

**7/11 DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PURSUANT TO EDUCATION CODE SECTION 17387**

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 16, 2009
3:00 p.m.



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

Organizational Items

Call to Order – *Time: 3:04 pm*

Flag Salute: Led by Shirley Bales

Attendance: All members were present, and audience members included Rodger Smith

Approval of the Agenda

Agenda Item #7, Clarification from Business Services on potential cost savings of closing a school, tabled to the July 23 meeting.

Upon motion by Susan Paul, seconded by Bob Shopes, the Agenda was unanimously approved, as amended.

Approval of the Minutes – Special Meeting/Visitation June 24, 2009
Special Meeting/Visitation June 29, 2009
Regular Meeting July 2, 2009

Upon motion by Bob Shopes, seconded by Jennifer Emberger, the above Minutes were approved unanimously, as amended.

Public Comment

Christine Springer, Del Mar Heights parent, spoke in favor of keep Del Mar Heights open as a school and preserving its fields which are used as a community park. She further stated it would be a waste of taxpayer money to purchase or construct new facilities for the District Administration and Employee Child Care offices, and she spoke in favor of those offices being moved to an existing school.

Public Communication

There was no Public Communication.

Old and New Business, Presentations

Clarification from Business Services on potential cost savings of closing a school—Tabled to the July 23 Regular Meeting.

Requested discussion items from last meeting

"What If" Scenario

Mrs. Wayne shared her professional experience using a basic template like the ones the DM Committee is using, indicating that it providing an effective working method that all members can understand, refine and use to make decisions. The committee will also use this scenario template looking at proposals to see if the data is correct, and see if the scenario has any possibility of being a feasible recommendation. These “what-if scenarios” will be judged against adopted criteria which is posted on the DMUSD website.

Mrs. Wayne further informed the audience that the proposals presented today are merely rough working proposals, not any final determination, and are subject to refinement and further study prior to any proposal possibly going to the Board of Trustees.

Member Bob Shopes presented a proposal to merge rather than close schools. His “What If” merged Ashley Falls and Carmel Del Mar Schools, with preschool and K-3 at Ashley Falls, District administration offices with Grades 4-6 at Carmel Del Mar.

Mrs. Wayne informed the committee that when speaking about reconfiguring grade levels at a school, we must take caution because decisions like these are the purview of educators who understand student needs within the District, not this committee. She suggested that if the Committee is interested in pursuing a grade reconfiguration the committee should request further input from Dr. McClain.

Jennifer Emberger prepared a detailed analysis identifying where and how much available space (seats) are currently projected data. Her “What If” determined that there is excess capacity in the district, and there is enough space to meet current district demand, although there is not space in any one school to absorb another school. Her proposal studied the idea of closing Ashley Falls School to house the District Administration offices and preschool. Ashley Falls could stay in tact during that time. The preschool may grow as Ashley Falls’ population is predicted to decline, but she stated that her proposal does not meet the short-term goal of cost savings.

Wayne Harris looked at growth in new developments, and where declining enrollment is with his “What If”. Ashley Falls School could take back some Sycamore Ridge kids as Sycamore Ridge enrollment grows rather than opening another school east of Sycamore Ridge. His “What If” looked at Del Mar Hills as a K only school, moving the remaining students to Del Mar Heights, then moving Area 16 students to Carmel Del Mar or Ashley Falls. Del Mar Hills could house Kindergarten for all students West of I-5, plus preschool and maintenance operations, separating off the right side of the school grounds for maintenance. The District administration offices could move to Ashley Falls to use those extra spaces from declining enrollment at Ashley Falls.

Janet Handzel’s “What If” combined Del Mar Hills and Del Mar Heights. Her proposal consolidated the student population of Del Mar Hills and Heights at Del Mar Heights, using Del

Mar Hills for district offices and maintenance, Ashley Falls for preschool. She proposed a gradual move from Del Mar Hills to Del Mar Heights, first grades 4-6 go to Del Mar Heights, and continuing to staff two to three sections at Ashley Falls. District functions would move into Del Mar Hills as space came available. In 2011 to 2012 DMUSD would look at numbers again to consolidate at Del Mar Heights at that time. After that, cost benefit to DMUSD is approximately \$500K per year, if the District doesn't lease office space or spend for district offices could save another \$100-300K per year. Opening a preschool could make about \$300K per year. Once this implemented, the District could save up to \$1M per year. All special ed programs would continue at the same sites. The District office would be a very good neighbor, and Del Mar Hills parks and fields would stay there. With Ashley Falls as the site for childcare, it is likely to be used by families in that high growth area. This proposal would improve Del Mar Hills/Heights relations, minimize the number of students and families affected. The weakness to this proposal is that any school lost is a detriment to those families. This proposal would redistrict area 16 to Carmel Del Mar, although Carmel Del Mar is projected to grow, she wanted to redistrict area 16 kids into a school they could walk to.

Retired Director of Facilities/Human Relations Rodger Smith spoke to the fact that students in Seabreeze Farms (located directly west of Sycamore Ridge) currently attend Sycamore Ridge School. The Mitigation Agreement between Sycamore Ridge and Pardee Homes has 659 reserved seats only for students at Pacific Ridge. When Pacific Ridge students fill up Sycamore Ridge, Seabreeze Farms students will be pushed out, possibly to Carmel Del Mar or Ashley Falls. The mitigation agreement with Pardee also addresses build out of school site #9, East of Sycamore Ridge.

Mrs. Wayne thanked members for their remarkable proposals today. Perhaps those who presented proposals could refine their proposals. Specifically, maintenance operation and district offices were not clearly spelled out with how many square feet of which building being allocated for each purpose. Randy Wheaton clarified that there are about 900 square feet in a classroom.

Discuss preparation for Progress Report to Board of Trustees scheduled for August 26

Mrs. Wayne informed the Committee that it must deliver its preliminary Progress Report by August 17. She reminded members that this is a Progress Report, not a final proposal. Mrs. Wayne will prepare the report for the committee provided members come to some consensus items for report. Mrs. Wayne will clarify what Dr. McClain expects, a written report of a few pages and/or an oral presentation. Mrs. Wayne imagines a written report to the Board, with 2-3 committee members in the audience to answer questions. At the Committee's first meeting in August, members will work to come up with items in consensus.

DMUSD Webmaster Todd Boteler will send out the phone number to call in for those who miss a meeting to join by teleconference.

Calendar Items

The August 6 Regular Meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, August 3, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

The committee may schedule another meeting specifically to review progress report.

Tour of remaining schools

Schedule tour of remaining schools—Sage Canyon, Ocean Air and Torrey Hills. The committee will wait until August when principals and office staff return. This item was tabled until July 23.

Adjournment

Upon Motion by Bob Shopes, seconded by Susan Paul, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:11 p.m.

Adjournment – *Time: 5:11 P.M.*