

**BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Of the BYRON UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Location:
Excelsior Multipurpose Room
14301 Byron Highway
Byron, CA 94514



Thursday, August 5, 2010

MINUTES

A1. OPENING CEREMONIES

1. The meeting was called to order at **6:00 p.m.**
2. Roll Call: Board Members: Jill Sprenkel, President; Karri Murayama, Clerk
Bobbi Nugent, Elaine Landro, Kenneth Silman
Others: Ken Jacopetti, Interim Superintendent
3. Interdistrict Transfer Denial Appeal: Student A/10
4. **CLOSED SESSION: 7:00 p.m.**
 1. **Government Code Section 54956.9**
Anticipated Litigation: Potential Case: 1

A2. PUBLIC MEETING: 7:40 p.m.

5. Flag Salute
6. Approval of Agenda: Mrs. Sprenkel asked to have a moment of silence for Azita Fletcher, an active parent in the district, who recently passed away. Mr. Jacopetti asked to pull Items 2.c., consent agenda item F.1.a., 5/20/10 minutes; noting that minutes of 7/15/10 meeting were amended. A motion was made by Bobbi Nugent and seconded by Ken Silman to approve the agenda with the changes as recommended.
7. **Principals' Presentation Regarding Opening Day at School Sites:**
Brian Burnight, Timber Point: Approximately 15 teachers volunteered to clean out 5 of the 6 student gardens prior to the start of school which was a great experience; they also cleaned out behind E wing; the first day of school brought a lot of excited families; 30:1 class sizes did not appear to be as big of an issue as was feared; families seem to be happy with school experience; exciting time with new PTA members
Charles Miller, Excelsior School: there is a level of coherence and cohesion among the staff; established the core issues around safety, identified collective/shared procedures; school runs the way it should run with all staff following the same rules and procedures on campus; there will be a simplified message around the curriculum maps; tightened up yard supervision; \$8500 donation for library was received by parents which will fund the library media tech and purchase books for library; students seem to be happy and enjoying school; Back to School Night went well
Allan Petersdorf, Discovery Bay School: there was excitement at the school from both staff and parents
8. Report Out from Closed Session: Nothing to report

B. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Jill Sprenkel: Attended the weekly construction meeting on Tuesday; construction work is progressing along; Back to School at Excelsior was fabulous

Karri Murayama: Attended Back to School Night at Discovery Bay School and was impressed with creativity and teachers' classrooms; thanked Bonnie Freckman for her service to district; she also painted the girls locker room at her own expense, making it an inviting place for girls to change clothes for PE. Mrs. Murayama would like to see a story in newspaper on it.

Bobbi Nugent: Thanked principals and staff for hard work at getting a good start of school; met with Paul Dessario, advisor, and Bill Clark, Assistant Superintendent of Business at the Contra Costa County Office of Education which was informative and productive; she left the meeting feeling encouraged; Monday will be her first meeting as President of Delta Council PTA; looking forward to STAR testing results

Elaine Landro: Attended Back to School at Excelsior where she heard nothing but positive comments; teachers were amazing and programs continue to grow; was amazed that student work was on the walls already; teachers are impressed with children coming from elementary school which is a tribute to teachers at the two elementary sites

Ken Silman: Attended Timber Point's Back to School Night and it was a nice start of the school year; impressed with maintenance and staff getting ready for school year; thanks to Willie Marlin for his hard work on technology; thanks also to Bonnie Freckman for her contributions. Rachel's Challenge will be at the high school next week.

C. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATIONS

Ken Jacopetti reminded that these are stressful times but it is wonderful to see engagement of families and students entering schools; he gave kudos to teachers and principals and appreciates their hard work.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A parent who recently moved to Discovery Bay has a daughter in a combination class and asked the board to consider what's best for kids and least impact when deciding how to solve overcrowded conditions at elementary schools

Katherine Martinez has a student who was part of the band program which influenced 50+ students; program was amazing for her son; music is so powerful; asked board to be creative during trying times; improved confidence level; and heals in difficult economic times.

Betty Sanchez felt disappointed that when the music program was dropped from the master schedule at the last board meeting, there was no acknowledgement of the great program that had been developed by Brian Beggs, music teacher. She feels that if it can only be before or after school, that is better than not having it at all; asked board when considering curriculum maps to look at materials to be presented, especially 8th core materials; thank you for honoring Azita Fletcher and thanked Mr. Miller for communicating with families; Back to School Night was wonderful, and thanked board for not cutting drama.

Charles Miller: Excelsior Middle School will participate in Rachel's Challenge on October 21st which is designed to improve school climate and culture, giving positives rather than negatives. There will be two student assemblies (1.5 hr each), a training in the afternoon for student leaders, and an evening presentation for community. Mrs. Murayama would like to make sure the events are advertised in newspaper.

E. SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

1. FINANCE AND FACILITIES

a. Approve contract with School Services of California for fiscal review at a not to exceed amount of \$10,000

SSC would interview staff and meet with principals, talk with people, reflect on economic data; staffing, class sizes; cash flow. Two directors would work for four days, and would present results by the end of August.

b. Approve contract with FCMAT for fiscal review at a not to exceed amount of \$5,000

FCMAT would pull data into their software and do a deep analysis, cash flow; review budget top to bottom. Three people would take two days and present a final draft in 4-6 weeks in final draft, but could present preliminary reports sooner.

