

**Cabrillo Unified School District**  
**600 Church Street, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019**

**Minutes (Adopted) of Special Governing Board Workshop**

**Date and Place: February 25, 2010 - Cunha Intermediate School Library**

Board Members Present:                   Dwight Wilson, President  
  Dr. Jolanda Schreurs, Vice President  
  Dr. Kirk Riemer, Member  
  Charles Gardner, member  
  John Moseley, Clerk

Administrators at the Table:             Robert Gaskill, Superintendent  
  Elizabeth Schuck, Assistant Superintendent  
  John Corry, Director, Personnel & Pupil services  
  Diane Stupi, Director, Fiscal Services

**CALL TO ORDER/QUORUM ESTABLISHED**

President Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

**RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

The Governing board recessed to closed session at 5:16 p.m.

**RECONVENE OPEN SESSION**

President Wilson called the open session to order at 6:00 p.m.

He announced that the Board had met in closed session from 5:16 to 5:58 p.m. and that no action was taken.

He further announced that there would be two meetings this evening: The Special Governing Board Budget Workshop followed by a Special Governing Board Meeting to consider modifications to the previously approved parcel tax resolution.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC RELATED TO ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA**

There were no public comments.

President Wilson called the Budget Workshop portion of the meeting at 6:03 p.m. and asked staff to provide an overview on proposed program cuts and reductions.

Superintendent Gaskill noted that the Board would be receiving a listing of proposed cuts and reductions in “first cut, last reinstated order. He distributed copies of the “Potential Program Reductions, 2010-2011” to the Board members as well as those in attendance. He noted that the list of reductions did make use of approximately half a million dollars in one-time federal stimulus dollars and that this shortfall would need to be addressed for the 2011-2012 school year. He also commented that many things could happen to change our assumptions regarding revenues and expenditures. This list would provide the Board with a priority order for restoring cuts if additional dollars are identified.

Superintendent Gaskill concluded by discussing his rationale for not including several items on the list including the closure of Kings Mountain Elementary, the library tech positions, any reduction in regular education busing , and literacy coaches.

President Wilson asked the board members if they had any questions for clarification before receiving public comment.

Trustee Riemer called the presentation “crystal clear” and indicated he had no further questions.

Trustee Moseley requested more information about the reduction in office personnel.

Trustee Schreurs called for seeking more creative solutions and commented that cutting all school counseling positions could lead to a chaotic situation for the sites.

Trustee Gardner noted that a successful parcel tax could save twenty-five positions. He questioned whether revising the policy for granting physical education credit for certain kinds of activities would result in a savings. He also noted that he could not, in good faith, reduce site level administration for safety reasons. He concluded by calling any increase in class sizes as difficult but extremely hard.

Board President Wilson questioned why items in columns 1 and 2 were presented in the same order.

Trustee Schreurs noted that the practice of providing uncapped health insurance to employees needed to be addressed.

President Wilson opened the meeting to public comment.

Natalia Lindberg noted that counselors and literacy coaches are vital to student's welfare and that the Board needed to continue to provide full health care.

Karen Lee, a senior and ASB President at HMBHS urged support for maintaining the current level of funding for the athletic program.

Martha Jenkins also spoke in favor of the athletic program.

Parent Wendy Brown commented on the high quality of the coaches and how those coaches serve as mentors, noting it is proven that kids involved in sports do a lot better in school academically. Keep items #12.

Colleen Armor, a parent of a 7<sup>th</sup> grader called the athletic program “great.”

Sylvio Aguilar - a 4/5 grade physical education teacher argued that this is the wrong time to eliminate the elementary PE program and that childhood obesity is becoming a huge problem. He noted that district

students earned a Fitness Gram aerobic score of 41% in the “healthy fitness zone” rating. Ten years later with our current program our students are at 81%.

Teacher Sherri Baldock noted that everything on the list is going to affect teachers, classified staff, and kids. Tough decisions have to be made. She cannot do her job without counselors, classified staff, Repo Depo, and School Librarian Brian Gerber.

Parent Ninfa Patinor noted that school counselors help students who do not always have someone at home to help. She hoped that the same people will show up to work on the parcel tax since it is so critical for many of our core services.

Jill Lazar, a teacher at HMBHS noted that counselors meet with every student and have opportunities that teachers do not have. Cutting counselors is no way to share the pain. Teachers are not being hard headed but it is difficult to give what little is already there.

Brian Gerber, HMBHS Librarian, noted that the library is visited by over 7,000 students per month. Students need computer and technical help, a place to collaborate and complete FAFSA forms and college applications. The library is the hub of student learning before, during, and after school.

Holly Lynne, Duplications Center Operator suggested that sites could make better use of Repo Depo services. There are ways for district sites to consolidate printing work in a manner that would make far greater use of the Repo Depo facility and services.

