

Irvine Unified School District

Irvine, California

***Board of Education
Minutes of Special Meeting
January 8, 2002***

Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Choi at 5:45 p.m., in the District Administration Center, 5050 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA.

Roll Call

Members Present:

Sue Kuwabara, Karen Preston, Margie Wakeham, Steven Choi

Members Absent:

Carolyn McInerney (Member McInerney joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m.)

Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:47 p.m.

Conference with Labor Negotiator

The Board discussed labor negotiations. No action was taken.

Reconvene Special Meeting

President Choi reconvened the meeting at 7:11 p.m. and reported on the discussion in Closed Session.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by President Choi and was followed by a moment of silence.

Roll Call

Members Present:

Sue Kuwabara, Carolyn McInerney, Karen Preston, Margie Wakeham,, Steven Choi

Members Absent:

None

Staff:

Patricia Clark White, Superintendent

Sue Long, Deputy Superintendent, Human Resources

Vern Medeiros, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Financial Officer

Dean Waldfogel, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Lee Brooks, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Other Staff:

Anne Caenn, Don Chadd, Dennis Gibbs, Erica Hoegh, Leah Laule, Mark Sontag,

Stan Steele, Adelle Yeaton

Budget Reductions Study Session

Budget Crisis

Superintendent White provided an overview of the core fiscal problem, including funding inadequacies and higher expenditures in support of the District's enriched programs. She outlined District efforts to address the budget shortfall including aggressive legislative action for equalization, two parcel tax efforts, entrepreneurial enterprises with the City and local businesses, and a class action suit for special education funding. CFO Vern Medeiros reviewed the current budget problem and reported on escalating insurance costs and a lack of funding for any salary schedule improvements. He advised an anticipated \$4 million shortfall over the next two years. Deputy Superintendent Dean Waldfogel reported on the work of the Program & Services Analysis Task Force and presented a list of Cost Savings Options for the Board's consideration.

Small School Recommendations

The staff recommendation relative to small schools was presented, including a recommendation to close Los Naranjos Elementary School at the end of the current school year. Students from the Ranch and Smoketree would be assigned to the Deerfield attendance area; students from Orange Tree would be assigned to the Oak Creek attendance area. Permanent Los Naranjos teaching staff would be given priority placement at Oak Creek. The Los Naranjos facility would remain open to house all district preschool programs.

Superintendent White reported that staff had analyzed more than a dozen alternative proposals from the community. Rationale for the recommendation included significant cost savings through the elimination of overhead, revenue enhancements from the consolidation of preschool programs, and concern about creating a non-viable educational program at Los Naranjos due to limited enrollment.

Recess

President Choi called a recess at 9:00 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Oral Communication

Vickie Lynn Bibro, 16 Campanero W 92620, addressed the Board regarding the proposed cuts, and expressed support for cutting extracurricular programs before core academic areas or closing schools.

Adjournment

There being no further Board of Education business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Steven S. Choi
President

Patricia Clark White
Superintendent