

Santa Ana Unified School District  
1601 E. Chestnut Avenue  
Santa Ana, CA 92706

SANTA ANA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
**Special Study Session**  
December 18, 2009

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Vice President Richardson. Also in attendance were Dr. Yamagata-Noji, Mr. Hernández, and Mr. Palacio. Mr. Reyna was not in attendance.

Cabinet members present were Ms. Russo, Dr. Olsky, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Lopez, Mr. Mendez, Mr. Ayala, Ms. Lohnes, and Mr. Dixon.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Richardson.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Richardson asked those members of the community who wished to address the Board to step forward.

There were no individuals wishing to speak.

PRESENTATION

Superintendent Russo opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance to the Special Board Meeting.

Ms. Russo introduced the action items and stated that Mr. Dixon and staff would request removal and replacement of portables at Saddleback High School as well as take action to amend the competitively bid contract with Gilbert & Stearns electrical contractor for 2009-10 fiscal year in the amount of \$50,000.

Mr. Dixon stated that for the past two years, Building Services has made repairs to the remaining 40 year old bungalows at Saddleback High School. Prior to this school year, Building Services has replaced interior siding, ceilings, wallboards, replaced flooring, painted and patched roofing. These bungalows would be replaced with interim housing portables. Construction Manager Todd Butcher and Dr. Laxton, principal at Saddleback High School, have been working on this project. Mr. Butcher stated that recent testing of the bungalows revealed the need for extensive repair which would require disconnecting and lifting the building in order to repair the sub floor, etc. The total cost to make these repairs would be in excess of \$140,000. Therefore, it is recommended that the 12 bungalows and the weight room be demolished over Winter Break. Due to the nature of the repairs at Saddleback High school, the District will qualify for Emergency Repair Funds to cover the costs and build a permanent replacement building.

Dr. Laxton stated that impacted teachers have been informed of the removal of portables and will provide support to assist them in the move. The timing of such a move during the winter break will be the least disruptive to the education program for students.

**AUTHORIZATION TO REMOVE AND REPLACE PORTABLES AT SADDLEBACK HIGH SCHOOL**

It was moved by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Hernández, and carried 4-0, to remove and replace portables at Saddleback High School.

Mr. Dixon requested an amendment to the Gilbert & Stearns, Inc., electrical contract. He indicated it was necessary to complete the emergency demolition of bungalows and replacement of interim housing portables at Saddleback High School. He provided a breakdown of the expenditures that have already occurred. Mr. Dennis Ziegler was called to the podium. He informed the Board members of the extensive work that has been put into the bungalows. He further stated that maintenance and operations will utilize as much as possible from the bungalows, such as carpet and air conditioning units.

Board members had questions regarding the notification timeline to accomplish the demolition and verification of the emergency work to be completed. Mr. Dixon stated that in order to be eligible for the Emergency Repair Program, demolition had to be completed. Board member asked for a breakdown of the extensive work done in the summer, over the last two years, as well as a copy of the break down of Gilbert & Stearns expenses incurred.

**AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND COMPETITIVELY BID CONTRACT FOR 2009-10 FISCAL YEAR**

It was moved by Mr. Palacio, seconded by Mr. Richardson, and carried 3-0, Mr. Hernández not present, to amend competitively bid contract with Gilbert & Stearns, Inc. for Bid No. 23-09 in the amount of \$50,000 for an amended total of \$350,000 under the terms of the original contract.

**DISCUSSION**

Dr. Cathie Olsky gave a brief update relative to Race To The Top (RTTT). She stated that California has a unique opportunity to be selected to receive RTTT funding. The State must partner with local school districts by way of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). A letter of intent by the school district is due December 31, 2009. School districts will need to enter into an MOU with the State by January 8, 2010. The State application is due January 19, 2010. Actual funding per school district is not clear. The State plan must include: adoption of higher standards and assessments; build data systems; recruit, reward and retain effective teachers and principals; and turn around lowest performing schools. Districts must enter into the MOU agreement prior to knowing the State's implementation plan. What the District does not know is if there will be a need to purchase new materials; develop a tiered salary or merit system; or how the State will identify "lowest performing" schools. Legislation is pending at the State level to address implementation of Race to the Top. Dr. Olsky stated that during the week of January 4, 2010, a study session is needed in order to update the Board and receive direction on the Race to the Top Memorandum of Understanding.

**ADJOURNED**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Special Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

**FUTURE MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Jane A. Russo  
Secretary  
Santa Ana Board of Education