

HOPE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The monthly meeting of the Hope School District Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on March 12, 2007, in the Hope District Board Room. Elizabeth Owen, Patricia Hiles and Tony Winterbauer were present. The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:05 p.m. Todd Sosna and Scott Orlosky joined the board during closed session. The Board reconvened in a Public Session at 7:05 p.m. The following is a brief outline of the actions and discussions addressed by the Board.

The Meeting Reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

During closed session, the Board accepted the resignation of a Vieja Valley teacher who is on a one-year leave of absence and approved the letters of release to be sent to certificated teachers hired on a temporary contract for the 2006-2007 school year.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Public Comment

The owner of the mobile home on the Monte Vista campus spoke to the Board regarding the background of his residency on the campus and discussed his plan to sell the home in July 2007, and repeated his offer to sell the mobile home to the district for caretaker occupancy.

A Hope School teacher spoke to the Board regarding the transfer policy for children of district employees and asked the board to consider placing children of employees as a higher priority for attendance at schools in the district.

Parents of a student spoke to the Board in response to a letter they received from the Superintendent regarding the release of their student from attendance in the district because of a residency issue.

A Hope School teacher reported that several teachers attended the CUE conference in Palm Springs and offered to make a short presentation to the Board in June.

Consent Items

The following routine consent items were presented to the Board for approval: The Board approved (3 ayes; 0 noes; 2 abstain) the minutes of the special board meeting of February 5, 2007; tabled approval of the minutes of the regular board meeting of February 12, 2007; approved the commercial warrant registry sheets for February 9, February 15, and February 23, 2007.

Report

Hope School Single School Plan

Principal Barbara LaCorte presented the single school plan for Hope School. Single School Plans are part of a comprehensive process to better inform the Trustees and community about each school's yearly progress and goals. The plan includes strategies to address student needs and achievement, and sharing of special programs, as well as identified challenges. The plan fulfills the No Child Left Behind federal law that requires each site to prepare a Single Plan for student achievement.

Discussion Item

Rental of Rooms within our Schools

Superintendent Fausett began the discussion regarding renting or leasing of rooms within our schools. She presented information regarding joint occupancy and CEQA compliance and reported that she has been contacted by several organizations who are interested in renting space. The Trustees suggested to the Superintendent that items like coordinating drop-off and pick-up times and use of playground space be considered when drafting a lease agreement. Trustee Patricia Hiles volunteered to work with the superintendent on this issue.

Action Item

Second Interim Report

Business Manager Julie Wood presented the Second Interim Report to the Trustees for approval. This report included financial changes that have occurred since the first interim report, such as ADA growth or decline, enrollments at each site, state funding changes, or local resource changes. The Board of Trustees approved the Second Interim Report as presented.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Fausett reported that board members received copies of two chapters from the book "A Practical Guide to Effective School Board Meetings" as a source of information on how meetings and school district business are conducted. She briefly outlined and highlighted sections of the chapters.

The Superintendent reported that the Future of the District committee has been established and will have its first meeting on March 20. The committee of about twenty people includes staff, board and community members and will meet monthly. She anticipates that the committee will break into various subgroups for information gathering in preparation to making recommendations to the board at a meeting in the fall. The superintendent reported that she plans to arrange for a facilitator for this committee and

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will bring a contract to the board for approval at the March 19 special board meeting.

Board Members' Reports

Board member Tony Winterbauer asked that the district show sensitivity to parent concerns as the district moves through changes when sending out information. The superintendent reported that she is preparing a letter that will be placed in school newsletters regarding the enrollment possibilities for next year and the district will post enrollment numbers on the website for parents to look at and see the numbers at each grade level at their school.

Adjournment of Regular Session

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

the meetings of the Future of the District Committee and she will also generate a board report containing findings of the committee. The total amount of this contract will not exceed \$4,000. The Board of Trustees approved the contract with Sharon Wilcox to serve as facilitator of the Future of the District Committee as presented.

Information Item: Report on School Specialists Compensation Questions

Superintendent Fausett introduced Mary Dowell, Attorney with Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, who presented information regarding labor law and how it relates to payment of school specialists. Ms. Dowell addressed several topics that included: can a PTA employ specialists who work on school campuses, can a specialist be paid more or differently than other specialists, can a specialist be paid a stipend to perform duties that are listed on their job description, can independent contractors be used instead of specialists, and discussed conflict of interest in relation to classified and certificated employees who are paid by another source to perform the same duties that are in their job description. This presentation was followed by a discussion period that included board, staff and community members. The Board asked the superintendent to prepare a conflict of interest policy for adoption prior to the next school year.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING ON MARCH 19, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Vieja Valley School Multi-Purpose Room. All members were present.

Board President Elizabeth Owen reported that the Board did not meet in closed session.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action Item

Approve Contract for Facilitator of Future of the District Committee

Superintendent Fausett presented a contract to the board for approval. The contract is with Sharon Wilcox who will serve as facilitator for