPUSD registered voter, said the District hiring process is a good process, and recommended that the hiring process begin earlier in the year.

- 5. Consider the Renaming of the Monte Vista Upper Playground/City Park in Honor of Former MPUSD Teacher and Monterey City Councilwoman Ruth Vreeland
 Superintendent Callahan said this item was placed on the agenda at the request of Monte Vista staff, and was brought up at the last Board meeting by Board member Eggers.

 Board Member Eggers said he couldn't see naming a playground in Ruth Vreeland's honor when Monte Vista will be closed.

 Board Member Troutman clarified that the playground is part of the City and neighborhood of Monte Vista. She felt that this item should be tabled until more information is received from the Monte Vista community.

 Board Member Eggers concurred and suggested that a specific date not be set until there was a follow-up from staff.

- S. Board Member Request(s) for Information and/or Possible Future Agenda Items**
 No requests were made.

- T. Board Self-Evaluation, as Applicable**
 No Evaluation.

- U. Closed Session**
 There was no need for the Board to go into closed session.

- V. Adjournment**
 Meeting adjourned at 9:26 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