

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
AND CLAYTON CITY COUNCIL
Monday, March 6, 2017 (6:30 p.m.)

CALL TO ORDER

City of Clayton Vice Mayor Keith Haydon called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and conducted Roll Call with Councilmembers Catalano, Pierce, and Haydon present. Mayor Diaz arrived at 6:48 p.m. Councilmember Shuey was absent.

Board President Debra Mason conducted Roll Call with all Board members present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Haydon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING REMARKS

Opening remarks were made by Vice Mayor Haydon and Board President Mason.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no Public Comments made.

REPORTS/INFORMATION

See below.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE BETWEEN MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE CLAYTON CITY COUNCIL

Members of the Clayton City Council, members of the Mt. Diablo Board of Education, and the Superintendent and will provide each other updates on items of mutual interest and discuss current partnerships and other areas of cooperation. Discussion items may include:

(a) Presentations by Principals of Mt. Diablo Elementary, Diablo View Middle School and Pine Hollow Middle School. (MDUSD)

Principals Dawn Edwards-Mt. Diablo Elementary School, Patti Bannister-Diablo View Middle School, and Shelley Bain-Pine Hollow Middle School gave presentations on activities and projects on their campuses.

(b) Continued discussion of opportunities for improved protocols establishing neighborhood notification of outdoor school and/or Parent-Faculty Club events on school campuses during non-traditional school hours. (Clayton City Council)

Councilmember Pierce provided feedback as a member of the Mt. Diablo Elementary community noting that it is much better this year. She shared that notifications of events may not be as far-reaching as they need to be, and it can be difficult to read the school's electronic marquee driving by.

(c) Continued discussion of vehicle traffic during drop-off and pick-up hours issues near Mt. Diablo Elementary School and Diablo View Middle School. (Clayton City Council)

Councilmember Pierce shared that vehicle traffic continues to be problem with traffic backing up to Clayton Road at times. She suggested the Parent Faculty Club (PFC) continue efforts to educate parents about the hazardous conditions drivers cause when not obeying traffic laws. She noted that the improved traffic lanes are better; however, there is not enough capacity to accommodate all of the vehicles.

Councilmember Catalano shared that she has children attending both schools and the primary drop-off and pick-up areas are congested. She suggested parents park at the downtown Clayton Park and walk children up the pathway to school.

Board Vice President Hansen stated she wanted to check on the status of the Clayton Police Chief's idea of the "student valet" program at the elementary schools. Students usher children in and out of their parents' cars. She shared that she thought it was a great idea when she heard it last year and wondered what happened. Councilmember Pierce added that she was not certain whether or not the student valet program had been implemented or not. City Manager Gary Napper stated he would request a copy of the procedures used for the student valet program at Livermore Unified School District and will provide the materials to Dr. Meyer for consideration of implementation.

Renee Culp, the PFC President at Mt. Diablo Elementary, asked if Councilmember Pierce noticed a positive difference in the flow of traffic when the route was changed approximately three years ago after the PFC was approached by Street Smarts. Councilmember Pierce stated she felt the flow of traffic seemed smoother; however, she has observed parents dropping off younger children going around the vehicle line of traffic creating a hazardous condition when they turn left at the intersection. Councilmember Pierce added afterschool daycare buses also contribute to the afternoon backup.

Board member Lawrence suggested having parents act as valets to assist with getting children out of vehicles more efficiently. Mr. Lawrence asked if Councilmember Pierce was looking for alternative forms of communication for events conducted outside of the traditional school day or if more notice were needed on the electronic message board. Councilmember Pierce stated that broader noticing of the neighborhood is preferable, but that more notice on the electronic message board would be helpful.

(d) Report/Update from MDUSD regarding its after-school intermural sports programs at Diablo View Middle School. (MDUSD Board)

Jonathan Eagan, Assistant Superintendent of Middle Schools, gave a presentation and slideshow about the middle schools' intermural sports program, currently in its second year. He shared that soccer occurred in the fall; kickball in November; and he noted this year, volleyball, track and field jamboree was added. Mr. Eagan shared that this program is offered at no cost to students and transportation to play games at other schools is provided. He stated adults are background checked and participants' grades are checked weekly. He noted that referees used for the middle school sports program also work high school games and are concussion trained.

Mr. Eagan responded to councilmembers' questions sharing that each school has approximately 50 students in soccer; 1 girls team and 1 boys team in volleyball; 2 boys and 2 girls teams in basketball (6th grade teams and 7th/8th grade teams); and that for flag football, every participant must play. He shared that games generally begin at 3:30 p.m. after school to allow visiting teams time to travel to the home school's campus.

(e) Information/Status report for renovation of play fields at Mt. Diablo Elementary School. (MDUSD)

Tim Cody, Director of Measure C, and Dawn Edwards, Principal of Mt. Diablo Elementary School, provided an update on the fundraising efforts for the renovation of the play fields at Mt. Diablo Elementary. Ms. Edwards shared that to date, \$250,000 of the \$900,000 goal has been raised. Mr. Cody added that the project is in the very early stages of fundraising and the community may not see it begin until next year. Dr. Meyer shared that the plan includes looking to add a track around the turf and she thanked community member Pat Middendorf and Mt. Diablo Elementary's PFC for their collaboration on fundraising.

Councilmember Pierce asked for clarification on the type of turf proposed, the material considerations for the surrounding track, as well as prevention of the ground squirrels returning to the area. Mr. Cody shared the project includes a synthetic track, as well as a synthetic infield as the squirrels are typically not attracted to those materials. Mr. Cody stated that by changing the grades at the back slope and installing erosion-controlled landscape to the outside, a slightly smaller play field will result.

Councilmember Catalano inquired if the project would be fully funded by community fundraising. Dr. Meyer shared that the District is looking at funds they could contribute as a result of the last sale of Measure C bonds. She added that the District wants this to be a joint community project. Vice Mayor Haydon inquired about the on-going maintenance costs of the field renovation project and how that would be funded. Dr. Meyer shared that ongoing maintenance costs have been a consideration all along and that the District is committed to improve, maintain and rehab the facilities to the same standard as the high school fields.

Board member Mayo thanked everyone involved in the fundraising efforts and suggested that what might really be needed is another school facilities bond to take care of other campuses without the need for community fundraising. Pat Middendorf thanked the District and staff for its help. She announced an upcoming community event, "Clayton Round-Up"/Relay for Life on June 17, will be donating half of its proceeds to the play field renovation project.

City Manager Napper requested the District keep the City informed of its construction plans as the underground wildlife will migrate to the hill slope on Clayton Road, where the drainage problems which partially caused the squirrel habitation, were recently solved through joint efforts of the City and District.

MDUSD Board Vice President Hansen inquired about the status of a lot near the school where she has heard that Clayton Community Church is intending to build on the adjacent property. City Manager Napper shared that the church owns the property and is in the process of submitting a land use application to the City.

He noted that earlier development submittals were deemed incomplete by City staff, and he understood the church is working with the District regarding shared parking on the adjoining lots as the church plans to have a worship center on the property.

(f) Discuss potential for a joint project to construct an all-weather mini-track and/or enclosed recreational building on Field No. 4 (City property) adjacent to the Clayton Community Gym on the Diablo View Middle School campus. (Clayton City Council).

Vice Mayor Haydon shared he has been contacted by a number of people noting that this year's rainy weather impacted outdoor activities which necessitated many to go outside of the Clayton area to rent indoor facilities. He noted that this is a potential opportunity for the District and City to consider building a structure to accommodate a variety of sports with the potential of rental fees generating some income. An overhead of Field 4 at Clayton Community Park was displayed and depicted one possibility for a mini-track.

Board President Mason inquired if there are similar facilities nearby that can be viewed. Councilmember Pierce shared that there are several YMCA facilities in the state of Colorado with these types of facilities due to their weather, and added that developing this site with similar improvements could be helpful to the school and community for indoor and/or outdoor activities.

Pat Middendorf inquired if the City Council has considered installing an asphalt track as it is an all-weather surface, very affordable, and can last a long time.

Principal Patti Bannister, Diablo View Middle School, noted there is an ongoing safety concern when students run the mile on Wednesdays around the school's basketball courts after the installation of traffic calming bumps installed at the school. She suggested adding on to that existing track to prevent students from running in the road.

Ted Meriam, the Vice Chairperson/Community-at-Large Board member for Clayton Valley Charter High School, commented he thought this conversational exchange was very good and added that he thought next time an invitation to Clayton Valley Charter High School Board should be extended to sit in on this exchange as the high school serves many students residing in Clayton.

City Mayor Diaz and Board President Mason thanked everyone for attending and stated that no formal action was taken on any of these agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

City Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Nellie Meyer, Superintendent