

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DIXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 19, 2019

District Office

380 Nova Albion Way

San Rafael, CA

94903

Closed Session 5:00-5:45

Open Session 5:45

Attendance

Trustees:

Brad Honsberger

Alissa Chacko

Marnie Glickman

Megan Hutchinson

Brooks Nguyen

Administrators

Dr. Jason Yamashiro - Superintendent

Tracy Smith – Assistant Superintendent

Tanya Michel – Chief Business Officer

1. Closed Session Meeting Call to Order

The Closed Session of the Board of Trustees of the Dixie School District was called to order by Mr. Honsberger at 5:00 at The Dixie School District Office. A quorum was present.

Members Absent

None

1.2 Approval of the Closed Session Agenda

On a motion by Ms. Hutchinson Seconded by Ms. Glickman, the Trustees approved the closed session agenda. Vote 5:0 (Glickman, Honsberger, Hutchinson, Chacko, Nguyen)

1.3 Public Comment on Items in the closed session agenda

None

1.4 Recess to Closed Session to Consider and/or take action upon any item in the closed session agenda

2.0 Closed Session

2.1 With Respect to Every Item of Business Discussed in Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b): PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT Title: Assistant Superintendent

2.2 With Respect to Every Item of Business Discussed in Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS District Designated Representative: Superintendent, Employee Organizations: All Employee Groups

2.3 Reconvene to Open Session:

Mr. Honsberger reconvened the meeting to open session at 5:45

3.1 Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic Salute

The recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Hutchinson

3.2 Announcement of any reportable action taken in Closed Session

None

3.3 Approval of the Open Session Agenda

On a motion by Ms. Glickman, Seconded by Ms. Chacko the trustees approved the open session agenda. Vote: 5:0 (Glickman, Honsberger, Hutchinson, Chacko, Nguyen)

3.4 Public Comment on the Public Hearing

None

4.0 Public Hearing

4.1 Public Hearing to Consider 2 Petitions Proposing District Name Change-Board Discussion and Action

Public Hearing began at 5:50 P.M.

Speaker #1 says Marnie did not start the change the name process, he did. He asks that the board vote yes on his petition to change the district's name to Live Oak Valley Elementary School District (LOVE).

Speaker #2 says that she submitted the petition for Sojourner Truth. Asks how the board can continue to delay when children are harmed day after day. Adds that every child is watching and learning that African American pain is less urgent than other people's pain. She urges the board to change the name to Sojourner Truth.

Speaker #3 says there are two excellent names in front of the board. He urges the board to make a decision and thanks them for their service.

End of public comment on petitions

Ms. Glickman shared what she knew about who Sojourner Truth was.

Mr. Honsberger says he knows the board has a process they are working toward. He motions to deny the Sojourner Truth petition in light of that.

Ms. Hutchinson says she thinks Ms. Truth was a very inspiring American. She adds that if the community chooses this name that would be great and if they choose another name that would be great too. She would like the community to be able to voice their opinions.

Ms. Nguyen seconds the motion to deny the Sojourner Truth petition.

Vote to deny Sojourner Truth Petition, Resolution #2018/19-23

Aye: 3 (Ms. Nguyen, Mr. Honsberger, Ms. Chacko)

No: 1 (Ms. Glickman)

Abstain: 1 (Ms. Hutchinson)

Vote to deny petition passes 3:1

Mr. Honsberger opens the discussion regarding the Live Oak Valley Elementary School District petition.

Ms. Hutchinson says that she received a message from a constituent who openly condoned bullying the board on the matter of the name change. She remarked that bullying of any kind is inconsistent with the messages of this district.

Ms. Nguyen says that there are many "Live Oaks" in California. She adds that she has received comment that Oak could be reminiscent of lynching. She also notes that of the 54 names on the petition, 20 are not from the district.

Mr. Honsberger says that he agrees with Ms. Hutchinson's point that if the community chooses this name it would be fine. But we would like to engage the community in the process of name selection.

Mr. Honsberger makes the motion to deny the Live Oak Valley Elementary School District petition.

Ms. Nguyen seconds the motion to deny the petition.

