

**MT. BALDY JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2015**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** 6:00 P.M. by Evan Chapman
MEMBERS PRESENT: Evan Chapman, Ron Thomas, Margaret Glick
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
- MOTION** – Glick To Adopt January 22, 2015 Agenda
Second – Thomas
Carried – 3/0
- MOTION** – Thomas To Approve December 11, 2014 Regular Meeting
Second – Chapman Minutes as amended
Carried – 3/0
- MOTION** – Thomas To Approve December 17, 2014 Special Meeting
Second - Chapman Minutes as revised
Carried – 3/0
- II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- A. COMMUNITY INPUT**
- Ms. Sulkin stated that the Community Club will be doing more advertising for the annual Pancake Breakfast hoping to bring more people up for the event each year. She suggested the school have tours during the Pancake Breakfast to encourage more families from down the hill to look at our school as an option. Ms. Sulkin asked if we could have a music program in order to better prepare our students for high school performing arts participation in groups such as the Madrigals from Upland High School.
- III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
- Mr. Chapman stated that our County Business Advisor, Cynna Hinkle was not at the meeting as she was not on the agenda. She will be asked to come to the March or April meeting to discuss financial reports. Jeanette L. Garcia, District Auditor, explained how all L.E.A.'s are required to have an annual audit and that districts are audited to insure compliance with the audit guide set forth by the State of California. During an audit dozens of compliance guides have to be tested for compliance including controls on payables, payroll, revolving cash, etc. Ms. Garcia stated her firm had found that internal controls could be improved and that our Independent Study Program was, in her opinion out of compliance. She found that cash receipts were being held longer than necessary and need to be deposited within a month of receipt. She recommends that the district should implement a cafeteria fund to collect money from students, deposit funds into the clearing account and pay our lunch providers from that fund each month upon receiving a detailed invoice from the lunch provider. Ms. Catalano asked if our district had qualified accounting staff to implement such a system.
- Mr. Warner asked about the Independent Study Program and if it was not in compliance why this was this not brought up until now. Ms. Garcia stated that during the 13-14 year

audit the amount of expenses for this program flagged it for further investigation. She further stated that procedures for the Independent Study Program need to be changed immediately.

Mr. Thomas stated he and a committee had an Independent Study Committee report, to which Mr. Chapman stated he had no recollection of a committee being formed for Independent Study, only a committee for how other schools are operating. Mr. Thomas stated that research shows how extracurricular activities help students. Offering things to kids on site as well as Independent Study students would be a way to keep funds coming in to the district. Mr. Thomas introduced his solution for the audit findings regarding Independent Study in a report he had report titled "The Opportunity Fund". Mr. Thomas suggested we take a \$55,000.00 surplus and use it for different options. His suggestion was to give each on site student \$1,050.00 for extracurricular activities such as dance, music, karate, etc. and that students could opt in or out of a P.E. program to do these activities. Ms. Garcia stated that she felt there would be a problem with educational minutes being impacted which would in turn render us out of compliance with the State. Mr. Thomas went on to explain that students who were involved in extracurricular activities such as band and music programs had a reduced drop-out rate. Mr. Thomas further stated that our teachers receive raises every year at this district and that another option would be to increase our on- site students by 10 in each class which would reduce our deficit. Mr. Thomas stated he felt the "Opportunity Fund" would be a great recruitment tool for out of district students and would pay for activities for all students, and feel that parents and teachers give kids a chance to dream by giving them these opportunities. Ms. Garcia stated that she felt there would be a problem with the "Opportunity Fund" being viewed as "Gifts of Public Funds".

Ms. Hodgson stated she felt less than 25% of her students would stay enrolled with the Independent Study Program if we do not provide the extracurricular activity funding. Ms. Hodgson gave an oral presentation on the effects of how students are benefitting in critical thinking skills, language usage and all ways possible when taking lessons as they are spending time with instructors and others who are speaking English. Ms. Hodgson passed out examples of the effects of how students who participate in extracurricular activities excel in other subjects and feels her students are better learners due to extracurricular activities.

Ms. Elizabeth Preston spoke about how many of our Independent Study Students are clients at her Claremont Studio. She further stated she works with our 5-8 students where parents donate money to pay for the supplies needed. Ms. Preston feels kids get the best education when kids get equal access to activities, both on site students and Independent Study Students. Ms. Preston feels Mr. Thomas' program is a good program.

