

LOMA PRIETA JOINT UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

April 13, 2016

Loma Prieta Elementary School Forum

BOARD MEMBERS: Rachelle Lopp
Deana Arnold
Ron Bourque
Shannon Hickok
Paula Lacey

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

SECRETARY PRESENT: Corey Kidwell

ROLL CALL TO ORDER: 6:01 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Approved 5-0

A **MOTION** was made by Ms. Hickok and seconded by Ms. Lacey to amend the agenda to pull item 6.3 and move 6.8 in front of 6.1.

A **MOTION** was made by Ms. Hickok and seconded by Mr. Bourque to approve the agenda as amended.

Approved 5-0

Public Concerns – None

Recess to Closed Session

CONVENE REGULAR SESSION – 7:00 p.m.

Seventh grader Sam Wilner lead the flag salute.

Closed Session Report – Ms. Lopp reported discussion of potential labor negotiations with LPTA/CTA and possible revision to the Management, Confidential and Supervisory Salary Schedule occurred. No action was taken.

Written Correspondence – None

Public Comment – None

PRESENTATION

Ms. Denues presented demonstrations of eighth graders' Photoshop and Flash assignments and seventh graders' coding in HTML and Java. Sam Wilner played a game created by another student as an example. Ms. Siegrist provided details and examples of the programs and projects used in her sixth grade PBL course. In the area of technology

8, 2 encl. #9

curriculum, Ms. Siegrist uses the Digital Citizenship concepts including strategic searching of the Internet, citing information properly, Internet safety (cyberbullying, private vs public information, scams and schemes, and safe on-line talk), typing practice, and coding. Ms. Siegrist supports art instruction through student searches of content in art museums of the world and Art in Action projects that dovetail with current social studies curriculum. Ms. O'Dea presented two and three-dimensional examples of student artwork of varying mediums from sixth and eighth grade students. She tied projects in to Language Arts and social studies curriculum.

REPORTS

Board of Trustees – Ms. Arnold expressed her appreciation to Ms. Kidwell for inviting Ms. Julie Lythcott-Haims to discuss her perspectives with the school community. Ms. Lopp reported her attendance at the recent LPEF meeting. She requested board members send in their KEEP! Campaign donations as soon as possible to get the campaign momentum going.

Superintendent/Principal (Ms. Kidwell) – Ms. Kidwell reported her attendance at the recent Santa Clara County Superintendents' meeting where discussion of the certificated special education talent war was discussed. She reported her role in leading a task force to increase the number of teachers involved in the necessary processes to teach special education in Santa Clara County. Ms. Kidwell reported a focus of the State Board of Education is the need to integrate special education and general education. She expressed her appreciation to Ms. Zook, Ms. Riccomini, Mr. Arias, Ms. Carino and Ms. Vidmar for their attention to this need indicating their commitment to ensuring "all our kids are all our kids". Ms. Kidwell also expressed her appreciation to Ms. Vance and Mr. Levenhagen for their fire recovery leadership on the business side recognizing their systematic and ethical approach to the process. She thanked them for being good stewards. Ms. Kidwell also reported the District has received no complaints pursuant to the Williams Settlement.

Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator (Ms. Carino) – Ms. Carino reported the great success of Ms. Murto's reading support program. She also indicated the strength and success of the OT program have had a positive impact and commended Ms. Lague for organizing a small handwriting club. Ms. Carino reported CAASPP testing has begun. Tech support staff have made a huge positive difference on the success of testing this year. Mr. (TJ) Levenhagen and Mr. Farley have been in the computer labs to ensure challenges were addressed immediately. Ms. Carino provided classroom "walkabouts" for board members to view instruction in 3rd, 4th, 7th grade classes and Algebra. Ms. Lacey thanked Ms. Carino indicating the walkabout was very worthwhile.

CBO (Ms. Vance) – Ms. Vance reported conversations with the insurance adjuster continue. She is assisting WLC to organize the facilities master plan input meetings scheduled on April 28. She stated bids from prequalified contractors for demolition of the damaged interior of the gym and repair of the roof are anticipated. The Board will be requested to ratify the awarded contracts at the May regular meeting.

Director of Facilities and Maintenance (Mr. Levenhagen) – Mr. Levenhagen reported on a productive week during the Spring Recess. Maintenance to the building leased for Building Blocks Preschool was completed, Ms. Carino's office was moved, and items were removed from the gym in advance of the demolition.

LPTA (Ms. Ray) – Ms. Ray reported LPTA met on April 12. The teachers expressed their support of a waiver to reduce the number of hours of the Loma Prieta TK program in 2016-17.

CSEA (Ms. Fulton) – No report.

LPEF (Ms. Thomas) – Ms. Thomas reported the KEEP! Campaign goal is \$100,000 and have received approximately \$21,000 toward the goal. Outreach is occurring. April 15 is Shop for Schools day with 10% of sales at the Summit Store donated to KEEP! April 23 and 24 are Sip for Schools at the Loma Prieta Winery. The golf tournament is scheduled for May 20. Registration is open now.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Discuss/Approve Bus Routes for 2016-17

Approved 5-0

Ms. Kidwell explained buses are full this year. Based on the volume, noise and need for a red light crossover, addition of another bus on the Villa route is recommended.

