

Public Meeting
NEW SHORES SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, October 23, 2008. 6:30 PM

LOCATION:

Conference Rooms: Oak Conference Room
San Mateo County Office of Education
101 Twin Dolphin Drive, Redwood City

A. ROLL CALL – Joseph Foust, Committee Secretary

Representing Advisory Committee:

Joe Foust, Pete Hughes, Bonnie Wolfe, Lawrence Pon, Scott Miron, Darby Limkakeng, Heather Irwin, Doug Crisman (via teleconference, room door open and agenda posted on door)

Representing Belmont-Redwood Shores School District:

Nellie Hungerford, Assistant Superintendent; Joe DiGeronimo, Consultant; Mitch Rhodes, Blach Engineering; Dr. Emerita Orta-Camilleri, Superintendent; Linda McDaniel, Sandpiper Principal; Jeni Benelli, School District Trustee

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Meeting convened at 6:40 PM
- Minutes of 9/9: Approved as written (Joe Foust abstained due to absence)

C. MEMBER REPORT/COMMENTS

- No reports

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

E. UPDATE OF MEASURE U – C. Velschow, Co-Chair of Measure U Parcel Tax Committee

- Fundraising close to goal. Raised >\$103K. All mailings will be able to be sent. Added extra weekend of precinct walks. There appears to be more undecided votes than consultants would have liked. Shooting for seven contacts with the voters, with four mailings and other contacts. Next week is critical with the phone banking. There is a win bonus for the consultants if passed. Need to spread the words about the need for volunteers for phone banking.

F. DISTRICT REPORT–Nellie Hungerford, Asst. Superintendent, Bus. Services & Operations

• **Loss in Bond Proceeds due to Lehman Collapse**

All of School Funds are invested in County Investment Fund along with all other school districts. Fund suffered a loss of \$150M, with \$1.6M loss in the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District. Of that, \$1.15M is from the Measure C Bond proceeds. Most of the other amount is from the General Fund. As of today, the money has been taken from the District, recorded as a negative interest. This will impact our ability to build the school that we planned.

What is the school district doing to avoid future losses? Not much the District can do as it is required by law to keep our money in that fund. The District is looking into other places where the funds can be kept and what resolutions are necessary to give ability to move the money.

L. Pon investigated independently and provided a copy of the investment policy and statement to the NSSAC. There are no outside advisors but there is an oversight

committee, none of which are financial professionals. All school district credit ratings are affected by this loss. County Supervisors are looking into resolutions to change investment policies. Legal team has been hired to represent counties' interests. Questions were raised as to how our share was calculated, as it was based on the average value of the funds across the quarter, not the value at time of the Lehman bankruptcy.

- Update on New School Design – Timeline

Made first submission to State DSA on Tuesday. Shooting to start site build in January. Going out for bid very soon. Entire school design being submitted to DSA by December 21. Envisioning the state will give two levels of approvals, first ones expected in February and more complicated Multipurpose Room(s) in late-March. Substantial amount of work required between January and August. SKW was able to change submittal to Sacramento instead of the Bay area organization, as Sacramento is less back-logged. Plans are based on turning over site from Keech properties on January 1 and ground breaking ~Jan 12. Any heavy rains will potentially impact planned work. Detailed designs with SKW and Meehleis Modular are in process.

Opening of school is planned to be in phases. First portion will include the Kindergarten, Admin building, and east side classrooms, with first phase opening in August 2009. Initial bids should be in prior to getting state approvals in December. The second phase (remaining structures) would immediately follow by January 2010. Opening the entire school is possible but would require additional costs due to the extra shifts and overtime that would be required to meet such a goal. Max Keech will be hosting site visits on Nov. 3 & 4 for those interested.

Due to budget issues, we need to revisit priorities on the “add-alternates” with the multipurpose room now being considered as an add-alternate. District has entered into a Lease-Leaseback arrangement with Blach Construction. District has weekly teleconferences with SKW and Blach Engineering. District is meeting with Redwood City on hook-up fees.

Due to the funding shortfalls, it was suggested that the school configuration be revisited as a possible minimization of costs. The community does not want to have an inferior school be built.

- Boundary Discussion

Ms. Hungerford asked NSSAC for help in coming up with three suggestions for establishing boundaries. Maps were handed out with quantity of students by neighborhood. One suggestion was a line approximately around Shearwater and Redwood Shores Parkway. Committee felt that more time was needed to look at it and requested the map electronically. Ms. Hungerford will send map out electronically.

Three boundary suggestions: 1) No boundaries, 2) Areas labeled 61-79 to new school and Areas 80-98 to Sandpiper, and 3) Areas labeled 61-81 to new school and Areas 82-98 Sandpiper.

If we can't build the multipurpose room, the general feeling is that there should be no boundaries.

- Afterschool Care

Issue: Don't have enough funding to build dedicated building for afterschool care. Furthermore, without a building, provider could not get a license. District is exploring possibility of transporting kids to alternate facilities (like Sandpiper or Nesbit). District is considering maintaining two portables at Sandpiper for possible use (remain in place at Sandpiper). If we can't have dedicated building or the multipurpose room, then primary focus should be on transporting the kids to CCLC or SYC at Sandpiper.

L. Pon provided some suggestions on funding to cover afterschool care buildings.

- Partial Fundraising List

Fundraising appears to be the only option for additional funds. Concern was expressed that two K-5 schools in the District would hamper ability to raise significant funds.

L. Pon met with Coleen Devlin on approach to fundraising. They have met with various companies who are potentially interested in giving us money. More volunteers are needed to join efforts on fundraising. Ellen Wright is grant writer on contract that could help with grant requests. We need to have a coordinated effort.

Fundraising subcommittee identified: L. Pon, P. Hughes, D. Limkakeng, B. Wolfe, and S. Miron. The District was requested to determine if the NSSAC can do the fundraising or if an independent group would need to do it. List of possible items that can be covered by fundraising handed out. P. Hughes noted that RSCA is still a possibility to help.

G. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- Fundraising Assistance: Discussed above.
- School Opening Discussion for Timeline Assignments: Discussed above.

- Is there a Need for Another Community Forum

B. Wolfe asked for a picture to put into *The Pilot*. Board has decided that it will be a K-5 school but there will be a transition plan established by the Board. If there is a community forum, then it should be when more specific info is available, possibly at a ground breaking in January.

It was suggested that an exit strategy is needed for the NSSAC. The Committee believes it is premature to discuss at this time and that the Committee should remain in place through school opening.

H. NEW BUSINESS

- Planned Future Meeting Dates:
 - November 13 - 6:30 PM
 - December 2 – 7 PM
- Recommended Future Agenda Items:
 - Continued Fundraising discussion
 - Updates on Afterschool care

I. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.
- Next meeting is scheduled for November 13 (County Office of Education, Pine and Oak Conference Rooms)