

May 16, 2006

- A. Call to Order** The Board of Education of the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District met in study session at 6:32 p.m. on the above date at the Instructional Materials Center, 540 Canyon Del Rey, Del Rey Oaks, California.

The meeting was called to order by President Noriega.

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

Board Members Present: Alan Haffa
Regena Lauterbach
Bettye Lusk
Carlos E. Noriega
Helen B. Rucker
Marjorie Troutman

Board Member Absent: Robert Eggers

Staff Members Present: Yvonne Despard
John Lamb
Carol Weesner
Tom Woodruff

DLI/POM/NPS^ Representative Absent: Cindy Rothstein

The 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 President Noriega.

**D. Opportunity for Public
Comment on Agenda
Item**

No public comment on the agenda item was made at this time.

E. Board Study Session

- *1. Review the K-8
School Models at
Colton and King/
Manzanita

President Noriega said on April 17, 2006, the Superintendent brought forth a status report relative to the Manzanita/King K-8 school structure. At that time, the Board requested additional information to review the K-8 school models at Colton and King/Manzanita. He noted the meeting is a study session to receive information from staff and receive public comment, and that no action will be taken at this time.

Superintendent Lamb reviewed the K-8 school models currently in place at Colton and King/Manzanita and highlighted the following:

- The Board voted to close Monte Vista School on March 15, 2004, and move the K-5 students to Colton Middle School, which was retrofitted to a K-8 school beginning in the 2004-2005 school year.
- The Board voted to close Manzanita School on June 7, 2004, and move the K-5 students to King Middle School, which also became a K-8 school beginning in the 2004-2005 school year. Noting there were only seven (7) weeks before the new year and a projected enrollment of 918 students, it was decided that not all students could be moved to King.

- As of April 2006, the number of K-8 students at King/Manzanita has declined to 877 students. Projected enrollment for the 2006-2007 school year is 768 students and there is sufficient room on the King campus to house all K-8 students; however the kindergarten configuration on the King campus has not yet begun.
- Superintendent Lamb said based on a previous Board decision, he presented a plan at the April 17, 2006, regular meeting, to move the K-1 students from the Manzanita site to the King campus. The plan included the relocation of the kindergarten complex onto the King campus, mitigation of traffic issues, and addressed the issue of insufficient bathroom facilities. Following Board discussion and public comment, it was the consensus of the Board to visit the K-8 concept in MPUSD.
- Superintendent Lamb said the District has four junior high schools and they were not designed to be K-8 schools. He spoke about a national trend in the 1980's where junior high schools evolved to middle schools --- predicated by the program "Caught in the Middle" which was designed for students to be involved in a greater array of exploratory and elective classes, as well as in the core academic classes. Since then, he said accountability has become a critical issue across the nation, and with the requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation and Program Improvement, middle school elective offerings in grades 6-8, whether in a middle school or K-8 school, are rapidly declining and exploratory classes are nonexistent.
- Because of federal legislation on accountability, school districts are required to assure below basic students intervention and additional remediation classes to address deficiencies in the area of language arts and math. Superintendent Lamb said there are not enough hours/periods in the day to take four required classes in addition to science, social studies, and physical education, and still have an array of offerings of electives during the day.
- In the two K-8 schools there are a different number of middle school students in grades 6-8 than in the two other middle schools.
- Superintendent Lamb spoke about ten suggested strategies to ease the transition to a K-8 model:
 1. Include parents in the process
 2. Add higher rather than lower grades
 3. Modify facilities ahead of time
 4. Ensure grade level balance
 5. Make 6th grade a transition year
 6. Establish a strict transfer policy
 7. Set high expectations for both academics and behavior
 8. Decide on an academic approach
 9. Provide access to advanced courses and electives
 10. Provide greater access to extracurricular opportunities

Superintendent Lamb said what drove the decision to move toward a K-8 model at Colton and King/Manzanita was based on a fiduciary requirement to balance the budget.

It was noted there were Spanish-speaking individuals in the audience who needed an interpreter. Because there was no interpreter available, a recess was taken at 6:47 p.m. in order for staff to get a hold of an interpreter for the study session. The meeting reconvened at 7:02 p.m. and the following action was taken:

President Noriega announced that staff was unable to contact an interpreter and the translation headsets were not available. Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to adjourn the meeting, and reschedule the study session to Tuesday, May 23, 2006, 6:30 p.m., Instructional Materials Center; and that a Spanish interpreter be available at the meeting.

F. Adjournment

The study session adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "John Lamb". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John Lamb
Executive Secretary

JL/jif

^Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Presidio of Monterey & Naval Postgraduate School