

**DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Del Mar Hills School
14085 Mango Drive
Del Mar, California 92014**

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2007

OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Board President, Annette Easton, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. David Jones, Principal, Carmel Del Mar School, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Annette Easton, President of the Board
Linda Crawford, Steven McDowell, Katherine White

Members Absent: Janet Lamborghini, Clerk of the Board

Staff: Thomas F. Bishop, Superintendent
Sherry Forte, Exec. Asst. to the Superintendent
Janet Bernard, Asst. Supt., Curriculum & Instruction
Tom Hauseur, Director of Technology
Rodger Smith, Director of Personnel/Facilities
Trish Snider, Director of Pupil Services
Dena Whittington, Asst. Supt., Business Services
Todd Boteler, District Webmaster
Randy Wheaton, Maintenance Supervisor
Grace Hauseur, Teacher on Special Assignment
Natalie Chiles, Music teacher, Torrey Hills
Jennifer Steinman, Technology teacher, Sycamore Ridge
David Skinner, 4th gr. teacher, Carmel Del Mar
Cinda Peck, Music teacher, Carmel Del Mar
Nicole Nelson, Music teacher, Del Mar Hills Academy
Jennifer Howard, 4th gr. teacher, Sycamore Ridge
Tina Johnson, Resource Specialist, Sage Canyon
Laurie Carpenter, Resource Specialist, Ashley Falls
Erik Bienke, 2nd gr. teacher, Del Mar Hills Academy
Cecelia McPhee, Kindergarten teacher, Del Mar Hills Academy
Wendy Wardlow, Principal, Del Mar Heights
Kathy Zack, Administrative Assistant, Del Mar Heights
Joan Wilson, Kindergarten teacher, Ashley Falls
Gary Wilson, Principal, Torrey Hills
Emily Disney, Principal, Sycamore Ridge
Peg LaRose, Principal, Sage Canyon
Andrea Sleet, 4th gr. teacher, Del Mar Hills Academy

Jodi Neilson, Music teacher, Del Mar Hills Academy
Cassie Bruner, 3rd gr. teacher, Carmel Del Mar
Bill Porter, 2nd gr. teacher, Carmel Del Mar

In Attendance:

Jim Kerr – *Del Mar Times*, Teresa Thompson, Rod Peck, Alison King, Nate McCay, Robyn London, Corinne Hackbart, Martha Murphy, Jennifer McCroskey, John Logan, Vickie Barks, Candace Sears, Walt Justice, Sue Tumay, Jana Stoudemire, Mike Peterson, Liz & Bob Shopes, Robert Gans, Ellen Burkhart, Jennifer McDowell, Karen Gilbert, Karey Garcia, Amy Catrein, Tracy Healey, Per Cederstav, Laura DeMarco, Marybeth Norgren, Beth Westburg and approximately four other community members

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION:

Board President Easton reported on the action taken in Closed Session: *“The Board voted unanimously to deny Tort Claims filed by nineteen DMUSD parents regarding the 05/06 lunch program and directed staff to refer the nineteen Tort Claims to the Risk Management Office of the San Diego County Office of Education.”*

On behalf of the Del Mar Union School District, Board President Easton expressed condolences to the Dreher family on the sudden loss of Alyce and Robbie Dreher and Alyce’s parents in a small plane crash. The Dreher family has been an integral part of the Ashley Falls community. Alyce Dreher served as three-time president/co-president of the Ashley Falls PTA and Robbie was a 6th grade graduate in the 2005/2006 school year. Board President Easton recognized Alyce for her work in setting early seeds for the district’s Character Education Program. Alyce embodied the definition of “caring”. Board President Easton thanked Sue Lichter and Janette Shelton for organizing a gathering to help the community through the grief process.

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

Board President Easton asked that Item 9.4 be moved to come directly after Item 4.4 and that Item 5.1, Approval of Minutes, be pulled from the Agenda.

Member White asked to pull the following items from Consent: Items 8.2, 9.2 and 9.3.

On motion by Member Crawford seconded by Member White the Board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda as amended.

BOARD PRESIDENT EASTON CALLED FOR SPEAKER SLIPS.

3. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 Correspondence

3.2 Public Input:

- Laura DeMarco, 544 Avenida Primavera, Del Mar, 92014, thanked the board for moving Item 3.2, Public Input, to the beginning of the meeting. She said she understands that the DMUSD is looking at the legal side of the Shores property. Mrs. DeMarco encouraged the board to resume negotiations towards the disposition of the property and to uphold the terms of the deed of the Kerckhoff company's gift of the property to the district. She congratulated the board for doing a good job for our children.
- Nate McCay, 1420 Crest Rd., Del Mar, 92014, congratulated members of the board that were recently elected. He said he wanted to echo what Laura DeMarco said with regard to the Shores property. As a parent of a child who went through the DMUSD schools and resident of Del Mar, he feels the Shores property is of use to both groups and he hopes the DMUSD and City of Del Mar come to an amicable decision.
- Mike Peterson, 12840 La Tortola, San Diego, CA 92129, Headmaster of Winston School and tenant on the Shores property for the last 19 years. Mr. Peterson said they are grateful for the opportunity to be in this location and that the Winston School desires to remain in its present location. Mr. Peterson expressed his hope that negotiations on the Shores property will have a fresh start and that the board of the Winston School is ready to do its part and to contribute money to the eventual plan, which will result in the sale of the Shores.

