

**MINUTES
OF THE
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING**

**CLAYTON CITY COUNCIL AND THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MT.
DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Monday, March 6, 2017

1. CALLS TO ORDER AND ROLL CALLS

The Clayton City Council meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Vice Mayor Haydon in Hoyer Hall of the Clayton Community Library, 6125 Clayton Road, Clayton, CA. Councilmembers present: Mayor Diaz (arrived at 6:48 p.m.), Vice Mayor Haydon, and Councilmembers Catalano and Pierce. Councilmembers absent: Councilmember Shuey. City Staff present: City Manager Gary Napper and City Clerk Janet Brown.

Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board Members present: President Debra Mason, Vice President Cheryl Hansen, and Trustees Joanne Durkee, Brian Lawrence and Linda Mayo. Board Members absent: None. School District Staff present: Superintendent Dr. Nellie Meyer and Secretary Debbie Maher.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – led by Vice Mayor Haydon.

3. OPENING REMARKS – were made by Vice Mayor Keith Haydon.

4. OPENING REMARKS – were made by Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board President Debra Mason.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – No comments.

6. INFORMATIONAL EXCHANGE WITH MT.DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

(a) Presentations by Principals of Mt. Diablo Elementary, Diablo View Middle School and Pine Hollow Middle School. (MDUSD)

MDUSD Superintendent Dr. Nellie Meyer advised three principals are going to provide a brief update on their school sites; she then introduced Principal Dawn Edwards of Mt. Diablo Elementary School.

Principal Dawn Edwards, Mt. Diablo Elementary School, introduced Vice Principal Joe Bruno, Mt. Diablo Elementary School. Ms. Edwards presented a short slideshow of various student and teacher activities on campus, projects and community fundraiser efforts.

Principal Patti Bannister, Diablo View Middle School, also presented a short slideshow of various students and teacher activities and projects on campus. Ms. Bannister indicated Diablo Middle School applied for designation as a “Gold Ribbon School” which is the new

version of the California Distinguished School. School officials were notified last week that they have proceeded to the next step of a site evaluation.

Dr. Meyer added the Gold Ribbon validation award is given to very few schools in the county; Diablo View Middle School is the only school within the Mount Diablo Unified School District to receive this honor.

(Mayor Diaz arrived at 6:48 p.m.)

Principal Shelley Bain, Pine Hollow Middle School, presented a short slideshow of various students and teacher activities and projects on campus.

- (b) Continued discussion of opportunities for improved protocols for neighborhood notification of outdoor school and/or Parent-Faculty Club events on school campuses during non-traditional school hours. (Clayton City Council)

Councilmember Pierce provided feedback as part of the neighborhood of Mt. Diablo Elementary School, advising it is much better this year. However, she does not think the notifications get out as far as it should to those neighbors that are truly impacted and it is difficult to fully read all of the messages on the school's electronic board as one drives by.

- (c) Continued discussion of issues with vehicle traffic during drop-off and pick-up hours near Mt. Diablo Elementary School and Diablo View Middle School. (Clayton City Council)

Councilmember Pierce advised the vehicle traffic at Mt. Diablo Elementary School is still a huge problem; at times it even backs up onto Clayton Road. Councilmember Pierce suggested the Parent Faculty Club continue its efforts in educating the parents about the hazardous conditions drivers cause when not obeying basic traffic laws, especially at the afternoon pick-up. She also thought the improved traffic lanes are better; however there just is not enough lane capacity to accommodate all of the vehicles.

Councilmember Catalano advised she has children at both schools noting the primary drop-off and pick-up locations are congested and suggested more parents use the Clayton downtown location to park and then walk up the hill's pathway as it is less congested and easier.

MDUSD Vice President Hansen advised she wanted to check on the status of the Clayton Police Chief's idea of "student valet" program at the elementary school to usher children in and out of parents' cars. She thought it was a great idea when she heard of it at last year's meeting and wondered what happened. Councilmember Pierce added she is not sure if the "student valet" program was implemented or not, or if they ran into insurance/liability issues. City Manager Napper advised he will see if we can obtain a copy of a Manual of Procedures on the "student valet" program used in the Livermore Unified School District; if so, he will provide the materials to Dr. Meyer for consideration of implementation.

PFC President Renee Culp (Mt. Diablo Elementary School) inquired if Councilmember Pierce noticed a positive difference to the flow of traffic when the route was changed about

last three years ago after the PFC was approached by Street Smarts? Having been associated with the school for many years now, it was her observation those traffic lane changes were not all that effective and perhaps should be reverted back to the former design. Councilmember Pierce responded “yes” the flow of traffic seems smoother, however it seems parents dropping off younger students are going around the vehicle queue line creating a hazardous condition when they have to stop to turn left at the intersection. It was noted the after-school daycare buses for the site also contribute to the afternoon vehicle backup.

MDUSD Trustee Lawrence suggested having parents serve as the valet to help get the children out of the car more efficiently. Parents might be more receptive and confident of an adult’s assistance as opposed to another child student. Trustee Lawrence also inquired if Councilmember Pierce was looking for alternative forms of communication regarding outside of traditional school hours events or if more notice is needed on the electronic message board? Councilmember Pierce responded broader noticing of the neighborhood is preferred but certainly more notice on the electronic message board would be helpful.

(d) Report/Update from MDUSD regarding its after-school intermural sports programs at Diablo View Middle School. (MDUSD Board)

Superintendent Meyer introduced Mr. Jonathan Egan, Assistant District Superintendent of Middle Schools, to discuss the successes of Diablo View Middle School’s intermural sports programs.

Mr. Egan presented a brief slideshow depicting the types of after-school intermural sports programs being offered at Diablo View Middle School and their successes in playing teams from the other MDUSD middle schools. Soccer occurred in the fall, kickball in November, and he advised this year they added volleyball and a track and field jamboree; participation has increased from the first year. He also remarked these programs are offered at no-cost to the students, free transportation is provided for the players to the other school sites, adults are background-cleared to assist, participants’ grades are checked weekly, and referees used also work high school sports games and are concussion trained.

Councilmember Pierce asked how many students are participating. Mr. Egan responded about 50 kids for soccer; in volleyball they fielded 1 girls team and 1 boys team; basketball had 2 boys teams (6th grade, and 7th-8th grade) and 2 girls teams (6th grade, and 7th-8th grade). He noted in flag football, every participant must play. Vice Mayor Haydon asked what times the intermural programs play. Mr. Egan responded the sports’ start times are usually 3:30 pm after school to allow sufficient time for visiting teams to travel to the home school’s campus.

The Clayton City Council expressed its appreciation and pleasure with the information provided and with the great success of MDUSD’s intermural sports program.

(e) Information/Status report on plan for renovation of play fields at Mt. Diablo Elementary School. (MDUSD)

Superintendent Meyer asked Principal Dawn Edwards and School District staff member Tim Cody to provide an update on the fundraising efforts for the renovation of the play fields at Mt. Diablo Elementary.

Ms. Edwards advised to date a total of \$250,000 has been raised towards the elementary school's field renovation goal of \$900,000.

Mr. Tim Cody, Measure C Director, added the project is in very preliminary stages and they have been working with the community group noting this project is very early in the fundraising process and it is something the community may not see until next year.

District Superintendent Meyer added the plan design is to install turf play fields as the current conditions are very hazardous to the students. The Community Group looked at turf to ensure the fields are very usable year-round despite the weather and ground squirrels. Superintendent Meyer advised the plan is also looking to add a track around the turf area for the students. She recognized and thanked the Community Member Team led by Pat Middendorf in collaboration with the PFC who came together for fundraising.

Councilmember Pierce requested clarification on plan details as the fundraising flyer did not indicate if the fields were real turf or synthetic turf. Also, what prevention of the ground squirrels returning to the area, and what material considerations for the surrounding track?

MDUSD Vice President Hansen added the proposed project includes renovation of the problematic back slope to the play fields.

Mr. Cody responded the renovation will be a synthetic track and synthetic infield component that ground squirrels typically are not attracted to. Mr. Cody advised the back slope renovation will create a little bit smaller playfield area by changing the grades and install erosion-controlled landscaping to the outside.

