

LARKSPUR SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 1, 2006  
Library – Hall Middle School  
200 Doherty Drive, Larkspur, California

**I. CALL TO ORDER** (Board President)

The regular meeting of the Larkspur School District Board of Trustees was called to order by Board President Kevin Mangan at 6:30 p.m.

Trustees Present: Sally Blatt, Monica Bonny, Michael Futterman, Bruce Friedrichs, Kevin Mangan

Trustees Absent: None

Management Present: Valerie Pitts, Becky White, Marilyn Clark, Daniel Norbutas, Chad Carvey

**II. CLOSED SESSION**

The Board recessed to Closed Session at 6:31 p.m. to discuss:

(a) With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to GC Section 54957.6: Negotiations – CSEA

(b) With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to GC Section 54956.8: Lease Negotiations –Lycée Français

**A. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION**

The Board reconvened at 7:03 p.m. Board President Kevin Mangan reported that the Board had met in Closed Session to discuss the items listed on the Closed Session agenda and took no action.

**III. OPEN SESSION**

**1. Superintendent's Report.**

- Supt. Pitts reported that she attended the Superintendents' Symposium last week and that it was an opportunity to meet and network with other superintendents throughout the state. She attended several very meaningful workshops, including a consortium working on healthcare issues as a group to put pressure on insurance companies to lower rates. She also attended a session on the Preschool for All initiative, which included a discussion on the number of kindergartens going to a potentially longer day. Principal Clark said that Neil Cummins is having the same discussion and will report to the Board at the next meeting.
- Supt. Pitts reported on meetings held January 23 with the administrative team and Roundtable Plus, led by facilitator Michael O'Neill. There were meaningful conversations on where we are as a district and where we would like to be. The minutes of these meetings will be posted on the district website.
- She reported that the Transportation Authority of Marin gave a brief update at the county superintendents' meeting. They spoke about new funding for crossing guards, which will hopefully be put into place in the fall. We may be receiving some funds to help offset our current crossing guard program. They are also looking at the a short term transportation plan for next year which includes a shuttle for the Corte Madera/Larkspur area. Public hearings will begin in March.

2. Board Members Reports/Correspondence Addressed to the Board.

- Trustee Friedrichs attended the Roundtable Plus meeting on January 23 and found the facilitator very engaging and very good at focusing on the topic at hand. The meeting was both informative and productive. The sentiment at the meeting was that the district is in good shape, but we should not be resting on our laurels.
- Trustee Bonny attended the School Climate Committee meeting for the Reconfiguration Task Force and said that things are going smoothly. She announced that the Golden Bell awards ceremony will be held on May 24. Nominations for one teacher from each school and one non-teacher are due March 15.
- President Mangan attended a bond oversight committee meeting, created with respect to the construction project, with Supt. Pitts, Principal Norbutas, Business Manager White, and consultant Todd Lee. They discussed construction costs and projects; the committee will report back to the full Board. He also said that he had missed the Reconfiguration Task Force budget meeting and a meeting of the Marin County School Boards Association due to work commitments.
- Trustee Futterman reported that there was a wonderful article in the *Twin Cities Times* regarding the Larkspur School District Board of Trustees. He would like to thank Mayor Larry Chu and the Larkspur City Council for issuing a proclamation that January is School Boards Recognition Month and complimenting all of the trustees for the job they are doing for the district.

**B. PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.**

None.

**C. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

3. AB 1200 Presentation. Supt. Pitts introduced Sandra Peck, Assistant Marin County Superintendent of Business Services, who gave a presentation on AB 1200. She said that bill, enacted after the Richmond School District bankruptcy, gives County Offices of Education responsibility over district finances. It is a safety net for school districts, but also gives the county the authority to take whatever action deemed appropriate giving a district's financial situation. Another bill related to oversight of school district finances, AB2756, was enacted after the Vallejo Unified School District insolvency and gives the county the responsibility to review all reports other people might have done regarding district finances. The county has the authority to approve, conditionally approve or disapprove the district budget. They also review the two Interim Financial Reports. There is a Going Concern provision which allows the county to open another investigation if there is any suspicion of a problem.