4. REPORTS, RECOGNITIONS and HEARINGS

4.1 Staff Recognition *Employees of the Month – January 2007*

The following staff members were recognized as Employees of the Month for January 2007:

- *Ashley Falls: Karen Goldman, Instructional Assistant/RSP*
- *Carmel Del Mar: Michelle Meckel, Library Media Specialist*
- *Del Mar Heights: Gina Williams, Kindergarten Teacher*
- *Del Mar Hills: Robin Darling, Special Education Aide I*
- *Sage Canyon: Jen McClellan, Second Grade Teacher*
- *Sycamore Ridge: Eileen Randall, Office Assistant*
- *Torrey Hills: Kristine Persidok, Kindergarten Teacher*

The Board congratulated the January Employees of the Month.

4.2 Student Recognition *Carmel Del Mar students*

David Jones, Principal of Carmel Del Mar School introduced Carmel Del Mar art teacher, Paula Intravaia and third grade students, presented their "Nature Box Project." This project is interdisciplinary in nature, including VAPA standards linked to Science, Language Arts, and connections to our community.

4.3 Report - DMCTA *David Skinner, 4th gr. teacher, Carmel Del Mar*

David Skinner, 4th grade teacher, Carmel Del Mar, representing the DMCTA, reported the following:

Mr. Skinner thanked the community and district for supporting the DMUSD Blood Drive and taking the time to donate. He thanked Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Janet Bernard and Program Assistant, Shirley Bales, for organizing the upcoming Professional Learning Academy days and for seeking out and accepting input from teachers when designing the program. He said the teachers look forward to improving their effectiveness.

4.4 Report
2006/2007 Annual
Audit Report –
Wilkinson, Hadley &
Co., LLP

Supt. Bishop introduced Assistant Superintendent of Business, Dena Whittington and Mr. Bob Wilkinson of the firm of Wilkinson, Hadley & Co., LLP. He presented an oral communication to the Board regarding their recently completed 2005-2006 Del Mar Union School District audit report, which he explained is both a financial and compliance audit.

Mr. Wilkinson thanked the board for having him present and presented an overview of the audit to the board bringing various areas of the audit to their attention. He stated there were a couple of findings that were answered satisfactorily by the district.

Board Discussion:

Member Mc Dowell thanked Assist. Supt. of Business, Dena Whittington for their work on the audit. He encouraged Mr. Wilkinson to bring any concerns that might arise to the attention of the board. Member McDowell said he was pleased with the audit and asked staff if a more in-depth statement could be in the “summary of audit” in future audits, i.e. how did we do financially throughout the year?

4.5 Report
2006/2007 Special
Education Program:
Trish Snider, Director
of Pupil Services

Supt. Bishop introduced Trish Snider, Director, Pupil Services, who provided the Board of Trustees with a brief annual report on the 2006/2007 Pupil Services programs and the district’s Special Education program. RSP teachers, Tina Johnson and Lauri Carpenter presented a program titled “Social Scene” which is being used for children with autism.

Board Discussion:

Board President Easton asked about the fiscal impact of a Special Education class for the 4th-6th grades. Director, Pupil Services, Trish Snider, explained that if a class was made up of only DMUSD students it would be funded by DMUSD. If the class was a regional program it would be a shared expense with NCCSE. Board President Easton also asked about fiscal impact of the Social Scene program. Ms. Snider explained there were funds available to be spent on preventing mental illness. The Special Ed staff developed the idea of the Social Scene program to provide students under Autism Spectrum Disorder with the opportunity to build friendships and to learn to be social in the community thereby preventing future issues. Social Scene was a pilot project funded by one time 2005/2006 funds.

4.6 Report
Board
Report/Comments

Board Report/Comments:

- ***Board President Easton*** announced that Member Lamborghini is ill and regrets missing this evening’s meeting. She said that she and Member McDowell met with DMSEF officers Debra McGinty-Poteet and Karen Gilbert to start framing the agenda for a joint meeting of the DMUSD board and the DMSEF board (in February).
- ***Member McDowell*** again expressed appreciation for the tour of Ocean Air School conducted by Rodger Smith, Director,

Facilities/Personnel. He said as soon as his time permits he is looking forward to meeting individually with each of the principals.

- **Member White** thanked Director, Facilities/Personnel, Rodger Smith, for organizing the visit to Ocean Air School. She also thanked Laurie Francis, Principal of Del Mar Hills Academy; Peg LaRose, Principal of Sage Canyon; Shelley Petersen, Principal of Ashley Falls; Rodger Smith, Director, Personnel/Facilities; Janet Bernard, Asst. Supt. of Curriculum; and several board members from DMSEF for one-on-one meetings. Member White attended the NCSSE board meeting today and had a write up for board members and Director of Pupil Services, Trish Snider. She also passed out a recent article in the Union Tribune about how San Diego School District is using more business related criteria to measure achievement in various goal areas.

4.7 **Report
Superintendent's
Report**

Superintendent Tom Bishop reported on the following:

- He wished everyone a very happy new year.

5.1 **Approval of the
Minutes**

Pulled from the Agenda

5.2 **Approval of Consent
Items**

The following items were pulled from consent: 8.2, 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3.

On Motion by Member *White* seconded by Member *McDowell* the Board unanimously approved the Consent Item calendar as amended:

- *6.5 Board Approval, Performance Agreements for the Professional Learning Academy, January 25 & 25, 2007
- *7.1 Board Approval, Del Mar Union School District's Uniform Complaint Quarterly Report for October 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006
- *8.2 ~~Board Approval, Change Orders in the Construction of Ocean Air School in the amount of \$110,333.~~
- *8.3 Board Approval of Agreement Between the Del Mar Union School District and Dave Bang Assoc., Inc. for a New Play Structure and Poured-in-Place Rubber Surfacing at Ashley Falls School
- *9.1 ~~Approval and Acceptance of Donations to the Del Mar Union School District~~
- *9.2 ~~Board Approval of Purchase Orders and Ratification of Commercial Warrant Payments and Revolving Cash Disbursements~~
- *9.3 ~~Board Approval of Addendum to Agreement Between the Del Mar Union School District and San Diego County Office of Education for Student Information System License~~
- *10.1 Approval of Recommended Personnel Actions: Employment, Resignations, Retirements, Dismissals, Leaves of Absence, and Change of Status

Pulled from Consent

Pulled from Consent

Pulled from Consent

Pulled from Consent

6. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

6.1 **Report: 2006/2007
Enrichment Equity
Study Team**

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Janet Bernard, reported that on August 23, 2006, the Board of Trustees approved the

formation of a District Study Team to examine the current practice of allowing parents to purchase additional enrichment program staffing at each school site. The committee was comprised of both staff and parents and Asst. Supt. of Curriculum, Janet Bernard thanked all committee members for serving on the study team.