Mr. Chapman asked Ms. Hodgson if parents of Independent Study students were promised their extracurricular activities would be paid for. Ms. Hodgson replied they had. Mr. Chapman stated that this runs afoul with Ed. Code but would like to honor promises without losing all our funding. Ms. Garcia states we will lose ADA if we honor this

obligation. Mr. Chapman questions the legality of honoring these obligations if we are gifting public funds but would like to find an alternative to honor these promises. Ms. Garcia recommends getting a legal opinion on the gifts of public funds, as this could hurt more than help.

Mr. Chapman asks if there is a way to fund due to E.L.? Ms. Garcia states Title I Funding can provide additional resources for E.L. students.

Mr. Huffman asks why Independent Study students can't come here. He further states most junior high kids go down the hill due to problems at Mt. Baldy School. Ms. Thomas disagrees, stating she feels it is due to wanting to experience a bigger school in preparation for high school.

Ms. Salas stated the M.T.B.A. agrees with the auditor and is concerned about the loss of funding. She further questions the impact these findings will have on the on-site teachers. Ms. Salas questions the electives being offered to Independent Study students and if they were approved by the State. Ms. Salas states she is concerned and asks if we are going to become a Charter or Magnate School and no longer a Public School. She further states she sees limitations with the "Opportunity Fund" plan. Mr. Chapman states he feels the plan is very complicated and neither the auditor or union representative are happy with the plan. Mr. Thomas states that as a board should make an effort to help with the situation or we will close in two years. C.T.A. does not want to see teachers lose their jobs. Mr. Thomas states they will if we lose \$85,000.00 a year. Ms. Hodgson asks for a plan to work this out as she feels she will lose a lot of her students. Mr. Kupetz states there can be no decision tonight as it is not on the agenda. Ms. Glick states we need to consult the experts to insure we are crossing all our "T's" and dotting all our "I's". Mr. Chapman states they will look at all other options, including Mr. Thomas' other suggestions.

Ms. Catalano asks if we can mandate Independent Study students be in the classroom. Dr. Vaughn states they can't.

Ms. Hodgson asks if we can have a fundraiser online to help the Independent Study families with expenses and if P.T.C. can raise money for Independent Study programs.

Karen Sked of San Antonio Mutual Water Company explained how the school is provided water through SAMWC per a legal agreement made in 1963. She further stated the school had not been billed for water since 2007 and that the school pays 10/72 or 0.138%. Our current obligation is \$6,400.00 for years since 2007 through present.

Ms. Catalano states that SCE would need to hear from the board or Dr. Vaughn to change out the smart meter. Dr. Vaughn said he had contacted and that SCE had said they would not change the meter out at their expense. Ms. Catalano states that meters have caused her to experience fevers, headaches, sleep disruption. Dr. Vaughn states the only option would be to move the meter at our expense which would be between \$50,000.00 and \$60,000.00.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

ITEM #1 Approved Williams Legislation Quarterly Uniform
MOTION - Chapman Complaint Summary.
Second - Thomas
Carried – 3/0

ITEM #2 Approved batches 227-260.
MOTION – Glick
Second – Thomas
Carried 3/0

ITEM #3 Approved County Form #4 Terminating Financial Access to
MOTION – Thomas Mt. Baldy School District by Jean Aldrete, former B.A.S.
Second – Chapman Advisor.
Carried 3/0

VI. COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Dr. Vaughn states we currently have no Board Policy on use of school credit cards. He has obtained policies from other districts and will have a policy ready for review in February.

Ms. Cate discusses the T.K./Kindergarten class. She states the students are enjoying writing and have named their reading groups interesting names such as Ninja Crabs and Lightning Snake Transformers. Students in the class recently enjoyed making penguins with their Big Buddies with whom they work every other Wednesday. She feels the combo is going well and that the T.K. students are bringing something new to the classroom.

VII. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION:

MOTION – Chapman
Second – Glick
Motion Carried 3/0

Adjourned to Closed Session: 8:05 p.m.
Returned to Open Session: 8:40 p.m.
Call out of Closed Session Items: No Action Taken

VIII. ADJOURN:

MOTION – Chapman To Adjourn at 8:41 p.m.
Second – Thomas
Motion Carried 3/0