

MARK TWAIN UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD MINUTES

DATE: September 11, 2014
LOCATION: Mark Twain Union Elementary School District
Board Room
981 Tuolumne Ave.
Angels Camp, CA 95222

President Diane Bateman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken:

Present: Diane Bateman, Maggie Rollings, Timothy Randall, Gary McGeorge

Absent: Jennifer Eltringham

Announcement of Closed Session

1. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR
Name of Agency Negotiator: Julia Tidball
Employee Organization: Angels-Copperopolis Educators (G.C. 54957.6)
2. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR
Name of Agency Negotiator: Julia Tidball
Employee Organization: California School Employees Association,
Chapter #815 (G.C. 54957.6)
3. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release
4. Personnel Assignment Order

Reconvene to Open Session

Board President Diane Bateman reported no action was taken in Closed Session for items 1, 2, and 3.

The President reported there was a motion made by Gary McGeorge and seconded by Maggie Rollings to accept the personnel assignment order as presented.

Motion was approved 4/0/1.

PUBLIC
COMMENTS

Amy Nord, Mark Twain parent, gave an update to the Board on the Badger Booster sponsored Angels Camp Gold Run on September 28. Mrs. Nord shared the group has been working on publicity, getting volunteers and collecting donations. You may register for this event at Active.com. For Mark Twain students who register for the race the registration fee will only be \$5.00. There is funding support available to help those families who want to participate but are in need of financial assistance. After the race there is a family fun day in the park. The teachers at Mark Twain have been great. Some of them will be manning a booth in the park. Mrs. Nord asked if anyone present would like to volunteer. They will be outside the school for the next three Fridays to gather volunteer support. Each booth in the park will need to have at least one adult, with students to help man it. Mrs. Tutthill has a sign up sheet posted for all 7th & 8th grade students who

are interested in helping. Some teachers are even giving extra credit for those who run or work this event.

Jeff Airola, Teacher, Mark Twain Elementary, spoke about a back to school shopping memory that included a Sears catalog. When you were not able to go to the valley you would go to John and Maddie Vierra's store. Maddie would measure you and make your school clothes. Mr. Airola just wanted to note the passing of John Vierra who was an important part of this community and was on this board many years ago.

Robin Anderson, Mark Twain Elementary parent, gave an update on Badger Boosters. The Boosters held their first meeting of the year this week and was so excited about the turnout (20 plus). Boosters have changed their meeting from evenings to mornings. They are held in the room directly across from the front office. Mrs. Anderson thinks this was helpful in that parents were able to see them when they dropped their kids off in the morning.

BOARD
COMMENTS

Timothy Randall – no comment.

Maggie Rollings – no comment.

Gary McGeorge – Back to School night at both schools was a great success. The work done to the sidewalks around Mark Twain Elementary has really helped.

Diane Bateman – no comment

Jennifer Eltringham - absent

COMMENTS
FROM
STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE

Jesse O'Byrd, recently elected Board Representative for Mark Twain Elementary Student Council introduced himself to the board. Student Council Elections were held last Friday. Results are: Kennedy Cooper – President, Breann Simpson – Vice President, Lea Cottrell – Secretary, BJ Singh – Treasurer, Matthew Rodriguez – Activities Commissioner, Isabella Lagomarsino - Historian, Maddie Schwartz – Publicity Chairman, and Jesse O'Byrd - Board Representative.

The first Student Council meeting was held on Wednesday, September 10, 2014. We congratulated all the newly elected officers and started planning our first dance on October 24. Student Council will also be in charge of Spirit Fridays.

COPPER

Karen Vail, Principal, Copperopolis Elementary, stated she had a well-attended Back-to-School Night. Ms. Vail thanked the school secretary, Nicole Paulson who made herself available to help get parents signed up on the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Ms. Vail had hoped that more parents would have taken advantage of this opportunity. Title I Support Teacher Anna McCracken was introduced during the Title I meeting to parents. Ms. Vail also thanked the board for attending the Back to School night. Copper held their first parents club meeting and now have switched their meeting from morning to early afternoon and will be providing daycare. The meeting was also well-attended with over 20 people. The big push now will be the fall fundraiser, Steak & Shrimp Feed.

Enrollment for Copperopolis Elementary stands at 272. The staff had looked at eliminating a K/1 combination but has decided, after a thorough discussion, to keep the combination classroom.

MARK
TWAIN

Kevin Triance, Principal, Mark Twain Elementary, stated he had a well-attended Back-to-School Night and Title I meeting.