Three members from the District Study Team, Peg LaRose, Principal of Sage Canyon; Jennifer Howard, Sycamore Ridge teacher, and John Logan, Carmel Del Mar parent, presented a summary of the Enrichment Equity Study Team meeting held on October 30, 2006.

Peg LaRose, Principal of Sage Canyon, discussed the process timeline of the committee. Lyn Perino and Janet Bernard served as external and internal facilitators, respectively, to encourage open dialog and brainstorming. The issue was presented as a question, "Should parents be able to purchase additional staffing for the enrichment program?"

Jennifer Howard, 4th gr. teacher at Sycamore Ridge has been with the district for eight years and has participated in various committees throughout the eight years. She agreed it was a comfortable and safe environment. She reviewed the "pros" and "cons" of the current funding process.

John Logan, committee member and CDM parent, reviewed the questions that came up during the committee discussions with regard to equity.

Board Discussion:

Member White asked about the creation of the questions that were generated by the study team. Assist. Supt. Bernard explained the questions were formulated and charted at the meetings and all information contained in the handouts is a direct result of those meetings. *Member White* expressed concern on how the Equity Report appeared on the web prior to the school board meeting with the "options" following directly after the study team's report. It was clarified that the "options" came from another source other than the Equity Study Team. She thanked the committee for participating in this study.

Member McDowell asked for further clarification regarding the questions. Assist. Supt. Bernard clarified that the afternoon group of staff and parents generated the questions.

Member White thanked those for participating on the study team and feels there was a lot of good questions and comments that came from it.

Board President Easton explained the three different parts of the equity piece: the report, the Del Mar Hills Academy report and the options.

Due to the number of requests to speak on Item 6.1, *Board President Easton* asked for a motion to increase the time allowed on one item.

On motion by *Member White*, seconded by *Member Crawford*, the board voted unanimously to increase the total number of minutes for Item 6.1.

Public Input:

Jennifer McDowell's comments, 1605 Forest Way, Del Mar, 92014, read by Catherine Hackbart. Mrs. McDowell stated she hoped there would not be a "cookie cutter" approach of solving this issue and that there would be more than one open meeting for public input before the board acts on any one of the options.

John Logan, 12445 Cavallo St., San Diego, 92130, referred to a demographic chart of household income within the district and the inability of some schools to raise the needed enrichment funds. He recommended the district revise its fundraising goals to be district-wide rather than individual school goals and all funds go to schools equally. He feels that a public institution needs to treat everyone served equitably.

Sue Tumay, 3975 Carmel Springs Way, San Diego, 92130, Carmel Del Mar parent. She thanked the school board and study team members for their effort. She feels that the negatives of current policy out way the positives. She said the socio-economic status varies by school so a similar participation rate does not produce the same results. She supports a "global" district-wide fundraising effort.

Bob Shopes, 14104 Bahama Cove, Del Mar, 92014, parent of two new 1st graders. Mr. Shopes was happy to hear of the district's encouragement for parental involvement both in classroom and financially. He was happy to hear that parent donations went towards the enrichment at their school. He feels that questions on the negative impact of not allowing parents to fund their schools need to be answered before changing a system that seems to be working well.

Candice Sears, Del Mar, 92014, read a letter on behalf of Ann Berchtold. Candice is an 11-year parent at Del Mar Hills Academy and has served on the DMSEF board since its inception. Ann Berchtold is the parent of two students at Del Mar Hills Academy, as well as a fundraising consultant, arts advocate and art coordinator for Del Mar Hills PTA. Mrs. Berchtold's letter read by Mrs. Sears was in support of the current fundraising program with the DMSEF as the umbrella organization to assist schools in reaching their goals and focus on obtaining funding from corporations. She feels that motivation is a driving force in fundraising and that each individual school should have a fundraising committee in place to work with the DMSEF and their PTA to reach their goal. She stated that Del Mar Hills Academy is a step beneath other schools on the socio-economic status chart and yet they have met their fundraising goals.

Natalie Chiles, music teacher at Torrey Hills, expressed appreciation of the time and effort put into the study team report, but was disappointed that no current specialist was included on the study

team. Not only would they have been of value to the team but also it would have shown how much the district values its specialists. Allowing site-specific donations makes it difficult to know who will teach where and how much. Site-specific specialists may be punished for a site's inability to raise the needed funds. She urged the board and administration to seek input from specialists especially those that may become itinerant. She asked the administration to look at the funding of not only the specialists positions but also funding of programs. It is another area that is not equitable. Some specialists have to fundraise, while others receive funds from their school site. She thanked the board for their time and for staying focused on what is right for our students.

Walter Justice, 13595 Portofino Drive, Del Mar, 92014, 6th grade student at Del Mar Heights. He shared a Union Tribune article regarding Del Mar Heights' 5th graders having top scores in the State of California physical fitness tests and top within the district. He worked with the principal to establish a "team up" program so students could be active with supervision when dropped off early at school. Funds from the community resulted in a fulltime physical education teacher. He encouraged the board to do whatever they can to keep our kids healthy and fit.

