

**LOMA PRIETA JOINT UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
STUDY SESSION – BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

May 19, 2010

Loma Prieta Forum

BOARD MEMBERS: Diane Matlock, President
Paula Lacey, Vice-President
Rachelle Lopp, Member
Mario Montana, Member
Tricia Rasmussen, Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

SECRETARY PRESENT: Henry J. Castañiada

ROLL CALL TO ORDER: 6:39 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Approved 5-0

A MOTION was made by Mr. Montana and seconded by Ms. Lopp to approve the agenda.

Public Comment – None

DISCUSSION SESSION

Mr. Castaniada presented efforts made by the district to minimize the impact of the state budget crisis, which lead to the Loma Prieta School District budget dilemma:

- Strategic planning meeting with Board in July 2009 to address budget shortfall for the 2010-2011 school year
- Shortfall was primarily the result of the continued reduction of funding from the State and reduced property tax revenue
- District implemented a budget “freeze”
- The District faced a major challenge to eliminate the budget shortfall in 2009-2010

Considerations in early 2010 to counteract the budget shortfall included:

- Proposed cuts to administration, support staff and programs options are reviewed by board.
- To generate additional revenue district launches Measure G parcel tax campaign.
- Projected revenue from Measure G is \$180,000. Retaining teaching staff is focus of campaign.
- In addition to possible cuts to administration, programs and support staff, Class Size Reduction is in jeopardy. 3.2 teaching positions receive lay-off notices. Loma’s projected staffing is reduced from 12 to 9 teachers for next year as a result of the failure of Measure G.

Considerations in spring 2010 to counteract the budget shortfall included:

- Budgets are scrubbed to try and save programs: Library Aides, Counseling, Safety-Net options, GATE, EPGY, MVP, etc.

- A major donation drive begins to save teaching positions. Campaign is progressing successfully (\$103,000). One more teacher will be added to Loma (now 10) Grades K to 3rd.
- A recommendation will be made to add an additional teacher K-5 once donations reach \$130K (now 11) Primary / 4th or 5th grade.

Recommendations for Program Design in the 2010-2011 school year:

- Reduce Administration and Support Staff
- Gather further State economic information at this time. Designate possible funds for the following programs: Library Aides, Counseling, Safety-Net Options, GATE, EPGY and MVP

Economic Uncertainty Factors

- Our legislators are months away from adopting a budget for education in the 2010-2011 fiscal year.
- Tax rolls do not close until June 30th.
- An increasing number of students with high-cost educational needs have been enrolling.

Looking Ahead to 2011-2012

- CSR funding will be required-
- Funding for school wide programs needed -
- Hopefully property tax revenue will increase to minimize further reductions-

With the suspension of Proposition 98, all school districts in California receive reduced funding to share the pain of our state budget crisis.

Kindergarten enrollment is a wild card that may change the class configuration in grades 1 through 5. Administration will not know grade configurations completely until August.

Costs in special education can be unpredictable.

Preserving our existing CT model is the best experience to prepare the students for high school education.

To the question of working to pass another parcel tax, Mr. Castaniada responded the district has to find a way to fund our programs.

Mr. Montana stated if the community is committed to helping through donations in the 2010-2011 school year, either a successful parcel tax or continued community donations will be required to continue programs in 2011-2012. The District needs to find a solution to sustain annual funding.

Mr. Fox presented the following information:

Loma Prieta School District
5/19/10 Budget Study Session
Unrestricted and Restricted General Funds
Variance Analysis

Expense	\$322,000 Decrease
-169	Net Teachers (2.0 FTE, step/column, attrition)
-85	Admin/Overhead/Other Support Staff
-49	Election Expense
5	Legal Expense
15	Debt Service
-21	MVP
-15	Special Education
-3	Other
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-322	

A discussion of deficit spending ensued. The District has been dipping into reserves this year but expected to compensate through a successful parcel tax election.

Mr. Montana stated his concern that the District is draining reserves. He would like to see the district in a position of a steady financial state.

Ms. Rasmussen stated the Board has decided to educate the students in the best possible manner with the funds available; the emphasis would be enriched student programs before increased reserves.

Discussion of a scenario for the twelfth teacher occurred. Mr. Castaniada will proceed with caution due to the state budget uncertainty and consideration of the value of MVP, library, and counseling. Mr. Castaniada stated the administration believes 10 teachers plus support programs, i.e. counseling, library, homework club, etc are best for the students at this time.

Mr. Castaniada conveyed that transportation funding was reduced at the beginning of 09-10. As a result, the service routes were reduced to trunk lines. Ms. Smrt continues to raise funds driving field trips during the summer breaks. With the discontinuation of the VTA bus line #76, Ms. Smrt is investigating a bus run to the high school for local students.

Regarding furlough days, Ms. Matlock stated the district is in negotiations and cannot discuss details. She stated the teachers have been very willing in the past to work with the district. In addition, Mr. Castaniada stated that teachers have to pay a portion of their benefits and salaries are at the bottom end of the salary scale in Santa Clara County.

Ms. Matlock requested a prioritized list of programs.

In a public comment Ms. Katinsky stated she would prefer to see the programs stay to the addition of one teacher.

Ms. Matlock stated the Board has confidence in the administration's ability to provide recommendations to maximize educational opportunities for the students that considers teaching staff, programs and funding.

In a public comment Ms. Bourque suggested a stronger kindergarten program; perhaps a full day. Mr. Castaniada explained the reasons for the existing extended kindergarten program and contract language that dictates two teachers in an AM/PM kindergarten program.

Mr. Castaniada stated that when Measure G failed, everything was considered when looking to move forward financially. It is important to keep rumors to a minimum. As donations are received, more opportunities are solidified.

Ms. Matlock stated the district is trying to be as real and open about where we are in any given day but things are changing rapidly.

The Superintendent will be the one voice to provide a weekly update to the community on the status of the fund raising goals.

In a public comment Ms. Porter suggested another parcel tax campaign occur which requests an amount not based on consensus or survey, but on a plan for future sustainability of the district.

Ms. Matlock stated the Board will be evaluating the possibility of another parcel tax.

Ms. Rasmussen suggested the bigger the committee the more can be accomplished; more money can be raised, etc.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:46 p.m.

Submitted by:

Henry J. Castañiada

HJC/ebf 6/10