The State Department of Education has the authority to review what County Offices of Education are doing; if the county is not diligent, they can take over the process. If a district needs a loan over \$200,000, a state administrator will be appointed and the school board becomes advisory only. For smaller loans, a trustee is appointed. The county also reviews collective bargaining agreements to ensure that districts can afford the agreements. They review annual audit reports and year-end statements after the books are closed. Supt. Peck said that the school districts in Marin County work very cooperatively with MCOE and that there are good working relationships and communications.

4. Special Education Fiscal Report. Supt. Pitts presented a report on Special Education funding. She said that Special Ed is costly because the students do require a lot of special assistance to meaningfully access their education. Some of the figures presented are best estimates, since expenditures for special ed are directly tied to students; as students' needs change, budgets change. The district does not receive much money from the federal government and the state monies flow through the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). Hall Middle School also has two MCOE classrooms; since we are only required to provide one, the county reimburses us \$11,000 for the other. Also, other districts will reimburse us for any children outside of the district who attend LSD schools.

Supt. Pitts reported that services are linked directly to Individual Education Plan (IEP) objectives – if the IEP changes, which happens all year round, expenditures may change. Trustee Blatt pointed out that we don't have an expenditure problem; we have a revenue problem and need to advocate for more money from the federal government. In response to questions from the trustees, Supt. Pitts will report back to the board on the number of special ed students, the type of disability, and the cost per student. She said it can be broken down by costs for speech and behavioral services. Asst. Principal Carvey pointed out that the concept of Maintenance of Effort requires that a district cannot spend less or budget less for special education than the prior year, unless it can be reasonably justified.

5. Wellness Policy Update. According to federal regulations, school districts are required to develop and adopt wellness policies focusing on nutrition and physical fitness by July 2006. Supt. Pitts reported that a Healthy Kids Committee has been formed to draft the school wellness policy. The committee has developed a rough draft, but still has more work to do incorporating recommendations.

The School Wellness Policy requires healthy environments which promote collaborative development and monitoring of policy, physical activity on a regular basis, food and beverages which meet US/National dietary guidelines, nutrition and health education, and outreach and information to parents. The draft policy will be presented to the board at a future meeting, probably in mid-March.

6. Special Board Workshop. A special Board Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 18 from 8:00 to noon formulate our vision and mission, core values and beliefs as we look to the future of the district. The community is invited to attend and provide comments.

7. Corte Madera Planning Commission/Larkspur Planning Commission. No report.

#### **D. ACTION ITEMS**

8. Approval of Tentative Bargaining Agreement between the Larkspur School District Board Trustees and California State Employees Association: 2005-2006 and 2006-2007. M/s/c (Blatt-Futterman) unanimous to ratify the tentative agreement between the LSD and the CSEA.

9. AB1200 Disclosure for CSEA Settlement. M/s/c (Blatt-Futterman) unanimous to accept the AB1200 disclosure report and direct its submittal to the Marin County Office of Education.

10. Larkspur School District Budget Development Calendar. M/s/c (Blatt-Futterman) to approve the Budget Calendar for the 2006-07 budget process as submitted.

**E. CONSENT CALENDAR. (The purpose of the Consent Calendar is to group items which may be approved routinely. A Board Member or member of the audience may request removal of an item for discussion.)** A Roll Call Vote should be taken to include all Resolutions.

11. Board Policy 1113: District and School Web Sites, as submitted

12. Minutes: Regular Meeting of January 18, 2006, as submitted

13. Personnel Action 2005/06-09, as submitted

14. Monthly Warrant Reports: 2005/06 – 59-62, as submitted

M/s/c (Blatt-Bonny) unanimous to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted.

**F. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS**

February 15: School Accountability Report Card (SARC)  
Presentation from Kindergarten staff regarding extended kinder classes  
Reconfiguration Planning Update  
Williams Uniform Complaint Policy – First Draft  
2006-07 Larkspur School District and Board of Trustee Meeting Calendars

**G. FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES**

February 15  
March 8, 22

**IV. CLOSED SESSION**

The Board recessed to Closed Session at 8:37 p.m. to discuss the items listed on the Closed Session agenda.

**V. OPEN SESSION/REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION.**

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:57 p.m. Board President Mangan announced that the Board had met in Closed Session and took no action.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

M/s/c (Futterman-Mangan) unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Pitts  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Barbara Barry  
Secretary to the Superintendent