

Subject to Board Approval
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF THE HERMOSA BEACH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Hermosa Beach City Council Chambers
1315 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
January 14, 2009

CLOSED SESSION: Dr. Beck reported that no action had been taken on any item. She informed the public that closed session will be continued on January 15, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in the school district office.

CALL TO ORDER: The open session was called to order by Dr. Beck at 7:37 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Linda Beck, Board President; Mrs. Barbara Zondiros, Board Clerk; Mr. Gregory Breen, Mrs. Claypoole and Mr. Lance Widman were present.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Bruce Newlin, Interim Superintendent; Mrs. Angela Jones, Business Manager; Ms. Sylvia Gluck, View Principal; Mrs. Tiffany Rudek, Valley Principal, Mr. Jason Butcher, Assistant Principal, Mrs. Kim Taylor, teacher; Ms. Kathy Sippel, teacher; Mr. David Carver, Maintenance and Operations Worker; and Ms. Michelle Meraz, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. McGuiness

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Widman, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board of Education of the Hermosa Beach City School District approve the agenda as submitted. The vote in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.

Dr. Beck opened the school board meeting in honor of 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Kim O'Brien, who died on December 30, 2008.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Mrs. Claypoole requested that under Classified Employment Transactions, P-21-08/09, that the employee name "Sherree Riley" be checked for spelling.

It was moved by Mr. Widman, seconded by Mrs. Claypoole, that the Board of Education of the Hermosa Beach City School District approve the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of December 10, 2008 with corrections to Sherree Riley's name if needed. The vote in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/
BOARD REPORTS:**

* Dr. Beck attended the Facilities Committee on January 8, 2009. Discussion was held on enrollment projections and the possibility of having three school sites.

Mrs. Zondiros reported on the January 12, 2009 Project Forward meeting. She announced three town hall meetings that the Project Forward Committee will hold on February 4, March 4 and April 1, 2009. Mrs. Zondiros informed the Board that a survey will be going to the community on what they know about the school district and their opinions on the school district.

Mrs. Claypoole informed the public that she completely supported the selections by fellow Board members of Dr. Beck as Board President and Mrs. Zondiros as Board Clerk at the December school board meeting.

Mrs. Claypoole shared that during the visitation of Mrs. Kim O'Brien, mourners were able to view scrapbooks and yearbooks of each of Mrs. O'Brien's years of teaching. She also said that at Mrs. O'Brien's funeral her husband gave a heroic tribute to Kim's life. Kim will be dearly missed.

Mr. Breen reported on the January 13, 2009 Hermosa Beach Education Foundation meeting:

- The Hearts of Hermosa Annual Dinner Dance Auction will be held on March 21, 2009 at St. Roche.
- Mom's Night Out will be held at the Hermosa Beach Comedy and Magic Club on January 28, 2009
- Kids Run Hermosa will be held in April or May
- Excellence in Education Challenge fundraiser is gearing up to raise a significant \$1.5 million.
- Student, Graham Amato initiated raising funds for a memorial bench in honor of Mrs. Kim O'Brien. The bench will be placed on the Green Belt.
- The Barnes and Nobles fundraiser and the St. Roche fundraiser were successful.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Audience Oral Communications:

Ms. Kathy Sippel, 4th grade teacher, paid tribute to teacher, colleague and friend Mrs. Kim O'Brien. She reflected on the January 1st Hermosa pier celebration where hundreds of people attended; her January 8th visitation and the yearly classroom scrapbooks that Kim made; the January 10th funeral and the wonderful eulogy her husband, John, gave. Ms. Sippel told how Kim was an amazing, "top-drawer" teacher who touched the hearts of everyone she met.

Fourth grade student, Graham Amato, introduced himself by saying that he was a student of Mrs. O'Brien last year. Graham proposed to raise \$1,600.00 to purchase a bench that will include a plaque and installation to be placed on the Green Belt. The bench will be a memorial in honor of Mrs. O'Brien. Stories will be written about the fundraising efforts in the Beach Reporter and the Easy Reader. Collection boxes will be located at both View and Valley Schools.