Tracy Healy, 14003 Recuerdo Drive, Del Mar, 92014, has a 5th grade student at Del Mar Heights and a daughter that promoted from Del Mar Heights. She complimented the district for the academic excellence and she feels we need to consider what makes the DMUSD distinct and so impressive. She feels the district needs to support and build on the fact that each school has it's own character and traditions. There will be something lost if we loose that diversity. Most parents speak through the PTA and if parent's participation is refused, you will loose site of the community. District, parents and teachers have always had the ability to embrace different ideas. She asked the board to do a thorough study.

Board Discussion:

Board President Easton expressed her opinion that this is a challenging and complex issue and thanked the community members and staff that volunteered to serve on the study team. She stated we value your thoughts and work. She feels there are so many facets to this issue and we need to put careful thought into it, therefore, we are not ready to make a decision tonight. She feels the current policies are creating conflict and confusion, which need to be addressed. The definition of "equity" also needs to be addressed. It's a complex decision and we need to get answers to the questions at hand.

Member McDowell thanked speakers and appreciates hearing from teachers and enrichment teachers. Based on a meeting with DMSEF he said he doesn't know all the answers to the questions and appreciates the time to review.

Member White said she echoed some of *Member McDowell's* statements. She asked speakers to leave a copy of their statements with Sherry Forte to distribute to board members for review. She felt the statements contained many good thoughts and ideas. She apologized to the community if the item on the Agenda caused concern because it may have appeared that the board was going to take action tonight. She feels the board needs to decide if we will allow the schools to remain different, and although the necessary decisions will be difficult ones, they need to be made.

Member Crawford expressed that as stated, it is important to determine exactly what equity is, i.e. just core curriculum or all enrichment classes. She said this is a difficult issue and she feels the decision will not please everyone. She feels there are huge implications for the future. She feels the PTA roles at each site need to be addressed and they need to have some dialog with the PTAs, the teachers and principals. Not everyone wants the same thing. She feels that time is of the essence. She feels the board needs to do a thorough investigation and discussion, but feels this issue needs to be decided immediately so the community knows what direction we are going. She suggested the board have a special board meeting on January 31, 2007 to have groups speak regarding the impact of equity. She feels waiting for the February meeting is far too long to wait.

Board President Easton asked what is the same and what is different at the school sites with regard to the regular program compared to enrichment.

Supt. Bishop stated that the core curriculum is Language Arts (reading, writing, speaking, listening), Math, Science and Social Science and Physical Education which is mandated at 200 minutes every 10 days. Core curriculum is based on state standards and is the main feature of the academic program. Students at all sites are receiving the core curriculum and the contract with teachers remains consistent at all schools.

Board President Easton asked about supplemental materials to the core curricular materials and the different ways teachers might choose to teach it.

Asst. Supt. of Curriculum Janet Bernard explained the sites are allowed to make decisions with regard to supplemental materials. There are some commonalities across the district but there are some site-specific materials, which is allowed. Teachers need to feel they can go to materials to fit a student's need.

Supt. Bishop addressed the enrichment programs. Teachers have prep time in their contracts so the district provides Art, Science, Music and Technology with quality teachers to allow for the prep time in their contract. There are strong similarities across the DMUSD but we let the sites "own" their programs.

Board President Easton asked if it is possible, under current policy, for a school to eliminate a specialist and expand on another specialty.

Supt. Bishop said the board would have to make that policy decision.

Asst. Supt. Bernard explained that the enrichment programs are currently a practice and not dictated by board policy and she reminded the board that the enrichment positions are tied to the contractual agreement for prep time for teachers. With the enrichment teachers the district offers a high quality education and also satisfies the contractual obligation for prep time.

Member White asked whether the teacher prep time is required by state law or contracted with teachers.

Asst. Supt. Bernard explained that teacher prep time is a local collective bargaining agreement.

Member Easton asked if teacher prep time has to be covered by a certificated teacher.

Director of Personnel/Facilities, Rodger Smith, said stated that it is unethical for classified personnel to provide instruction.

Member White asked for clarification regarding classified staff teaching.

Mr. Smith explained that a non-certificated person should not be responsible for teaching.

Asst. Supt. Bernard stated that classified employees support the instructional programs.

6.2 *Del Mar Hills Academy – Parent Input re DMUSD Academy Program*

Laurie Francis, Principal of Del Mar Hills Academy, was present representing her staff and Del Mar Hills Academy parents. She read a statement reaffirming for the Board Members that the Del Mar Hills Academy program was created with the agreement and understanding that local funding would be employed to maintain and carry the unique program/staffing. This was earlier reaffirmed at the May 2005 DMUSD Board meeting.

Board Discussion:

Board President Easton commented that it is important for the board to understand the decisions that were made in the past and any decisions we make now be made intentionally and not without knowing the impact it will have on the Hills.

6.3 *2007/2008 Additional Enrichment Staffing – Options*

Supt. Bishop reviewed the possible enrichment staffing options developed by staff and presented to the board as a vehicle for discussions by the board regarding the districts practice of allowing school sites to purchase enrichment staffing positions that exceed the enrichment allocations provided by the board.

Supt. Bishop thanked all parents for their donations to the Foundation. Foundation has pledged \$600,000 to DMUSD this year.

Board Discussion:

Member Crawford said she feels the solution is dollar driven and we must understand the impact on the district budget for the next four to five years. She asked for Assist. Supt. of Business, Dena Whittington, to work on a spreadsheet showing the impact on the district budget if the district covered enrichment expenses. When asked what the Superintendent's cabinet thought about the options Supt. Bishop said that out of seven principals and four directors, only one of them was in favor of Option 1, continue on the way it is. The other eleven desired to have more equity, Option 2.

