

**SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

May 22, 2009
MINUTES

Douglas E. Giles
Educational Resource Center
9619 Cuyamaca Street
Santee, California

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order and Welcome
President El-Hajj called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.
Members present:
Dianne El-Hajj, President
Dustin Burns, Vice President
Barbara Ryan, Clerk
Allen Carlisle, Member
Dan Bartholomew, Member

President El-Hajj led the pledge of allegiance. Member Carlisle moved to approve the agenda.

Motion: Carlisle Second: Ryan Vote: 5-0

B. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

There was no public communication.

C. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

1. **Options and Decisions for Phase II Construction**
 - a. Revenue
 - b. Expenditures
 - c. Options

Dr. Johnson shared the first priority would be to discuss cash flow. The State crisis has had a great impact on the State funding for the Capital Improvement Program. The State is not sending apportionments and the District will see \$5M in reductions for this year and next year. Dr. Johnson shared a current cash report from the County Treasury account. The District owed Barnhart \$2.4M for April bills. Dollars from a variety of funds were used to pay Barnhart and Barnhart has deferred over \$400,000 in bills to be paid in July. Dr. Johnson shared a chart of the cash flow if the Bond Anticipation Notes are used to pay off the rest of Phase I. The completion of Phase I schools will cost \$6M. This would leave about \$12.8M. The Board authorized moving forward with Phase II on May 2. Tonight the Board would need to review the options to move forward with only one-half of the cash to fund the projects.

Member Carlisle asked if the \$6M owed for Phase I was supposed to be covered by State apportionments that have not been received. Christina Becker reported that the District is currently waiting for State funding of \$8.5M for school construction, \$4.3M for the Cajon Park addition and \$6M in hardship funds. The Joint Use funds have been received and used. The original plan was to issue the Bond Anticipation Notes (BAN) and then Lease Revenue Bonds (LRB) if needed. Now, the restrictions of the BAN will not allow for LRBs. There are other funds that we may be able to look at but they impact the general fund.

The Board summarized what is in the bank, revenue, and debt for construction, and would like to see additional options. Dr. Johnson shared a chart of options for modernization based on not enough cash to move forward with all three schools in Phase II. The options included a number of scenarios for work at selected schools that would total the amount of money left from the BAN. Member Bartholomew asked about the time frame of the options and if spreading the work out will increase costs for administration and supervision of the projects.

Dr. Johnson said there are a number of pros to stopping construction and the continuing expenses. The cons include vendors that will want to be paid. Dr. Johnson recommended trying to get some of the work completed to mitigate the liability. The District has \$12M to work with without a shortfall in September. Christina Becker is also looking at how much money in State funds we can get for each project. At Chet F. Harritt there is the ball field to consider. Member Bartholomew said because we are so short of money

right now, the idea of spending modernization funds from classrooms puts the ball field lower on the radar for him.

Member Carlisle asked if in discontinuing with Barnhart there was any indication of a preference for the infrastructure. Christina said Barnhart did not have a preference but the switchgear has already been ordered for the schools. Member Carlisle asked how many subs would be released if we did work at only one campus. Christina Becker said Barnhart hired different subs for each job to get the jobs done in 58 days. They have up to 22 subs.

Member Burns asked why we get more matching funds dollars for Hill Creek. Christina Becker said it was a point of eligibility based on the number of students.

President El-Hajj invited Prospect Principal Cheryl Bowen and PTA president Trish Mc Cleary to address the Board in response to their request to speak card.

Mrs. Bowen said it was not fair to see other schools receive modernization and Prospect Avenue not being modernized. She wants the best learning environment for the Prospect students and wants to make it the school it should be for the 21st century.

Christina Becker discussed the other options and asked for Board input. Member Carlisle supports the infrastructure and Item E, F, and G, which includes modernization at Prospect, Pepper Drive summer work, and infrastructure tied into old service feeds at the three Phase II schools.

Member Ryan believes the State money will begin to come earlier than 18 months. She supports Item E, F, and G also to provide infrastructure at all 3 schools. She asked if there would be enough money to do the ball field if this option was selected. She is concerned about delaying the ball fields and would like to talk to the company working with the Santee School property.

Member Burns said every student is valuable and it is hard to choose one school and asked if all the schools have the same needs. Christina Becker said Prospect has the most problems because of its age. There is a lot of erosion and failures. Chet F. Haritt is having problems also because of age. Administration will also need to look at which schools could accommodate construction during the school year if it was postponed. She would like more time to plan for Chet F. Harritt because of the library design changes.

Member Bartholomew said comparing Cajon Park and Prospect Avenue there is a valley of inequity.

Dr. Johnson said the split irrigation is not included and still needs to be done. Administration will hold on the play structures and the Carlton Hills library shelving. Wireless has been budgeted for Phase II schools. President El-Hajj said wireless is needed at PA. She would also like to go back to the modernized schools and finish the technology soon. Member Burns said he believes the wireless should be at schools with the technology ready to go, Pepper Drive and Prospect Avenue.

Board members agree that if the money is available, the library computers at the four Phase I schools should be purchased. Wireless, as part of modernization at Hill Creek, Chet F. Harritt, and Prospect Avenue, is contingent with BAN revenue.

Member Bartholomew moved to approve Items E, F, & G for Phase II construction at this time, totaling \$9M to \$10.5M. This work would include completing infrastructure new service feeds to all 3 Phase II schools but only tying into old systems at two schools, modernization at Prospect Avenue, and Pepper Drive summer work. Member Ryan seconded the motion and asked administration to check with the property developers on the status of the Santee School site and to check with the City about the ball field.

Motion: **Bartholomew** **Second:** **Ryan** **Vote:** **5-0**

The Board asked Administration to communicate the changes to schools right away by a letter from the Board explaining what the options are and what they are doing. Include what actions parents can take to contact legislators because things are above the Board's control. The Board asked to have a City Committee meeting scheduled as soon as possible.

Member Ryan moved to direct Administration to continue with Prospect Avenue modernization as proposed at the last workshop, defer the play structures and hold on the Carlton Hills library shelving and the Hill Creek LRC.

Motion: *Ryan* **Second:** *Bartholomew* **Vote:** *4-0 (Carlisle, absent)*

Member Ryan moved to direct Administration to install wireless technology at Prospect Avenue at a cost of \$12,500 and continue investigation of wireless technology and student computers in the completed LRCs at Phase I schools, and to continue investigation on the Chet F. Harritt ball field.

Motion: *Ryan* **Second:** *Bartholomew* **Vote:** *4-0 (Carlisle, absent)*

D. ADJOURNMENT

The May 22, 2009 special meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.