

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

April 26, 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 6:00 p.m.

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

Trustees Absent: Sally Blatt

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

II. **CLOSED SESSION**

(a) With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to GC Section 54956.8: Lease Negotiations – Town of Corte Madera

(b) With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to GC Section 54957: Public Employee – Discipline/Dismissal/Release

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, accepted the resignations of two teachers for the forthcoming school year, and discussed the other items on the agenda as listed.

III. **OPEN SESSION**

Some of the items on the agenda were moved to accommodate the audience and participants.

1. **Superintendent's Report.**

- Supt. Pitts asked Principal Norbutas to introduce the special student presentations for the evening. Mr. Norbutas said that these Hall programs are GATE-sponsored activities that a great number of students participate in. They are very proud of the programs and more proud of the students. Linda Wolfe, 7<sup>th</sup> grade Core and Quest teacher, talked about the Word Power Challenge, which is a national contest for vocabulary sponsored by *Readers Digest*. All of the Hall Language Arts classrooms participated and they finished with 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade champions Ian Bigby, Keira Sullivan, and Lexi Cary. Out of 300 schools, our three students placed in top 100 schools. Teachers Jennifer Friesen and Heather McPherson then reported on the Maggie Burke Speech Competition for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> which has been held in Ross for 25 years. Six students participated in three different categories – impromptu, dramatic interpretation, and original oratory. They then introduced two medal winners from last year: Sabrina Lyall and Lela McCrae. Social Studies Teacher Elliott Rodgers, who is GATE Coordinator for Hall, spoke about the Geography Bee and Debate Club. Elliott Dosker was the winner of the Geography Bee from Hall; all the students did a great job. There are 15 students participating in the Debate Club as judges and participants.

Math teachers Carin Wethington and Alexis Ahle introduced the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Mathletes Will Dixon, Mark Spero, Ian Jameson, and Rona Chen. This year the 7<sup>th</sup> grade team placed second in the last competition and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team placed second in the county-wide competition. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade team was actually comprised of four 6<sup>th</sup> graders and two 7<sup>th</sup> graders, so the 6<sup>th</sup> graders were performing above the standards for their grade. They are extremely proud of the Mathletes, who gave the Board and audience a math problem to

solve. The last group of students represented the Odyssey of the Mind team – one of the after school enrichment activities that is very dependent on parent volunteers. Parents Michele Louie and Jila Faili presented Odyssey team members Elizabeth Ahern, Kenji Bellavigna, Halleh Fali, Madeline Futterman, Brandon Louie, Julia Purcell, Isabel Sherman. The team, which has been together since 4<sup>th</sup> grade, placed first in the regional competition, division two and fourth statewide with a project about ancient Egypt. Their goal is to place first or second in the state in order to go to a world tournament. We couldn't ask for better representatives for our school. In summary of the evening's student presentations, Mr. Rodgers said that out of 54 students who are designated as GATE, 28 participate in one or more of these activities.

- Supt. Pitts reported that there were no complaints in the previous quarter regarding textbooks and instructional materials, teacher vacancy or misassignment, or facilities conditions.

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

- Trustee Friedrichs attended the April meeting of the Corte Madera Larkspur Schools Foundation. The Foundation has a 55% participation rate to date, ahead of last year. The City of Larkspur has two meetings scheduled for May – a joint meeting of the Larkspur City Council and the Larkspur Parks and Recreation Commission to address moving the Corporation Yard to Piper Park to make room for a new police station and a CLASP meeting on May 10, the last CLASP meeting before going back to the Planning Commission. The maximum housing cap of 66 will be brought up again because there is a possible affordable housing bonus of 20%. He attended the performance of Peter Pan at Neil Cummins; it was particularly gratifying to see that targeting grades 3-5 made it more manageable and allowed young performers to shine. He said that the Foundation Thank You Concert was an amazing community-building event and the Foundation would like to see it be a yearly event. He was also gratified to see the new sound system at Hall funded by the Foundation.
- Trustee Bonny attended Peter Pan and agreed that it was fun and more age-appropriate. She said that Book Passage had a poetry event where poetry students presented their work. There were a handful of students from Hall and Neil Cummins. She attended the Neil Cummins PTA Board meeting and general membership meeting as well as a parent education event about bullying. She also attended the Fifth Grade Parents' Night and said that Principal Norbutas gave a speech and did a great job of answering questions.
- Trustee Futterman attended the Thank You Concert. He attended a CLASP meeting with Supt. Pitts, which was well attended and where community members had a chance to express their views. He said that no final decision has been made about density on the property across the street from Hall. He said that he and Supt. Pitts wrote an email to members of the Larkspur City Council regarding our concerns about the property.
- President Mangan attended the concert. He attended a bond oversight meeting looking at planning and budgeting for the construction project. He reported that there was a groundbreaking ceremony at Hall. He missed a MCOE representatives' meeting where wellness policies were discussed and checklists distributed so that boards can make sure their policies include all of the necessary information. He attended Fourth Grade Parents' Night and said that Principal Norbutas presented a comprehensive plan for the move of 5<sup>th</sup> grade to Hall.