Board President Easton stated that it is important to keep in mind that regardless of where the money will come from, the district is obligated by contract to meet the cost. She wondered where the district might find money within district funds to cover this expense and asked Asst. Supt. of Business, Dena Whittington, to look into this.

Supt. Bishop explained that the district has a special reserve that could be used for a one-time expense. He reminded the board that there are a number of considerations regarding the district budget and reserves.

Member White suggested that a potential way to find funds might be in the area of growth and since the district will probably not be growing as rapidly, maybe there are some funds in that area. She feels the board should also review programs that are not mandated and suggested the district look into areas of these expenses, i.e. lunch, child care, CCW, etc.

Member Crawford confirmed with Assist. Supt. of Business, Dena Whittington that 85% of the district budget is for salary and benefits.

Member McDowell echoed Member White's suggestion and look at some of the soft dollars that might be eliminated, i.e. conference in San Francisco, etc.

Member Crawford reminded the board of all the vested interests in the different options. She again expressed the importance of understanding all the implications and to remember that it is the finances that drive the whole issue.

Member White commented on the variety of opinions and options and that the board is not constrained to only those options presented this evening.

Board President Easton asked Assist. Supt. of Business, Dena Whittington, about the reserves in the budget.

Ms. Whittington explained that the recommendation is to have one year worth of basic aid assessment that is in excess of what the district would receive if it were a revenue limit district. The difference in the two is \$7.9 million. We currently have \$6.5 million thereby falling short of the recommended limit by \$1.3. Ed Code requires the district maintain a 3% minimum reserve.

Board President Easton expressed surprise in that she didn't think the board had heard about School Services' recommendation for the reserve limit. She said she was little disappointed that the district is below the limit at this time. Asst. Supt., Curriculum, Dena Whittington, stated that the limit is a recommendation and that not all basic aid districts carry the recommended reserve, although a few do. She stated with the board's direction she could aim for the recommended reserve amount if that is its decision. She also stated the \$7.9 million will fluctuate over the years.

Member McDowell again expressed the importance of knowing the soft dollars and asked for confirmation that the San Diego City schools receive more funds per student than the DMUSD.

Board President Easton asked for a motion to extend the time limit for public comment from 12 speakers on this item.

On motion by *Member Crawford*, seconded by *Member White*, the board unanimously voted to extend the time limit to 36 minutes.

Parent Input:

Beth Westberg, 1439, Oribia Road, Del Mar, 92014, Kdg. and 4th grade children attend Del Mar Hills Academy, spoke in favor of bringing all schools up to the Academy standard and not bring the Hills down. She feels there should be discussion on how the schools want to spend their money and staffing issues should be a long term plan. She suggested that maybe the district needs to remain status quo for 2007/2008 and the district take the time required to make an informed decision.

Per Cederstav, 13964 Boquita Dr., Del Mar, 92014 parent at Del Mar Hills Academy. He is new to the district and doesn't completely understand problems with fundraising issues. He spoke to support bringing schools up as mentioned by Beth Westburg.

Bob Gans, 735 Hoska Drive, Del Mar, 92014, Del Mar Hills Academy parent. He spoke with regard to urgency of this issue. He feels parents have donated thousands of dollars in the past, but some of them are waiting for guidance from the board. He urged the board to meet and make the decision as soon as possible and consider what parents will want and what motivates them to donate.

Jana Stoudemire; She is pleased to hear discussion tonight on this issue. As an equity study team member she felt there was great discussion on the pros and cons. It is her feeling that the questions presented this evening need to be answered before any recommendations can be made or considered. She agrees with Bob Gans on the urgency factor and feels the parents definitely need direction. She hopes everyone will work together to come up with a decision that is best for our children.

Ellen Burkhart, 14241 Recuerdo Dr., Del Mar, 92014; 3rd and 6th grade student at Del Mar Hills Academy. She has been on the board of the PTA for six years. She said the PTA at the Hills has never been

in conflict with funding ESC teachers and the Hills PTA has never had to contribute to ESC teachers at the Hills. She said they have the highest participation rate of donations and when the Hills was in danger of needing to be restructured, the parents showed support of the programs and raised \$60,000 in a few short weeks and once again we may be faced with the possibility of restructuring. Mrs. Burkhart presented copies of emails from the Hills parents who supported site funding 100%.

Corinne Hackbart, 2195 7th Street, Del Mar, 92014. She commented on the feasibility of the Foundation supporting the enrichment program in the years to come. She spoke with regard to the amount of money per student needed to support enrichment now and in the future. She feels the only constant is the parents. She questioned if the district could support the enrichment programs in the future. She asked clarifying questions regarding the Reserve in the budget, which were then addressed by Assist. Supt. Whittington and Board President Easton.

Bob Shopes, 14104 Bahama Cove, Del Mar, 92014 referenced a April 2005 report by School Services regarding staffing requirement for DMUSD. He does not see where it is mentioned in the options and would like the board to review the document if they have not done so already.

Cinda Peck, Carmel Del Mar music teacher. She reported that all seven music teachers spent two hours together today planning and blending their curriculum and creating equity in the district. They would like to preserve that time. She also noticed that no specialist was included on the study team. She feels they have expertise to share and want to be part of the solution. She said they have ideas and look forward to working with the board in the near future.

Jennifer Steinman, Technology teacher, Sycamore Ridge. She loves her job, school and district and all of our innovative programs. She appreciates all the efforts of the PTA and Foundation for all the money raised. She spoke in reference to the importance of the minutes for teachers to allow specialists to provide content for students in a different way that they may not connect with in the classroom. This time provides teachers an opportunity to collaborate and plan. These highly qualified professionals are teaching mandated standards in the curriculum. She hopes the district could decide on a long-term solution. She discourages itinerant teachers because the specialists would not have the ability to provide the same opportunities for their students. Time is of the essence.