Bobbi Nugent discussed attending the meeting with Paul Dessario, county financial advisor, and Bill Clark, Assistant Supt. of Business. She explained that they felt that the district is on the right track and has a plan to reduce expenditures. Mr. Dessario and Mr. Clark felt it was a waste of money right now for FCMAT and SSC to review our financial situation, but that it would be best to let Paul Dessario come in late September/early October and, if the district needs more information, the board could approve an additional fiscal review at that time.

Board members agreed to let the county do their review first before contracting with either FCMAT or SSC.

c. Approve contract with AT&T to increase bandwidth in the amount of \$18,000 for 2010-11 and \$8,360 for 2011-12 (already included in approved budget)

With all of the programs and applications being used by the district, there is too much data entering the cables and there is a need to increase bandwidth to 100 mgs, pushing 50 mgs to each site, plus allow room to grow for 10 years; new replacement Excelsior site will put even more data into undersized bandwidth. Bobbi Nugent would like a copy of all contracts in the packet in the future. Karri Murayama appreciates all of Mr. Marlin's hard work and all of projects he is responsible for and feels he has done a fabulous job.

A motion was made by Karri Murayama and seconded by Ken Silman.
Roll Call: Ayes: Unanimous

2. HUMAN RESOURCES

- a. **Approve recommendations of Committee on Assignment at Excelsior Middle School as follows: Kathy Tickner (Drama); Maddie Lopez (Spanish); Louise Colbert (Technology); Kim Karr (Leadership)**

A motion was made by Karri Murayama and seconded by Elaine Landro to approve the recommendations of the Committee on Assignment for the 2010-11 school year.
Roll Call: Ayes: Unanimous

- b. **Approve employment of a technology aide, three hours per day, for the 2010-11 school year to be paid out of prior year Academy carryover funds**

Because there is an increased and critical need for more technology support for state mandates, including CalPADS, Aeries Student Data System, etc., it was recommended that the board approve the addition of a technology aide for three hours per day at a cost of approximately \$13,000 which can be funded through the prior year Academy carryover funds. Thanks were given to Danielle Story, Program Administrator, of the Academy and Discovery Play School, for running successful programs that generated funds that can be used for other district programs.

A motion was made by Ken Silman and seconded by Karri Murayama to approve the employment of this technology aide.
Roll Call: Unanimous

- c. ~~**Approve employment of additional child nutrition 1.8 hours per day, to provide support for additional breakfasts/lunches being served: Discovery Bay School (1 hr); Excelsior (.8 hr) at a cost of \$5,600**~~

This item was removed from the agenda at this time.

- d. **Approve addition of before and after school music program at Excelsior School in the amount of \$10,000 for the 2010-11 school year**

Jill Sprenkel agrees that music should be in master calendar which brings a lot to campus, so we have to find a way to have music in school; she also supports finding new revenue streams and the need for parents to come together to problem solve. Board members acknowledged the hard work that Brian Beggs did for the district and apologized for not mentioning it at last meeting.

Ellen Bower felt that this might open it up for the elementary level as well.

A motion was made by Elaine Landro and seconded by Bobbi Nugent to approve the addition of before and after school music program.

Roll Call: Unanimous

3. BOARD POLICIES

- a. **Approve Board Policies and Administrative Regulations as recommended by CSBA, March, 2010 (third reading)**

BN/KM Unanimous

F. CONSENT AGENDA

Thanks to Excelsior PTSA, Bonnie Freckman, and CC Transportation Authority for donations: A motion was made by Jill Sprenkel and seconded by Ken Silman to approve the following consent agenda:

1. Personnel

- a. ~~*{Vacant 8-hour Food Services Assistant to be assigned as follows: 2-hr per day clerical, 6 hrs per day food services assistants}*— removed~~

- b. Approve GATE stipends in the amount of \$1,500 as follows:
 - 1) Samantha Berkich (Timber Point School)
 - 2) Erika Parlog/Kristin Ortega (to be shared at Discovery Bay School)

2. Business

- a. Warrants: 7/19/10; 7/30/10
- b. Approve adding Kenneth Jacopetti as contact person for district with Office of Public School Construction
- c. Approve removing Eric Prater and adding Kenneth Jacopetti as signers on district bank account
- d. Approve transportation agreement with CCCOE to transport special education students if needed

3. Minutes: 5/20/10; 6/17/10; 7/13/10; 7/15/10

4. Contract with non-public agency for special education student(s) for the 2010-11 School Year:

- a. Foundations Therapy in the amount of \$44,737.00
- b. Wordplay in the amount of \$3,075.00

5. Donations:

- a. from Excelsior PTSA in the amount of \$10,000 for ER and Library
- b. from Bonnie Freckman: a pine desk and a teakwood bench to Excelsior Room P5
- c. 4 boxes of binders from Contra Costa Transportation Authority

Roll Call: Unanimous

G. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Governing Board of Trustees is scheduled for: **August 19, 2010. The September 2, 2010 Board Meeting was changed to September 9, 2010. Jill Sprekel and Ken Jacopetti will look at possible dates for a board retreat and let board members know.**

H. UPCOMING SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

- August 11-13: Minimum Days for Excelsior Middle School only: Goal Setting Conference with Parents/Teacher
- August 19: Timber Point Picture Day/Board Meeting

I. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1. Discipline data analysis of all three schools
- 2. Student uniform process
- 3. Volunteer hours built into promotion requirements
- 4. Energy Audit
- 5. Sixth Grade Science Camp
- 6. Charter Schools

Returned to closed session: 9:45 p.m.

J. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Clerk of the Board

Superintendent

Date Approved: _____