Mr. Matt McGuinness, a resident of Hermosa Beach living on Golden Avenue, is concerned with the closure of the Hermosa View School Golden Avenue gate. Mr. McGuinness represents an ad hoc committee of fifty families that would like to see the Golden Avenue gate opened. He gave the following reasons to keep it open:

- Alleviates student drop-off/pick-up during the peak hours at the Prospect Avenue entrance
- Parents with strollers find it easier to enter through the Golden Avenue ramp, rather than up the Prospect Avenue stairs;
- When parents are on campus during school closed hours the parents help to monitor when strangers enter campus;
- Walk to School Wednesdays is much easier when the gate is open;
- There is no security at the Prospect Avenue entrance, why the concern about security at the Golden Avenue gate;
- View playground is the only park east of Pacific Coast Highway in Hermosa Beach;
- A closed property invites vandalism; with parents on the playground they can self police the grounds when school is closed.

Alternatives that Mr. McGuiness gave were to have the teacher assigned to blacktop duty at 8:00 a.m. stand at the Golden Avenue gate entrance to monitor who enters campus, or to have parent volunteer monitor the gate.

Mr. Michael Keegan, Hermosa Beach Councilman gave his support of the Mandarin English Language Program Initiative.

Mrs. Jan Pogue did not support a Mandarin English Language Program Initiative.

Mrs. Amy Nachman did not support the Mandarin English Language Program Initiative.

Ms. Suzanne Meier did not support the Mandarin English Language Program Initiative.

Mr. R.J. Thomas did not support the Mandarin English Initiative Program Initiative.

Mrs. Kim Taylor, middle school teacher, spoke on behalf of the Curriculum Council. She said that foreign language is highly regarded by staff. However, the Curriculum Council does not support a Mandarin English Language Program Initiative.

Board members received electronic mail in favor of the Mandarin English Language Program Initiative from: Wang, Assemblyman Ted Lieu, Lee, Griff and Pao.

Board members received electronic mail in opposition to the Mandarin English Language Program Initiative from: Dunley, Brannan, Connis, McCarrolls, Bells, Sanchez, West, Chew, Shima, Veldo, Luz and Maguy.

Written Communications:

None

Superintendent Report:

Dr. Newlin reported on the following topics:

- Dr. Newlin introduced Business Manager, Mrs. Angela Jones to report on the School Fiscal Services meeting that she attended on January 13, 2009. Mrs. Jones reported that the legislature had not determined the program cuts for 2008-2009. The Governor put forth reductions for 2008-2009: apportionment for June 2008 was deferred to September 2008; deferrals for February 2009 will be deferred to July 2009; Class Size Reduction funding will be deferred to July 2009. In February, Hermosa Beach will not receive state funding; Hermosa Beach had its first flush of property tax funding, but it was reduced by 10%. Hermosa Beach may lose \$400,000 in 2008-2009 if this proposal goes through. The cash flow for 2008-2009 – if the state runs out of cash, the state will be obligated to pay school districts first and bond holders second. Positively, the school district continues to grow in enrollment. The school district is planning for fiscal worst case scenarios. Mrs. Jones reported that the current cash balance of the school district was \$1.7 million in unrestricted funds and \$2 million in other funds.
- Dr. Newlin informed the Board that there may be a need to schedule a special school board meeting in February in the event that certificated lay-off notices will be issued due to the repercussions of the state finances. The Board discussed dates for a tentative special school board meeting. Wednesday, February 25, 2009 was given as a tentative date.
- South Bay Coalition, a group of South Bay superintendents, parents, staff and administration formed to have a single voice in Sacramento.