Board Discussion:

Board President Easton supports a special meeting to further discuss this issue and supports making a long-term decision. Feels there are a lot of other constraints facing the district that need to be faced. The board may have to come up with an interim solution for

one year before the long-term option is decided upon.

Member White said she would like the discussion to include an understanding of what it costs to be an ESC teacher. How does it change from year to year?

Member Crawford motioned to have a special board meeting at 6:00 p.m. on January 31, 2007. *Member White* asked to amend the motion to have the meeting begin at 5:00 p.m. rather than 6:00 p.m. *Member Crawford* agreed to the amendment. *Member McDowell* seconded the amended motion and the Board unanimously voted to have a special board meeting at 5:00 p.m. on January 31, 2007 to discuss equity items 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3.

Member Crawford wants this important topic communicated to the community. She impressed upon everyone present to talk to the people at their school site and encourage them to come to the January 31 meeting to hear the discussion. It's important that the board hear from everyone.

Board President Easton stated that even if the board cannot come to the final plan in two weeks, the healthy discussion can send a message to the community letting them know we are on the right track and making progress. She also suggested the board members form their questions and send them to Supt. Bishop.

Member Crawford requested that a short report come from each site as to where their funds are coming from.

6.4 Update: District Staff Development Days – January 25 & 26, 2007 Professional Learning Academy

Assist. Supt. of Curriculum, Janet Bernard, updated the Board members on the DMUSD Professional Learning Academy to be held on January 25 and 26 at Ashley Falls School, from 8:00 – 3:00 p.m. Board members are welcomed to attend any of the workshops.

Assist. Supt. Bernard thanked the board for approving the Professionally Learning Academy.

Board Discussion:

None.

6.6 Discussion on Board Site Visitations

Supt. Bishop reviewed the current configuration of a Board visitation to the school sites.

Supt. Bishop stated that on January 8, he met with ten members of the DMCTA Executive Board and asked them about possible benefits from having board members visit classrooms on a regular schedule during the past eight years. The group of teachers felt that board members have a responsibility to learn as much as possible about DMUSD K-6 education program, and that one way to learn about the K-6 program is to visit classrooms under the guidance of the site principal or a District administrator. The teachers indicated that past visitations did not create educational disruptions to students or teachers.

Supt. Bishop met on January 10th with principals and asked them for their input on board visitations. Their comments included the

following:

- Visitations help board members to see that our schools have some commonalities and differences.
- Visitations have helped to provide accurate curriculum and instruction information directly to board members.
- Visitations have helped the Board to see that our facilities are being maintained in a professional manner that promotes high achievement.

Board Discussion:

Member White said she has talked to people and feels there is room for improvement with the board visitations. She would like to see some changes that would include opportunities that allowed more communication with the board; some things that might be more two-way than one-way. She said she would like the board to consider making some changes as we proceed.

Board President Easton feels this is a good suggestion and that the board will work with Supt. Bishop and the principals to ensure the board members have an opportunity to view specific interests at each site.

**6.7 Possible Kindergarten
Restructuring for
2007/2008**

Supt. Bishop explained that in July, 2006, the Board of Trustees approved the inclusion of the following objective in the 2006/2007 DMUSD Goals and Objectives: “Prepare a Fall 2006 Board agenda item that provides staff recommendations for potentially re-structuring the Kindergarten program in 2007/2008”. To date, staff has met or will meet with kindergarten teachers, a focus groups of 1st-6th grade teachers, and a parent focus group representing all seven sites. A decision to change Kindergarten is a whole district decision. Supt. Bishop thanked Board President Easton for meeting today with him and the Kindergarten teachers. He expressed hope that Board President Easton and one board member will be at future discussions. This item will be brought back to the board at the February 28, 2007 board meeting.

Board Discussion:

Member Crawford referred to discussions in 2001/2002 regarding restructuring the Kdg. program and the research that had been done and asked why and who is bringing this item back to the board.

Assist. Supt. of Curriculum, Janet Bernard, stated that parents are questioning why we don’t have a full-day kindergarten program in the district. It seems to be an ongoing question and there is more research supporting full-day kindergarten in higher achieving district. We want to affirm that our program is meeting needs of kindergarten students and kindergarten families in the district. Also, as the district is working in the Professional Learning Communities they are realizing that learning has to be looked at “vertically”. What happens at Kindergarten affects 1st; what happens in 1st affects 2nd. Kindergarten

is a progression through 6th grade and on. We want to make sure we are providing the needs of our students. Kindergarten parents are donating for enrichment but the Kindergarten students spend varying amounts of time in enrichment from site to site. PLC is prompting further discussion on what we are doing in Kindergarten through 6th gr.

Board President Easton thanked Member Crawford for the important questions. She commented that the meeting with Kindergarten teachers today had good dialog and the teachers appreciated an opportunity to give input.

Assist. Supt Bernard thanked Board President Easton for attending the meeting and trying to fully understand all of the issues.

Member White talked with some Kdg. teachers who had an informal meeting due to their interest in this topic. Member White handed the Board some options to serve as talking points and how the DMUSD district program compares with other districts. She stated that our Kindergarten program is the envy of other kindergarten programs so why are we considering changing it.

Board President Easton expressed there are differences in how the extended program works at each site. The level of consistency might not be the same. There are a lot of options on the table. The extended day is not standardized across the district.

Member Crawford asked for confirmation on what the district wants the board to do regarding the restructuring of the kindergarten program. If parents want to know about Kdg. for next year then we need to decide if we are changing anything and if so, what will the change be. It will be important to hear from teachers. We need to hear from the parents because many of them have strong feelings on this subject.

