

**Lake Tahoe Unified School District
1021 Al Tahoe Blvd
So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96150**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
March 23, 2004**

Board Members Present: Wendy David, Madeline Fernald, Sue Novasel, Doug Forte, Barbara Bannar.

Staff Members Present: Diane Scheerhorn, Angie Freeman, Barbara Davis, Steve Morales, Ed Costa, Beth Delacour, Jim Watson, Mark Romagnolo, Pedro Lopes, Becky Fortier, Jackie Nelson, Marcia Kaster, Vicky Pierce, Karen Gillis-Tinlin, Jim Valdes, Ken Griest, Vivian Rider, Marie Meagher, Susan McAllister, Shaina Lucas, Linda Wysong, Carol Murdock, Melissa Bornstein, Jack Stafford, J.J. Clause.

Guests Present: Sue Abrams, Joy Rothschild, Kim Elder, Bob Albrecht, Madonna Smith, Bill Crawford, DeAnne Hooper, Cindy Swaim, Brooke Laine, Richard Solbrig, Pat Bannar, Alia Selke, Ivone Larson.

Items 1 - 2. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by Wendy David in the Board Room of the Lake Tahoe Unified School District Office at 1021 Al Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe. The pledge of allegiance was said.

Item 3. Approval of Agenda

Diane Scheerhorn asked that Board to move Item 7.B. to Item 8.E. This item requires the Board's approval.

Mrs. Fernald made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; Mrs. Bannar seconded. Ayes: David, Fernald, Bannar, Novasel, Forte. Noes: None

Item 4. Workshop

Diane Scheerhorn explained that the Board had voted to keep the current configuration of the schools, even if Measure L does not pass. She distributed a copy of the "Elementary School Comparison" which was developed by the Leadership Team. They looked at student capacity, neighborhoods, transportation, enrollment, diversity, fiscal costs, and modernization issues and ranked each on a scale of 1-5. The Board and members of Leadership discussed the comparisons. Steve Morales presented four charts showing different options for boundaries if there are three elementary schools. Some of the factors considered in developing these options were school size, modernization, number of English learners, and the diversity percentage. Barbara Bannar feels very strongly about the size of schools and English Learners. Madeline Fernald feels modernization dollars should be considered. Wendy David has concerns over the lack of a long term plan. Sue Novasel feels that transportation is important. Diane Scheerhorn asked

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2004

Page 2

the Board to study the issue and discuss it at a future meeting. Barbara Davis offered to run the EL numbers for the next meeting. Ivone Larson said that diversity is a huge issue and asked the Board to consider equity in education as they make their final decision. A workshop to continue the discussion was set for Thursday, April 1, 2004 at 8:30 am.

Item 5. Hearing Session - Forest Conservation Easement
No Comments.

Item 6. Public Hearing Session

Bill Crawford expressed his concern regarding a letter he received on district letterhead about the parcel tax exemption for people 65 and older. He said the district is using public resources for partisan political interests. Mrs. David explained that the school district does have the right to provide information and the letter was merely to clarify the fact that seniors may apply for an exemption to the parcel tax.

J.J. Clause updated the Board on recent accomplishments of the music program. A group of 130 STMS students performed at the CMEA Music Education Conference in Sacramento March 18-20. She handed out a copy of the presentation that she and Linda Kurek made at the convention on team teaching. Important music dates: 3/26 - 5th / 6th grade students to Sacramento for Music in our Schools Month; Sound of Music performance, April 1-4; Spring Concert, 4/7; Spring String Fling, 4/20; Anaheim tour 4/22; STMS Spring Concert, 5/19; Educational Foundation Dinner, 5/27; POPS Concert, 6/7-8.

Brooke Laine, president of Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation, said that a member of the Foundation will address the Board monthly. She said that there is a good partnership between LTUSD and LTEF. The Foundation gave \$55,000 to various programs this year, including eight terminals that were recently installed at the STHS library, \$2,000 to the music program, and \$4,000 towards the diversity training on April 6. LTEF supports the Boards and is happy to assist.

Sue Abrams is disappointed that the Board has voted to keep the configuration of the elementary schools. She commended the Superintendent on her responsiveness to issues and said she is a great asset to the District. She feels that diversity is a vital issue and race issues continue to affect our community. She asked the Board to consider a policy requiring complete diversity within one year in the District. Mrs. Abrams commended Mrs. Kaster on her administration skills at the High School, she is however disappointed at the teachers' lack of accommodation for her son's special needs for senior project next year. She asked the Superintendent to intervene.

Item 7. **Announcements, Correspondence, and Reports**

A. Review Parking Lot Plans - Steve Morales reported to the Board that he has been working with the City to develop plans for sidewalks and a parking lot along Lyons Avenue and Rufus Allen Boulevard. A federal grant of \$356,000 for Safe Routes to Schools will be used, along with \$83,600 from the City and LTUSD. Mr. Morales anticipates that the project will be accomplished within budget and it should be complete by the middle of August.

B. Honors Math Analysis/Trigonometry for Grades 11-12 - Moved to 8.E.

C. Superintendent's Report - Diane Scheerhorn asked the Board to let her know who will attend the AVID luncheon on Friday and which Board Members would like to join her and Barbara Davis on the administrators panel for the AVID visitors. She also asked if a Board Member could attend the music performance tomorrow at the Senior Center. Barbara Bannar volunteered. She reminded the Board of upcoming fund raisers for Measure L.