- Cooperative Agreement with the City of Hermosa Beach on the Joint Use of Facilities – Dr. Newlin and City Manager, Mr. Steve Burrell will meet next week to finalize the agreement.
- Growth in Enrollment – There was growth of two students in January. One possible reason for growth is that parents may not be able to continue to send their children to private school.
- Middle School Math – Saxon Math will be added to the eighth grade math program to provide remedial math to those students struggling.
- Valet Program – The concerns that parent volunteers had over the valet program seems to be resolved. The Valley Principal and Assistant Principal were helping on the sidewalk in the morning, and there was a full complement of volunteers. Dr. Beck brought up the possibility of having volunteerism tied to an elective class for students who would volunteer in the valet program.
- Security Study – the Alliance of Schools for Cooperative Insurance Programs (ASCIP) was asked to perform an audit of both schools on campus security. The school district is trying to be proactive in keeping the campuses safe. Mr. Breen would like staff to consider a balance of campus security and community needs.
- School Calendar – Staff was beginning to look at the school calendar for the next three years. Dr. Newlin would like to consider the givens that the calendar should work around. Dr. Newlin asked the Board to send him information that should be considered when developing the calendars.

REPORT:

2007/2008 District Financial Audit Report
2007/2008 Review of General Obligations Bonds

Mrs. Jones introduced Mrs. Ira Gonzalez from Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co. to give an overview of the 2007/2008 District Financial Audit Report and the 2007/2008 Review of the General Obligation Bonds.

Ms. Gonzalez first presented the 2007/2008 Review of the General Obligation Bonds. Ms. Gonzalez referred to page 2 of the report as to the results of the audit procedures performed. The results were: 1. the general obligation bond fund expenditures were accounted for separately in the building fund of the District; 2. the interest earned on the remaining cash balance of the general obligation bonds was deposited into the appropriate accounts within the building fund; 3. the review of the expenditures for the period ended June 30, 2008, did not reveal any items that were paid from the general obligation bond funds that did not comply with the purpose of the Bonds that were approved by the registered voters of the District on November 5, 2002. She also referred to page 5 of the audit report, and informed the Board that the cash basis runs on an accrual basis.

Next, Ms. Gonzalez reported on the 2007/2008 District Financial Audit Report. Ms. Gonzalez stated that an unqualified or clean opinion was found; everything was clear (page 63). Ms. Gonzalez referred the Board to page 60 the Independent Auditor's Report on State Compliance, and page 50 the Summary of General Fund. The District met the State recommended available reserve of 3%. She informed the Board that auditors like to see school districts cautiously protecting their reserve. She noted that Mrs. Jones was very proactive in saving the reserve fund. Mrs. Gonzalez said there was a drop in revenue from 2008 to 2009 of \$300,000.

Hermosa Valley School Construction Projects:

Mrs. Jones informed the Board that staff is waiting for the final stamp off on the Hermosa Valley new construction project.

Mrs. Jones stated that the district was in the planning stage for two possible relocatable units on Hermosa Valley School campus for 2009-2010 school. This item will be brought to the Board when it is known whether or not Class Size Reduction (CSR) will be funded by the state, and if the Board will continue with CSR if there does not continue to be state funding. If CSR is not continued, there will be enough classroom space at the ratio of 30 students to 1 teacher. Dr. Beck clarified that in the Facilities Committee, Dougherty & Dougherty Architects recognized if CSR is not continued, but class sizes were at 25:1, the district will still need to order relocatables for next school year.

Mrs. Jones also stated that the district is trying to closeout the Measure J funds, but there was a stop order against the last company to pay out on, so the last check could not be issued yet.

Mr. Widman informed the Board and public that the last Citizens' Oversight Committee meeting is anticipated for March or April.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

It was moved by Mr. Widman, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board of Education of the Hermosa Beach City School District approve the Consent Calendar items as presented. The vote in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.

Superintendent:

Quarterly Uniform Complaint Report Summary

Approval was given for the submission of the Quarterly Uniform Complaint Report Summary for October 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 to the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

2008-2009 Consolidated Application, Part II

Approval was given for submission of the 2008-2009 Consolidated Application, Part II.

Business:

Purchase Orders

Approval was given on the purchase orders issued since the last Board approval in the total amount of \$28,644.55.

Purchase Orders Issued with Measure J Funds

Approval is given for purchase orders issued as a Measure J expenditure since the last Board approval in the total amount of \$1,545.81.

Agreement – Special Education Consultant Services

Ratification was given for consultant agreement with Lisa O'Malley, M.Ed. to provide cognitive behavior therapy services to special needs students at a rate of \$145.00 per hour for total cost not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Contract Lease Agreement – Seasprites at North School

Ratification was given for the Contract Lease Agreement with the Seasprites Child Care Providers for the term July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010.