A **MOTION** was made by Ms. Arnold and seconded by Ms. Hickok to approve the addition of a second west route in the 2016-17 school year.

To Mr. Bourque's question, Ms. Kidwell explained if the numbers didn't add up, the additional route would be eliminated.

Construction Projects Update

Mr. Levenhagen stated the Interim Housing project is in its final stages. Sand blasting is scheduled for April 16. As stated by Ms. Vance, the gym demolition and restoration jobs are out to bid. Preapproved vendors have been approached. Two bids have been accepted. They total just under \$1M. Removal/replacement of the ceiling is an additive alternate and valued at about \$120,000. This includes removal of the existing sound proofing insulation and its replacement with acoustical tile. Contractors are cautious as scraping the ceiling to remove the existing sound proofing may destroy the gypsum board. The wheelchair lift functionality restoration will be addressed independently rather than a part of the scope of work of the current job. The bid window was extended by one week to provide the most opportunity for contractors to bid the job. Contracts are being awarded. It is anticipated the Notice to Proceed will be issued on April 18 with demolition and repairs to be complete on June 30. Construction work will be underway while CAASPP testing is occurring. Ms. Kidwell apologizes in advance to teachers and students for these circumstances. To Mr. Bourque's question, Mr. Levenhagen explained his assumption that replacement of the gypsum in addition to the insulation will be covered by insurance. He stated the wheelchair lift is covered by insurance but won't be addressed by these contractors. The gym must have a lift in order to obtain DSA approval. Insurance will support efforts to restore the gym through and including DSA certification.

Mr. Levenhagen stated the North Campus trenching of 300 yards is estimated to cost \$100,000. There is a hold on that part of the work. If the buildings were not DSA approved but put into use, what would the implication be? Ms. Vance spoke with a representative of Lozano Smith who stated any teacher, student or school program needs to be housed in a facility that meets the Field Act. Ms. Kidwell spoke with the superintendent of the Cupertino Union School District, Ms. Gudalewicz. Ms. Gudalewicz stated she'd had an experience earlier in her career where a liability issue for the members of her board was real and long lasting. Ms. Kidwell stated trenching may

find that these buildings will not meet the Field Act. Discussion of signage indicating the “building doesn’t meet the Field Act” and “no classes are held in this building” were discussed. Ms. Vance will discuss this situation with WLC for master planning consideration. Cleary Consultants is available to conducting trenching if the Board would like them to proceed.

Discuss 2016-17 Local Control Accountability Plan

Ms. Kidwell proposed a change to the plan. She recommended use of Board Goals in the LCAP and shift of previous LCAP goals to action items. Ms. Kidwell suggested the LCAP contain a total of three overarching goals.

Discuss 2016-17 Transitional Kindergarten Recommendations

Ms. Kidwell outlined the Transitional Kindergarten program over the last four years stating there was no program the first year as no students enrolled, students attended a very successful TK program at Lakeside in the second and third year. This year, the program at Loma Prieta doesn’t meet the level of excellence desired. The CDE states TK is mandatory in one form or another. There are no implications from the CDE should Loma Prieta choose not to run a TK program in the 2016-17 year. The District may elect to provide a TK program through a partnership with a neighboring school district or through a waiver of instructional minutes. In the case of the waiver, a school district that provides an extended day kindergarten program may request the opportunity to provide a TK program with less minutes (180) than the extended day kindergarten. Ms. Kidwell stated a public hearing on the waiver request will be held on April 22, 2016. A shortened day TK program will help with the stamina issue. Ms. Kidwell is speaking with neighboring districts. She is seeking a way to balance finding a high quality program against the fiscal impact. Ms. Lacey expressed her concern questioning whether the District program is doing a service to the students who are too young for our program. Ms. Kidwell provided the following points:

Board Goals:

Provide excellent Academic programs that promote higher level thinking skills using benchmarks to inform student learning.

Promote and Maintain fiscal Stability.

TK – An Unfunded Mandate:

- Kindergarten is the new first grade.
- Loma Prieta supported the shift to match the rest of the US with Sept. 1 as the cut-off date: we consistently saw that younger kids, who weren’t really ready for an academic kindergarten, struggle with stamina, workload, behavior standards, and more.
- The “Transitional Kindergarten” mandate grew out of legislation that raised the age to enter kinder to 5, by Sept. 1 each year.
- Final version was surprising legislation that undermined the original goal.
- The intention to use the tool to close the achievement gap for English Language Learners and low income students was good.
- Functionally, TK provides a full year of extra instruction for the 25% of students who will be the oldest in their kindergarten cohort.
- Came with no funding for districts like ours.

TK is Expensive and Unfunded:

- Per student costs for teacher and aide time for the past three years range from \$6,800 - \$8,000 **per student**
- Next year the estimate climbs to nearly \$10,000 **per student** with increased aide time to make the program work.
- Unlike other districts, Loma Prieta receives no state funding to offer this program.