Assist. Supt. Bernard stated that in the past the majority of parents wanted a full-day Kindergarten program, but district staff felt strongly on preserving the time with small group of four to five students per day. The extended day program was a compromise that grew from those discussions.

Member McDowell stated that he will be volunteering in Kdg. classes throughout the district in the weeks to come.

Parent Input:

Marybeth Norgren, 13964 Boquita Drive, Del Mar, 92014, her son attends Del Mar Hills Academy. She stated she is very happy with the program, as it exists now. The high quality of 4-1/2 hours is terrific. The level of the volunteer load of Kindergarten parents is very heavy. It is her feeling a full day is too long. She loves the Kindergarten teachers and wants to maintain a quality program regardless of the length of the day.

7. ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY

7.2 2nd Reading and

Supt. Bishop presented the proposed 07/08 DMUSD calendar,

**Board Approval
2007/2008 DMUSD
Master calendar**

which is fully aligned with the 07/08 SDUHSD calendar for a 2nd reading and board approval.

Board Discussion:

Member White asked Tom to comment on attendance due to winter break holiday.

Supt. Bishop said he will present an attendance report next month, however, our principals reported the attendance was good.

Member Crawford spoke with regard to her conversation with one of the high school board members who stated that they are restricted due to the fact that the high school district operates on semesters and that is what drives their calendar. They also try to work with their feeder districts. Because they are a revenue based district there is a significant financial impact to the high school district if their students have a break when the high school is in session.

Member White feels the focus needs to be on our district and we need to make certain that our teachers are not impacted.

After further discussion regarding the alignment of the calendar with the high school district, and on motion by *Member Crawford* seconded by *Member McDowell* the Board unanimously voted to approve the proposed 07/08 DMUSD calendar.

**7.3 Discussion of
DMSEF Monthly
Report as an Item on
DMUSD Monthly
Board Meeting
Agenda**

Board President Easton stated that several DMUSD Board members and DMSEF Board members have suggested that the DMUSD Board agenda be modified to include a monthly report from the Foundation president.

Board Discussion:

None.

On Motion by *Member White* seconded by *Member McDowell* the Board unanimously voted to include in the monthly regular board meeting Agenda a report from the DMSEF.

**7.4 Update: 4th Annual
DMUSD Blood
Drive – January 10,
2007**

Supt. Bishop stated the DMUSD's 4th Annual Blood Drive was held at Carmel Del Mar School on January 10, 2007. The Blood Drive was again a success. Twenty-two units of blood were collected, which will save approximately 40 lives. The 5th Annual Blood Drive is tentatively scheduled for January 23, 2008.

7.5 2007 Parent Survey

Supt. Bishop stated that a parent survey is included in the 2006/2007 Goals and Objectives. In the past the SDCOE staff helped create the questions that helped to obtain the data from parents.

Board Discussion:

Member McDowell stated he would like to put it out for a couple of weeks so principals may have an opportunity to submit suggestions and questions.

Supt. Bishop would support some revisions to the current survey.

Member White suggested that if the district currently has a full

plate maybe the survey should be put off to next year.

Supt. Bishop stated that he would support putting the survey out in the 2007/2008 school year and will talk to staff and SDCOE about producing it in May. One negative is that by doing it in May we might not be comparing apples and apples. Supt. Bishop will talk to staff and SDCOE about delaying the survey for a couple of months to a year.

Member White would support putting it off for one year, but not two months. She also expressed concern about the confusion of the form and feels the form might be misleading.

Supt. Bishop suggested looking at the possibility of an on-line survey.

On Motion by *Member White*, seconded by *Member McDowell*, the board voted unanimously to recommend that Supt. Bishop look into making the 2007 parent survey a 2008 parent survey and to direct staff to examine alternative ways of conducting the parent survey.

7.6 *Reminder of Upcoming Events*

Supt. Tom Bishop reminded the Board of upcoming events and meetings.

Board President Easton brought the Board/Superintendent Workshop on February 2, 2007 to the board's attention.

8. OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

8.1 *Facilities Report*

Director of Facilities, Rodger Smith, reported on the various facilities projects of the District. Mr. Smith stated that on Tuesday he was pleased to see that the slab for the administration building had been poured and framing on the classroom building is nearing completion. He also stated that framing on the administration building should begin on Monday and structural steel is being placed Thursday and Friday. Progress on Ocean Air continues at a very rapid pace.

8.2 *Board Approval, Change Orders in the Construction of Ocean Air School in the amount of \$110,333.*

Member White asked clarifying questions regarding the benefit of change order expenditures and whether the money could be used in another fashion.

Director of Facilities/Personnel, Rodger Smith, offered clarification with regard to change order expenditures and the \$1 million contingency for unexpected expenditures. Any funds remaining after completion of construction must be returned to the NCW JPA. Mr. Smith stated that only necessary change orders will be submitted for approval. He stated they are working hard with all the contractors to keep the cost of the project at the lowest cost possible.

Board President Easton asked where the money would come from if change orders exceed the \$1 million?

Mr. Smith explained that there are three different funds to work with but if all those funds were depleted we would need to find other sources.

On motion by Member *Crawford*, seconded by Member *White*, the board voted unanimously to approve change orders in the construction of Ocean Air School in the amount of \$110,333.

8.4 Contingency Plan for Ocean Air

Director, Facilities/Personnel, Rodger Smith, presented contingency Options A, B & C for the opening of Ocean Air School.

Board Discussion:

Board President Easton suggested the board keep the options in mind and bring them back next month when the board will have a discussion on enrollment.

9. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

9.1 Approval and Acceptance of Donations to the Del Mar Union School District

Public Input:

On behalf of Corinne Hackbart, John Logan presented the following question: Is there a confirmation that the receipt of the \$35,000 donation from Del Mar Heights PTA, to support ECS teachers, was accepted by the district and, if so, does that mean that Del Mar Heights has fulfilled its fundraising obligation?

