

**MINUTES - REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2009,  
AT 6:00 P.M. IN LOS ALAMOS MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSROOMS 118 AND 119**

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**2. CALL TO ORDER**

The Los Alamos School Board held a Regular School Board meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2009, at 6:00 P.M. in Los Alamos Middle School classroom 118 and 119. President Ahlers called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Present        Joan Ahlers, President  
                  Kenneth Johnson, Vice President  
                  Jody Benson, Secretary  
                  Thelma Hahn, Board Member  
                  Melanie McKinley, Board Member  
                  Gene Schmidt, Superintendent  
                  Kate Thomas, Assistant Superintendent  
                  John Wolfe, Director of Business Services  
                  Cathy McAnally, Recording Secretary

**4. Recognition by the Board**

The Board recognized Los Alamos High School for receiving the New Mexico Activities Association's Dodge Director's Cup, along with Albuquerque Academy. The Board also recognized Gene Mortenson for receiving the NMAA Service Leadership Award.

The Board recognized the following teachers for their National Board Certification:

Barbara Jo Wrobeleski-Mullis  
Carolyn Torres  
Deborah Smith  
Rebecca Sims  
Laura Gallimore  
Diane Koeth

**5. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**6. Approval of Agenda**

Ms. Hahn made a **MOTION** to approve the agenda for the October 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting. The **MOTION** passed unanimously

**7. Approval of Minutes: Regular School Board Meeting of October 13, 2009**

Ms. McKinley made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of October 13, 2009. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

**8. Resolution for Referendum Election**

Mr. Wolfe introduced the new Comptroller, Mr. Alex Salazar, to the Board.

Mr. Wolfe then introduced Mr. Kevin Powers from RBC Capital Markets who presented a capital finance plan update to the Board. Mr. Powers explained that the resolution proposed for Board approval is a continuance of a levy that the district has used for many years and will not increase the tax rate. If passed, this election will extend the levy for six years. The funds generated by this levy are used for items such as small capital projects and technology needs for the district.

Mr. Duane Brown of the Modrall Sperling law firm reviewed the resolution presented to the Board. The election will be conducted using a mail-out ballot, which will be due February 2, 2010. Mr. Brown responded to Board questions. He advised the Board that the date of the election is flexible but must meet advertising requirements. The election date could be moved to a January 2010 date.

The Executive Director of University of New Mexico at Los Alamos, Dr. Cedric Paige, has formally requested that the school district and the university share election expenses by placing the school district's election on the same ballot with the university's election. However, the university's election would increase the mil levy for operational purposes. The Board discussed the pros and cons of a joint election and requested public comment from the audience. The Board requested that, if possible, the district's election question be the first question on the ballot.

After a lengthy discussion, Ms. Benson made a **MOTION** to adopt the "Resolution of Special District Mill Levy Election" as amended. The **MOTION** was seconded by Dr. Johnson and passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

## **9. Trinity Development Project**

### **A. Warehouse Memo of Understanding with County**

Mr. Wolfe presented the Board with the Memorandum of Understanding with the County for approval and Mr. Jim Roth from the County was also present to discuss the agreement. After a Board discussion, Ms. Hahn made a **MOTION** to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Incorporated County of Los Alamos and the Board of Education of the Los Alamos Public Schools with Respect to Material Management and Warehouse Operations. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

### **B. District Office Relocation**

Based on the current timeline for the Trinity project, Dr. Schmidt told the Board that all of the facilities on the Trinity Site must be moved from the site by the end of May. The warehouse, maintenance department and transportation department will move to the Airport Basin site prior to the end of May. The remaining offices at the district office site must also relocate but are unable to move into any leased facilities due to contractual obligations. Dr. Schmidt listed several options for district office space including the use of portable buildings, renting office space in the County or remodeling the space at Pueblo that is not currently leased (gym, NJROTC space and wrestling space).

The Board discussed these options. Since a solid block office space is not available in the County to lease, the administration did not pursue this option. If the district were to purchase portables, the cost of the infrastructure and the parking lot would make this option expensive and a temporary solution.

The administration asked the Board to consider that the move in May would occur during a critical time of the year for the district since many end of the year reports are due to the state at that time. Due to the timing, the relocation might have to be done in phases in order to complete the required reports.

While considering the option to remodel the non-leased portion of Pueblo gym, the Board was advised that the facility was very old and would have to be brought up to code. An electrical upgrade and a reconfiguration of the heating and cooling systems, as well as, an additional parking lot would have to be a part of the renovation.

A space study must be completed prior to the move. The design work and site work (surveys) will cost \$184,000. A rough estimate of the entire remodel is expected between \$2 million and \$3 million. Dr. Schmidt requested Board direction on the relocation of the district offices.

After a discussion, the Board approved the expenditure for the design work.

### **C. Other**

Ms. Ahlers noted that the County had voted to finalize the documents for the Trinity Development with 1.3 acres land exchange. The Trinity revenue will be split 52%/48% with the school district receiving the larger portion. The School Board and County Council will meet jointly on November 12<sup>th</sup> to vote on the final documents for this project.

#### **10. Solar Energy Grant**

Dr. Schmidt presented the concept idea for a grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for a Photovoltaic Solar Energy System. Governor Bill Richardson has allocated \$10 million of federal stimulus funds for the development of 100-kilowatt (kw) photovoltaic systems in public schools throughout New Mexico. Dr. Schmidt has formed a grant writing team of community and school volunteers to submit a proposal for a 100 kw solar farm on middle school property.

Dr. Schmidt will provide further information to the Board at the November 10 meeting and request Board approval of the application at that time.

#### **11. Leased Facilities Report**

Mr. Wolfe provided the Board with a year-to-date report of the revenues and expenses from the leased facilities accounts.

#### **11. Approval of Budget Adjustment Request**

Ms. Benson made a **MOTION** to approve the Budget Adjustment Request for October 22, 2009. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

#### **13. Adjournment**

Ms. Ahlers adjourned the meeting at 9:45 P.M.

### **Work Session**

#### **1. Core Values/Baldrige/Strategic Planning**

Dr. Schmidt made a presentation to the Board on core values, Baldrige and strategic planning. He reviewed descriptors for a premier school district from administrators and Board members. The district has applied the Baldrige system (Approach, Deploy, Learn) to continuous school improvement and is also using the works of Robert J. Marzano to introduce the most effective theory and practice into leadership and instructional strategies in a systematic way.

Ms. Ahlers adjourned the work session at 9:51 P.M.

Draft Prepared and Respectfully Submitted  
on Friday, October 23, 2009

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy McAnally, Recording Secretary

Approved:

Attested:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary