

PACIFIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, March 13, 2015 @ 4:00 PM
PACIFIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Davenport, CA

Pacific School Mission Statement

Pacific School's mission is to prepare children for life through experiential learning that addresses the needs of the whole child. We create a safe and secure school environment that promotes social and academic growth and develops an enthusiasm for learning, a positive self-image, and cross-cultural understanding.

PLEASE NOTE: All persons are encouraged to attend and, where appropriate, to participate in meetings of the Pacific School Board of Trustees. Persons wishing to address the Board are asked to state their names for the record. Consideration of all matters is conducted in open session except for those relating to litigation, personnel, and employee negotiations, which, by law, may be considered in executive (closed) session.

Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. By request alternative agenda document formats are available to persons with disabilities. To arrange an alternative agenda document format or to arrange aid or services to modify or accommodate persons with a disability to participate in a public meeting, please provide a written request to: Kris Stanga, Superintendent/Principal at the Pacific School District Office at least three working days prior to any public meeting.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1.0 OPENING PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC SESSION

1.1 CALL TO ORDER & Roll Call

- Gwyn Rhabyt, Board President - Present
- Don Croll, Board Trustee - Present
- Roger Knapp, Board Trustee - Present
- Also Present: Kris Stanga, Elizabeth Andrews.
- Leslie Miles could not attend due to illness.
- Rachel Dann and Terra Barsanti arrived 4:30.

1.3 Approve the Agenda for March 12, 2015

Added close session and approved.

Additions or Deletions to the agenda may be made, however, no action will be taken on items added at this time.

2.0 CONSENT AGENDA

These matters may be passed by one roll call motion. Items may be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion and separate action

None

3.0 CORRESPONDENCE

None

4.0 PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

For items not on the agenda, this is an opportunity for the public to address the Board directly related to school business. The President may allot time to those wishing to speak, but no action will be taken on matters presented (Ed. Code Sec. 35145.5)

For items on the agenda, the public will have the opportunity to speak at the time the agenda item is discussed. Please address the Board President.

None

5.0 ORGANIZATION REPORTS

5.1 Superintendent/Principal, Kris Stanga

Santa Cruz County Schools are working together to apply for a Gates Foundation Grant which would coordinate assessments across all Santa Cruz County Schools. Kris is pushing for performance based assessments.

Kris is considering adopting Engage New York for Common Core Curriculum for math and possibly language arts as well.

There is a letter going out to all parents reminding them of state laws regarding vaccinations and asking parents to updated their immunization information with the office if there's been any changes.

5.2 School Board Trustees

Received a \$50,000 grant from the Moore Foundation. There is another grant pending for curriculum (not building) with the BeWet program.

Property next to LifeLab garden is in escrow.

There's a small piece of property filled with blackberries that belongs to AT&T. Perhaps we can ask them to allow us to use it or even donate it to us. Possible uses would be Life Lab orchard, parking, staging ground for field studies, etc.

Roger: The sheriff, Joe Clarke, has offered to come to a board meeting and get to know the school and staff better.

5.3 School Site Council

Last site council meeting focused on the school survey. Site council is revising the survey and will get it out to families by the end of the month.

5.4 Pacific Parents' Club

No report was made.

6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

None

7.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS (Action if Needed)

7.1 Building Project

Review of project status:

Measure M was passed with the intent to fund a multi-purpose room. Then it was discovered that one of our portables was not possible to permit. So, the board decided it made sense to combine the multipurpose room with the new classroom. The board agreed to spend about 60% of the school's reserve fund for the project, which is the absolute maximum the school can afford to spend without jeopardizing the school's long term financial security. Then the architect estimated that it would cost an additional \$250,000 or \$300,000 more than estimated, and we have no immediate source of money for those new costs. Some of this additional cost was due to unusually strict interpretation of building codes.

The school is applying for "hardship funds" from the state, but at best we think we have a 50/50 chance of getting these funds.

Meanwhile, the builder the architect was working with has gone out of business. We didn't pay them anything, thankfully, but now we are not working with any particular builder.

The last total estimate was \$1.4 million and we have about \$1.1 million.

Rachel:

Consider talking with Mark Stone's office about whether there's any process for expediting hardship funds. Mark is more accessible than Billing Monning, but both offices would be worth contacting.

Could your architect give very specific information about the exact codes that are being strictly interpreted and provide that info. to Rachel to discuss with the Planning Department. Rachel would be happy to bring something to the Planning Direct if the information is spelled out specifically. Rhabyt thinks we may need a general contractor to work with Weston Miles on getting this information in a form that is accurate, detailed, and clear.

Kris:

At this point, the Board will need to decide whether to solicit bids, in which case the school will have to choose the lowest bid and deal with change orders, or to do a lease-lease back. If we choose the second route, we cannot get bids from the contractors. We can interview them, but not solicit bids.

Ways to save money articulated by people Kris has talked to:

Get rid of the odd shape and weird angles of the building.
Switch to traditional materials from concrete.

These options bring up the issue of whether we would need to get all new permits if we made these changes. The answer isn't clear yet.

Don to Rachel:

Are there any other sources of money we should be going after?

Rachel:

I will call my friend at Mark Stone's office and explain your situation. The hardship funds are probably your best option.

I can talk to the auditor-treasurer. The county may be able to make bridge loans.

There are no parks funding in general. However, there may be some parks dedicated money for our grounds, which are also a County Park.

It might be possible to create a community assessment district which would bring in more taxes – the angle here would be that it would support the grounds as a park.

Rachel will ask what's in the Parks Dedication Fund.

Might consider trying Cemex one more time. They want to leave on a good note. Talk to Satish.

Agrees with Don that asking Granite Rock for in kind donations is a good idea.

Don:

The urgency is that we need to get started ASAP if we are going to avoid having this classroom crisis drag on another whole school year.

Rachel left at 5:04.

Kris:

We are working with a firm on spending our energy efficiency money. Most of it will be spent to upgrade our lighting systems to code. The remainder of this money might possibly be able to be spent on the new building.

This project is taking up an inordinate amount of Kris' time.

Leslie has not come back with a plan B architect (yet).

Roger:

Roger has been talking to a few builders. Some are not interested in the lease-lease back arrangement. We might be able to save about 10% of the building costs by changing the design of the building, for example to wood, but then we would incur more expenses in the form of new design and engineering, etc.

Workers have to be paid prevailing wages, so we can't save money there. We have room to move on materials and contractor profits.

Don:

None of us really have the expertise to lead this project.

Packard Foundation local fund might possibly be willing to help.

Kris:

If we're going to put shovel into ground in June, we need to figure all these decisions out quick.

Don:

Ideally would really nail down what exactly the project is, including will we get donated materials (Granite Rock), internally supplied materials (Tom Wedlock), changes to grading requirements, etc. If we can nail down all this information, then we can start talking to different contractors.

I will talk to John Barnes (UCSC campus architect) for recommendations about a person who might help us through the next few months.

Everyone:

We need to be prepared with a plan that assumes we will NOT get hardship funds.

Roger:

Based on preliminary discussions, we are not likely to get bids much lower than PenCon's bid.

Elizabeth to Roger:

Would parents' club consider any donations toward this project?

Roger:

There is about \$60,000 that the parents' club was assuming would be spent on furnishing the new building. This should be viewed as a last resort and would require a vote of the parents' club.

Don's Summary of Action Items:

- Find out from Rachel if there is any Park Dedication Funds
- Get Leslie to provide detailed info on what codes are being overly rigorously interpreted.
- Big Creek isn't very relevant because the materials they might donate aren't materials we actually need.

- Granite Rock needs to be approached, but we need to give them accurate information about what materials we need donated.
- Figure out how we are going to hire a contractor and move forward with that process.
- Consider hiring a consultant to help us move this whole process along.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

None

9.0 CLOSED SESSION

Confidential Personnel Issues (which may include leaves, reassignments, medical issues, disciplines, separation, etc.) (Government Code 54957)

Closed Session – Public Employee – Discipline/Dismissal/Release

There was no action from closed session.

10.0 SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

10.1 Next Regular Board Meeting, March 19, 2015

11.0 ADJOURNMENT