Contract Lease Agreement –

*Hermosa Beach City School District
Minutes from January 14, 2009 Regular School Board Meeting
(Revised on 02-10-09)*

Redondo Beach Unified School District
at North School

Ratification was given for the Contract Lease Agreement with the Redondo Beach Unified School District for the term July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010.

Memorandum of Understanding for
Employment Posting Services

Approval was given to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles County Office of Education to participate in EdJoin services for employment posting opportunities.

Agreement for Employee
Assistance Program

Approval was given for the agreement with the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools to create an Employee Assistance Program which will provide employees with services to overcome problems that may affect job performance.

Personnel:

Classified Employment Transactions

Approval given for the following classified employment transaction:
Vera Redondo, Resignation, Noon Duty Aide, Hermosa Valley School, effective December 18, 2008

Certificated Employment Transactions

Approval given for the following certificated employment transaction:
Anthony Caswick, Employment, Middle School Physical Education Teacher, Hermosa Valley School, effective December 8, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

BOARD ACTION:

Superintendent:

Discussion/Possible Action on
A Mandarin English Language Program

Dr. Newlin introduced the Mandarin English Language Program Initiative Parent Group as having researched the program extensively and updating the school board with their findings, Mrs. Katherine Chang, Mrs. Sally Liu Manners and Dr. Sansan Kwan.

Mrs. Chang, Mrs. Manners and Dr. Kwan thanked the Board for allowing the time to make presentations for a possible Mandarin English Language Program. They reported that they have researched immersion programs nationwide. The initiative group would like to demonstrate that the community is willing to move forward. Even with budget cuts and the possibility of reducing many programs, a Mandarin English Language Program would be a low cost way to add to the students' curriculum.

Dr. Kwan said that the initiative group was welcome to concerns. They were open to dialogue and were surprised to receive opposition at a late date, but they were eager to discuss the concerns. Responding to the concern that school funds will be diverted to Mandarin English Language Program, the group will fundraise outside of the school district to corporations and other possible donors. The initiative group would not make a proposal that would mean cutting another program.

Mrs. Manners stated that Hermosa Beach parents would like to see a comprehensive language program. If such a program was to be approved then an additional foreign

language teacher would not need to be hired, rather the first grade teacher would teach the foreign language. This program can be expanded upon to add more classes per grade level, and to include other foreign languages. Such a program would attract students from private schools, and distinguish Hermosa Beach and the community. She thanked the Board for permitting the time to present their proposal.

Ms. Loretta Mills supported a Mandarin English Language Program Initiative.
Mrs. Tammy Pao supported a Mandarin English Language Program Initiative.

The Board discussed a Mandarin English Language Program for approval or denial:

Dr. Beck's first concern was one of staffing. If CSR would be cut, then one-third of the staff may be cut. She also stated that if the teacher's do not embrace the program, then it is difficult for her to support.

Mr. Breen noted that funding was a major concern. He also stated that there was directed funding for specific programs such as the 8th grade Spanish class and the technology program in the past. He said directed funding could support the program.

Mr. Widman said that he would be hard-pressed to start a new initiative when long hard kept programs may be cut. He also stated that he believes that the Mandarin English Language Program would be an outstanding program, but now is the worst possible time to begin a new program.

Mrs. Claypoole said she believes that a Mandarin English Language Program would be an excellent program. She said that she was amazed and impressed with the amount of energy that the parent initiative group put into the research for a dual language program. She believes such a program would benefit gifted students. However, the fiscal reality causes problems for a new program, and she will not be able to support it.

Mrs. Zondiros said that she cannot lay-off teachers and add another program to the curriculum. She also stated that everyone values learning a second language, but there needs to be equity for all students.

Dr. Newlin stated that if faced with a lay-off of teachers there may be legal consideration in rehiring those teachers back to the district.