Right idea, wrong mechanism:

- We would be delighted to build a high quality program given the resources to do it correctly.
- Early intervention is successful when done right.
 - No curriculum or accountability
 - Ill-advised rules mandating equal minutes and separate programming
 - For Loma Prieta, there is **no funding** to create a quality program.
 - Universal pre-school is a better mechanism.

We are not alone:

- Three Bay Area districts are not offering TK as they have been advised that in fact, it is not mandatory
- Las Lomas, Menlo Park, and Mountain School districts now decline to offer TK
- San Mateo County and the Legislative Analysts Office have both rendered opinions that TK is only mandatory when funding is attached
- California Department of Education disagrees
- Legislation to clarify language has been vetoed or died in committee.

Recommendation:

- Direct staff to explore our options
 - No TK?
 - Authorize inter-district transfers to districts that do offer TK?
 - Limited offering for low income and ELL students?
 - Kindergarten readiness assessment for acceleration under current Board Policy?
 - Other?
- Advise parents of Board consideration so they may secure pre-school options
- Bring proposal to Board in April for 2016-17 school year

Kindergarten teachers Ms. Ray and Ms. Zook shared their observations and professional opinions regarding the Loma Prieta Elementary School kindergarten program and the participation of those students who are attending as TK students stating:

- Offering TK seems to be an invitation for parents to skip preschool and launch into a more structured program. Research shows that preschool experience is a prerequisite for longterm school success.
- Trying to meet the needs of students getting ready for the rigors of first grade while simultaneously managing a small group of young learners is a monumental challenge. It has taken

numerous combinations within the program to meet the needs of all the students.

Ms. Kidwell stated Governor Brown may move TK back into preschool, our Board may decide not to offer TK at Loma Prieta and take the financial risk, or the District may partner with a neighboring district to provide TK on different campus. Ms. Kidwell stated her focus is to find a way to be fiscally responsible. There are children born between September 1 and December 1 who are ready for kindergarten. The District has an assessment tool to assist in determination of readiness. Mr. Bourque expressed his concern with the negative effect of TK on kindergarten students. Ms. Arkhangelskaya commented that she has two children with November birthdays. Her sixth grade student is doing fine having been a younger child in her class. She'd like her second November birthday child to attend TK in order to become accustomed to the routines of kindergarten. She expressed her belief that children become ready for kindergarten through exposure to the program. She expressed her preference to avoid driving "off the hill" to take her child to school. Ms. Wilsher commented that she has a daughter in Ms. Ray's class and sees the impact of TK on the kindergarten students. Ms. Wilsher stated her belief that the two students deemed eligible based on the intent of TK, due to being low income or ELL, are the reason for the failure of the class this year. She requested the questions surrounding the future of TK at Loma Prieta Elementary be properly explored. Ms. Joni Thomas commented she'd prefer the District did not take on something that is fiscally draining if it did not have to. Ms. Asheghian commented the Building Blocks Preschool has reached out to community members offering scholarships if TK isn't offered at Loma Prieta next year. Low income families can participate at Building Blocks. She also commented she wouldn't want programs lost for her child's later years, like PE, due to the financial drain TK would impose on the District. Ms. Kidwell stated her focus is to balance financial obligations with academic goals. Ms. Lopp stated this is not a decision the Board is taking lightly. They have to do what makes sense for the District. She stated she is confident Ms. Kidwell will look at all options.

Discuss/Approve Revised Facilities Rental Rates **Approved 5-0**

A **MOTION** was made by Ms. Lacey and seconded by Mr. Bourque to approve the new rental rate schedule for groups 2 and 3 that reflect indirect cost adjustments.

Discuss/Adopt Res. #16-XX – Resolution Ordering Election, Requesting County Elections to Conduct the Election, Requesting Consolidation of the Election, and Specifications of the Election Order **Approved 5-0**

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Bourque and seconded by Ms. Arnold to adopt resolution number 16-XX as presented.

Discuss/Adopt Res. #16-XXI – Disposal of Surplus Minibus **Approved 5-0**

A **MOTION** was made by Ms. Lacey and seconded by Mr. Bourque to adopt resolution number 16-XXI as presented.

Discuss/Adopt Res. #15-XXII – Establish a Retirement Incentive **Approved 5-0**

A **MOTION** was made by Ms. Arnold and seconded by Mr. Bourque to adopt resolution number 16-XXII as presented. The incentives are funded from salary savings and will be paid for in five years.

CONSENT ITEMS **Approved 5-0**

A **MOTION** was made by Ms. Hickok and seconded by Ms. Arnold to approve the Consent items including Personnel Report 04/13/16; meeting minutes of March 9, 2016, February 24, 2016, and March 24, 2016; March warrants reflect a credit balance of

\$365,448.10 due to cancellation of payments to Beals Martin on PO #630038 and General Lighting Service on PO #630039 as a result of direct payment from our insurers to the contractors; open purchase orders from July 2015 through March 31, 2016 in an encumbered amount of \$2,037,448.57, liquidated amount of \$1,004,808.25, and balance of \$1,032,640.32; approval of a transportation services MOU with Girls on the Run Silicon Valley; and approval of a transportation services MOU with the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by:



Corey Kidwell
05/16