Ms. Hutchinson says she likes that a student selected this name. She notes that the public comment packet received by the board contained information that indicated there are negative associations for some in the community regarding this name.

Ms. Glickman says that Kerry Pierson first addressed the issue of a name change. She adds that Ms. Burke asked the board to act quickly. Ms. Glickman shared that she has concern about discounting the voices outside of the 94903 zip code. In addition to the tax payers who live outside the district she says that she is representing all people who care about this issue. She concludes by saying Live Oak Valley meets her naming criteria.

Mr. Honsberger says that he appreciates that Ms. Glickman is considering people outside the district. But he doesn't think people inside the district have had a chance to weigh in.

Mr. Honsberger motions to deny the Live Oak Valley Petition

Ms. Nguyen seconds

Vote to deny the Live Oak Valley Elementary School District Petition, resolution #2018/19-24

Aye: 3 (Ms. Chacko, Mr. Honsberger, Ms. Nguyen)

No: 1 (Ms. Glickman)

Abstain: 1 (Ms. Hutchinson)

4.2 Public Comment on 5.1-6.4

Speaker #1 Shows picture of a person holding a confederate flag at a march that took place over the weekend. She asks who would hold a confederate flag during a peaceful march? She doesn't think Dixie is a confederate name. She adds that time and energy could be spent on better things. Also asks who is paying for attorney fees.

Speaker #2 says this is the 7th meeting on this issue. We are up to 50 hours. Asks that the board schedule a vote on a resolution to change the name. He adds that bullying is exercising 1st amendment rights. The discomfort we feel is due to our collective fragility. He says the board needs to choose a better name and do it now.

Speaker #3 says the district won't receive any minority applicants until the district changes its name. He adds that student outcomes are improved when they are taught by a diverse workforce.

Speaker #4 asks how the board can continue to delay their commitment. She says that children are being harmed. Every child is learning that African American pain is less urgent. She says the indifference they see will make them less caring and compassionate adults.

Speaker #5 says the district would move immediately if the name were Auschwitz. And the name Dixie is just as offensive to African American neighbors as Auschwitz is to Jewish neighbors. Asks to change the name and change it now.

Speaker #6 says that informing the community via FAQs is an opportunity to set the record straight.

5. Consent Agenda – Approval by Single Motion

On a motion by Ms. Glickman, seconded by Ms. Hutchinson, the Trustees approved the consent agenda items. Vote: 5:0 (Glickman, Honsberger, Hutchinson, Chacko, Nguyen)

Items on the consent agenda:

Certificated Personnel; Updates, Resignations and Retirements
Consideration of Revised Minutes from Board Meeting 2-12-19
Sunshine Letter to CSEA

6. Announcements and Special Items

6.1 Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Naming Criteria for the District and Schools

Ms. Chacko notes all school district naming criteria on the memo are fairly similar. She likes the first criteria (individuals living or deceased who have made substantial contributions to the community) and geographical.

Ms. Hutchinson says that one quality she would be open to is “lasting”. She adds that she would have concerns naming a district or a school after a living individual because it might not be lasting.

Ms. Chacko asks how Ms. Hutchinson is defining “lasting”.

Ms. Glickman says that it’s something that would represent our district for 100 years or more. She adds that one criteria used by Berkeley was “inspiring”.

Mr. Honsberger says that if it’s an individual they should have historical ties to the area and if it’s geographical it should be relevant to the area.

Ms. Glickman says she thinks inclusive is important to her.

Dr. Yamashiro writes the criteria on the board: Inspirational, lasting, inclusive and local. 1. Deceased individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the community. 2. Geographical are or geographical features in which district is located. 3. Values of our schools/community.

Mr. Honsberger motions to adopt the following naming criteria: Inspirational, lasting, inclusive and local. 1. Deceased individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the community. 2. Geographical are or geographical features in which district is located. 3. Values of our schools/community.

Ms. Hutchinson says she would like to make an amendment that not every box needs to be ticked.

Mr. Honsberger motions to adopt the criteria with amendment.

Ms. Nguyen seconds.

