



**BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING**  
**UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

**November 17, 2016 7:00 PM**  
Hillview Middle School  
Performing Arts Center (PAC)  
1100 Elder Avenue  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

**Attendance Taken at 7:04 PM:**

**Present:**

Jeff Child  
Maria Hilton  
Stacey Jones  
Joan Lambert  
Terry Thygesen

**I. 7:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

**Minutes:**

Board President Jeff Child called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. All members of the Board were present.

President Jeff Child welcomed Mr. David Ackerman who has been elected to the Board beginning in December. Mr. Ackerman will be joining the Board at the Board's table tonight to engage with the Board and the public.

Caroline Lucas, the other newly elected Board member, chose to participate tonight as a community member and not sit at the Board's table.

**II. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**Quick Summary:**

Under Comments from the Audience, a community member may address the Board on any subject. An individual may only address the Board once under this item. Three (3) minutes are allotted to each speaker but can be extended by a Board member if so desired. Please note that speaking time cannot be delegated to another person. The Board cannot act on non-agenda items and cannot respond to issues other than to provide general information. However, Board members will take any comments under advisement and can give direction to the Superintendent to follow up if warranted. We request that an individual fill out a speaker card and provide his/her name and address before addressing the Board; however this is not required.

**Minutes:**

There were no public comments for items not on the agenda.

**III. Superintendent Ghysels will continue to address options for expenditure reductions, as well as possible parcel tax revenue enhancement measures to preserve District standards and financial stability**

**Quick Summary:**

The Board continues to discuss options for expenditure reductions, as well as possible parcel tax revenue enhancement measures to preserve District standards and financial stability.

Staff will present various parcel tax scenarios and potential impacts to District reserve levels as requested by the School Board. Also, at this meeting, the Board will hear from Whitehurst/Mosher on the timing and amount of a potential parcel tax, along with a comparative analysis of similarly situated Bay Area school districts.

At last Wednesday night's Board meeting, staff presented the historical review of MPCSD's financial, academic, and programmatic evolution over the last ten years. Staff also submitted a report and analysis on proposed reductions, which included the requested prioritized reduction recommendations set against different levels of potential parcel tax funding, the process and timeline for potential parcel tax, and planning considerations for staff reductions. (This report is attached to this Board item.) Following staff's presentation, the School Board scheduled this additional Special Board meeting.

At this meeting, the Board will continue to inform the public, seek input, and engage in a discussion process resulting in directions for staff regarding next steps to address the District's structural deficit. This single agenda item is for Board Discussion and no action will be taken.

For more information about the process, please visit the District's website and scroll to the "Announcement" section for Board meeting transcripts and presentation decks.

**Minutes:**

Superintendent Ghysels presented a Board Report: Parcel Tax and Reduction Options. The following information was included in the report (*Presentation is available on MPCSD's Agenda OnLine.*):

- Planning Process
- Recap of November 9, 2016 School Board Meeting
- Board Directions from November 9, 2016
- 2016/17 Reductions and Proposed Additional Reductions
- Parcel Tax Amounts/Reductions and Timing Options
- Impact of Parcel Tax Election Beyond March 2017
- Whitehurst/Mosher Presentation
- Next Steps/Board Direction

Whitehurst/Mosher, the District's consultant on campaign strategy, presented background information about their firm, the firm's successful campaigns, and discussed the components to a successful parcel tax campaign.

The following members of the audience addressed Whitehurst/Moster:

Vince Lopez  
Calla Griffith  
Scott Saywell  
Chuck Jones  
Angela Evans

Chief Business and Operations Officer Ahmad Sheikholeslami continued the presentation explaining the budget slides.

Following the presentation, the Board had an in-depth conversation about the options proposed and the many variables impacting the decision on the size of the potential parcel tax including how much they are willing to cut from the district's current budget, and how far out into the future they want to see balanced budgets projected.

The following members of the audience addressed the Board:

Theresa Fox  
Jennifer Levey  
Karen Dearing  
Carolyn Kryger  
Tom Lyons  
Stephanie Noon  
Sheila Warren  
Caroline Lucas  
Scott Saywell  
Scott Hinshaw

The Board continued their discussion and all provided their positions on the options proposed. Incoming Board member David Ackerman weighed in on the options however, incoming Board member Caroline Lucas stated she needed more information and time to confirm her position.

Assistant Superintendent Erik Burmeister summarized what the Board is asking from staff for the November 30 Special Board meeting. The Board scheduled a second Special Board meeting for December 5 in the event the Board needs additional time to reach a consensus on when to hold a parcel tax, how much of a tax they will ask for, the expiration date, and the wording of a ballot measure.

*(The video of this meeting will be available on the District's website within 5 days of the meeting.)*

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

##### **Minutes:**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

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Board President/Vice President

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Superintendent