

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

Minutes of Special Board Meeting

February 11, 2009
6:00 p.m.

Del Mar Hills Academy
14085 Mango Drive, Del Mar, CA 92014

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Del Mar Union School District, Board of Trustees was called to order by Board President White at 6:10 p.m. in memory of Mr. Chris Casey, brother of Director of Technology, Mike Casey.

ROLL CALL

Members Present (5): Katherine White, President of the Board
 Steven McDowell, Clerk of the Board
 Annette Easton
 Doug Perkins
 Comischell Rodriguez

Members Absent: (0)

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to Approve the Agenda

Motion Easton

Second McDowell

Unanimous

2. PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)

There were no comments from the public.

3. BOARD DISCUSSION, PROGRESS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TOOLS FOR STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

Supt. McClain presented a brief overview on the process of establishing the 2008/2009 DMUSD budget, the status of the 2008/2009 budget, and proposals of budget balancing proposals.

The District budget, based on assumptions, must be adopted by June 30 of each year and must balance for three years out. Until the State budget has been adopted, the District budget cannot be finalized. Supt. McClain presented, "Options to Reduce the 2009/2010 Budget", however, the only area currently being studied is the Extended Studies Curriculum Program.

Supt. McClain presented an overview of the DMUSD Extended Studies Curriculum (ESC)

Official Minutes, Special Board Meeting • February 11, 2009

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Program including how it has been funded in recent years, how the current budget challenges will effect the funding of the program and the recommendations from the District Leadership Team for the reorganization of the ESC Program and its funding.

Public Comment on Item #3:

- *Bree Belchem*, student at Del Mar Hills Academy, spoke to the Board to share information on how the students benefit from the ESC activities.
- *Jennifer McDowell*, parent, spoke with concern that the district not reduce programs to the lowest common denominator.
- *Natalie Chiles*, DMUSD teacher, spoke concerning the parents possible misinterpretation of the questions on the survey and the validity of the responses due to a misinterpretation. She also spoke of the benefits of music/art and how it enhances students learning in all the curricular areas.
- *Beth Westburg*, parent and DMSEF Vice President, spoke in favor of creating equity and parity in the 2009/2010 school year and not allowing inequity to continue. She also spoke in favor of the DMSEF being the sole source of fundraising for ESC programs.
- *Ian Phillips*, DMUSD teacher, spoke with the concern that the proposal being recommended is serving the “wants” of the community and the “needs” of the students and to the benefits of Physical Education on the social, physical and emotional development of students. He asked the Board to reconsider the placement of PE in the tier level of funding the ESC programs.
- *Dorothy Waite*, DMUSD teacher, spoke in favor of Option 2 of the ESC proposal allowing schools to have a choice of a music or art program.
- *Jackie Faulkner*, DMUSD teacher, spoke in favor of maintaining a portion of the art program at all schools and to the opportunities art offers students.
- *Amy Doyle*, DMUSD teacher, expressed her feelings of envy, jealousy, frustration, anger, confusion, cowardice, blues, emptiness and hope for solutions to the ESC challenges facing the DMUSD.
- *Joe Mares* of FAME (Foundation for Advancement of Music Education) reminded the Board of the investments FAME has made in the DMUSD. Mr. Mares offered to be a part of the solution by working with the DMUSD and DMSEF (Del Mar Schools Education Foundation).
- *Matt Zevin*, parent and DMSEF President, spoke to the Board regarding the need for a clear direction in order to push the DMSEF forward as the primary fundraising source.

Board Discussion:

The Board asked clarifying questions concerning the district’s management of less than a Full Teacher Equivalent (FTE) and how staff will determine the number of layoff notices to be issued.

Board Requests:

- Consider maintaining the current level of site funding to 2 FTE; bring back an option of how sites can fundraise for not more than the current level, which is two FTE.
- Find out from DMSEF the funds allocated per site that the DMSEF is holding.

Official Minutes, Special Board Meeting • February 11, 2009

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- Does the PTA have funds they are holding?
- What happens to balance remaining in schools funds for the 2010/2011 school year?
- What happens to funds set aside at sites that are not spent for specific “things.”? What happens to those funds? Will they go to the “good of the whole”? May want to consider “naming rights”.
- How many teachers giving instruction in an ESC program came from the classroom?
- Maybe offer an option that all sites offer Science and then select two other programs; or everyone has Science & Technology and sites can pick Music, Art or PE.
- Was there any consideration on doing a semester of certain areas, i.e. Music, Art, PE? The Leadership Team expressed concern that the quality of the programs would be too diluted if offered for only one semester. Will technology teachers serve as the “technician” at the school sites?
- What if we were to combine school sites? What could be saved? What is the process?
- Reduce BTSA staff. What costs are associated with it?
- Eliminate San Marcos Distinguished Teacher in Residence. What costs are associated with it?
- Costs associated with finding an outside source for technology support versus technology teachers giving support.
- School psychologist. Can we change the allocation?
- What would be saved if we used Resource Specialists at State mandated levels?
- What if we increased class sizes? What would be saved?
- How many interdistrict students are in the district and would there be a savings if they returned to their district of residence?
- Is there consideration for an early retirement incentive?
- Blended classes - Should they be staffed at a different level? What would happen if blended classrooms were eliminated? Could they be reconfigured differently?
- What would the savings be if there were NO shared contracts?

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, there was a Motion to Adjourn at 10:15 p.m.

Motion Rodriguez

Second Easton
Unanimous

Steven McDowell, Clerk

Sharon McClain, Superintendent

Date

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Official Minutes, Special Board Meeting • February 11, 2009

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