Parent Lisa Garcia commented on how important the athletic program has been for her children. Counselors and coaches telephone to find out what is going on. Her son's decision to attend college was based on his high school experiences. She closed by saying she was willing to do what is needed to help with parcel tax.

Doug Pomeroy commented that the district was doing as good of job as possible given the “horrible” cuts to funding. His son received important help from counselors in his first year at Cunha. He also noted that if librarians are completely eliminated, you will have rooms that are simple “accumulations of books.” Counseling is a first line of school safety, especially for students who do not receive support at home. Take backs for existing benefits for school teachers or administrators can destroy morale and drive out good people.

HMBHS teacher Andrew Boysen commented on how counselors help students with post secondary planning and college applications. Having a credentialed teacher in the school library is especially important--particularly a librarian who has been in the classroom.

Teacher and parent Lisa Longacre said she would have a hard time with increased class sizes and noted that every program (Kings Mountain, Special Education) needs to be examined carefully. All the extras have to go first. What is going to benefit kids the most?

Cunha teacher Erin O'Connor-Brown called for the district to adhere to its motto “Every Child, Every Day” in making decisions about cuts. The people who may be hurt the most by cuts are the students.

Cindy Turgeon commented that she was pleased to see the passion from everyone in the room. She is committed to athletic programs. Kids need sports. A school counselor was able to get her daughter back

on track and Librarian Brian Gerber has helped get kids into college.

Teacher Patti Kowalczyk spoke in favor of retaining counselors and commented that she was a single teacher who cannot afford an apartment here in Half Moon Bay.

Teacher James Barnes addressed the community noting “No matter what your anger is, please pass the parcel tax. No one else will fix it for us. Do the right thing and keep this district alive.”

Teresa Kammerer noted her support for class size reduction and that she has witnessed the difference that it can make for first graders who all exit the grade reading... a big, good change.

Arthur Hofmayer asked what the impact of Item #12 (cutting the district contribution for athletics) would mean.

Superintendent Gaskill responded that the simple answer is that the Board action is not a cut of programs but rather a cut to the district portion of the funding placing greater strain on parents and booster clubs to keep sports programs in place.

CSEA President Gary Aldrich noted his concern that too much attention seemed to be focused on class size, certificated positions, and sports and not enough on the work done by classified employees. He questioned why teachers get extra stipends to coach, for example, when we could ask for volunteers to step up and perform some of these functions.

Board President Dwight Wilson called the public hearing portion of the meeting to a close at 7:53 and called for a five minute break.

He called the meeting back to order at 7:58 p.m. and suggested a format for a board discussion. He stated that the goal is to vote on an action tonight.

Following a significant amount of discussion, Trustee Gardener made a motion to move the two counseling items to 18 and 19, class size reduction to 16 and 17, and move 12 up to 15.

Additional discussion followed on the role of literacy coaches and Principals Mark Loos, Katie Berger, and Carrie Betti each briefly addressed the board.

The original motion was seconded by Trustee Moseley.

Following a considerable amount of Board discussion, Dwight Wilson called the question.

Passed: AYES: 1 Jolanda Schreurs

NOES: 4 Charles Gardner, Dwight Wilson, John Moseley, Kirk Riemer

(M - 38)

President Dwight Wilson gavelled the Budget Workshop portion of the meeting closed at 8:55 p.m. and called for a five minute break.

President Wilson called the Special Governing Board Meeting back into open session at 9:00 p.m. and noted that there was one business item remaining--whether or not to rescind the original parcel tax resolution and adopt a new one that would establish different tax rates for improved and unimproved

properties.

Superintendent Gaskill asked Attorney Chad Graff (Miller, Brown, and Dannis) to join the Board at the table for this portion of the discussion.

President Wilson opened this agenda item to public comment.

Anne Carrey, speaking for herself and on behalf of her mother, spoke in support of schools and advocated for the same parcel tax language that was originally placed before the voters in 2006 that differentiated between improved and unimproved parcels. She felt that this type of taxation was fair.

Tom Bishop, noting that a number of residents own small, odd-shaped, and difficult-to-build on lots that are regressing in value, argued that if the objective is to get a parcel tax passed, tax proposals and policies need to be equitable. A 2/3 vote is difficult and anything that is perceived as negative will give people a reason to vote against it. He argued for a lower tax rate for such unimproved property.

President Wilson closed the public hearing on this issue and returned the discussion to the board.

Following a considerable amount of discussion, President Wilson called the question.

Moved by Trustee Schreurs, seconded by Trustee Riemer to rescind Resolution #01-10 to establish the amount and term of a Parcel Tax Measure for the June 8, 2010 ballot as originally approved February 11, 2010.

Motion Defeated: AYES: 4 Charles Gardner, Dwight Wilson, John Moseley,

Kirk Riemer

NOES: 1 Jolanda Schreurs

(M - 39)

## **ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

President Wilson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Janice Olson, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Minutes presented by Mr. Gaskill, Secretary to the Board

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Certified by the Clerk of the Board

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Date