

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District was held in the Support Services Center on April 4, 2013, with a closed session at 5:30 p.m. and open session at 6:30 p.m. Members present: Karamitsos, Reece, Tognazini, Garvin. Absent: Walsh

Open Session

Dr. Karamitsos called the meeting to order at 12 p.m. and led the flag salute. Four SMHS parents shared their concerns regarding the Shared Decision Making (SDM) process, a topic discussed at two previous board meetings. One of the parents communicated to the Board the importance of keeping the focus on student needs, not on the needs of employees. There were also questions about the SDM bylaws and the recommended revisions discussed at the March 13th Board meeting. One of the parents told of her experience at a SDM meeting in which she was made to feel that she was not representing parents well and didn't feel welcomed by some committee members. She noted that she is a new member and has had no training on how to present issues/concerns. The parent asked that a Board member attend a SDM meeting.

Dr. Karamitsos clarified that the Board disapproved the current site bylaws at the March Board meeting. The sites were asked to review their bylaws and incorporate the recommendations presented to them. Dr. Karamitsos explained that the revisions are due to the Board for approval at its June board meeting. She added that sites need to be allowed that time in order for that process to take place. Dr. Karamitsos stated that the Board seriously considers all issues/concerns of parents and staff. The Board's goal is to provide a comprehensive high school experience for all students.

Dr. Garvin thanked the parents for sharing their feelings with the Board as it is helpful when making decisions about the direction of the district.

Another parent stated that parents want to be a part of the SDM committee to help make decisions best suited for students such as the daily schedule. He stated that there are not enough LEP teachers to service the number of LEP students. Parents said they appreciate the support of the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to share their concerns. The Board adjourned to closed session at 12:15 p.m.

Adjourn to Open Session

Dr. Karamitsos called the meeting to order at 1:27 p.m. and led the flag salute.

Announce Closed Session Actions

Dr. Richardson reported that the Board was updated on the agenda items listed below. There was no action taken on either item.

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1) Potential Real Property Negotiations Information

2) Conference with Labor Negotiators: Faculty Association (California Teachers Association) and the California School Employees Association (CSEA).

Action Items

Business

General Obligation Bonds – C2004 Series 2013

Yolanda Ortiz, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, introduced Miguel Rodriguez from Caldwell Flores Winters. This meeting with Mr. Rodriguez was scheduled to provide the Board information concerning the upcoming bond sale and to address any concerns they may have.

The District is seeking to issue approximately \$15 million in Measure “C” general obligation funds in order to finance new classroom construction. A PowerPoint (printed) showing refunding and bond structuring options was provided. The goal is to sell bonds that would generate savings that can be passed on to the tax payer to lower bond tax rates.

Mr. Rodriguez explained that there is pending state legislation that would regulate the structuring method in the issuance of school district G.O. bonds. He explained the proposed changes and will keep the District informed of any changes. He asked that the District consider some of the provisions under the legislation as they will directly influence the tax rate level required for bond repayment. Dr. Garvin asked if there is a special interest group trying to make these changes. The response was that it is believed that the legislation is politically driven— not on the trade side.

The Board was asked to consider the following: 1) GO bond refunding; 2) Bond structure (Current Interest Bond (CIB) versus Capital Appreciation Bonds (CAB); and 3) Tax rate estimates required for bond levy. Mr. Rodriguez provided four different options and explained to the Board how each option would/could affect the district and the tax payer. After some discussion and answers to Board member questions, it was agreed to go with Option 3.

Option 1: Sell all current interest bonds. Least expensive money— repayment is two dollars for every dollar borrowed, but doesn't reduce principal in the initial years. Also, tax payers pay more today and no revenue capacity to sell bonds.

Option 2: Combination of CIBs/CABs(majority). Allows deferral of principal and interest repayment. Nine million in total repayment and exceeds \$23— the dollar amount the district did not want to exceed.

Option 3: Majority CIBS (60% CIB/40% CABS)— Average tax rate at \$3.26, but will exceed the \$23 in less years than Option 1. The repayment is \$2.25 for every one dollar borrowed.

Option 3A: Tax payer rate is \$3.70 and CABS are within the 10 year call option. Bonds carry a standard 10-year call option for redemption; and can be refunded only once prior to

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the 10-year call on an advance basis.

A motion was made by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Tognazzini and passed with a 4-0 to approve Option 3.

Open Session Public Comments

Catherine Boyle, SMHS Teacher, responded to a parent's account of an incident that took place at a recent SDM meeting. Mrs. Boyle explained that there is a process in place to bring issues/concerns to the SDM council. She stated that the process, which has been in place for many years, has been working well. Mrs. Boyle said the parent did not bring any concerns to discuss, rather, she asked about making changes to the makeup of the SDM committee and was upset with the response from committee members. Mrs. Boyle added that the same concern about the makeup of SDM was discussed at the February SDM meeting. The committee was frustrated as they felt that this issue had already been addressed at a previous meeting and again at the March meeting.

Items Not on the Agenda

Santa Maria High School parents shared their concerns regarding SDM with the Board during Closed Session Public Comments.

Next Meeting Date

Unless otherwise announced, the next regular meeting will be held on April 17, 2013, with a closed session at 5:30 p.m. and open session at 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District Support Services Center at 2560 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria, CA 93455.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.