

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

September 27, 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 6:02 p.m.

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

Trustees Absent: None

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

II. **OPEN SESSION**

A. **REPORTS**

1. **Superintendent's Report.**

- Supt. Pitts attended all three Back to School Nights and said they were very well done. She thanked the principals and all the teachers and staff for their work.
- She attended a Silicon Valley Math Initiative Administrators' Workshop with Principal Clark.
- She attended a meeting of Safe Routes to Schools – a very active group formed in Larkspur and chaired by City Councilmember Joan Lundstrom. The group includes representatives from the parent community, Larkspur Parks and Rec, Larkspur Public Works, Wendy Kallins from Safe Routes to Schools and Principal Norbutas. She reported that we are making an impact with our campaign to get more cars off the streets and more students walking, biking, and skating to school.
- She attended a Corte Madera Facilities Master Plan Meeting, where draft plans were presented for renovating Corte Madera Town Park, the parking area, and the recreation facility.
- She convened the Reconfiguration Planning Task Force one more time and went over the successes and things we need to continue to work on. Most people felt that the process was a good one and the transition of the 5th grade to Hall successful.
- She attended the Corte Madera Larkspur Schools Foundation (CMLSF) Distinguished Donor reception.

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

- Several trustees provided feedback on the Hall Back to School Night.
- Trustee Friedrichs went on site visits with the principals and attended the Superintendent's Coffee Chat. He also attended the Distinguished Donors reception, Back to School Night at Hall, and a Masters in Governance workshop on Human Resources. He announced that the Central Larkspur Area Specific Plan (CLASP) has been adopted. He voiced concerns about skateboarders around the new wing at Hall; Supt. Pitts informed him that the Twin Cities Police have been stepping up their patrols and keeping her informed.
- Trustee Bonny reported that the Golden Bell Committee has elected new co-chairs and that the Golden Bell dinner is Wednesday, May 30. This year a parent or community volunteer will be honored. She attended the Education Task Force Meeting.
- Trustee Futterman attended Back to School Night at Hall and the CMLSF reception. He has also been involved in contract negotiations with Town of Corte Madera. He attended a Joint Legislative Action Committee (JLAC) meeting with Supt. Pitts where the republican candidate for State Assembly spoke and the lobbyist from Sacramento reported on various propositions on the November ballot. Trustee Futterman suggested that the Board may want to consider resolutions on Proposition 1D (Kindergarten University – Public Education Facilities Bond Act) and Proposition 88 (Education Funding – Real Property Parcel Tax) prior to the October 25 Board meeting.

- President Mangan went on site visits and attended Back to School Night, the CMLSF reception, and Masters in Governance.

B. PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA. None.

C. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Priority: *Maintain the fiscal integrity of the district.*

3. **Discussion: Transportation Update.** Supt. Pitts reported that Golden Gate Transit has added a second morning bus because the number of standees exceeded their standard. She has met with Marin County Transit District and spoken to Supervisor Hal Brown's assistant to discuss funding for this extra bus. Trustee Blatt asked the superintendent to conduct a survey of how other districts handle transit for their students. There was also a discussion of the feasibility of subsidizing bus passes for East Corte Madera students. This item will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Priority: *Foster high levels of student achievement through a comprehensive aligned curriculum.*

4. **Discussion: STAR Assessment/CST Report.** Supt. Pitts and Principals Daniel Norbutas and Marilyn Clark made presentations regarding the STAR tests. They pointed out that the API is steadily increasing – up to 908 in 2006. There was a discussion of areas that need improvement in order to meet the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP). The gender gap in test scores was also discussed.

5. **Discussion: Curriculum – Adoption Report.** Supt. Pitts reported that Scott Foresman Social Studies was selected for use in grades K-5 and Teachers Curriculum Institute - History Alive was selected for use in grades 6-8. M/s/c (Futterman-Friedricks) unanimous to approve the adoption of the above referenced social studies textbooks for K-5 and 6-8 use in the Larkspur School District.

6. **Instructional Materials Funds E.C. 60119.**

- a. **Public Hearing** – The Board held a Public Hearing per requirements of E.C. 60119 to determine that each pupil has enough textbooks and other instructional materials in each subject consistent with the framework adopted by the state.
- b. **Resolution 2005/06-10** – Having determined that each pupil has enough textbooks and other instructional materials in each subject consistent with the framework adopted by the state, it was m/s/c (Blatt-Futterman) unanimous that the Board adopt Resolution 2006/07-02 attesting to the sufficiency of instructional materials in the district, by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Blatt, Bonny, Friedricks, Futterman, Mangan
Absent: None
Noes: None

Priority: *Attract and retain highly qualified staff.*

7. **Discussion: Staff Development Activities.** Supt. Pitts reported on upcoming staff development activities and presented a matrix of professional development activities outside of staff development days. Principal Clark reported on differentiated instruction training attended by Neil Cummins and Hall teachers.

8. **Action: Approve Job Description for Technology Assistant.** Supt. Pitts explained that technology has grown exponentially and that it is necessary to hire a 10 month, 3.75 hours/day Technology Assistant to provide help desk support to teachers. M/s/c (Friedricks-Bonny) unanimous to approve the new job description for Technology Assistant.

Priority: Develop a flexible long range plan to manage continued enrollment growth.

9. **Discussion:** Personnel/Staffing/Enrollment Report. Supt. Pitts reviewed district enrollment and staffing and the differences between 2005-06 and 2006-07. Trustee Futterman questioned the value of teaching computer skills in kindergarten. Supt. Pitts said that the issue would be addressed this year. Valerie pointed out that Librarian Carol Halpern has had very little increase in library staffing even though enrollment has increased. There was a discussion about collaboration and sharing of information with other districts.

Priority: Promote effective communication between the classroom and the home, and among the various constituents in the district and the community.

10. **Action:** Resolution 2006/07-04 – Safe Routes to Schools. M/s/c (Blatt-Futterman) to adopt Resolution 2006/07-04 – Safe Routes to Schools by the following voice vote:

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

D. GOVERNANCE TEAM ISSUES/PLANNING

11. **Discussion:** Board Self-Evaluation. M/s/c (Futterman-Bonny) unanimous to remove this item from the agenda and discuss it a later date.

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.

- 12. Minutes: Regular Meeting of August 30, 2006
- 13. Loan Request – Tax Anticipation
- 14. Resolution 2006/07-03 – Adoption of the “Gann Limit”
- 15. Personnel Action 2006/07-03
- 16. Donor Thanks: Robert Jessen, Ira and Alan Bagshaw, William Bombria
- 17. Monthly Warrant Reports: 2006/07 – 020-028

M/s/c (Bonny-Friedrichs) to approve the Consent Calendar by the following voice vote:

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

F. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

October 25: Budget Revisions – First Interim
CBEDS/Enrollment Report
Technology Committee Update
Transportation Update
Board Self-Evaluation

G. FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES

October 25
November 15

III. CLOSED SESSION

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 8:17 pm to discuss:

(a) With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to GC Section 54957: Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Superintendent

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Report of Closed Session. The Board reconvened at 9:05 p.m. Board President Kevin Mangan reported that the Board had met in Closed Session to discuss the item listed on the Closed Session agenda and unanimously concluded that Supt. Pitts has done an outstanding job thus far and made the decision to extend her contract by a year, so that it remains a 3 yr contract. The Board amended the salary schedule in the contract for a 2006-07 salary of \$142,500. They will further amend the specific contract language regarding future years' compensation after receiving advice from counsel.

V. ADJOURNMENT

M/s/c (Friedricks-Bonny) unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Pitts
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Barbara Barry
Secretary to the Superintendent