

SM-MUSD PTA Full Council Meeting

September 18, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 11:20 AM by Council President, Rebecca Kennerly, in the Board Room, Board of Education (BOE).

Attending: The Attendance Sheet is attached.

President's Report: Rebecca Kennerly opened meeting by thanking Council for its work. She led Council introductions, then introduced special presenter, Sally Chou, SMMUSD Chief Academic Officer (CAO).

Sally Chou, SMMUSD CAO: Presentation on Achievement and Opening of 2007-2008 Year:

- Reported that school opened without incident.
- As part of her duties, she looks at attendance and enrollment daily, and reported that the District is down about 100 students (per projections). Tomorrow is the tenth day of school at which time all "no-shows" will be dropped. She is looking at initial enrollment trends and permit students (those in current BOE compliance). Independent Study contracts are being assigned to those students who are known to be away/ill/injured. In response to a question on how this would specifically impact funding, she gave this formula: \$6,000 (amount of ADA per student/yr-180 days) x 100 (# under projection). Dr. Chao added that there has been a decline in enrollment in kindergarten in the District as well as across other districts. There has been an increase at Lincoln, but a decrease @ JAMS, SAMO, and Malibu. The total (actual, not projected) decline from last year is 180; therefore the District is considering accepting students under the existing permit policy.
- Student Achievement: This year's focus is on mathematics. Students do well in elementary school, and then tend to drop off in middle and high school. The District maintained API score of 817. The score has been over 800 for the last three years. This year all math teachers have agreed to the same textbook adoption/curriculum through the grades (i.e., same book series for Algebra I, II, Geometry). Algebra is the "gatekeeper" for math achievement. The API news is that Edison and Muir, both Title I schools, are both over 800 this year, with large jumps. District scores/reports can be gotten online. The Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), an accountability report, will be available in October. Also, 90% of 10th graders passed the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). Dr. Chao also reported that in terms of advanced math courses (beyond Calculus), multivariant algebra is being offered at the high school in conjunction with Santa Monica College, for college credit. Online math courses through APAX Learning are being looked into as an instructional source. She also mentioned that some students who have scored well on achievement tests, use that data in their college application essays.

President's Report (Cont'd):

- Rebecca introduced Mike Matthews, Asst. Supt. Human Resources who said he was happy to be part of the team again.
- An engraved President's pin was presented to Laura Rosenbaum.
- Rebecca emphasized that this year is about teamwork as the Superintendent indicated and that we need to figure out how to work together in the District. SM Council is well known for leaders in advocacy and Rebecca wants Council to be known as leaders in communication as well.

Council Business and Reports:

- **President Emeritus:** Laura Rosenbaum reported that the Meas. BB committees are at the beginning stages of BOE approval of spending the \$268 million and prioritization of projects. With respect to the community, be sure people understand that the BOE hasn't approved anything yet. The next step is for teams to go to school sites to discuss "wish lists" in terms of what money is available. Each site has its own committee to voice opinions. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is still needed. Inflation over the years has to be taken into account. Everything is preliminary over the next few months. Measure BB is in Phase I of the Master Plan. Lisa

Golden Balfus suggested Wally Berryman, whose job it is to oversee the implementation of BB, to attend one of our meetings.