The board adopts the naming criteria 4:0 with one abstention

Aye: 4 (Honsberger, Nguyen, Hutchinson, Chacko)

No: 0

Abstain: 1 (Glickman)

6.2 Discussion and Possible Action on the Report from the Ad Hoc Committee’s Options for Possible Name Selection Process and Community Outreach

The proposal (attached) submitted by Trustee Glickman and Trustee Nguyen recommends:

1. Advisory Group membership operates from March 23-May 15
2. Consists of 11 members and 1 facilitator (recommends Annie Song Hill): 4 home school club presidents, 5 board appointees, the executive director of Can Do (or an appointee) and the DTA president (or an appointee)
3. Advisory Group Deliverable: 3-12 petitions for a new district name with 15 signatures each
4. After appointees are selected the Superintendent will send a statement of expectations or an Appointee Acceptance letter.
5. Superintendent will receive community suggestions for district names thru April 30
6. Superintendent will create a webpage on district site that allows for three name submission methods: email, letters and webform. Webpage will include naming criteria.
7. Superintendent will send at least two email requests to all district email list for new name suggestions.

Ms. Chacko says it feels rushed. The advisory group membership she was envisioning had a broader selection from the community. He was envisioning 11 members that could use various clubs as outreach. Also she believes CanDo would like to remain neutral on this matter.

Ms. Hutchinson says her concern is 5 board appointees. She says she doesn't think that is a trustworthy process.

Ms. Chacko says she would prefer to have principals propose members of the school community. We aren't reaching far enough. There are a lot more people out there. She adds that she thinks 11 members is enough.

Ms. Glickman says she thinks each board member would have one amazing person to suggest for the advisory group.

Ms. Hutchinson says for the board to choose the final name *and* members of the advisory group, may undermine the process.

Ms. Nguyen says part of what is challenging is the time crunch on the proposal, we have 60 school days.

Ms. Glickman says when she and Ms. Nguyen met with the HSC presidents they were ok with the time line.

Ms. Chacko reviews the categories for the advisory group: 1 alum, 4 people with kids in the district 4 without kids, 2 staff members, 2 members at large and one facilitator.

Ms. Glickman says she is interested in having this be a diverse committee. She wants to make sure African American voices are heard. How do we make sure that happens if it is all in writing?

Ms. Hutchinson says she thinks our principals are very thoughtful. She doesn't want to solicit race.

Ms. Nguyen recommends moving on to directions to the superintendent.

Dr. Yamashiro requests clarity. His recommendation is to create the form based on the Berkeley model with two board members for support. He asks for direction on a post card if the plan is to have the district send one.

Ms. Nguyen says the direction is to create the form and provide Brown Act guidance for the group when it is formed. Once all that is put together we will need to solicit names based on our criteria.

Mr. Honsberger motions for a recess at 8:15

The meeting is called into order at 8:26.

Mr. Martinez says the board has a document that needs a lot of edits. Send it back to the author. It is very important to be clear what you are voting on.

Mr. Honsberger says edits will have to be done and brought back.

Ms. Chacko says she would not feel comfortable voting on the document the way it is. She adds they haven't discussed dates either.

Mr. Honsberger says his vote would be to revise the document based on discussions and bring it back in April.

Ms. Nguyen says she has concerns because they haven't talked about the second half of the document and it is very detail heavy. She would prefer to have input so they can bring it back with the board's input.

Ms. Chacko says the board tabled the dates on the document. She asks if they want to give the subcommittee direction on the dates.

Ms. Glickman says their aspiration was for the district's name to be changed before June 30th. If the petitions (from the advisory group) are delivered no later than May 13th, the votes on those petitions have to be delivered within 40 days.

Dr. Yamashiro says that the way the timeline is laid out by shifting it a few weeks we could still meet most of the dates. It would move the timeline but not by a huge amount.

Ms. Hutchinson says membership has been addressed, it's an advisory group with 11 members. The Home School Club presidents and principals select. The community submits applications. The criteria we chose are in the notes from this evening.

Ms. Chacko asks what about the application and Brown Act disclosure?

Ms. Glickman says she heard concerns about the type of facilitator needed.

Ms. Chacko says she thinks that should be the first person identified.

Ms. Glickman says facilitation is important and Annie Song Hill is here.

Mr. Honsberger motions to revise the proposal and bring it back to the next meeting.