Mrs. Manners stated in response to the three outstanding concerns that the funding of \$10,000 - \$11,000 is relatively inexpensive and would be fundraised outside of the school district; the perception of adding a new program in the midst of possible cuts will not affect whether or not a program is cut; CSR teachers are valued by the Mandarin English Language Program Initiative group. CSR is one of the reasons why they chose to live in Hermosa Beach. They do not want to see any teacher's job cut. The initiative group proposed to the Board that the decision to approve or disapprove the Mandarin English Program be delayed.

The Board moved forward with a vote to approve or deny a Mandarin English Language Program.

It was moved by Mr. Breen, seconded by Mr. Widman, that the Board of Education of the Hermosa Beach City School District approve and implement the Mandarin English Language Program. The vote in favor was 1 aye by Mr. Breen and 4 nays by the remaining Board members. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Widman, seconded by Mrs. Claypoole, that the Board of Education of Hermosa Beach City School District adopt revisions to Board Bylaw 9320 on Meetings and Notices to reflect the change in the school board meeting location. The vote in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.

Personnel:

Ratification of Contract for Hermosa Beach City School District
Superintendent of Schools

It was moved by Mrs. Claypoole, seconded by Mrs. Zondiros, that the Board of Education of the Hermosa Beach City School District table the ratification of the contract for the Hermosa Beach City School District Superintendent of Schools to the continuation of closed session on January 15, 2009 at 3:30p.m., and any action will be reported out. The vote in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.

ROUNDTABLE:

Mrs. Claypoole said that Los Angeles County School Trustees Association is requesting nominations for officers. Mrs. Claypoole asked her fellow Board members if they had any recommendations. No recommendations were given.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 10:30 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to closed session on January 15, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in the school district office.

RECONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION ON
JANUARY 15, 2009 at 3:30P.M.

Dr. Beck, Mrs. Zondiros, Mr. Breen, Mrs. Claypoole and Mr. Widman were present for the continuation of the closed session.

OPEN SESSION:

Dr. Beck reported out from the closed session that:

- The Board members entered into a contract with a new superintendent that will be publicly announced on January 16, 2009.
- The Board agreed to the settlement with Student #413308:09.
- The Board ratified the Contract with Hermosa Beach City School District Superintendent of Schools. It was moved by Mr. Breen, seconded by Mr. Widman, that the Board of Education of the Hermosa Beach City School District ratify the Contract for the Superintendent of Schools. The vote in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.
- It was moved by Mr. Breen, seconded by Mrs. Claypoole, that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous. Motion carried.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS/ EVENTS:

January

01/14

Citizens' Oversight Committee Meeting, HB City Council Chambers 6:30pm

01/14

School Board Meeting; HB City Council Chambers 7:30pm

01/16

Valley Flag Ceremony

01/19

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - No Classes

01/26

PTO Meeting, Hermosa Valley MPR 3:30pm

01/26-30

7th Grader Outdoor Education Camp, Catalina Island Marine Institute Toyon Bay

01/30

K-5 Father/Daughter Dance, Hermosa Valley MPR 6:00pm

February

02/04-06

8th Grade Astro Camp

02/09

Lincoln's Birthday, No Classes

02/11

School Board Meeting, HB City Council Chambers 7:30pm

02/16

President's Day, No Classes

02/18

6th Grade Malibu Camp Parent/Student Meeting, Valley MPR 7:00pm

02/20

Middle School Dance, Valley MPR 6:30pm

02/23

PTO Meeting, Valley MPR 3:30pm

02/27, 28 & 03/01

HB Rotary Club Renaissance Faire, View School

March

03/10

HBEF Meeting, Valley MPR 7:30pm

03/11

Parent/Teacher Conferences, Minimum Day for both school sites

03/11

School Board Meeting, HB City Council Chambers, 7:30pm

03/16

PTO Meeting, Valley MPR 3:30pm

03/19

Kindergarten Round-Up, View 12:45pm

03/20

Kindergarten Registration Begins

03/20-29

Spring Musical "Wipe Out", Valley MPR

03/21

HBEF Annual Heart of Hermosa Dinner, Dance & Auction, St. Roche

03/23-27

6th Grade Outdoor Education Malibu Camp

President

Clerk