Enrollment at Mark Twain Elementary stands at 541, an increase of 3 since the last time he reported to the board. Mark Twain was able to eliminate a K/1 combo but has decided to keep their 1st/2nd combo. Mark Twain Elementary has their Facebook page up and running and is trying to update weekly. Our Grandparent Day held on Wednesday was a success. Mr. Triance thanked Mrs. Lenior, Mrs. Garcia, and Mrs. Felix for putting this together. Over 60 grandparents attended this event where the students sang songs and shared treats with their grandparents and then escorted them to their classroom. Mr. Triance will try to get the pictures taken by Mrs. Ziehlke on the Facebook page.

Site Council Elections have been completed with over 16 parents interested in being on the site council. Two will be seated on the council. The homework support program staffed by 2 credential teacher will be ready to roll out next week.

CERTIFICATED
REPRESENTATIVE

Sara Tutthill, Teacher, President of ACE (CTA), stated the Copperopolis teachers are thrilled with the time change to the parents club meeting so they may be able to attend. Mrs. Tutthill thanked Mrs. Tidball for keeping an open line of communication and agreeing to attend a meeting with the 7th & 8th grade staff on some concerns they have.

The Grading Policy was "birthed" by the 7th & 8th grade staff and it is working. It has been instrumental in saving a lot of kids. Last year 54 "F" meetings were held with 48 of those students being successful in bringing their grades up. This policy would benefit the inclusion of sixth grade students.

School sports have started with girls' basketball and cross-country. Twenty to thirty kids are now participating in cross-country and training for the Gold Run sponsored by the Badger Boosters. Challenges have been made by the cross-country to the basketball players to the football players all to participate in the Gold Run. Many teachers are offering extra credit for those kids who run or help with the Gold Run.

Student Council has started. Jesse O'Byrd did a great job at his first board meeting. Mrs. Tutthill will be taking all student council officers to a leadership conference in October.

Mrs. Tutthill thanked custodian Megan Gutierrez for her service. She is just amazing.

PE uniforms, red shorts and a gray t-shirt have been ordered and should arrive in two weeks. Now you will know who is on the field, a student in PE class or someone else.

CLASSIFIED
REPRESENTATIVE

There was no Classified Representative present.

DIRECTOR OF
BUSINESS
SERVICES

Roy Blair, Director of Business Services gave a brief update of his work on the unaudited actuals.

SUPERINTENDENT

Julia Tidball, Superintendent thanked both principals and staffs for a great Back-to-School Night. It is so important for the parents to know what to expect for the year and get a good understanding of classroom

expectations. Mrs. Tidball thanked those who helped make the first Staff Development Day a success.

Mrs. Vail was thanked for helping administer the CELDT assessment to all EL students.

Mrs. Tidball then deferred to the Director of Operations for a transportation report. Mr. Davis shared that the District took delivery of a new 78 passenger yellow school bus that has seatbelts.

Mr. Davis is investigating grants to see what funds are available to replace another bus. The District will surplus the Ford Focus to purchase a new Ford Focus. This vehicle is used to transport a student to Stockton daily.

Mr. Davis thanked Mrs. Tidball and Mrs. Vail in the elimination of a bus stop due to a safety concern. The new replacement stops will take effect on September 15, 2014. All parents were notified by a letter sent home with their child along with a dialer from Infinite Campus.

INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION

- #9 Quarterly Uniform Complaint Report Summaries
Mrs. Tidball shared there were no complaints for the time period of June, 2014 – August 2014.
- #10 Presentation on District CAASPP results for 2013-2014
Mrs. Tidball reviewed that all students 3rd through 8th grade took the SBAC on their Chromebooks in the subjects of English-language arts and mathematics. Last spring our 5th and 8th grade students took the CST in Science only. The results of the CST showed a drop in students being advanced or proficient in particular in the 5th grade. This may be due to the district's focus on Common Core math and language arts. Robin Anderson asked how parents can help their children when they don't know Common Core. Mrs. Tidball and the principals are working on how to help parents get to know Common Core.
- #11 District Goals 2014-2015
Superintendent, Julia Tidball presented the District Goals for 2014-2015. This is a first read only. It has just been pushed out to the school sites for review. Mrs. Tidball would like to bring back to the October meeting for approval.
The format has changed. District Goals are in alignment with the State Priorities and support the MTUESD approved LCAP for 2014-15. The categories are: Basic Services, Implementation of State Standards, Parent Involvement, Pupil Achievement, Pupil Engagement, School Climate, Course Access, and Other Pupil Outcomes.
- #12 Grading Policy for 6th Grade
Mrs. Tidball asked Amy Hessels, sixth grade teacher at Copperopolis Elementary to speak to the topic. Kathy Casas, 6th grade teacher at Mark Twain was also present to talk about this grading policy.
Mrs. Hessels spoke about how the districts 6th grade teachers met and thought the policy already in place for the 7th & 8th grade students would benefit their students. They felt that the 6th grade students could be held accountable for their grades. The policy

details required meetings with students and parents regarding failing grades and the consequences if the failing grade is not remediated.

