

Board Brief

Regular Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting

May 20, 2014

School Connection

Brookside Principal, Billy Cameron, and students, Danielle McPherson, Madeline Alsterlind, Ella Schulze, Grace Sykes, Claire Ridella, expressed their views on the removal of 8 redwood trees from the Brookside campus. The trees were cleared to accommodate two new classroom buildings, (5 new classrooms and restrooms), and the children wanted to express their feelings and understanding of the decision. The students suggested that they would plant some new trees to enhance the shade and natural setting, in honor of the imaginative play that the trees inspired in them. The trustees also received letters and cards from students who were unable to make the meeting, all mourning the loss of their trees.

Facilities/Maintenance

Brian Crawford from San Anselmo Open Space Committee presented to the Board, a plan to reconstruct the Red Hill Trail. Ross Valley School District owns a small strip of land that is needed to complete the reconstruction and provide a trail head. The Town is requesting that the District grant a permanent easement to facilitate the completion. If approved by Council, the Town will take responsibility for all development, liability and maintenance costs. The Board expressed support for the project and looks forward to receiving a formal request from the Town. For more information on San Anselmo Open Space Committee, their website is www.sananselmoopenspace.org.

Human Resources

Interdistrict Transfer Revision: The Board approved very specific changes to Board Policy 5117 to allow students who were accepted on an interdistrict transfer before November 2011 to remain in the district through their 8th grade years. The Board will look at the policy in whole at a date in the near future.

Declaration of Need for Fully Credentialed Staff for the 2014-15 School Year: The Board approved the Declaration of Need for the 2014-2015 school year.

Bond Program

George Baranoff, Bond Program Manager, reported that the modular classrooms for Brookside School have been approved by the Department of State Architect, and are in the process of being fabricated at the factory. The developer is progressing with the foundations and the project is on schedule for completion in time for the start of school in August. The redwood trees that were cut down are being recycled into benches and stools to be used on the campus.

The Board directed staff to study possible options to expand the railing on the second floor of the 7th and 8th grade buildings.

Business

Jim Cerreta, Business Manager, recommended a funding allocation for the elementary technology installation project. The net result is that \$46,505 will be allocated from the Common Core grant in order to fulfill the planned installation of instructional technology for the elementary schools in 2014-15 school year.

The Board awarded a contract to Bockmon & Woody Electric Company for their bid of \$458,258.00 to install the in elementary infrastructure and equipment. The work is to be completed over the summer in all four of the elementary schools.

The Board reviewed and discussed the second draft of the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). The LCAP was developed by district staff in conjunction with all of our stakeholders. The Board reviewed what was important to students, teachers, principals, YES foundation, parents, and community members. The Board will take this list as well as the current unfunded list (most of which overlaps) and develop a prioritization plan.

However, the Board also discussed Governor Brown's revision to state budget proposals for the 2014-15 year (a.k.a. the May Revise) which came out on May 15, 2014. Governor Brown proposed a plan to fully fund the retirement plan of all the state's teachers in the next 6-7 years. This plan will cost the district about \$1million over the next three years, leaving little funding available for other initiatives. The legislature will discuss this proposal and must have an approved budget by June 30. The Board of Trustees will receive an update from staff at our next meeting on June 3rd.