

San Mateo-Foster City School District

Minutes-Draft

SPECIAL MEETING~BOARD OF TRUSTEES

June 06, 2019, 5:00 PM

1170 Chess Drive

Foster City, CA 94404

1. CALL TO ORDER: 4:30 P.M.

2. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

2.1. Review Non-Public School/Non-Public Agency contract(s) for the 2018-2019 school year.

2.2. GOVT. CODE 54957.6 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR(S) Agency Designated Representative: Dr. Joan Rosas. Employee Organization: SMETA, CSEA and/or SMEAA.

2.3. GOVT. CODE 54957 - PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE. If these discussions are not completed before 6:30 p.m., the Closed Session will continue following the regular meeting.

3. RECONVENE TO SPECIAL BOARD MEETING - STUDY SESSION

The Special Board meeting started at 5:05 p.m.

4. FLAG SALUTE

5. ROLL CALL

All five Board members were present:

Kenneth Chin

Noelia Corzo

Rebecca Hitchcock

Audrey Ng

Shara Watkins

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: June 6, 2019 (v)

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Audrey Ng and a second by Kenneth Chin.

Yes Kenneth Chin

Yes Noelia Corzo

Yes Rebecca Hitchcock

Yes Audrey Ng

Yes Shara Watkins

7. STATEMENTS

7.1. Public Statements related to agenda item(s). Please limit statements to three minutes.

Sunghi Park wondered what had prompted the discussion for changing the Montessori program.

Tara Valentine stated that she understands the desire to keep a K-8 structure but wanted to support a change to a primary and upper house structure. One of the reasons that she would like to see this structure is due to staffing issues related to finding Montessori trained teachers for the two schools. Also, she felt that the physical locales work better if the students attend a primary and upper house and cited the fact that North Shoreview Montessori has a gym. Overall, she feels that two houses would better create one Montessori program.

Kristin LaBerge agreed with her colleague Tara Valentine and stated that beyond the staffing issues, there is a desire to have one Montessori program but that the way it is set up it becomes two competing programs. She stated that the physical space is better at Parkside for smaller students and that North Shoreview Montessori has the gym for upper grade students.

Amy Connors attended the Montessori program when it started at Meadow Heights Elementary School. She would like to see a program that is sustainable and that can attract and retain qualified staff. A concern right now is the middle years program at North Shoreview Montessori because Parkside students can't go there. She supports the idea of a primary and upper house at the two sites or even having one site for the entire program. She encouraged the Board to include staff in the decision.

Angela Zaki Warfel has three children at Parkside. She lives in the Highlands and drives to the school for this Montessori program. She described her son's experience in Parkside and encouraged the Board to listen to the staff regarding program design.

Chris Stallings also stated that there are a handful of people who understand the Montessori program and he encouraged the Board to listen to the people who are the experts in Montessori education who might not necessarily be the loudest voices.

Sarah Buchanan represents the North Shoreview Homeowners Association. She would like families to be able to attend the school in their neighborhood. She feels that there is diversity in the neighborhood and that traffic would be reduced. North Shoreview families would like to have a priority for entrance and partake in the program. She asked that the Board set aside 15 spaces for entering neighborhood kindergarten students.

Annie Tsai is a new parent in the District. She stated that she was grateful for the public Montessori program, however, she was told that it would be one program and she didn't feel that it is that way right now.

Eric Park would like to see leadership from the District on this issue. He encouraged leadership to analyze the data and make a thoughtful decision.

Mark Henderson appreciated the support from the Board for the Montessori program. He felt that the full plan as laid out by the original Montessori Task Force has not yet been actualized. He explained that the 2007 plan was a K-8 model for two small schools. He said that the programs needed three things: facilities, staffing, and families. He would like to see the District continue with the K-8 program.

Frances Isola was grateful for the Montessori program. She did have a middle schooler at Bayside Academy and felt that the students are thriving there. She would like the Board to employ the educators in making this decision. She also warned against allowing this decision to create a rift such as what happened when the Parkside STEAM program was moved to Bayside.

8. SUPERINTENDENT SERVICES/BOARD

8.1. Study Session - Discussion of Enrollment in Montessori Magnet Schools, Fee based Pre-Schools and Priority Entrance, Current Magnet Policy

Dr. Rosas shared that it had been close to three years since the Montessori community met together to review the program. At that time, the need was to build the middle school program at North Shoreview Montessori and to separate the two programs at Parkside with STEAM going to Bayside Academy and the Montessori program remaining at Parkside. She suggested that, with the support of the Montessori

Principals, she would like to survey the staff this summer and families and neighbors this fall from the two schools. She would like to know what they believe is going well, where they see challenges at this point in time, and ask for their suggestions regarding any potential structural changes they might like to consider for the two schools. Dr. Rosas would plan to bring the Trustees information for consideration by the second Board meeting in September.

The Board asked clarifying questions and asked for Dr. Rosas to bring a timeline and some preliminary questions to the June 20, 2019 Board meeting. They were also interested in knowing whether the North Shoreview neighborhood was interested in having the Montessori program at North Shoreview Montessori or having a neighborhood school. They asked to see the original Montessori Task Force report as presented to the Board of Trustees.

Preschool Priority and Subsidized Preschool Programming

Dr. Rosas stated that the fee-based preschools had historically been set up to draw families to some of the District's under-utilized schools, however, that situation has now flipped to the point that families state that they are buying preschool spaces in order to ensure entrance into four of the magnet schools: College Park, Fiesta Gardens International School, North Shoreview Montessori and Parkside School. Dr. Rosas stated that learning this was concerning in that this practice provides an advantage to some families over others and asked for direction related to priority registration from preschool to elementary school placements. She also stated that the Trustees had expressed interest in having subsidized spaces at each of the preschools in these four schools. Karrie Haselton has done the research on a blended program and Dr. Rosas reported that it can be done. The classes are full for 2019-2020 with a waiting list but a change could be implemented in 2020-2021.

Trustees asked clarifying questions and provided direction to move forward with changing the priority registration practice for the 2021-2022 school year as families who are entering the preschools now believe that they have that priority. They also provided direction to staff to begin the work to establish subsidized spaces in each of the four preschools.

District Magnets and Magnet Policy

The Trustees reviewed the identified magnets at this time: College Park, Fiesta Gardens International School, North Shoreview Montessori and Parkside (no neighborhood boundary) and Sunnybrae IB, Bayside STEAM, STEM and LEAD Lit, Enrichment, Academics and Digital Learning. Borel Middle School did pull their IB membership although they have retained some aspects of that program. George Hall and Park Elementary Schools have asked to pull their present identifiers as they feel that they have moved past their magnet theme at this point- in-time and do not use it as a focal point of their incoming Kindergarten interviews. In total, seven District schools identify themselves as magnets, drawing families for their programs. At the same time, the District does not receive Federal Magnet funds and there is a question about whether to readopt BP 0411 that was written in order to be in compliance with the Magnet Schools of America grant. More importantly, the policy speaks to Social Economic Statuses (SES) balance in the magnet schools, however, the Equity Task Force is looking at SES balance in all schools.

The Trustees asked that the Equity Task Force look at this policy along with the Cultural Pluralism and Equity Policies and provide thoughts for Board consideration at a Board meeting in the fall. The Trustees also directed Dr. Rosas to look at the SES balance at College Park and provide suggestions for improving the balance now.

9. ADJOURNMENT

9.1. Adjournment (v)

The Special Board meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Motion Passed: Passed with a motion by Audrey Ng and a second by Noelia Corzo.

Yes Kenneth Chin

Yes Noelia Corzo

Yes Rebecca Hitchcock

Yes Audrey Ng

Yes Shara Watkins

Board Secretary

Date