

**APPROVED**

**MINUTES OF THE  
MENLO PARK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**Special Meeting – Study Session  
March 1, 2006**

Board Room – District Office  
181 Encinal Avenue, Atherton, California

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The special meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. All members of the School Board were present.

A question was asked by a member of the audience regarding the legal requirements for posting of a Board meeting Agenda, specifically that of a Special Meeting, and if there is a requirement for electronic posting of an agenda to the District's website. Mr. John Hartenstein of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP responded that according to the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54950-54963, "A special meeting may be called at any time by the presiding officer of the legislative body of a local agency...by delivering personally or by mail written notice to each member of the legislative body and to each local newspaper of general circulation...requesting such notice in writing." In discussion with the Board and Superintendent Ranella it was pointed out that the Brown Act does not contain a requirement for electronic posting of an agenda. However, Board Members noted that although the Brown Act does not contain this requirement, it nevertheless would be a beneficial public service to make this type of information more available to the community by posting it on the website. Superintendent Ranella noted that current District practice is to physically post agendas at the District Office and at each of the District's schools. All agendas are also provided for posting to the Menlo Park and Atherton Libraries, The Almanac, San Jose Mercury News, the San Mateo Times, and to any member of the community making a request.

**STUDY SESSION**

Board President Laura Rich opened the Study Session noting that its purpose was to develop language for the Resolution in the event that the Board decides at its March 6 Regular Board Meeting to call for a June 6 Bond election. Board Members began by sharing their comments and feedback regarding the Community Meeting held at its Special Meeting on February 15, and Superintendent Ranella highlighted the information that was presented at that meeting.

Consultant Brad Senden, of the Center for Community Opinion, reported on the community survey that his company recently conducted regarding public opinion of the Menlo Park City School District, its programs and future projects. Mr. Senden said that the population surveyed were representative of the entire community, not only parents with children in the District, and that the solutions presented for the short- and long-term facilities issues resonated with the community and were well received. Mr. Senden noted that 54% responded in favor of \$30/\$100,000 of assessed property valuation; and 77% responded favorably relative to suggested options for reconfiguration of District schools.

**STUDY SESSION** (continued)

District Financial Advisor Charlie Feinstein, of Kelling, Northcross & Nobriga, presented a summary of Proposition 39 bond election options for the June 6 ballot. Discussion took place regarding the tax rate per \$100,000 of assessed valuation and the financing term of a bond. Bond Counsel John Hartenstein reviewed a draft Resolution with the Board and developed exact language to be included. The Resolution will be presented for action at the March 6 Regular

Meeting of the Board. Following much discussion, it was consensus of the Board that its Resolution, if it decides to call for a June 6 bond election, should reflect a tax rate of \$28/\$100,000 of assessed valuation over a period of thirty-five (35) years.

President Rich invited comments from the audience. A community member, Elias Blawie offered suggestions for clarity in wording of the Board's Resolution regarding Exhibit A, Bond Project List. Appreciation for this input was expressed by the Board.

Superintendent Ranella said a Public Hearing has been agendized at the March 6 Regular Meeting prior to the Board's consideration of placing a bond on the June 6 ballot. He added that, while the District has been engaged over the past year in looking at facility issues, going forward with a bond election is the beginning of a process of more interaction with the community. Mr. Ranella said that to-date, solutions presented regarding facility development in the District's schools to keep up with projected enrollment growth have been of a conceptual nature, and many meetings and opportunities for input from the community will be provided as specific solutions are formulated.

Superintendent Ranella reported that Trustee Nancy Serrurier and he are meeting with Tom Gibboney and Richard Hine regarding a recent article and editorial in The Almanac regarding facility development in the District and the potential bond election.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

SIGNED:

DATED: