

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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
April 27, 2004**

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

**Staff Members Present:** Diane Scheerhorn, Anita McIntosh, Barbara Davis, Steve Morales, Ed Costa, Jim Watson, Mark Romagnolo, Pedro Aluiso, Becky Fortier, Jackie Nelson, Vicky Pierce, Karen Gillis-Tinlin, Jerry Carter, Sandy Bobman, Carol Murdock, Michael Davis, Jodi Dayberry, Joel Damerl.

**Guests Present:** Sue Abrams, Joy Rothschild, Madonna Smith, Del Laine, C.J. Burgess, Bill Senka, Vickie Senka, Alice Brady, Katrina Rieger, Lynn Norton, Carr Rieser, Angela Swanson, Chris Campion.

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 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**

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

**Item 4. Public Hearing Session**

Jim Weinberg offered thanks to all of the volunteers who worked so hard to try and pass the parcel tax. They all gave it their best. He encouraged the Board not to give up on a parcel tax, since many districts have had to try more than once.

Sue Abrams also thanked all who worked on the parcel tax. She felt that diversity issues may have harmed the outcome of the parcel tax vote. She said that more diversity in our schools may translate to more support for the schools and asked the Board to consider this issue. She complimented Dr. Scheerhorn for bringing communication to the District and commented on Dr. Davis' teamwork skills.

Lynn Norton spoke to the issue of intra district transfers. She asked that the District consider allowing students already at a site to be allowed to remain if the parents are willing to provide transportation. She felt that if transfers are not allowed that parents might look to alternative education programs.

Del Laine reported to the Board for the Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation. They are preparing for their 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration. Grants for the upcoming year will be to program rather than classrooms. They will support the computer terminals at the High School, the music program, and transportation for outdoor education, just to name a few. Awards of Honor will be given this year in the names of Cindy Prybil and Daphne Forte. Malcolm Prybil and Doug Forte will present the awards at the celebration on May 27, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. in Harrah's Special Events Center.

Michael Davis spoke to the Board as a member of the Discipline Committee at the High School. There are concerns about cheating. Technology has played a part in this problem. ABC's television program Primetime will air an episode on Thursday that covers cheating in America. He encouraged the Board to watch.

**Item 5.      Announcements, Correspondence, and Reports**

**A. Superintendent's Report** - Dr. Scheerhorn thanked all of the volunteers who worked on Measure L. She suggested that future planning be done to look at another parcel tax. Jan Tabarez was introduced. El Dorado County Office of Education provided half the funds to bring her here to help build the budget for the 04/05 school year.

**B. Board of Education Report**

Madeline Fernald commended Linda Kurek and J.J. Clause for the music program in our schools. She contacted Grammy in the Schools Organization to see about funding a teacher for our music program. They may be willing to help.

Barbara Bannar has spent time at the sites that are closing. She reminded other Board members that they need to be there to answer questions and comfort the staff. She passed out information from Saddleback Valley Educational Foundation on class size reduction and an article from *Excellence in Education* on raising money for class size reduction.

Sue Novasel commented on the tough competition that we were up against in the campaign for Measure L. She hopes that we can address the concerns that a lot of people had about the measure. She asked everyone not to lose sight of the fact that this is for the children and thanked those who gave so much of their time.

Wendy David reminded the Board of the awards ceremony at the High School on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Board members usually will present a few awards. She will contact you. Ms. David asked the Board if they would like to have lunch with a group of seniors from the High School as part of the May 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The answer was yes and it will be the Board's treat. She asked if everyone had signed up for

Senior Projects and if not to let her know. Thank you to all who worked on Measure L. They were a great group of people and she is glad she had the chance to get to know them. They worked with such devotion and passion. Thanks for everything you did.

Mr. Forte had no comment.

**Item 6. Discussion and Action**

Alice Brady, TPNS parent, is concerned for her son. The new boundaries don't appear to have considered the economic diversity. She asked about the rationale behind the decision and about the bus routes. She was told that she could make an appointment with Mr. Morales to discuss the routes.

C.J. Burgess shared her concerns about Al Tahoe Elementary and what she feels are bad choices for children made by the Board. She talked about the walking field trips that the students are able to take, the cost of bus trips, and stated that Sierra House and Bijou should have been closed.

Angela Swanson thanked the District for the work that has gone into moving forward with the closures. June 4<sup>th</sup> is Spring Fling at Sierra House and they are inviting the families that will be in their boundaries to join them. She asked the Board to keep intra district transfer options available to the families in our District.

Jim Weinberg said that we should redouble our efforts for passing another parcel tax. He realizes that the District and Board have worked hard to come to the decision to close two schools and eliminate CSR, but is there anyway that they can keep one of the schools open? Perhaps the teachers can take a permanent pay cut of 5%. He reminded the Board of the recommendations of Leadership last November. They stated 3 courses of action: the rollover of the ending fund balances; parcel tax; and a temporary pay cut. Since we have tried the two of them, perhaps we could look at the third suggestion. Please consider making changes in order to save at least one school.

Cindy Gronwold, an RSP teacher at Tahoe Valley, shared her concern over the intra district transfer situation. She can only participate in her son's school activities if he is at the same school that she teaches at. She asked the Board to keep this in mind.

Frankie Mayfield, PTO spokesperson for Bijou Community School, complimented the Board and administration on the hard work and good job that they have done. In response to the parents who would like intra district transfers,

he shared the fact that with the new boundaries, his children are no longer in the Bijou area.

**A. District “Action Plan” for School Closures and the 04/05 School Year**

Diane Scheerhorn handed out copies of the “Action Plan” which listed the departments and the work that needs to be done for the closure of two schools and a transition calendar. She reminded everyone that so many people have worked so hard, there are many hard decisions to be made, and different perspectives. We need to be united as we need to move forward. We can not tear each other apart.

The Action Plan was summarized by department: Human Resources; Curriculum; Finance; Maintenance; Special Education; Technology; Transportation; and Communication. Communication is considered a priority and Diane will be at the sites on an every other week schedule to answer questions and provide support for staff and parents. The Transition Calendar shows the time lines for completion of the action plan items. This information will be ever changing and updated as we move through the process.

A draft of the budget calendar was passed out and the Finance department has already begun on many of the items listed.

**B. Board of Education Governance**

The Board defined there areas of discussion for tonight as:

- Values - key message
- Governance roles vs. Administration roles working together
- Communication - internal and external
- Demeanor
- Respect diversity and styles/leadership
- Lay persons vs. Professionals / difference and relationships
- Commitment of time and energy to serve
- Future financial planning and parcel time line

The Board decided that beliefs would be developed at a future meeting, perhaps during the summer at a retreat.

The Board asked that Leadership, as they work through the action plans, remember the education of the children, the fiscal responsibility, and to spend the money wisely to give the best education for the children.

The role of Board was discussed, along with who does what and who to call with a question. Questions should be directed to the Superintendent.

The topic of respect of differences/styles was examined and the Board felt that they have not had much of an opportunity to get to know the leadership in the District or to build relationships with them and the community.

Contracts for administrators will be reviewed at the next meeting and the Board has been invited to tour the new juvenile facility on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The Board meeting will try to keep to a 6:00 pm start to avoid confusion for many. The WASC accreditation report will be out in June.

**Item 7-8. 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 8:35 pm.

**Item 9. Reconvene into Regular Session** - The Board reconvened into regular session at 9:12 pm.

**Item 10. Action on Items from Closed Session**  
**No action.**

**Item 11. Adjourn**  
The meeting was adjourned by Mrs. David at 9:12 pm.

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