



Minutes

SPECIAL Meeting of the Board of Trustees

January 19, 2010

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. OPENING

1.01 CALL TO ORDER - Mr. Micah Ali, *Board of Trustees Vice President*

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Micah Ali, Board Vice President, at 6:07 p.m., in the Board Room of the District Education Service Center, 501 South Santa Fe Avenue, Compton, CA 90221.

Mr. Ali announced that President Thomas would be late arriving.

1.02 ROLL CALL

The following Members were present

**Micah Ali
Fred Easter
Margie Garrett
Emma Sharif
Marjorie Shipp
Mae Thomas
Satra Zurita
Kaye E. Burnside**

NOTE: Oseas Chavaque, *student Board Member, was not present.*

1.03 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Elisa M. Truby led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.04 INVOCATION

Individual silent prayers were offered

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2. OPEN SESSION

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

The following individuals addressed the Board:

***John Trammell** - commending the students who participated in the MLK Parade. commented about the celebration of King Day and the power of the speech Dr. King gave at the Riverside Church; and suggested the reading of "Dark Days & Bright Nights".*

PRESENTATION - PROPOSED BUDGET REDUCTIONS

***Ms. Deborah Willard** introduced Ms. Glinda Martin, Fiscal Services Senior Director who walked the Board through and highlighted the revised multi-year projections and updates to the Governor's proposed budget for 2010-11. **Ms. Willard** interjected that staff is moving forward with making reductions of \$25,000,000 for the 2010/11 school year.*

***Ms. Willard** commented about the January 12, 2010 letter to the Board President regarding the First Interim Report for 2009/10 and responded to questions raised by Board Members. She emphasized that based on this letter, the District must show some "real, true" reductions. She added that the audit report will be presented to the Board for approval on January 26th.*

***Ms. Willard** distributed copies of the 2010/11 pocket Budget (a summary analysis of the Governor's proposed budget for 2010/11.*

***Ms. Willard** reviewed with the Board the PowerPoint presentation, "Balancing the Budget - 2020/11", which included proposed reductions by division. She also responded to questions raised by Board Members.*

BOARD DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

***Board Member Ali** suggested that consideration be given to tightening up/restricting the issuance of inter-district permits; strongly suggested that staff look at reducing administrators at the central office, District ancillary and school sites.*

***Superintendent Burnside** stated that the re-organization will be presented to the Board on January 26th, as well as information on student/administration ratio.*

***Board Member Easter** suggested that high school staffing be revisited to ensure that necessary programs (to retain students) remain in place.*

***Board Member Sharif** suggested that staff should look at involving more students in Advanced Placement classes.*

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Ms. Jeanne Batey, Director of Classified Personnel, clarified for Board President Thomas that layoffs will be by seniority.

Superintendent Burnside responded in the negative to Board Member Ali's question about class size reduction and whether there is any data to show the cost benefit or return on investment, adding that research was done by the state.

Board Member Garrett suggested that there be no increase in class size.

Board Member Ali further suggested that staff look at Community of Learning, self charters, assignment of CSA's, that cell phones not be purchased for anyone; that holidays be extended to include furlough days - if furlough days are decided; that staff look at classifying employees as confidential and explained that a "confidential" employee is one who has knowledge of the District position at the bargaining table; that school site principals not order anything; that consideration be given to realignment instead of consolidation, and gave as an example housing Community Day students at a school site.

Superintendent Burnside responded that charters within the District are being considered. and reported on an upcoming meeting with a teacher and CEA representatives regarding the teacher's proposal to establish a high school charter within the District.

In response to Board Member Ali's concern as to whether or not reducing the school year will adversely impact STERS & PERS, Ms. Willard stated that staff is looking into that.

Board Member Zurita suggested that there be a feasibility study on realigning schools. She stated that the City is planning to self consolidate and suggested that District staff confer with the City on how it is proceeding. Ms. Zurita

School Police Chief Taylor stated that consideration is being given to purchasing golf carts to facilitate coverage at school sites.

Board Member Easter stressed the importance if the Board supporting reductions once they are decided and approved; suggested that staff check into whether or not the District owns the facility located at 515 Compton Boulevard.

Board President Thomas inquired about the SES Program and asked if children are "playing" in that program.

