

**VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019
VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD ROOM
1234 ARCADIA AVENUE
VISTA, CA 92084

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Rosemary Smithfield, President
Cipriano Vargas, Vice President
Debbie Morton, Clerk
Rich Alderson, Member
Martha Alvarado, Member

DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Linda Kimble, Superintendent
Donna Caperton, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Elaine Alexandres, Assistant Superintendent, Human Relations
Dr. Matt Doyle, Assistant Superintendent, Innovation
Dr. Matt Steitz, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Excellence
Debbie Riehle, Recording Secretary

Item 1 Open Session/Regular Meeting The meeting was called to order at 4:14 pm by President Smithfield.

Item 2. Approval of Agenda There was no motion to approve the agenda

Item 3. Board Business/Discussion

A. BUDGET UPDATE: President Smithfield thanked everyone for showing up. She explained this meeting was scheduled so that the 5 Board Members could get together to discuss the eighteen million dollar cuts the District needs to make, and she feels this is too huge of an amount to wait until the end of February to discuss. First, she would like information on the current freeze. She asked Donna to explain the current freeze. Donna explained that anything that is unrestricted general fund has been frozen; but, if there is a special need, classroom needs, substitute needs, the sites needs to put in a request with justification and send it to the District Office for Cabinet to review. For the most part there is very little being denied. If they request big capital equipment, we asked if it is really needed at this time. If it is CTE with a restricted resource we let it go through. We are looking at each individual transaction and making sure it is within the parameters of being absolutely necessary. Substitutes: Certificated subs for classrooms are readily approved. Sometimes key positions like Senior Health Techs, Office Managers at large schools and Health Attendance Clerks are approved. As for District Office staff, we are asking for 3 days absence before getting a substitute. We are getting subs, but we are finding we have a shortage of custodial subs.

Vice President, Vargas asked Donna to explain to the two new Board Members Governor Newsom's proposed budget and how it relates to school districts. Donna explained that the COLA is going up .81%. He has also proposed helping with STRS, not PERS. This is no revenue to the District; he will pay directly to STRS. It will help reduce the amount the District has to pay; however, STRS is still going up. He is giving one time money to Special Ed, but we do not have details. We are revising our documents and incorporating the 3.5% raise. We are looking at all the factors associated with the Governor's proposal and doing what the County says we can do. There are some things dependent on the Legislature. The Governor may propose it, but the Legislature may not approve it. We are very cautious. The County gives us guidance. That's how we build our second interim report and our multi-year projections. There is no one-time money being offered this year. In the past few years, Governor Brown has given us the one-time money from Mandated Cost, which has helped. Once we know what the Governors revenues are, and he makes his adjustments, we will be able to incorporate that into our budget. We may not get as much. Remember how the Stock Market crashed; it's going up but not where it was. The COLA can also change; it can go up or down. This will all be incorporated into the May Revise.

President Smithfield asked about the current freeze. She said she knows teachers are not able to order supplies, and STEM Fest was canceled due to budget freeze. Donna stated that STEM Fest was not canceled due to the freeze. Matt Steitz stated that the RT's did not have the time to put it together. President Smithfield said that they don't need the RT's to put STEM Fest on. Put it out there to all the sites and let them know where it will be, and they will come. This is a direct hit on the kids; noon duties are a direct hit on the kids, supplies are a direct hit on the kids. This keeps happening and it is getting worse. We started a Dual Language Program in this District. I was the Board Member on the committee and attended every meeting. We promised to support this. Teachers need PD because it is advancing to the next grade level. They were told they can't have subs. Donna explained that she and Matt Steitz were not privy to this information. Donna said that she can show the Board a list of all the approved sub requests. President Smithfield said she did not know where the breakdown is but it needs to be fixed. Donna said she was not sure where the breakdown is but Dr. Kimble will look into it after the Board meeting. Dr. Kimble explained that they stopped all subs at the end of last year because we were short 25-30 subs a day. That is why we incorporated the WHEEL so that PD can happen during the day, although we do make some exceptions. President Smithfield said we started this huge program and we owe it to the school, students, and the parents to do what we promised. They are not in charge of when the PD is. They need to go to visit sites to get ready for next year. This is so unfair to our kids.

Clerk, Debbie Morton read from a letter sent to all District employees: One of the immediate measures we are taking is implementing a spending and hiring freeze. This means that every dollar spent at school sites and departments will be reviewed by site and or district leaders. The entire management team, which includes principals, have been given spending and hiring freeze guidelines and will share with staff as appropriate. Debbie asked Donna what the guidelines were. Donna said she would share them with her. A lot of the guidelines depend on the site's categorical funds: Title I, ACES, and Lottery. Not the general fund. Donna also shared that they had a sheet with frequently asked questions, which she will share as well. Debbie asked what category pencils, paper and supplies come under. Donna said unrestricted but they will go through. They get reviewed and are fine. Now if they order 3000 pencils, we will question that. Debbie said she has gotten several emails from teachers saying they are not getting the supplies they need. Donna said she has not seen any of those requests. They need to reach out to their principals.

President Smithfield asked why the cuts started at the school sites. First we take away the AP's we desperately need and then we take away the Noon Duties we desperately need. Dr. Kimble said the very first thing we did was cut 20% from each department at the District Office. Then we cut Travel and Conference. We cut our own Travel and Conference. Dr. Kimble reminded the Board we have eighteen million dollars to cut. We need to look at the entire system. President Smithfield said, yes we are tasked with cutting eighteen million dollars and that's what I want to talk to my fellow Board Members about. My idea is: 1. we take our students and put them in a circle and find out what they need that they cannot do without at all. 2. What does the student need that will help above. 3. What kind of fluff can we bring in when we have money. Then if we have to restructure, I say restructure. We have all these positions that we spend millions and millions of dollars on, but not of them touch the children. And now we're asking the teachers to buy their supplies again. This is how I would like us to look at this deficit; not who can we cut, because we always know how that goes. Had we gone out to school sites, we would have never cut noon duties, we would have found money for them. The people who are most important to the students we will keep, and we will find the money.

Debbie Morton made a comment about the noon duties. She thanked Donna for putting them back but making them a classified employee didn't help. You can't have one noon duty for 200 students at lunchtime. Donna said she understood and said it was very hard to hire a one-hour person.

Martha Alvarado commented on the supplies teachers need to teach. She said perhaps let them know what they can purchase and what is off limits. Send this notice out to the teachers so there is consistency across the District. Additionally, if we are implementing a new program, such as Dual Immersion, we need to support it 100%. The teachers at that school need to be given the opportunity to attend conferences. The principal needs to know it is okay to give them release time.

Rich Alderson asked what the allocation was for the unrestricted funds. Donna said it was approximately \$1.5 million for all schools and distributed by a formula based on elementary, middle, and high school. Rich said one of the complaints he is hearing about is the sub shortage; mostly elementary. Middle and High schools can have teachers sub during their prep period, but elementary, other teachers have to take extra students in their class when there is a sub shortage.

Debbie Morton asked if we have the number of people retiring. Elaine gave her the certificated and classified number. Debbie asked about management and a list of the positions retiring and the savings to the District. Rich Alderson said that could be a breach of confidentiality. Elaine agreed and stated that some people don't want anyone to know they are retiring.

President Smithfield was referring to a Department Budget Chart on the smartboard and pointed out how much each department's budget is. She asked if everyone wanted to have time to absorb this all. Martha said, don't we have another meeting on February 7.

Rosemary said yes. We can come back then and discuss this and the District should have their proposal then.

- B. GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP – THURSDAY JANUARY 31, 2019 AT 5:00 P.M. VUSD BOARD ROOM, 1234 ARCADIA AVE. VISTA, CA 92084. SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 7, 2019 AT 4:00 P.M. VUSD BOARD ROOM, 1234 ARCADIA AVE, VISTA, CA 92084. NEXT REGULATION BOARD MEETING – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019 AT 6:00 PM CITY OF VISTA, CIVIC CENTER, 200 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, VISTA, CA 92084**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.



Secretary of the Board of Trustees



Clerk of the Board of Trustees