



PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District is to educate and to support learners in reaching their highest potential. We prepare students to pursue successful futures and to make positive contributions to the community and global society.

JULY 21, 2003 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING ADOPTED MINUTES

District Office
Conference Room C
292 Green Valley Road
Watsonville, CA 95076

Please note change of
room for open session!!!

Please note time!

1.0 OPENING CEREMONY – MEETING OF THE BOARD IN PUBLIC – 7:30 AM

1.1 **Call to Order**

President Nichols called the meeting to order at 7:45 am.

1.2 **Pledge of Allegiance**

President Nichols led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 **Welcome by Board President**

Trustees Rhea De Hart, Sharon Gray, Dan Hankemeier, Evelyn Volpa, and President Sandra Nichols were present. Trustee Volpa arrived to the meeting at 8:30 am. Trustees Yahiro and Roberts were absent.

1.4 **Public comments on closed session agenda.**

None.

2.0 **ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

2.1 **Report, discussion and possible action on Clarification of Board Direction Relating to Bus Routes. Report by Terry McHenry, Associate Superintendent.**

In reference to the Administration not following directive from the Board in 2000, when they voted to eliminate these routes, Dr. Mays assured the Board that the current administration is committed to following through on directives from the Board. She mentioned that in March Mr. McHenry let her know that these routes would be cancelled and that this was communicated only to the Trustees from the North Zone and affected parents. From this experience, Dr. Mays noted that it will become practice to ask, “Who else needs to know?”

Terry McHenry reported on how the process has gone with these routes. He requested directive from the Board to either implement district policy or to reinstate those routes, which would involve costs and with a potential Office of Civil Rights issue. He noted that a predominant number of students on those routes are Anglo students. He added that the initial intent was to bus minority students to magnet schools but that it resulted in busing Anglo students to schools in the North zone. He provided counts of student busing demographics, based on last name, to elementary schools and noted that out of 34 students to Rio Del Mar, 19 were Anglo, and that out of 58 students bused to Mar Vista, 34 were Anglo.

Sylvia Previtali, community member, commented that the District seems to be selectively transporting interests. She said that the transportation commission needs to look at this situation. She mentioned financial sources that could fund these routes and noted that there is an appearance of racism.

Dan Hernandez, community member, commented he was part of the founders of transportation issues and added that former superintendent, Dr. Avina, instated these routes for desegregation purposes. He commented that basing ethnicity on last names would not be an accurate assessment.

Dr. Mays commented that when cabinet discussed intra-district transfers in February, it seemed that what the District had been doing was transporting socio-economically advantaged families to other schools, and that this contributes to language isolation rather than a racial isolation.

Trustee Gray commented that the Board was not notified when the former superintendent decided not to implement its directive. She spoke of her concerns for legally reinstating the original directive by the Board of three years ago.

President Nichols commented that the Board's decision in 2000 related to two of the sites, Aptos Jr. High and Aptos High, but not the elementary sites. She said that her suggestion would involve maintaining bus routes that give priority only to English Language Learners, which would in turn allow for more integration. She said that this would be her motion if she had the opportunity to make one.

Trustee DeHart commented that the transportation taskforce would need to look at all this information and do a reevaluation.

Mr. McHenry noted his concern for the timeframe being looked at, specifically presenting routes to bus drivers with enough time.

Trustee Volpa arrived at 8:30 am. She asked if the District would face potential liability if only 10% of intra-district transferred students are transported.

Dr. Mays said that she assumed that there would be potential liability.

President Nichols moved to assign to the taskforce the task of studying how our schools could give priority to English Language Learners who choose to integrate themselves to schools that have a higher English fluency and based on bus space availability.

Trustee DeHart seconded the motion.

Trustee Hankemeier inquired if a quorum or a majority of the Board needed to be present to pass an action item.

Dr. Mays noted that the motion did not address the issue of the routes.

President Nichols added to her motion that in the meantime the District should continue the routes.

Trustee Volpa commented that when this item was discussed at the last Board meeting, she recommended that it be voted on with all seven Board members present.

Mr. McHenry reiterated that when this item was evaluated, following policy was the key issue, and that once magnet students were gone these routes were transporting intra-district transfers, contrary district policy.

Dr. Mays recommended tabling this item until all members are present.

Dorma Baker, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, commented that since parents have already been notified that they would need to transport their intra-district student, there is still time to plan if the Board should reinstate these routes at time to re-bid in October.

Trustee DeHart noted that in the meantime the District should continue with the status quo, with the understanding that the transportation committee would further evaluate the situation.

Dr. Mays added to that parents who have difficulty transporting their intra-district student could have their case addressed by cabinet.

Based on the assurance from Dr. Mays that assistance to families who need it to transport their child would be sought, President Nichols withdrew her motion.

Board members agreed with Dorma Baker's recommendation.

Open session was adjourned at 8:50 am and Board members continued with mediation in closed session.

3.0 CLOSED SESSION – 8:30 AM

3.1 Instruct District Labor Negotiator Regarding PVFT Negotiations

3.2 Mediation

4.0 OPENING CEREMONY – MEETING OF THE BOARD IN PUBLIC

4.1 Call to Order

No agreement was reached during mediation. There was no public session held after closed session.

5.0 ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

5.1 Report, discussion and possible action on Consideration and Possible Adoption of Tentative Agreement Reached in Negotiations with PVFT under item 3.0 above.

No action was taken.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, closed session on mediation adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Secretary