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*Mr. Hourie Taylor, School Police Services, explained the recommended reductions in the Division. Considerable discussion ensued regarding those reductions, and **Board Member Thomas** stated that she is opposed to the proposed reductions.*

***Board Member Easter** stressed that if the Board embraces The proposed cuts, it is incumbent on the Board to support and not allow themselves to be pressured by interest groups to hire additional staff because of some need at a school site, etc. - if that should happen.*

***Ms. Willard** suggested that consideration be given to scheduling another budget study session on February 2nd.*

***Mr. David Azcarraga, Chief Facilities Officer,** explained the recommended reductions in the Facilities Division. **Board Member Thomas** questioned the need to seek approval by the Personnel Commission (PC). **Ms. Jeanne Batey,** explained that the PC has no say regarding the elimination of positions, but has the authority to classify any change in the duties & responsibilities.*

*With reference to the **Board Member Ali** requested that the record reflect that he's not going to "push the 4.5". He strongly suggested, however, that future recommendations be vetted before they come to the Board.*

***Board Member Ali** requested that he will not address the 4.5 Facilities restructuring, adding that it is his expectation that all aspects of the recommended restructuring are fully vetted before they come back to the Board for approval. He emphasized that does not want to read about it in a Friday Memo, but wants it addressed in a public meeting. With reference to the \$95,000 reduction in the Personnel Commission budget, **Ms. Jeanne Batey** started that it is her belief this will affect operating expenses only, but that the Personnel Commission has the final say.*

*With reference to utility saving, **Ms. Willard** stated that she has a meeting with representatives of the company conducting the analysis, and she is hopeful there will be an even greater saving than what's reflected in the presentation. **Board Member Easter** suggested that staff look at whether or not night blackouts are advisable, specifically as it relates to a possible increase in cost due to vandalism.*

***Board President Thomas** suggested that staff revisit the issuance of cellular telephones, with a view toward providing stipends, when appropriate, instead of a cell phone. **Board Member Ali** added that the caveat to this is that no cell phones should have been or should be purchased for anyone.*

***Board Member Sharif** suggested that if furlough days are decided on, that the days be a part of winter and spring recess.*

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***Board Member Ali** suggested that the designation of “confidential” be revisited because there are employees with such designation who are, in fact, not “confidential.” At his request. **Ms. Batey** explained what a “confidential” designation means: An employee who has knowledge of what the District’s position at the bargaining table; it does not mean that the employee sees confidential information (personnel files, student IEP information, etc.).*

*With reference to the purchase of supplies, **Board Member Ali** suggested that school site principals not be authorized to purchase anything from outside vendors - until such time as it is determined the item(s) is not a warehouse stock item.*

*With reference to school consolidation, **Board Member Ali** suggested that the staff consider “school realignment” instead; i.e. moving a Community Day type program to a school site.*

***Board Member Easter** suggested that staff should look into who actually owns the property located at 515 Compton.*

*Considerable discussion ensued regarding the School Library Improvement Block Grant. **Mr. Donald Evans** addressed this item, specifically as it relates to the Project SEED and the Reasoning Mind After School Program, and the purchase of the library software..*

***Board Member Thomas** expressed concern that, reportedly, there is a lot of “playing” taking place in after school programs.*

***Board Member Ali** interjected that all programs are on the table and it is his belief that the Board should not lean towards continuing any program/project - especially in light of pending layoffs. He asked why the Library Block Grant Program funds are not being utilized to purchase library books.*

***Mr. Manrique** explained that the Library Block Grant Program is now a Tier III Program category; thus, the funds can be used for other general fund purposes.*

***Board Member Ali** stated that considering layoffs, he felt it a travesty to bring proposals to the Board for such things as those set forth in the presentation under School Library Improvement Block Grant. **Chief Taylor** explained the need for police cars & motorcycles.*

***Deputy Superintendent Frison** asked that the Board Members keep in mind that the presentation consisted of “possible” choices as it relates to balancing the budget.*

***Board Member Ali** expressed concern about the recommended budget reduction items and stated that he will bring his recommended budget cuts to the next meeting. He added that he would be willing to support the purchase of some police vehicles and Project SEED - but not Reasoning Mind, which he feels should be supported through philanthropic means.*

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Board Member Thomas voiced that she was vehemently opposed to using general funds to purchase police vehicles.