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

Mr. Rodgers gave a report on the Washington, DC trip. Thirty-one eighth grade students went to Philadelphia and Washington, where they saw the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, Mount Vernon, the Capitol Building and Union Station. They also had a tour by Rep. Lynn Wolsey's staff. He said that parent Lori Glass did a great job and asked for someone to run the trip next year while he is on leave. Supt. Pitts congratulated Mr. Rodgers on passing all three California Subject Matter Equivalency Tests.

**C. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

3. Draft Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities. Supt. Pitts said that these statements were developed from the board workshop, input from the board, and input from Administrative Council. After some discussion it was decided that Trustees Friedrichs and Futterman would work on redrafting the statements and bring them back to the next meeting.

4. Draft Wellness Policy. Supt. Pitts reported that the Wellness Policy must be adopted by July 1. She said that the district has a Healthy Kids Task Force that was started at the beginning of year to serve as an advisory council for the Wellness Policy, but that it can also be an advisory council for other categorical programs, such as Drug and Alcohol. Members of the committee are: Alla Wood, Armelle Futterman, Art Nelson, Carolyn Pruden, Colette Wright, Cookie Moran, Debbie Wollman, Heather McPherson, Heather Morgan, Lisa Ferguson, Molly Cohen, Sharon Schielein, Steve Johnston, and Tasmin Pessa. She said that the California School Boards Association sample policies were more succinct than the national standards so they were used to draft the Larkspur School District policy. The district is already well in compliance with the new standards with previously approved Board policies. After discussion of the draft policy and some suggested revisions, it was agreed that the Wellness Policy will be brought back to the next meeting for action.

5. Corte Madera Planning Commission/Larkspur Planning Commission. Nothing to report.

**D. ACTION ITEMS**

6. Physical Education Standards. Principal Norbutas said that we are very proud of the Hall PE program, which received a Golden Bell award last year for outstanding program. He then introduced PE teachers Debbie Wollman and Steve Johnston. Ms. Wollman and Mr. Johnston said that their program is designed around a variety of traditional and non-traditional activities so that students can always find something to connect with and learn from. The main goal of the program, which is aligned with the state standards, is to have students take what we teach them and use those skills and abilities when they are no longer in a structured PE program. The program is designed around age appropriate and grade level appropriate activities. The PE teachers then went through a Power Point presentation highlighting the program, and said that they are constantly monitoring their own progress so they can maintain and improve the program. Mr. Johnston thanked the trustees for their support, providing the new gym and equipment. Supt. Pitts said that the PE standards have been a long time in coming and that the district is just as committed to PE as to the rest of our curriculum. Mr. Norbutas pointed out that both PE teachers run lunchtime programs – Mr. Johnston a wrestling club and Ms. Wollman a gymnastics club. Ms/c (Futterman-Bonny) unanimous to adopt the CA Physical Education Standards as Larkspur School District Standards for Physical Education Standards K-8

7. Grand Jury Report. M/s/c (Futterman-Friedricks) unanimous to approve the responses to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report: *Funding Public Schools – Categorically Speaking.*

8. Board Policy 3300 – Expenditures. Supt. Pitts explained that the purpose of the proposed revision to this policy is to respond to the need for change orders on the construction project in a timely manner due to the tight deadlines for the project. Trustee Futterman asked that the submitted policy be changed to add a sunset date of September 30, 2006 (after completion of the project). M/s/c (Futterman-Friedricks) unanimous to adopt the revised BP 3000 as amended.

9. Resolution 2005/06-15: California Day of the Teacher

M/s/c (Friedricks-Bonny) to approve Resolution 2005/06-15 by the following voice vote:

Ayes: Bonny, Friedrichs, Futterman, Mangan  
Noes: None  
Absent: Blatt

**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.**

10. Authorization to Purchase Two Portable Classroom Buildings, as submitted
11. Disposal of Obsolete Equipment, as submitted
12. Summer School Meal Waiver, as submitted
13. Minutes: Regular Meeting of March 22, 2006, as submitted
14. Donor Thanks, as submitted:
  - Aaron Yu – Apple Airport Extreme
  - Kent Lowney – iMac computer and scanner; Imation disk player and USB hub
15. Personnel Action 2005/06-12, as submitted
16. Monthly Warrant Reports: 2005/06 – 83-95, as submitted

Trustee Bonny asked that the minutes be amended as follows:

Change: Mr. Rodgers said that we would do a survey of [couldn't get exactly what he agreed to do]  
To: Mr. Rodgers said that he would do a GATE participation analysis.  
M/s/c (Bonny-Mangan) unanimous to approve the minutes as amended.

Trustee Friedrichs asked that Agenda item #10 be removed for discussion. After clarification of the purpose of the portables, m/s/c (Friedrichs-Futterman) unanimous to approve the remainder of the Consent Calendar as submitted.

**F. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS**

May 10: Mission and Vision Statement  
Budget Development  
Reserve Policy  
Transportation Update  
Developer Fees  
Wellness Policy

**G. FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES**

May 10  
June 14 and 28

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

M/s/c (Futterman-Mangan) unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Pitts  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Barbara Barry  
Secretary to the Superintendent