Councilmember Catalano inquired on the funding source: will the project be 100% funded by the community fundraising efforts? Superintendent Meyer advised they are looking at what funds MDUSD can contribute to the project as the final cost has not yet been determined; as part of the last sale of the Measure C Bonds, projects are now being prioritized by looking at different needs and possible joint-use projects, and the District will contribute where they can as MDUSD wants this to be a joint community project.

Vice Mayor Haydon inquired on the on-going maintenance costs of the field renovation and how that would be funded. Superintendent Meyer advised the on-going costs have been a consideration of this project along with the life cycle for the synthetic materials, which could be ten (10) years. There is a District commitment to improve, maintain and rehab the facilities to the same standard as with the high school fields.

MDUSD Trustee Mayo thanked everyone involved in the fundraising efforts and advised what is really needed is another school facilities bond to take care of other campuses without the need for community fundraising.

Pat Middendorf also thanked the School District and staff for its help. She also announced the upcoming "Clayton Round-Up"/Relay for Life community event taking place on June 17th will be donating half of its proceeds to this playfield renovation project.

City Manager Napper requested MDUSD keep the City informed of its construction plans as the underground wildlife will naturally migrate to the hill slope on Clayton Road, where the drainage problem partially caused by ground squirrel habitation was recently solved through a joint storm drainage improvement with the City and School District; since those modifications were made, dirt has not sluffed off the hillside onto Clayton Road at all in the last two rainy seasons.

MDUSD Vice President inquired about the status of the lot near the school where she has heard Clayton Community Church is intending to build on the adjacent property and was seeking additional information. City Manager Napper advised the Clayton Community Church does own that real property and they are in the process of submitting a land use application to the City. However, its earlier development submittals were deemed incomplete by City staff and he understood they are working with the School District regarding shared parking on the adjoining lots. The church plans to have a worship center on its property.

- (f) Discuss potential for a joint project to construct an all-weather mini-track and/or enclosed recreational building on Field No. 4 (City property) adjacent to the Clayton Community Gym on the Diablo View Middle School campus. (Clayton City Council) Patti Middendorf's

Vice Mayor Haydon noted he has been contacted by a number of people indicating this year's rainy weather curtailed a lot of outdoor activities where many had to go and rent time at indoor facilities outside of the Clayton area. He thought of this as a potential opportunity for both the school and City to build a structure much closer to home that could accommodate a variety of different sports. If done properly, the collection of rental fees could generate some income. City Manager Napper displayed an overhead of Field 4 at Clayton Community Park that depicted one possibility of a mini-track on the 0.75 acre of land.

MDUSD President Mason inquired if there are any nearby facilities that can be viewed to get an idea of the proposed concept? Councilmember Pierce advised several YMCAs in Colorado have these types of facilities due to their varying weather patterns. Developing this site with similar improvements at this particular location could be very helpful to the school and community members for outdoor and/or indoor recreation activities.

Pat Middendorf inquired if the City Council has considered installing an asphalt track in contrast to a synthetic surface; asphalt is really an all-weather surface that can be very affordable and can last a long time.

Principal Patti Bannister noted there is an existing safety concern when students run the mile on Wednesdays around the school's basketball courts after the installation of traffic calming bumps at Diablo View Middle School. She suggested adding onto that existing track to keep the kids from having to run in the road.

Ted Meriam, Vice Chairperson/Community-At-Large Board Member, Clayton Valley Charter High School, commented this conversational exchange was very good but he thought next time there should be an invitation extended to Clayton Valley Charter High School Board to formally sit in on this exchange as the high school serves many students that reside in Clayton.

Mayor Diaz and Board President Mason thanked everyone for attending and stated that general guidance to respective staff was provided and that no formal action was taken on any of these agenda items.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**– on call by Mayor Diaz the Clayton City Council special joint meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting is on March 7, 2017.

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Respectfully submitted,



Janet Brown, City Clerk

APPROVED BY CLAYTON CITY COUNCIL



Jim Diaz, Mayor