Ms. Chacko seconds.

Mr. Honsberger asks if the members of the proposal committee are abdicating their role.

Ms. Glickman says no.

Mr. Honsberger adds Ms. Nguyen and Ms. Glickman will be the ones revising the proposal.

Ms. Nguyen says she has concerns about moving forward with the document and not having a wide enough scope. She is concerned that they will come back in April and be back in the same place. She asks if there are any line items in that they would cross out in the second half of the document.

Ms. Hutchinson says dates could hold them up. She suggests leaving the dates in the hands of the advisory group. She adds that the board should choose a date they need a final answer and suggest possible time line.

Ms. Nguyen asks what about reporting to the board by April 23rd? We have 4 more board meeting dates before June 25th.

Ms. Chacko says they might need another meeting just to deal with this.

Mr. Honsberger calls for a vote.

Mr. Honsberger: Aye

Ms. Nguyen: Aye

Ms. Glickman abstains.

Mr. Honsberger leaves the meeting due to illness at 9:25

Ms. Glickman says she and Ms. Nguyen could bring back the proposal including an application for membership. She adds they could also come back with a long list of homeowners for outreach.

Ms. Chacko motions for Ms. Nguyen and Ms. Glickman to revise the document and bring it back as discussed.

Ms. Hutchinson seconds

All vote in favor 4:0 (Glickman, Chacko, Nguyen, Hutchinson)

6.3 Discussion Regarding Possible Date for Processing Petitions Following Committee Recommendations

Ms. Chacko motions to table this discussion until the proposal is finalized.

Ms. Nguyen seconds.

All vote in favor of tabling 6.3 4:0 (Nguyen, Chacko, Hutchinson, Glickman)

6.4 Discussion and Possible Action to Adopt List of Frequently Asked Questions Intended for Community Information

Ms. Hutchinson says she heard a lot of frustrated voices around cost and process.

Most of the ones she nailed down were regarding law. She and Dr. Yamashiro ended up with 8 FAQs in response to a lot of community concern.

Ms. Chacko says a lot of these FAQs were Brown Act related. She adds that she didn't feel like some of the answers were impartial.

Ms. Chacko adds she thinks the cost information is very helpful. Her initial reaction was how many of these questions were you getting at the district level anymore.

Ms. Hutchinson says some weren't really coming in the form of questions, they were more negative comments.

Ms. Chacko asks what if we post the Marin Community Foundation letter to the district website.

Dr. Yamashiro says we could add a link to the Brown Act, Education Code 35001 and the letter from MCF with quick introduction lines.

Ms. Glickman says she thinks we should stay big picture. She would be ok publishing it on the district website.

Ms. Hutchinson says she is ready to abandon it.

Ms. Glickman says she would be ok asking Dr. Yamashiro to follow through with his idea to add links with quick introductions to the district website.

7.1 Public Comment on Items not Specified on the Agenda

Speaker #1 says most of the board members are in favor of the name change so they should just do it.

Speaker #2 says he thinks the board is being bullied but that is how the democratic process works. People put pressure on people to get action. He adds that if you don't like it, you shouldn't have run for office. He concludes by saying, get it done, no more committees.

Speaker #3 asks the board to redo their vote and vote for LOVE.

Speaker #4 says we need to get things moving before the summer. Also offers their recording of the meetings.

Speaker #5 says the board is disappointing. The community elected leaders to make tough choices.

Speaker #6 urges the board to make a decision. Adds they are making an enemy of the good. She concludes by saying Mr. Honsberger is the most privileged on the board because he is white, straight and cisgen male.

Speaker#7 says she will make herself available to help facilitate the advisory group.

8.1 Identify Items for Future Agenda

6.3 bring back and discuss possible dates

Bring back document proposal regarding advisory group to next meeting (April 16th)

Vote resolution on whether to change name (April 16th)

Comments from Ms. Burke's postcard

Costs from Brad and Brooks (April 16th)

Gate Update

Instructional Technology on 23rd

Transportation

Adjournment

Ms. Glickman motions to adjourn

Ms. Hutchinson seconds

The meeting adjourned at 10:15pm

Respectfully Submitted By:

Jason Yamashiro, Ed., L.D.

