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"THE MISSION OF THE WEST SONOMA COUNTY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT IS TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY INSTRUCTION, AS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IS OUR TOP PRIORITY."

MINUTES

of a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the
West Sonoma County Union High School District

April 19, 2011

El Molino High School Library

7050 Covey Road

Forestville, CA 95436

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Open Session

I. PRELIMINARY

A. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present

David Stecher, President

Susan Devoto, Trustee

Diane Landry, Trustee

Keller McDonald, Superintendent

Absent

Kellie Noe, Vice-President

Rebecca DeSart, Clerk

Guests:

Mike Rea, West County Transportation Agency Director

Bob Borbe, Superintendent, Forestville Elementary Schools

C. INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA – None

D. WEST COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

Trustee Stecher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone at the meeting made self-introductions. Approximately 12 parents / community members attended the meeting, all from the Oak Grove – Harmony – Forestville school areas.

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Mr. Stecher introduced Mr. McDonald, who stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the single topic on the agenda, “West County high school bus transportation for the 2011-2012 school year.” This is on the agenda as a discussion item, not an action item. There will be two additional town hall meetings to discuss this topic; one at Anahy and one at Monte Rio School. Invitations to these town hall meetings have been mailed to all parents of students currently in grades 8 through 11 in all West County public schools. Parents and the community are invited to any and all of these meetings.

Mr. McDonald reviewed a list of topics to be discussed and asked for additional suggested topics. A discussion proceeded on these topics:

Budget challenges

Bus ridership (handout attached)

Bus costs (handout attached)

Bus pass fees

Important factors

Student safety

Student attendance

Possibilities and ideas for changes in bus service to reduce cost

Group stops

Consolidate routes

Shorter service

Morning only service

No activity bus (El Molino)

Van pool

Rideshare website

Key ideas that were suggested by parents / community members at the meeting were:

- If reduced bus service caused parents to drop students at schools earlier or pick students up later, schools would need to provide supervision and meeting areas for students before and after school (cafeteria, library, etc.)
- School starting and ending times might need to be adjusted to accommodate more parents transporting students if bus service was changed
- School “green teams” could help create carpool through incentives and outreach
- Some would consider transferring out of district if busing was provided morning only; some would consider transferring out of district if busing was provided afternoon only
- Monthly bus pass fee collection might be better than start-of-school / January fees
- District might want to survey parents regarding willingness and ability to pay higher bus pass fees

Contact information was collected from those who wish to receive a copy of proposed “group bus stop” schedule and notification of school board meeting when bus transportation will be on the action agenda.

II. ADJOURNMENT - President Stecher adjourned the meeting at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Keller McDonald, Superintendent / Secretary to the Board



Approved and entered into the official minutes of West Sonoma County Union High School District on this 11th day of May, 2011.


