

**MINUTES
OF THE
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING**

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

Monday, February 29, 2016

1. CALLS TO ORDER AND ROLL CALLS

The Clayton City Council meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mayor Geller in Hoyer Hall of the Clayton Community Library, 6125 Clayton Road, Clayton, CA. Councilmembers present: Vice Mayor Diaz (arrived at 7:02 p.m.), Councilmembers Haydon, Pierce (arrived at 6:46 p.m.) and Shuey. Councilmembers absent: None. City Staff present: City Manager Gary Napper, City Clerk Janet Brown, and Chief of Police Chris Wenzel.

Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board Members present: President Cheryl Hansen, Vice President Debra Mason, Trustees Barbara Oaks and Linda Mayo. Board Members absent: Trustee Brian Lawrence. School District Staff present: Superintendent Dr. Nellie Meyer, and Secretary Debbie Maher.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – led by Mayor Geller.

3. OPENING REMARKS – were made by Mayor Howard Geller.

4. OPENING REMARKS – were made by Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board President Cheryl Hansen.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

7:45 p.m. Remarks were provided by Dr. Harmesh Kumar, a candidate for the office of California State Assembly, District 14. He considered the exchange between the Clayton City Council and Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board members went well; he would also like to see public education funds spent on the students, not attorneys.

6. INFORMATIONAL EXCHANGE WITH MT.DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

(a) Report on the success of an inter-agency storm water runoff containment project performed on MDUSD school property and on City property adjacent to the asphalt public trail rimming the Mt. Diablo Elementary School. (Clayton City Council)

Vice Mayor Geller provided a brief background during a slideshow of the joint storm water runoff project; he was very pleased that City Maintenance Staff and MDUSD staff were able to work together and resolve the drainage problems.

City Manager Gary Napper thanked the School District for its collaboration on this storm water runoff containment project. He noted in years past with any measurable rainfall, the dirt hillside between the elementary school and Clayton Road would experience dirt kick-outs causing road blockages and vehicular hazards. After the repairs and despite the El Nino heavy rains, not one dirt slide has occurred. Councilmember Haydon also thanked the Mt. Diablo Unified School District for its portion of expenses on this storm water runoff containment project.

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

Mayor Geller advised this item was requested by Councilmember Pierce who is currently not present; however, he thought it would be good for both the Council and the surrounding neighborhoods near the public schools to know of outdoor after-school hour events that would involve loudspeakers and/or amplified music. Councilmember Haydon added surrounding neighborhoods are impacted by the additional sound and possible parking issues.

(Councilmember Pierce arrived)

MDUSD Board President Hansen inquired of which sites were being referred to: Diablo View Middle and/or Mt. Diablo Elementary schools. Councilmember Pierce responded from her perspective it is primarily Mt. Diablo Elementary School; the issue arose recently when the school had an outdoor movie night and she received many calls from her neighbors inquiring on the event, noise, and how long it would last. She noted indoor events do not generate as much noise and are not really a problem.

MDUSD Board President Hansen suggested adding neighbors to the school's email blast or auto caller when such events are scheduled. She was also open to other ideas on how to effectively notify the school neighbors.

Councilmember Pierce asked if there could be something as simple as a separate sign posted at the school entrance or fence to highlight the event; the existing reader board has many events scrolling and it could take some time for non-school hour events to circulate and be noticed by area residents. MDES Principal Irene Keenan thought placing a sign on the fence was a great idea and will speak with the Parent Faculty Club to see if this is something they will do.

- (c) Discuss vehicle traffic during drop-off and pick-up hours near Mt. Diablo Elementary School. (Clayton City Council)

Councilmember Pierce provided a brief history of occurrences and near vehicular misses experienced during student drop-off and pick-up times in her neighborhood near Mt. Diablo Elementary School. Driver behavior is getting worse and an accident is going to happen by some drivers driving up the opposing traffic lane just to get ahead of the long queue.

MDUSD President Hansen asked if neighborhood kids are using the "walking school bus" idea as suggested at last year's joint meeting. Councilmember Pierce advised some neighborhood kids are participating in this manner which has helped traffic congestion to

some degree; however, families with students not residing in the surrounding neighborhood but attending Mt. Diablo Elementary are still part of the traffic problem, and noted it is worse during rainy weather.

(Vice Mayor Diaz arrived)

Chief of Police Chris Wenzel advised he initiated a recent traffic/school route inspection conducted by an expert from Livermore and added the usual “3 E’s” are applicable here (Engineering, Enforcement and Education). In his observation, part of the traffic issue is the design of the school. In his off-duty role as a member of the Livermore School District Board, he suggested one alternative is for older students to be on the school’s sidewalk and open the car doors of other students during drop-off times in the morning to expedite this process, under the supervisor of a teacher or staff member of the school.

