



El Tejon Unified School District
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Paula Regan, President

John Fleming, Trustee

Anita Anderson, Trustee

Dr. Ken Hurst, Clerk

Steve Kiouses, Trustee

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, November 7, 2012

3149 San Carlos Trail, Frazier Park, CA 93225

OPEN SESSION:

7:00 p.m.

Frazier Park School

OFFICIAL MINUTES

On November 7, 2012 Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the El Tejon Unified School District was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Trustee Regan. Trustee Anderson made the motion, seconded by Trustee Hurst at Frazier Park School, 3149 San Carlos Trail, Frazier Park, CA 93225.

VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYES, 1 ABSENT

Trustee Kiouses was absent.

FLAG SALUTE

Kyle Robinson, a 6th grade student at Pine Mountain Learning Center, led the Trustees and members of the audience with the flag salute.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Trustee Regan stated this is the second public hearing to receive comments on the Facilities Review by Public Consulting Group (PCG). The first public hearing was held one week ago. She asked the attendees to state their name, to stay within five minutes if possible, and to let others go first if you spoke at the previous meeting. She thanked Bud Burrows, Interim Superintendent, for attending the meeting.

Bud Burrows stated this board in the past couple of years has been taking and considering measures it is loathed to do. Your Superintendent is thinking of all ideas to save money and then use it in a higher area. This is how the idea of closing or mothballing one site came about. PCG recommended mothballing El Tejon School due to the cost per student to operate. This is not surprising due to lower enrollment and the age of the school. There are copies of Appendix H District Facilities Operating Costs from the study available tonight. In reviewing items 1-9, it is estimated the district should save approximately 50% of operating costs. That is what the board is considering.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing was declared open at 7:10 p.m. to receive public comments on the Facilities Review by Public Consulting Group.

MOTION: Trustee Anderson motioned to open the Public hearing.

SECOND: Trustee Fleming.

VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYES, 1 ABSENT (Kiouses)

DISCUSSION:

Pam Sturdevant asked if the bond money was only for El Tejon School or can it be used elsewhere? Trustee Hurst stated the money has to be used for permanent structures but can be used at Frazier Mountain High School, El Tejon School and Frazier Park School. She asked if the information could be distributed to the community. Trustee Hurst asked Bud Burrow if it was possible to share the information throughout the community. Mr. Burrow asked if it was the board's direction to add the bond language to the district website. Upon hearing the answer yes, Mr. Burrows stated he would have the information put on the website.

Armida Calderon stated she has four daughters enrolled in the district. She does not want El Tejon to be closed and junior high students to be moved to Frazier Mountain High School. She asked the board to please consider other options as she will not allow her junior high children to go to the high school next year.

Chuck Mullen hoped the board was not making their decision based on pages 46 and 51 of the study. He feels there are discrepancies and needs specific questions answered. Mr. Burrows suggested writing out his specific questions and he would do further research.

Michael Orozco, a student at Frazier Mountain High School, does not want younger students to attend. He feels the campus would be overcrowded and the age differences would be bad.

Reyna Stegeman stated she will not let her junior high age children attend FMHS. Proposition 30 just passed so why close one school? She asked if more teachers would be hired. If cuts need to be made, let us make them from the top.

Angelic Ager will not let her 18 year old senior attend the high school with younger students. She is worried about drug use and pregnancy rates increasing.

Art Bence does not understand how things got so bad. It is sad that there is no longer wood shop, band, orchestra, home economics, etc. for the students to choose from.

Michelle Moser has children in three of the district schools. She serves on the District Advisory Council, the Bond Oversight Committee, PTSO, and maintains the Frazier Park Face book page. At first she was in favor of closing El Tejon School as it is a rundown campus, there are no lockers, and no electives. But closing El Tejon School will not address the over-crowding of Frazier Park School nor solve the over spending at FMHS. In less than one month there will be a new board, a new finance officer and a new technology officer who will find better ways to do things. She asked to use the bond money to improve El Tejon School and provided a list of organizations that could possibly help. She asked to repair the roof at FMHS, look into solar, and plant the trees at El Tejon School.

Anne Weber prefers to focus on the positives. This could be a great opportunity for older students to mentor younger students. Plus, the students would have a chance to learn other subjects than what is now being taught at the junior high level. She stated the statistics do not show pregnancy rates increasing during the time at school but as a result of unsupervised time after school.

Angela Witham stated she moved to the mountains to raise her family in a safe and small school environment. It is sad to see Frazier Park School so overcrowded. She is in favor of moving 4th – 6th grades back to El Tejon School. The junior high students need the best opportunities we can provide. They need to have their own dances, their own Associated Student Body and room to grow.