Supt. Bishop explained that no decision has been made by the board regarding the sites fundraising for 2007/2008. The check was deposited into the Del Mar Heights fundraising account.

Member White expressed confusion with regard to the board's acceptance of this donation due to the fact that at the November board meeting the board voted to accept the donation. She stated that the funds were said to be for positions this year and, therefore, doesn't understand how it would not have been accepted if the board voted.

Board President Easton asked for a motion to accept donations.

On motion by Member *White*, seconded by Member *McDowell*, the board unanimously voted to accept donations to the Del Mar Union School District.

Member *Crawford* reminded the board that the Board By-Laws limit board meetings to 11:00 p.m.

Supt. Bishop offered further explanation that the meeting can only be extended in 15-minute increments.

On motion by Member *Crawford*, seconded by Member *White*, the board unanimously voted to extend the board meeting for an additional 15 minutes to 11:15 p.m.

9.2 Board Approval of Purchase Orders and Ratification of Commercial Warrant Payments and Revolving Cash Disbursements

Board discussion:

Member *White* requested to see items on a budget basis in order to see how the expenses impact the budget. She expressed a desire to have insight on how district is progressing monthly with our budget.

Assist. Supt., Business, Dena Whittington stated that she has experience doing a monthly financial update, which she will start producing for the board.

On motion by Member *McDowell*, seconded by Member *Crawford*, the board voted unanimous to approve purchase orders and ratification of commercial warrant payments and revolving cash

disbursement commercial warrants.

9.3 Board Approval of Addendum to Agreement Between the Del Mar Union School District and San Diego County Office of Education for Student Information System License

Board Discussion:

Member *White* explained that she asked to remove the item from Consent to find out how we were selected for this and if there was any compensation.

Assist. Supt. of Business, Dena Whittington, explained that our district representative was part of a committee to evaluate software packages the SDCOE was considering. Because we are an early adopter the district will not have an increase in fees to the county for monitoring the system until Fall 2007.

On motion by Member *Crawford*, seconded by Member *McDowell*, the board voted unanimously to approve the Addendum to Agreement Between the Del Mar Union School District and San Diego County Office of Education for Student Information System License.

9.4 Board Review and Acceptance of the Annual Audit Report for the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year Prepared by Wilkinson, Hadley & Co., LLP Certified Public Accountants

Assist. Supt., Business Services, Dena Whittington, presented the 2005/2006 Annual Audit Report for acceptance by the Board. The Board of Trustees is required by Education Code 41020.3 to review the annual audit report at a regularly scheduled public meeting before January 31, of the year following the fiscal year for which the report was prepared. Assist. Supt. Whittington recommended the board accept the report as it is.

Board Discussion:

Member *McDowell* thanked Assist. Supt. of Business, Dena Whittington, for the time she spent reviewing the audit with him.

On motion by Member *McDowell* seconded by Member *Crawford* the Board unanimously voted to accept the 2005/2006 Annual Audit Report.

9.5 Update: 2007/2008 State Budget (January 9, 2007)

Supt. Bishop stated that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger provided the first draft of his proposed 2007/2008 state budget on January 10, 2007. DMUSD staff is gathering newspaper articles and other documents that will help the DMUSD Board of Trustees to comprehend the impact of the 2007/2008 state budget on DMUSD students. Future Board agendas will contain additional information about the 2007/2008 state budget proposal.

Supt. Bishop will provide more information on fiscal impact of the Governor's proposal to provide health care for all employees or pay a 4% payroll tax on all employees. More information will be provided as we go forward.

Board Discussion:

None.

10. PERSONNEL

10.2 Board Approval of Proposed Modifications to the Children's Creative

Director of Personnel/Facilities, Rodger Smith, presented a modified salary schedule for CCW instructors. Based upon three years of experience with the current salary schedule, Charlene,

*Workshop Salary
Schedule*

Komosinski, the program administrator, has encountered significant confusion and concerns among CCW instructors relative to their rate of compensation and the fairness thereof.

Board Discussion:

The board asked clarifying questions regarding the income for family registration and tee shirts.

Assist. Supt. of Business, Dena Whittington clarified that the registration fees are in revenue and the tee shirts are recorded as an expense.

Board members asked clarifying questions regarding CCW, the budget, the small profit margin and salaries for the time spent on CCW by the directors.

Board Member White thanked Dena Whittington, Asst. Supt., Business Services and Charlene Komosinski, Director of After School Programs, for producing a concise P & L statement for CCW per her request at the December 13, 2006 board meeting.

The Director of Facilities/Personnel, Rodger Smith, and Assist offered further clarification and detail. Supt. of Business, Dena Whittington.

On motion by Member *Crawford*, seconded by Member *White* the Board unanimously voted to approve proposed modifications to the Children's Creative Workshop Salary Schedule.

**12. ITEMS FOR NEXT
BOARD MEETING**

- Facilities Report
- Davis Demographics Report – 2007/2008 Enrollment Projection
- 1st Reading Board Policies/Administrative Regulations – Section 6000 – Instruction
- 1st Reading 2007/2008 Attendance Policies
- 2007/2008 Kindergarten Program – will there be changes; if so, what is the change
-

Prior to adjournment board members discussed the possibility of the 1st Reading of the 6000 Series being delayed until the March meeting and also the possibility of the student presentation for February being shortened.

13. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Member *Crawford* seconded by Member *White* and carried unanimously, the Regular Board Meeting of January 17, 2007 was adjourned at 11:12 p.m.

Janet Lamborghii, Clerk of the Board of Trustees

Thomas F. Bishop, Superintendent