

WCCUSD Community Budget Advisory Committee
Alvarado Campus, Room 4
May 22, 2007
Minutes

Attendance: Ruth Vedovelli, Robert Studdiford, Tammy Campbell, Eduardo Martinez, Karen Fenton, Michael Wasilchin, Karen Pfeifer, Erwin Reeves, Charley Cowens, Eileen Thibault

The meeting was brought to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chair, Charles Cowens.

1. Review Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

2. Review and Approve Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved.

3. Report of Chair

Mr. Cowens reported that he emailed Ms. Grundhoffer and that she will meet and greet at our next meeting.

4. Discuss/Take Action on Vacancies and Review Applications

Mr. Cowens reported that there is a vacancy for a community member – non parent with little/or no special interest in school dealings. He will add CBAC membership to the agenda for the next board meeting.

5. Change Meeting Date and Time

Mr. Cowens stated that we do not have a place for the July CBAC meeting. We will talk about changing the date and time at a later meeting with the new Associate Superintendent. Proposal is Thursday at 6:30 or Tuesday at 6:30. The next scheduled meeting is June 26, 2007, 7 – 9 p.m., at Alvarado Campus.

6. Letter to EdSource Conference Organizers

Mr. Cowens reported that he and Mr. Studdiford drafted letters to the EdSource conference organizers. They will share those with us at a later meeting.

7. IBM Debt

Ms. Vedovelli will address the IBM debt under item 8. Mr. Wasilchin suggests that we have a plan of attack before doing a letter, and that we send letters to the senate and

assembly education committees. We will get names of contacts, and should develop strategies. Mr. Wasilchin can get 11c major stockholders / stakeholders from IBM. Ms. Pfeifer wants to talk to those in the district who were here in the late 1980s when the IBM purchase came about. Ms. Fenton came around right after the IBM purchase. Mr. Martinez stated that the public has the right to know the story. Ms. Pfeifer said that we need to look and learn with an internal study so that this district will not make a mistake again.

8. Items from the MGT Report That Should Be Considered by CBAC

The MGT audit has referenced the following recommendations: 3-1 Recommendation ...to raise attendance as a percentage of enrollment to at least 95 percent; Recommendation 3-2 Approach IBM with proposal for waiver of \$5 million payments...; Recommendation 3-3 Create and implement strategy ... for district's unfunded liability for post-employment health benefits...; Recommendation 3-4 Align district budget documents with Board's strategic plan...

Ms. Vedovelli has to take the recommendations from MGT and tie them to the goals of the district. We have to make up our decline and improve attendance to increase resources. We need an education campaign for all our staff. For example, 1% ADA increase is = to 1% salary increase for employees. This makes it tangible. Mr. Wasilchin said that buy in is necessary, including parents and students. Ms. Pfeifer said we should start talking about retirement benefits, although we can't do anything now; but we need to work at ways to make changes when contracts open again. Ms. Vedovelli talked about ways to improve the budget process. Mr. Wasilchin said that budget items should be moved up earlier at board meetings. Ms. Pfeifer said that people come to the meeting with little children so their item can be moved up front. Mr. Studdiford replied that they are moved up and other report (CBOC, Bond etc.) items are pushed back and they are important and should be heard. Mr. Martinez said that on some items board members go on and on, but should just get to the point. Ms. Pfeifer said we should put together a quarterly report – teaching and learning item, and put it up front in the board meeting. Item 6.3, school consolidation: Ms. Fenton said that board policy would not give minimum size – some schools are shrinking, and should have a policy of 250 minimum, start with year 1, then year 2, if no improvement then action should be taken. Mr. Martinez said we should look at ways to avoid split classes, have schools belong to group areas to avoid split classes. Ms. Fenton said the numbers should be reviewed every year. Demographics have been silent for 2-3 years. This committee should back this item. It is important to understand why people don't want to close small neighborhood schools. The board cannot shut down a school after all work is done, so politics plays a big part. Ms. Vedovelli stated that fiscal stability of this district demands that we close schools.

9. GASB 45 Update

Ms. Vedovelli reported that based on an actuarial study the district would set up an irrevocable trust to put in one time money to be used for GASB 45.

10. Parcel Tax Update

Ms. Fenton reported that the new parcel tax would be kept in separate funds and audited by our general auditors. The parcel tax update will be posted on the web.

11. MRAD Recommendation Implementation Update

Mr. Cowens met with Mr. Edmison and Mr. Hood regarding MRAD. The district should have a board policy – general development from our recommendations. The administrative regulation will have criteria passed from year to year.

12. Update on Developing List of Program Reductions Required for Coming Year to Fund Programmatic Increases (Salary, etc.)

Ms. Vedovelli said that Fiscal is identifying layoff and vacant positions. We will reduce substitute budgets and reduce legal expenses, also reducing or eliminating travel budgets. The state has approved the transfer of bond funds to provide a portion of the RRM required amount. We need to cut \$1 million more from the 07-08 budget.

13. Governor's May Revise Update

Ms. Vedovelli reported that the COLA will be 4.53%. There is no funding for mandated costs.

14. Community Comments and Questions

None.

15. Good of the Order

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.