Mrs. Casas spoke about her experience being a part of the 7th and 8th grade staff and taking part in these meeting with students and parents and the entire junior high staff. The meetings were “powerful”. During these meetings they talked about the positive things going on with the student along with what may have caused the failing grade. For the most part, the failing grade was a direct result from lack of homework being completed which in turn caused the student to not be prepared for a test. Mrs. Casas has a concern that we as a district need to develop students’ ability to take responsibility for their actions. In recent years she has seen kids promoted to the 7th grade with numerous failing grades. They have already developed an understanding that it does not matter. It was a shock to these students entering 7th grade that it does matter. The policy has been a success.

Karen Vail, Principal, Copperopolis Elementary spoke about the planning meeting with the sixth grade teachers. The group agreed to keep the language in the policy the same as it has been tested and is working. Mrs. Tutthill, PE teacher, Mark Twain Elementary stated that a piece of the policy already includes sixth grade students because they start on academic if they finished the previous year with failing grades or less than a 2.0 GPA.. They may not play any sports the first half of the first trimester.

Christy Miro a parent asked “What is the district’s current policy”. Mrs. Tidball stated there is no current policy in place. This is the concern with staff that there is no consequence in place for failing grades.

Further discussion about the proposed policy ensued. Mrs. Tutthill stated she would like to see a policy in the intermediate grades, but at this time the proposal is only for 6th grade and now is trickling down.

Mrs. Miro spoke about her concerns about implementing this policy when the students are struggling with Common Core. She felt her child was not prepared for what the sixth grade teaches are expecting of them. Sixth grade was such a dramatic change from fifth grade. She would like to see a continuous progression that does not seem to be in place in the lower grades.

Jeff Airola, history teacher, Mark Twain Elementary said he would be in favor of a program or policy for the fourth and fifth grade but that would look a lot different than this one because of the possibility of the student going the Calaveras River Academy.

Board member, Gary McGeorge asked the teachers present when they would like to policy to take effect.

They stated it may be too late if it was on the board agenda for October, which would take effect after parent conferences.

Mr. McGeorge suggested that we add this to the special board meeting that is scheduled on Monday, September 15, 2014.

More discussion took place by the people present about the possibility of sending a 6th grade student to Calaveras River Academy. This was the biggest concern of many in the audience. Mrs. Tidball reviewed that the decision to send a student to CRA is done on an individual basis and is not a requirement of the policy, the referral simply will be considered.

Mr. Triance, Mark Twain Elementary principal, shared a story about a student who had been struggling for two years. The teacher last year recommended that he be retained. The parents were not in agreement with this but there was no policy in place.

The Board directed Mrs. Tidball to add the Grading Policy to the agenda for the special board meeting on Monday. The policy will take effect immediately if passed.

APPROVAL
OF CONSENT
ITEMS

A motion was made by Gary McGeorge and seconded by Maggie Rollings to approve Consent Agenda items.

Motion was approved 4/0/1.

1. Warrants.
2. Approval of Minutes for the August 14, 2014 board meeting. (pgs.15-18)
3. Inter District Agreements (pg. 19)
4. Resident Science Camp/6th Grade Students (pg. 20)
5. Weekend Basketball Tournament for 8th Grade Teams/South Lake Tahoe (pgs. 21-22)
6. Sale or Trade of Surplus School Vehicle. (pg. 23)

APPROVAL OF
REVIEW AND
ACTION ITEMS

1. **Consider Public Hearing Regarding 2014-15 State Instructional Materials Sufficiency.**

Move into Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Gary McGeorge and seconded by Maggie Rollings to move into public hearing.

Motion was approved 4/0/1.

Receive Comments From the Public and Staff.

No comments

Review and Discuss Any Comments.

No comments

A motion was made by Timothy Randall and seconded by Gary McGeorge to move Out of Pubic Hearing.

Motion was approved 4/0/1.

2. **Consider Instructional Materials for 2014-2015 and Adoption of Resolution 2014-2015-002- State Instructional Materials Sufficiency.**

Required by schools to be done in the first eight weeks of school.

A motion was made by Timothy Randall and seconded by Maggie Rollings to approve Instructional Materials for 2014-2015 and Adoption of Resolution 2014-2015-002 State Instructional Materials Sufficiency.

Motion was approved 4/0/1.

3. **Consider Approval of Resolution 2014-2015-004 Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).**

A motion was made by Timothy Randall and seconded by Gary McGeorge to approve Resolution 2014-2015-004 Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

Motion was approved 4/0/1.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:41 P.M.

Diane Bateman, Board President

September 11, 2014

Julia Tidball, Superintendent

September 11, 2014