- **Approval of Minutes:** Chris Jimenez y West wants more information recorded in the minutes, specifically referring to the Superintendent's report at the 6/12/07 meeting. He wants the minutes to be accurate. Louise Jaffe responded that the Bylaws require only vote actions. Lisa Golden Balfus said there should be more information in order to appreciate different views. She offered this written suggestion as an example of the Superintendent's report: "She emphasized that...and would like PTA presidents to be extremely cautious regarding the perception that schools are primarily concerned with events at their own campus, and not sufficiently focused on the community as a whole." Discussion of minutes' contents followed. Liz Dubelman moved to approve the minutes of 6/12/07 with a friendly amendment that there be a greater attempt for depth, especially and very specifically, the words of the Superintendent, and that there is an effort to make the report as close to the essence of what is being presented. Becky Turk seconded the motion. Louise Jaffe commented that the minutes are an accounting of actions of the organization and to please defeat the motion. Debbie Mulvaney suggested the wording, "There was a lengthy discussion reflecting all sides of the issue," without describing emotion, but opinions and details to summarize presentations. Liz Dubelman moved to approve the minutes of 6/12/07 including the friendly amendment with the addition that when substantive issues are being raised, that there be a summary of the discussion. The minutes of 6/12/07 were **approved** as amended, with Lisa Golden Balfus, Louise Jaffe, and Chris Jimenez y West abstaining.
- **Financial Reports:**
 - Treasurer Kim Eyler presented the budget expenditures for approval (see attached). Lori Whitesell moved to approve the budget expenditures, with a second by Debbie Mulvaney. The expenditures were **approved**.
 - Kim explained the 2007-08 Budget revisions (see attached Council Budget Revised) which indicate a lower Summer Adventure (SA) revenue based on higher costs and reduced enrollment.. To cover the loss from SA, proposed amounts would be taken from Communications and Translation, Legislation, Parent Ed. Judith Meister moved to approve the revised 2007-08 Budget with second by Lori Whitesell. The Budget was **approved**.
 - Kim reminded Council that all remittances go to Marty Smith, while Kim needs monthly treasurer's reports; taxes filed, and approved budgets from each unit.
 - Summer School (Adventure) Treasurer Debbie Mulvaney reported that policy and practical aspects of SA would be under discussion. There is a Proposal for the Education Foundation and PTA Council re: unemployment insurance (see attached for current status, issues raised, and proposal). In summary, SA has been self-insured for unemployment. The Employment Development Department (EDD) which manages unemployment insurance, wants the District to prepare for the worst-case scenario (if all employees file). The District has a \$35,000 unemployment reserve. If there were no reserve, then each entity (Ed. Found., PTA) would be responsible for unemployment insurance. The proposal is to decrease this fund to \$25,000, until the Ed. Found. or PTA determines a need. The money then goes to the PTA Council General Fund and the SA Treasurer would be given authority to release funds (i.e., Debbie M. would give to Marty S. and the Ed. Found.). If one organization needed the money, both would get money at the same time. The two presidents would have to agree. Previously SA was a service to the community and the Ed. Found. was a fundraiser.
 - Judith Meister moved to approve the PTA Council Summer Adventure and Ed. Foundation Unemployment Insurance Proposal, with a second by Becky Turk. The proposal was **approved**. The Ed. Found. now has to approve this proposal. When approved, it will go to the BOE for approval.
 - Audits: Judith Meister reported for Marty Smith that mid-year and end-of-the-year audits are due. Karen Farrer moved to approve audits, with a second by Kelly Meyer. The audits were **approved**.
- **First VPs-Communication:**
 - Maryanne Solomon asked that schools send two copies of their newsletters because she is required to send two to 33rd District.

- Richard McKinnon stated we have outstanding, distinguished schools throughout the District. He wants to increase the information flow and market the positives of the District. In October the schools will be open to visitors. He said there are enormous gaps in schools within the District. His committee will be writing, “Top 10 Things About District” and each site will do its own top ten.
 - In a discussion re: the District website, Louise Jaffe made a motion to update and reorganize the District website. Rebecca made a friendly amendment to revamp and reorganize the website as part of a comprehensive effort. Debbie Mulvaney seconded the motion. It was **approved**.
- **Second VP’s-Membership:** Liz Dubelman reported that her goals are to gather information for OMDR (on Excel doc or membership envelopes where someone will input info) and help increase membership.
 - **Organization:** Cheryl Byrne had no report.
 - **Third VPs-Health:** Maria Rodriguez had no report.
 - **Fourth VPs-Education:** Tina Wiatrak had no report.
 - **Fifth VPs-Community Concerns:** Rochelle Fanali and Heather Anderson were absent.
 - **Parliamentarian:** Karen Farrer reported that all units have to redo bylaws if they are more than three years old, including Council. State wants each unit to unincorporate because there is one common insurer for all the PTAs in California.
 - **Legislation:** Colleen O’Beirne Brydon co-chairs Parcel Tax Renewal Feasibility Committee, which will make a recommendation to the BOE in Oct. regarding placing a Parcel Tax on the ballot next year, perhaps in Feb. or November. Units need Leg. Cmtes in place and have monthly meetings. It’s important to get info out to the masses. Need to agendize legislation for next time.
 - **Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) Liaison:** New Liaison Tricia Crane will try to meet at schools 2x/month. There will be an independent audit to look at Spec. Ed. programs and money. She noted that the District has hired a lawyer.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 PM.

_____, Secretary

Approved: