

BEAR VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON APRIL 13, 2015, BIG BEAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Present: Dr. Stephen Foulkes
Mr. John Goepf
Mrs. Beverly Grabe
Mrs. Cathy Herrick
Mr. Paul Zamoyta

Absent: None

Also Present: Mr. Kurt Madden
Mr. Walter Con
Mrs. Tina Fulmer
Ms. Paulina Ugo
Mr. Terry Planz
Mrs. Syd Callaway
Mrs. Bonnie South
Mr. Ron Peavy
Mr. Phil Hamilton
Mrs. Judi Bowers

President Grabe called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. at the School District Office. Open Session

President Grabe called for a motion to adopt the agenda for the meeting. Motion by Mr. Zamoyta to adopt the agenda for the meeting. Second by Dr. Foulkes. President Grabe called for the vote. Said motion was approved by the following roll call vote: Adoption of Agenda M14-15-165

AYES: Foulkes/Goepf/Grabe/Herrick/Zamoyta

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

President Grabe called for Public Comment on Closed Session Agenda items. Hearing no request to make Public Comment, President Grabe adjourned the meeting to a Closed Session 5:02 p.m. Public Comment

Pursuant to Government Code 54957: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release. Closed Session

Pursuant to Government Code 54957: Conference with Labor Negotiator: Agency Negotiator: Mrs. Tina Fulmer, Director of Personnel/Educational Services. Two Bargaining Units (B.V.E.A./CSEA #415).

President Grabe called the meeting back into Open Session at 6:09 p.m. All present participated in a Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. Open Session

President Grabe reported no action was taken during the Closed Session.

President Grabe opened the Hearing Section for Public Comment at 6:10 p.m. Hearing no request to make Public Comment, President Grabe closed the Hearing Section at 6:11 p.m. Public Comment

Mr. Madden provided a history regarding the District 7/11 Advisory Committee and the process followed to create this advisory committee. Mr. Peavy stated Education Code 17389 provides the opportunity for a committee such as this to be established noting 50% of school district are in declining enrollment; each one having its own uniqueness. This report is a recommendation not a mandate and that is how it is set up in Education Code. Mr. Madden introduced the committee members present. Mr. Hamilton reviewed the Governing Board action dates and resources used by the committee. Mr. Peavy reviewed Phase 1 (Chapters 1 and 2) from the Closing a School Best Practice Guide. The committee falls under the Brown Act and those protocols were followed as intended. Part of this phase is updating a Master Facilities Plan. There is an expense in closing a school. There were five options/recommendations that came out of the committee. Mr. Hamilton reviewed Phase 3 (Chapter 3) Making a Decision. Depending on what happens in Phase 2, Phase 3 may not happen. Mr. Peavy noted the public hearings were basically the committee meetings. Education Code calls for open meetings to be held and advertised in the normal way. Education Code does not state how many public hearings should be held; this is up to the Governing Board. Following public hearings, the Board would consider any actions. Phase 3 transition; if it is decided a site would be closed. Chapter 5 pertains to disposing of school property. Some dialogue took place about selling versus leasing and what else could be done with the property. Mr. Peavy reviewed the classroom analysis based on numbers provided on November 5, 2014. Meetings were held at all three elementary schools and the middle school. Also reviewed was reconfiguration if a site is closed. Mr. Hamilton stated the Board needs to address the issue of portable classrooms and what will be done with them. The same reason standards are set for classroom utilization; they will provide a benchmark for classroom utilization. This committee worked very hard to allow a great deal of input. Informal recommendations are being presented this evening; how the Board proceeds is their decision. Mr. Peavy and Mr. Hamilton reviewed the Executive

Summary. The floor was opened to the Governing Board for question on the various options.

Mr. Zamoyta asked Mr. Planz to provide an estimate of the maintenance needs required to bring Big Bear Elementary School up to speed. Mr. Planz provided the following items: Heating/plumbing/renovation ADA for addition-portable/asphalt/student drop off/kitchen/gym. This list has an estimated total of \$4-7 million dollars with ADA upgrades.

Dr. Foulkes stated ADA upgrades are only required if you are adding or upgrading-correct?

Mr. Zamoyta asked which items are necessary within the next five to ten years. Mr. Planz answered plumbing and heating noting parts are becoming an issue. Heating and plumbing would cost approximately \$1.5-2 million dollars. There may be new codes i.e., fire alarms. There are roof issues as well.

Dr. Foulkes stated he is confused by the cons. They seem like pros rather than cons. Mr. Peavy answered it is what the impact would be district wide if a site was closed.

Mr. Goepp stated he would have expected to see what would have to be done to maintain a site if we did not close it.

Mr. Hamilton added this is what the entire committee felt was appropriate to bring forth to the Board.

Mr. Zamoyta asked Mr. Stinson how long, in general, does it take to put a portable at a site. Mr. Stinson answered one to one and a half years depending on DSA and their reviews of the site work. What would need to be done to an existing facility? Parking would be reviewed. Price per portable is \$225,000.00. Stick built would be \$500,000.00 to \$550,000.00 per square foot. To replace a portable with a permanent structure is a two year process and would cost \$500,000.00 to \$550,000.00 per square foot. This is for a 960 square foot classroom. Toilet adjacency would need to be evaluated as well. The zoning of the District Office was discussed; it is zoned as open space. Big Bear Elementary School is education and open space; the same issue would exist at that site. Twenty years is the life span for portables; however, in Big Bear, that may possibly be shorter.

Mr. Peavy stated if the Governing Board wants to pursue closing a school site, the first thing you want to do is meet with legal counsel.

Dr. Foulkes asked if there was a definitive answer of the difference between selling the District Office versus a site. Mr. Peavy stated the answer was if we could keep the money from the sale of the District Office. This would be a question to ask legal counsel.

Option Two was discussed:

Mr. Goepp asked if the assumption was made that enrollment would stay consistent in future years. Mr. Peavy answered the committee used an enrollment of what it could look like over a period of years.

Mr. Hamilton noted in Option Three, the committee tried to play out declining enrollment. Selling a site is not like selling a house; it is very complex at best. Dr. Foulkes asked if the committee used the last year drop in enrollment or an average. Mr. Peavy stated historically, the last four to eight years has been 2% which is an average. The committee used the 2% figure assuming this could happen but what if that goes up in two years; consider the option that gives you time to look at this. We are down a total of 154 students; 104 more than we thought. Mr. Madden stated our current enrollment is 2390. Mr. Con added 2% might be conservative; it may be 3-4%. Mr. Peavy added we need to look at the factors that go into this.

Option Four was discussed:

Mr. Hamilton stated moving a technology hub is a significant issue and expense. President Grabe asked if we were to sell the District Office, can we keep the money? The answer is yes.

Mr. Goepf noted the possible large scale movement of students and the time now plus the time it would take to implement the transition. The opinion of the committee was to attempt to do anything for the next school year would be foolish.

Dr. Foulkes noted the process of selling is very complex and asked if there was anything in the research as to what the fair market value would be. Mr. Peavy answered the committee did not have all that detail. Mr. Madden noted the District Office is open space and cannot be converted. Mr. Planz added this would take changes from the Planning Commission to sell privately. Mrs. Grabe asked if there is a time limit on public sale. Mr. Planz answered a Government agency has 60 or 90 days to express interest then it moves on to the next level of public.

Dr. Foulkes noted the issue is price; how do we establish the price point? Do we lease it or do a land trade? Once it becomes public, it is hard to sell unless you exhaust the process. Mr. Zamoyta asked if there is an entity that sets the price. Mr. Planz answered yes. Mr. Peavy noted his personal experience has been the next step would be to meet with legal counsel.

Option Five was discussed:

Mr. Hamilton stated some people feel very strongly about where their students attend school. This might relieve some of the trauma of losing the attachment to a neighborhood school. When we say the middle school has five available classrooms, that does not mean those classrooms sit empty during the day. There is some quality that would be compromised if these classrooms were eliminated. The reality is things would change at the middle school.

Mr. Peavy reviewed the idea that was to see what our enrollment looked like, how many classrooms were being used, and if you project out, how that would unfold based on assumptions.

2015-2016 was not included because it looked like it would be two years out before consolidation could take place and be manageable.

An opportunity was provided for Committee Members to comment:
Mr. Scott Waner expressed appreciation to the Governing Board and local media for taking this into consideration; this is very near to our hearts. He thanked everyone involved for taking the time to research and taking this seriously on behalf of the Big Bear Elementary School staff.
Ms. Lucy Ordway commented on money versus quality of education. Ms. Ordway outlined the possibility of moving 6th grade to the middle school and getting rid of some portables, redrawing boundaries, and creating K-5 elementary schools. Mr. Peavy added because of the size of grades 5 and 6 now, this could not be done in the next two years.

Mr. Peavy explained how Phase One is the meeting tonight; Phase Two would be public hearings, etc.; Phase Three would be the creation of an expanded 7/11 Committee.

President Grabe expressed appreciation for what the 7/11 Committee has done; this is very much an issue because of emotions. We cannot run on emotions, however, we have to be very sensitive to our community. We have seen the options and we have been given a great deal to look at and research. This board will not take this lightly and rush to make a decision; that would not be appropriate.

Mr. Madden expressed appreciation to each 7/11 Committee Member and reminded all present this is a multi-million dollar decision and education priorities must be taken into consideration.

President Grabe called for a break at 7:27 p.m.
President Grabe called the meeting back into Open Session at 7:40 p.m.

Break
Open
Session

Mr. Madden needs direction on the Options presented. President Grabe stated we need to have several workshops where this is discussed. Statements were made by each board member and a consensus was reached with direction being given to Mr. Madden – in the 2015-2016 school year, there will be no changes as far as closing a school or facility. The Governing Board will continue to look at enrollment and data. It was suggested we discuss this topic during workshops throughout the 2015-2016 school year. The planning process will take 12-18 months and we desire public participation.

Mr. Madden introduced Mr. Mike Chatham. Mr. Chatham presented an overview of the Request For Proposal process for a district wide phone system. A history of other systems were reviewed as was the current reality of the district's phone system. This included limiting factors. Mr. Chatham explained the E-Rate process and guidelines. Also

explained was the process of moving toward a new way of faxing which would prove to be a slow implementation process. Cost was presented on a three year term. The costs shown do not reflect E-Rate discounts. Mr. Chatham also reviewed a possible implementation timeline.

A question was asked regarding any issues with internet connectivity in classrooms; the answer is no.

Mr. Madden reviewed the process and timeline leading up to a contract being presented to the Governing Board for approval.

Mr. Madden expressed appreciation to Mr. Chatham and his team for their work on this presentation.

President Grabe adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Secretary

Clerk of the Board