MDUSD Board President responded she liked the idea of trying a “student valet”. She also inquired if there could be a Clayton police officer present for traffic enforcement and how often that could occur?

Chief Wenzel advised under current police staffing levels it would be difficult to schedule a Clayton police officer to be present during daily drop-off and pick-up times. He noted the Livermore school traffic expert will be coming out again on the afternoon of March 8 to further observe and provide some ideas to help with the traffic congestion.

City Manager Gary Napper indicated he had been chatting now with Superintendent Meyer about ways to address the elementary school’s chronic traffic problems; he suggested there may be merit for both agencies to bring on a School Resource Officer that would be able to share time between Mt. Diablo Elementary and Diablo View Middle School campuses handling not only school/student police concerns, intervention, and preventative matters but also provide traffic enforcement each day at the elementary school during student drop off and pick up hours. Superintendent Nellie Meyer added a School Resource Officer could further assist in speaking with students about various topics including drug prevention.

Vice President Mason also included Bel Air Elementary experienced similar issues which seemed to resolve with the addition of the School Resource Officer. President Hansen added she would love for Clayton to have a School Resource Officer but always thought it was financially infeasible. Chief Wenzel noted a School Resource Officer could also assist at school and community special events, help educate adults, and aid getting information out to surrounding neighborhoods.

City Manager Napper indicated he and Superintendent Meyer will work together regarding the possible implementation of a School Resource Officer.

- (d) Report/Update from MDUSD regarding the inaugural year of its after-school intra-mural sports programs at Diablo View Middle School. (MDUSD Board)

Superintendent Meyer introduced Mr. Jonathan Eagan, Assistant Superintendent of Middle Schools, to discuss the successes of Diablo View Middle School’s intra-mural sports programs.

Mr. Eagan presented a brief slideshow depicting the types of after-school intra-mural sports programs now being offered at Diablo View Middle School and their successes in playing teams from the other MDUSD middle school. He remarked these programs are offered at no-cost, provides free transportation for the players to the other schools, adults are legally cleared, participants grades are checked weekly, and referees are concussion trained. Participation includes coed for some of the sports, as well as male and female sports teams

Superintendent Meyer added there have been measurable reductions in student D and F grades and fewer discipline issues since beginning the after-school intra-mural sports program.

Councilmember Pierce inquired on the number of students participating in each of the sports offered? Mr. Eagan advised Diablo View Middle School had 45 participants for soccer, and enough participants to fill three basketball teams consisting of two boys' teams and one girls' team.

The Clayton City Council expressed its appreciation and pleasure with the information provided and success of the MDUSD's intra-mural sports program.

- (e) Share information/feedback regarding the Clayton Valley Charter High School relationship. (Clayton City Council)

Councilmember Shuey provided a chronology on the relationship between the Clayton City Council and Clayton Valley Charter High School and requested feedback from the Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board on its current relationship with Clayton Valley Charter High School. From his perspective, the School District is spending way too much public money on attorneys battling the Charter High School when such funds could be better used going to student education.

MDUSD Board President Hansen advised the School District is the landlord and Clayton Valley Charter High School is the tenant in this particular relationship; the School District is not involved with the charter's day-to-day operations. Councilmember Shuey added the Charter High School is here to stay and he inquired whether the School District or its local school principals are preparing local students to enter the Charter's curriculum.

Diablo View Middle School Principal Patti Bannister commented she has had a conversation with Clayton Valley Charter High School regarding Elective Courses offered and is currently working on grant funding. Mt. Diablo Elementary School Principal Irene Keenan noted Clayton Valley Charter High School students help out with the Elementary School's Science Fair, extracurricular activities and also chaperone 5th Grade camps.

Councilmember Shuey asked if the Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board would be interested in a joint Clayton Valley Charter High School meeting, similar to what they are currently doing with Clayton and in neighboring cities. Board Trustee Linda Mayo advised conversations are occurring between the teachers deciding on interests, including the best person to speak with and setting up a time to discuss.

- (f) Discuss the need for a performing arts studio in the Clayton Valley area.
(Clayton City Council)

Councilmember Shuey inquired on the prospects of a performing arts studio in the Clayton Valley area and thought it would provide a great opportunity for kids not necessarily interested in mainstream public education. Vice President Mason responded a performing arts studio would serve many kids in the community and could meet the needs of the Clayton Valley area.

Councilmember Pierce asked if the Board members had any requests for Clayton City Council. MDUSD President Hansen responded the items on this Agenda pretty well flushed out the joint interests.

Mayor Geller and Board President Hansen 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 Geller the Clayton City Council joint meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting is on March 1, 2016.

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Respectfully submitted,

Janet Brown, City Clerk

APPROVED BY CLAYTON CITY COUNCIL

Howard Geller, Mayor