

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

Minutes Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 23, 2009
3:00 p.m.



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

Organizational Items

Call to Order – *Time: 3:07 p.m.*

Present: Gayle Wayne, Facilitator, Wayne Harris, Cinda Peck, Bob Shopes, Randy Wheaton, and Shirley Bales, administrative assistant, were present. Members Jennifer Emberger, Janet Handzel, and Susan Paul were absent.

Also in attendance: Dr. Sharon McClain, Superintendent, Todd Boteler, DMUSD Webmaster, Cathy Birks, Business Services Specialist, and Emily Disney, Sycamore Ridge Principal, were present as well as community members Vicki Hutchison, Shanell Pierce, Deborah Muns-Park, Stefanie Schiff, Sable Smith, Kelli Politoske, Audrey Levine, Lola Walker, Lisa Blazer, Lori Hawe, Susan Miller, Jim Jones, Isaac Savion, Tom Kelleher, Janice Coy, Tillie Grisco, Kerry Traylor, Jeanette Nichols, Nathan Delson, Tamra Atwood, Janet Melugin, Heidi Niehart, Joanna Roddis, Wendy Maron, Juli Oh, Phoebe Gardiner Katsell, Amy NeFouse, Nan Aposhian, Sandy Smith, Jennifer Fry, John Fry, Gretchen Jimenez, Richard Laurie, Janet Lamborghini, Linda Crawford, Martha Cox, Mary Farrell, and Darlene Klugherz.

Flag Salute: Led by Shirley Bales

Approval of the Agenda

Upon motion by Wayne Harris, seconded by Cinda Peck, the Agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

Upon motion by Bob Shopes, seconded by Cinda Peck, the Minutes of the July 16, 2009, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Call for public comment

#1. Kelli Politoske, 5020 Seashell Place, San Diego, CA 92130, Ashley Falls parent, spoke against closing Ashley Falls School, and questioned closing a school built with Mello Roos taxes.

#2. Darlene Klugherz, 4803 Almondwood, San Diego, CA 92130, Ashley Falls parent, spoke about enrollment, traffic and zoning issues, and questioned using taxpayer monies on a for-profit preschool.

#3. Sharon McClain, Supt., read aloud a written communication from Donna O'Rourke, a Sycamore Ridge parent who could not make the meeting, about school boundary areas and a recommendation that all Del Mar Mesa students attend the same school.

#4. Heidi Niehart, 4885 Algonquin Ct., San Diego, CA 92130, Ashley Falls parent, spoke against school closures in general.

#5. Janice Coy, 5060 Seachase Way, San Diego, CA 92130, Ashley Falls parent, spoke about selling Del Mar Heights School property and purchasing a new district office and preschool east of I-5.

#6. Tom Kelleher, 5273 Sandhill Terrace, San Diego, CA 92130, Ashley Falls parent, spoke against closing Ashley Falls Schools and recommended relocating the DMUSD district office, maintenance and operations to the Del Mar Hills property.

#7. Vicki Hutchison, 5203 Sanddollar Court, San Diego, CA 92130, Ashley Falls parent, recommended the committee consider: realigning the border between Ashley Falls and Sycamore Ridge, re-creating the Del Mar Hills Arts & Science magnet program, and re-creating the Spanish Immersion program at Del Mar Heights.

#8. Shanell Pierce, 12760 Sandy Crest Ct., San Diego, CA 92130, Ashley Falls parent, spoke against closing Ashley Falls School.

#9. Nathan Delson, 5037 Seagrove Cove, San Diego, CA 92130, Ashley Falls parent recommended a map of the district be generated with an indicator for each student currently enrolled in the district showing population density to calculate statistics the committee is interested in.

#10. Jeanette Nichols, on behalf of Dina Irwin, 5355 Valley Court, San Diego, CA 92130, spoke about more fact-finding needed by the committee in areas of joint use agreements, zoning, demographics, mitigation agreement with Pardee Homes, and the proposed preschool.

#11. Craig Sherman, 12773 Jordan Ridge Court, San Diego, CA 92130, Ashley Falls parent, questioned information and numbers, and why there was no public input prior to proposals.

#12. Wendy Maron, 12804 Baywind Pt., San Diego, CA 92130, Ashley Falls parent, spoke against closing Ashley Falls School.

#13. Kerry Traylor, 137643 Recuerdo, Del Mar, CA 92014, Del Mar Hills parent, recommended the committee hold evening meetings so that more members of the public could attend.

#14. Cinda Peck read aloud a written communication from Molly Schneider, 5397 Carmel Knolls, San Diego, CA 92130, Ashley Falls parent. Molly Schneider spoke to the Board of Trustees on July 22 about the need for transparency on behalf of the committee, questioned why

only 7 committee members were chosen, and asked why there was no public forum about the proposed revenue-generating preschool.