Sue Brown stated she currently works at FMHS but has taught at El Tejon. She questioned the details of the budget and asked if the district was in the hole. Trustee Regan explained the need to offset facilities monies and spend the money on teachers. Our purpose is to always take money as far away from the classroom as possible. We are exploring options. Trustee Hurst said the district is not going into debt to fund day to day expenses. We have a balanced budget. In the past we have pulled funds from reserves. Sue Brown then asked if the money saved would be placed back into the reserves and was told that it would be placed into the general fund.

Armida Calderon asked if saving money was the only reason for closing El Tejon School then why did Superintendent Kleier get a raise. Trustee Hurst explained that each employee of the district gets a step and column increase as stated in their contracts. The superintendent did earn a step just like every other employee does until they reach their top step and column. Trustee Fleming stated the current board elected a new contract for the superintendent. Her contract had one more year. This board did not wait one more year to renew her contract. We now have to wait until this one is over. This current board hired PCG to do a study so the school can be closed before the board leaves. Trustee Regan stated the board wanted to start the process in January to prepare and finish the closing of a school before the start of the new school year. Trustee Hurst stated the board will debate and then make a decision. Trustee Regan expects an item to be on the November 14th regular board agenda.

Reyna Stegeman asked if you are making the decision to close El Tejon then why have this meeting.

Lark Shillig investigated on her own and thinks the utility costs will be higher. The district should review the costs for utilities further. The walkways at FMHS are uncovered and very dangerous in bad weather. El Tejon walkways are much safer as they are covered. Other districts have tried closing or mothballing one school site and they lost enrollment due to parents moving their children to other districts. The same will happen here as many parents she has spoken to will not allow their junior high students to attend FMHS. If the 5th and 6th graders were moved back to El Tejon, the cost would even out. This is a much better option and was not explored by PCG. Their other scenarios are laughable. It is good for one principal to only have to work at one site but we should not do what is best for the principal but what is best for the students. She wants to let the new board make this decision.

Alana Witham graduated from FMHS and has faith the staff would work hard and educate the younger students. However, junior high students need their own experience. They should stay at El Tejon so they can thrive.

Lisa Johnson wanted her children at a small school and they want to attend El Tejon. The campus is beautiful. She will home school her children instead of sending them to FMHS for junior high.

Sue Brown stated the high school is not a bad place. The staff works very hard and watches out for all students. Moving two portables to the Continuation High School is not the best decision. If more students attend then there will be a need for more volunteers.

Trustee Regan asked Bud Burrows if he could review the PCG study to get a clearer picture of the financials. He will have a report at the next board meeting.

Lark Shillig asked if a survey could be sent home to the junior high parents asking what they would do if the school is closed. Trustee Regan thinks it is a better idea to get the price per student figures due to the time frame. Trustee Hurst explained in January the budget process starts, in February and March there are staff issues and the logistics of organizing portables, moving of furniture, etc. which requires time. Asking the district to do all the work in the spring is not allowing enough time. Trustee Regan would like to know if 20% of students leave, for example, then how much money would be lost.

Danyle Rice asked the trustees to consider not only losing the junior high students but their siblings as well. Trustee Hurst asked if having different age students at a school is such a huge concern because in families there are 7th and 12th grade students living together. Several members of the audience said yes. Danyle stated she would either move or home school her children if she had to do so. She then asked the board to please wait for

more figures and data.

Trustee Anderson spoke with a representative from John Adams Middle School in Santa Monica. Their younger students attend 8th grade geometry classes to earn high school credits. She believes it is how you view opportunities. We are working with Rachel's Challenge. We need to continue to think of ways to improve things. Pam Sturdevant asked the trustees if they thought the study was helpful. Trustee Hurst was disappointed on getting enrollment projections. The district needs a plan to proceed with 200 kids less or with 200 more. It is difficult to do.

Lark Shillig reminded the board Mettler School was mothballed and now it is in terrible condition. Trustee Hurst explained that if El Tejon School is mothballed it will not remain empty. The district offices and the bus barn will remain. Money is set aside to maintain the site so it will not deteriorate. We are not going to abandon it as the cost would be too great to bring it back.

Trustee Regan said the board will take into consideration the passing of Prop 30. The budget will be revised and we will receive adjusted revenues in January. She thanked everyone in attendance for coming and sharing their thoughts with the board.

ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

MOTION: Trustee Anderson motioned to adjourn the Public Hearing.

SECOND: Trustee Hurst.

VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYES, 1 ABSENT (Kiouses)

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Anderson motioned for the adjournment of the Special Meeting of November 7, 2012 at 9:01 p.m., seconded by Trustee Hurst.

VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYES, 1 ABSENT (Kiouses)

The minutes are an unofficial draft until reviewed, modified and approved by ETUSD Trustees approved by the Governing Board on November 14, 2012.

Clerk of the Board _____