Dr. Scheerhorn asked Jack Stafford, Assistant Principal, to update the Board on his work on the issue of athletic contributions should Measure L not pass. Mr. Stafford said that he has had discussions with a local radio station regarding broadcasting sports events. He has looked at other school districts' solutions to the problem and estimated that the "fair share donation" for a student in three sports (e.g. football, basketball, and baseball) would be \$595 per year assuming a \$100,000 cost for athletics at STHS. STMS's cost is \$75,000. Dr. Scheerhorn said it was important for the Board to know that Jack is working on this and she asked him to come back with further details if Measure L doesn't pass.

Dr. Scheerhorn explained that CSEA and STEA negotiations will need to begin and she would like to put a committee of the Board together. In order to "sunshine" the contracts, the unions must come forward with the areas they wish to negotiate and the District must do the same. Deadlines have come and gone and Dr. Scheerhorn said she has talked with STEA/CSEA and they have agreed to come to the Board after the election. She asked if the Board would like to form a committee of the Board or a committee of the Superintendent. The Board chose to have a Superintendent's committee with Madeline Fernald and Doug Forte as Board representatives.

D. Board of Education Report

Sue Novasel said she visited Bijou school and was impressed with the principal. She is going back on Friday to read to kindergartners.

Barbara Bannar had good visits to Tahoe Valley, Sierra House and Al Tahoe

schools and she appreciated the warm welcome she received.

Madeline Fernald enjoyed STHS Open House. She saw the new terminals in the library. She will make a presentation to Head Start regarding Measure L. She shared information regarding the MAGNA Awards and said there are a number of programs which help to advance student learning that they can look at after the election or maybe at the retreat in August.

Wendy David reminded everyone of the Measure L fund raiser tomorrow night at LewMarNels. Al Tahoe will have "Jamba Juice" on Friday 5-7 pm where 30% of the proceeds from smoothies will go to Measure L. She said to keep in mind that Measure L is for the kids and with three weeks to go, Board Members need to get out and talk to people, answer questions, and address misinformation. Mrs. David asked the Board to support Senior Project.

Item 8.

Discussion and Action

A. Approve Grant of Forest Conservation Easement - Diane Scheerhorn distributed the proposed resolution that would be used if the Board approves the easement. The resolution authorizes the Superintendent to sign the document and execute all required escrow documents. **Mr. Forte made a motion for approval; Mr. Fernald seconded. Ayes: David, Fernald, Bannar, Forte, Novasel. Noes: None.**

B. Second Reading, Board Policy 6158 - No comments or changes
Mrs. Novasel made a motion to approve the easement; Mrs. Fernald seconded. Ayes: David, Fernald, Bannar, Forte, Novasel. Noes: None.

C. Approve Bio Mass Consulting Agreement - Steve Morales explained that the District had looked at the feasibility of installing a biomass fuel boiler at the High School to replace the 35 year old boilers. The District applied for and received a \$75,000 grant from the Forest Service. The next step is to put together the project. McNeil Technologies proposed to handle the permits process at a cost not to exceed \$34,351. The energy savings would be about \$35,000. The agreement will be presented to the Board at a future meeting. **No Action.**

D. Approve Calendars for 2004/05 and 2005/06 - Diane Scheerhorn asked the Board to consider setting graduation dates for this year and the next two years. Marcia Kaster requested that graduation be set as the last regularly scheduled calendar date (excluding snow days). The Board will discuss this at a future date. **Mrs. Novasel made a motion to approve the calendars anticipating the setting of graduation dates at a later time; Mrs. Fernald seconded. Ayes: David, Fernald, Bannar, Forte, Novasel. Noes: None.**

E. Honors Math Analysis/Trigonometry for Grades 11-12 - Barbara Davis explained that this is merely a new course of study and no new textbooks are required. **Mrs. Fernald made a motion to approve the course of study; Mrs. Bannar seconded. Ayes: David, Fernald, Bannar, Forte, Novasel. Noes: None.**

Item 9. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Novasel made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Mrs. Fernald seconded. Ayes: David, Fernald, Bannar, Forte, Novasel. Noes: None.

Item 10-11. Announcement of Items to be Discussed in Closed Session/Adjourn to Closed Session - The items to be discussed in closed session were announced and the Board adjourned into closed session at 8:00 pm.

Item 12. Reconvene into Regular Session - The Board reconvened into regular session at 8:40 pm.

Item 13. Action on Items from Closed Session

A. Personnel Order 2003/04-17

- i. Hire: Instructional Assistants
- ii. Unpaid Leave of Absence: Teachers
- iii. Hire for Extra Duty Services: Track Coach
- v. Accept Resignation: Boys' Soccer Coach

Mr. Forte made a motion to approve the personnel order; seconded by Mrs. Novasel. Ayes: David, Fernald, Bannar, Forte, Novasel. Noes: None.

B. Discipline

- i. Recommendation for Revocation of Suspension of Expulsion No. 2003/04-16. - The student violated the conditions of the suspended expulsion and will be expelled until November 18, 2004.
- ii. Recommendation for Extension of Suspension Notice No. 2003/04-25. Extend suspension until expulsion can be considered by the Board.
- iii. Recommendation for Extension of Suspension Notice No. 2003/04-26. Extend suspension until expulsion can be considered by the Board.
- iv. Recommendation for Suspension of Expulsion No. 2003/04-23. The student was expelled for being under the influence of marijuana. The expulsion is suspended under 9 conditions.

Mrs. Fernald made a motion to approve the recommendations; seconded by Mrs. Bannar. Ayes: David, Fernald, Bannar, Forte, Novasel. Noes: None.

C. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation

Mrs. Fernald made a motion to deny the claim; seconded by Mrs. Novasel.

Board of Education Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2004
Page 6

Ayes: David, Fernald, Bannar, Forte, Novasel. Noes: None.

Item 14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Mrs. David at 8:48 pm.

**Diane Scheerhorn, Superintendent and
Secretary to the Board of Education**