Board Member Zurita interjected that the City of Compton has used vehicles for might possibly be for sale. She suggested that staff look into this.

Superintendent Burnside interjected that the recommendation to purchase police cars was borne out of an issue of safety.

Board Member Shipp stated that she has observed Project SEED and knows it's valuable and should not be cut.

Board President Thomas clarified that she is not suggesting that a program is not valuable, but feels the Board's focus should be on ways to reduce layoffs.

Board Member Easter stated that when the Board was presented with the guidelines regarding the Library Block Grant, the information was that the funds should be used to do short term type projects/items.

Ms. Willard noted that the "Allocation of 4 Associates" under Professional Block Grant is an error; therefore, the difference on that page (32) should be \$4000,973. *Dr. Ajala, Associate Superintendent, Elementary Schools*, explained the rationale for the Professional Block Grant items.

09/10-9012a MOTION by Ms. Garrett, **SECONDED** by Ms. Thomas (at 9:15 p.m.) to extend the meeting by 44 minutes - until 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE

ALI - Yes
EASTER - Yes
GARRETT - Yes
SHARIF - Yes
SHIPP - Yes
THOMAS - Yes
ZURITA - Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Willard continued with the presentation.

Board Member Ali expressed concern regarding TIG "overspent" funds.

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*Ms. Willard explained that the fund has been overrun because of years past and the carryover that the District no longer has, but the positions are still in place. **Board Member Ali** suggested that if these (classified) positions are flown and charged to a particular block grant/categorical fund, when those funds sunset, the position should sunset; otherwise people are inherited over and over again. **Superintendent Burnside** interjected that categorical staff knows that there is no guarantee that they continue in positions from year to year, but staff have not been operating in this way. With reference to layoffs of classified personnel, categorical funded, **Ms. Jeanne Batey** explained, that persons so affected) must be noticed by April 29th, and the position no longer in existence June 30th.*

***Ms. Jeanne Batey** clarified for **Board Member Easter** that a person laid off from a classified categorical position may exercise bumping rights to a general fund position previously held by the employee. **Ms. Batey** further clarified that classifications created for a categorical fund are created specifically for that fund; therefore, “when the money goes away, the classification goes away.”*

*With reference to the Arts & Music Block Grant, **Board Member Ali**, suggested that it would be in the District’s best interest to look into some innovation as far as consolidating these kinds of efforts - because the District cannot afford to continue funding for a manager or a director for all individual programs/efforts. **Superintendent Burnside** interjected that the individual coordinating arts & music already has other programs for which she is responsible.*

Considerable discussion ensued regarding proposed reduction of middle & high counselors.

***Board President Thomas** commented that not all employees should receive a layoff notice, and **Board Member Ali** voiced that he agreed, but that all administrators should receive a March 15th letter. **Board President Thomas** agreed. **Superintendent Burnside** interjected that she agree. Wholeheartedly.*

***Ms. Willard** concluded that the information shared is subject to change; that staff will continue to investigate (regarding the budget) and as information is received it will be shared with the Board; that as leaders, you (the Board) have some tough decisions to make, ensuring that we have a balanced budget, and the Administration trusts that the Board will do what’s necessary to maintain fiscal solvency. She added that on January 26th, she will present more detailed budget information; suggested that another budget study session be held February 2nd; and announced that on February 9th, the Administration will agendaize budget cuts for Board action.*

***Board Member Shipp** voiced concern about increasing the pupil/counselor ratio at the high schools. **Board Member Zurita** commented that many students are driven and work without seeing a counselor; that many times students help one another; therefore, she is hopeful AP*

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teachers will help out in this area and that the increased pupil/counselor ratio will balance out so that those students needing more time with counselors will have that time.

Board Member Garrett requested that staff keep in mind that budget cuts should be kept as away from the classroom as possible.

Board President Thomas emphasized to staff that the layoff/budget reduction process has to be done right.

Board Member Ali applauded staff on the positive certification of the Interim Report; and thanked staff for tonight's budget presentation.

09/10-9012 3. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Sharif, **SECOND** by Ms. Zurita, to adjourn the meeting, at Mr. Ali's request, **in silent memory of Ms. Doris Boyd**, wife of a family friend, Mr. Carl Boyd, retired General Motors union leader - time being 9:44 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted:

Kaye E. Burnside, Ed.D.
Superintendent

/lww