Public Communication

None, other than handouts from speakers above.

Old and New Business, Presentations

Clarification from Business Services on potential cost savings of closing a school—Presented by Dena Whittington, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Tabled to next agenda.

Further study on “What If” Scenarios submitted by members

Committee Chair Bob Shopes informed the audience that the committee cannot explore every legal, traffic, or zoning issue with every scenario until committee even determines that the scenario is viable. Committee Chair Shopes further informed the audience that he had calculated the "What If" scenario on each of the 8 DMUSD schools, using enrollment, projected enrollment, and modified capacity, it became very clear to him that three schools were either over-subscribed or did not have declining enrollment predicted: Sage Canyon, Torrey Hills and Ocean Air. Sycamore Ridge could be part of the solution, but not part of the problem, with enrollment bound to grow with the build-out of Pacific Ranch and the mitigation agreement with Pardee Homes. His "What If" scenarios on four schools -- Sycamore Ridge, Ocean Air, Torrey Hills, and Sage Canyon did not appear viable.

Mr. Shopes presented two scenarios:

1. Reconfigure/combine Carmel Del Mar with Grades 4-6 and Ashley Falls with Grades K-3, with preschool at one school, administration offices at the other school.
2. Reconfigure/combine Del Mar Heights with Grades 4-6 and Del Mar Hills with Grades K-3, also with preschool at one school, administration offices at the other school.

The scenarios to merge schools save less money than closing a school, but in his opinion, not significantly less. One school would have a principal, the other school a vice principal. Solana Beach does a similar split between lower and upper grade at two sites. This scenario preserves small classrooms, 20:1 Grades K-3, and 27:1 for Grades 4-6. Half of one school remains open for classes, the other half for administration offices, half of other school for classes and half for preschool. This scenario could be accomplished with schools on either side of I-5. Some committee members felt a vice principal would not be in the best interests of the staff. There was brief discussion on leaving the grade levels as they are, and the rationale for a vice principal in lieu of a principal in that situation.

Facilitator Gayle Wayne advised that before the committee recommends changing the educational program options, such as grade splits at any school, it must determine if this is something school administration wishes to do.

While the committee has received information on the number of square feet requested for maintenance and operations, administrative offices and preschool, Mr. Shopes thinks those figures need to be justified. The district office requirements were laid out by an architect as an ideal, with a low of 15 classrooms plus maintenance, and a high of 22 classrooms for district

administration. Mr. Shopes believes 17 classrooms total, 5 for maintenance operations and 12 for district administration, would suit the District's needs.

Wayne Harris refined his "What If" scenario from last week – Kindergarten, maintenance operations, and preschool at Del Mar Hills; Grades 1-6 students residing West of I-5 at Del Mar Heights, and district administration to Ashley Falls School. With Kindergarten and preschool at Del Mar Hills, he proposed moving students from areas 16G, 16J and 16K to their resident school at Carmel Del Mar, and moving all transfer students at Del Mar Hills from east of I-5 back to their neighborhood schools.

Wayne Harris stated he is not completely convinced DMUSD needs to close a school, but the Board has tasked this committee to look at the possibility of closing a school. Mr. Harris's scenarios also did not analyze Sycamore Ridge, Torrey Hills, Sage Canyon or Ocean Air, based on the fact they are new and/or are full or have other mitigating issues that make them not viable.

Mrs. Wayne informed the committee that she has requested more specific information on enrollment from the district. There are further legal questions on closing a school built with Mello Roos funding. Mrs. Wayne will check with Ty Dorward of Best, Best and Kreiger for a legal opinion on this issue.

Mrs. Wayne further commented that the audience brought up many issues today. She will do her best to answer those questions and post that information to the 7/11 page of the DMUSD website. She will also re-write the speaker slips. She reminded the committee that a final recommendation is not due until December, five months to go, with plenty more meetings, and all public hearings will be held in the evening.

Consideration of preliminary consensus findings to be included in Progress Report to Board of Trustees scheduled for August 26, 2009

Mrs. Wayne reminded the committee there are two more meetings to consider preliminary consensus findings to be included in the Progress Report to Board of Trustees scheduled for August 26, 2009. This is not a final proposal or a recommendation, merely a Progress Report.

Other topics/questions from Previous Meeting and confirmation of next month's meeting dates, times and locations

Chair Bob Shopes will poll committee members to determine if the August 3 meeting at Ashley Falls MUR might be held in the evening. If the time is changed, a press release will be issued to announce the new time.

Calendar Items: Schedule tour of remaining schools—Ocean Air, Sage Canyon, and Torrey Hills—tabled to the end of August.

Upon motion by Bob Shopes, seconded by Wayne Harris, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 5:08 p.m.

Adjourn: 5:08 p.m.