

**DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Del Mar Hills Academy – Multi-Purpose Room  
14085 Mango Drive  
Del Mar, CA 92014**

**Tuesday, February 26, 2008  
5:00 P.M.**

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

Others: Approximately 150 members of DMUSD staff and community and media.

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**BUSINESS TRANSACTED WAS LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:**

Board President, Annette Easton, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

*On motion by Member White, seconded by Member McDowell the Board voted 3-2-0 to approve the Agenda. Ayes: Members Easton, McDowell and White; Nays: Members Crawford and Lamborghini; Abstain: -0-*

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION at 5:01 p.m. to discuss:**

3. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE 54957

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION AT 6:09 P.M.**

4. REPORT ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION: No action was taken in closed session.

*On motion by Member White, seconded by Member McDowell, the board voted unanimously to waive the 20-minute time limit so that all speakers may be heard.*

5. PERSONNEL – RESIGNATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THOMAS F. BISHOP

PUBLIC INPUT:

The following members of the public addressed the board with their positions recorded as indicated on their blue speaker slip.

The following speakers spoke in favor of accepting the resignation of Thomas F. Bishop:

Jennifer McDowell, 1605 Forest Way, Del Mar, 92014  
Cindy Ralston, 4333 Calle Mejillones, San Diego, 92130, 2nd gr. teacher, Del Mar Heights  
BethAnne Bartell, Vista Lujo, San Diego, 92130  
Ginny Merrifield, 5191 Seagrove Place, San Diego, 92130  
Corinne Hackbart, 2195 7th Street, Del Mar, 92014  
Catherine Weselak, 5034 Caminito Vista Lujo, San Diego, 92130  
Raffi Simonian, 5234 Caminito Vista Lujo, San Diego, 92130  
Barbara Bieler, 536 Ruelle de Mar, San Diego, 92130

The following speakers spoke against accepting the resignation of Thomas F. Bishop:

Debbie Hanna, 3rd gr. teacher, Sycamore Ridge  
Mary Taylor, 3959 Corte Mar de Brisa, San Diego, 92130  
April Barduson, 11142 Corte Mar de Cristal, San Diego, 92130  
Linda Castile, 137 11th St., Del Mar, 92014  
Jill Wojtkowski, 5650 Painted Nettles Glen, San Diego 92130  
Jenny Tate, 3906 Via Cangrejo, San Diego, 92130  
Lisa Shepard, Kdg. teacher, Sage Canyon  
Lindsay Eha, 2nd gr. teacher, Sage Canyon  
Martha Cox, former DMUSD employee  
Chris Teisher, Kdg. teacher, Torrey Hills  
Carol Sharpe, 3rd gr. teacher, Ocean Air  
Julie Sawi, Kdg. teacher, Sage Canyon  
Henry Herz, 4080 Arroyo Sorrento, San Diego, 92130  
Katrina Graupmann, 5th gr. teacher, Ocean Air  
Comischell Rodriguez, 5427 Foxhound Way, San Diego, 92130  
Donna Chung, 2nd gr. teacher, Sycamore Ridge  
Kelli Politoske, 5020 Seashell Place, San Diego, 92130

Becky Ross, 13454 Barbados, Del Mar, 92014 School Administrative Assistant,  
Sage Canyon  
Mary Farrell, 13765 Durango Drive, Del Mar, 92014  
Jeanne Waite, 123 Sea Orbit Lane, Del Mar 92014  
Janet Pecsar, 12952 Long Boat Way, Del Mar, 92014  
Jennifer Jo Mokiao, 6th gr. teacher, Sycamore Ridge  
Debra McGinty-Poteet, 2425 Lozano Road, Del Mar, 92014  
Peggy Yamamoto, 4011 Santa Nella, San Diego, 92130

The following speakers spoke with a neutral position on the acceptance of the resignation of Thomas F. Bishop.

Sheila Reilly, 11278 Vereda Mar Del Corazon, San Diego, 92130  
Jennifer Howard, 4th gr. teacher, Sycamore Ridge

Board President Easton expressed her appreciation to those present for their attendance and she acknowledged how stressful change can be for an entire organization and the impact change can have on a community. Member Easton further stated that, by law, personnel matters must remain confidential and, therefore, she is not permitted to answer questions relating to that matter. Member Easton stated that in evaluating all sides of a decision with such serious impacts, she would only make the decision if she felt that it truly was in the best interests of helping the community to move forward, to continue to have excellency in the classrooms and to improve transparency of information. Member Easton also expressed the hope of moving forward with collaboration and Professional Learning Communities that would bring it up to the level of the Board.

Board Member Lamborghini stated that she has unqualified confidence in Tom Bishop, that he has integrity and that he is a talented administrator. Member Lamborghini further stated that Tom Bishop balances many competing interests with what is best for children. She feels he has vision and skill and the dedication to empower the district along with the community to provide one of the best educational programs in the state with some of the best results.

Board Member Crawford expressed her gratitude to the teachers and staff for their professionalism and devotion to teaching the children in the community. Speaking as a parent in the district, she stated how proud she is of all the teachers in the DMUSD. Member Crawford acknowledged that this is a difficult time. She expressed that during Tom Bishop's ten years of leadership he has shown a solid record of high academic standards and strong community relations. Member Crawford stated that due to Tom Bishop's leadership, his visionary and collaborative style, and the staff development programs he provided for the staff, the DMUSD provides a world-class education that has served students, parents and staff well over the years.

Board Member McDowell thanked the teachers and community for speaking. He thanked the three former Board members and expressed his appreciation for the hard decisions they had to make when they served on the board. Member McDowell stated that he believes it is time for change.

Board Member White expressed her appreciation to everyone for coming to speak, as she feels it is important that they voice their opinions. She expressed how good it is to see the loyalty staff has for Tom Bishop, his leadership and to the direction of the district. Member White stated that under Tom Bishop's leadership there was a lot of growth and positive things that happened. She stated it is time to move to a different level and, in order to accomplish this new ideas and leadership are needed. Member White asked staff not to shortchange themselves in assuming that one person in an administrative position is responsible for the district excelling in many areas. Member White stated that historically the DMUSD scores have been good and they will continue to be if Tom Bishop leaves. Member White acknowledged that change is difficult but she feels the district has the ability to take collaboration and other things to a new level.

*On motion by Member White, seconded by Member McDowell, the Board voted 3-2-0 to accept the resignation agreement of Thomas F. Bishop. Ayes: Members Easton, McDowell and White; Nays: Members Crawford and Lamborghini; Abstain: -0-*

6. *On motion by Member McDowell, seconded by Member White, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the February 26, 2008 Special School Board Meeting at 7:58 p.m.*

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Katherine White, Clerk

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Janet Bernard, Interim Superintendent

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Date

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Date