

Dixon Unified School District
Special Board Meeting
Thursday, October 13th, 2011
A Joint Governing Board and Budget Advisory Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. - Dixon High School Library - 555 College Way, Dixon Ca

Minutes

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Dixon USD Governing Board meets on the First and Third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., in the Dixon Board Room located at 180 S. 1st Street, Suite 3, unless **otherwise noted above**. (Other meetings may be scheduled as necessary.)

The agenda is divided into four main sections:

- **CONSENT CALENDAR** – These matters typically include routine financial or administrative actions. Any item on the consent calendar may be pulled by the board or a member of the public to be discussed separately upon request. Consent items are usually approved with a single motion.
- **INFORMATION ITEMS** – These items are for information only and do not require any action by the Board. They are written unless otherwise noted on the agenda, e.g., oral.
- **DISCUSSION ITEMS** – This section is usually reserved for the First Reading of policies or Revised Policies. Other topics may also be discussed.
- **ACTION ITEMS** – These include significant policy, administrative, and financial matters, are classified by department, and will usually be acted upon individually.

An opportunity is provided for members of the public to speak on any item on the agenda at the time that item is addressed. In addition, there is a time for the public to speak on items that are not on the agenda. Speakers are allowed five minutes and are asked to complete a public comment form prior to the start of the meeting. (See Board agenda item, PUBLIC COMMENT.)

Governing Board

John Gabby, President
jgabby@dixonusd.org

Herb Cross, Vice President
hcross@dixonusd.org

Gil Piñon, Clerk
gpinon@dixonusd.org

Irina Okhremtchouk, Member
iokhremtchouk@dixonusd.org

**Brian Dolan, Interim
Superintendent
Secretary to the Board**
bdolan@dixonusd.org

Schools

Anderson Elementary School
(707) 678-5508

Tremont Elementary School
(707) 678-9533

Gretchen Higgins Elementary
(707) 678-6271

CA Jacobs Intermediate
(707) 678-9222

Dixon High School
(707) 693-6330

Maine Prairie High School
Continuation
(707) 678-4560

Community Day School
(707) 678-3680

www.dixonusd.org

Board Goals ~ 2011-2012

The Primary Mission of the Dixon Unified School District is to provide a quality educational opportunity for each learner attending Dixon Schools.

Focus Areas for 2010 2011 include;

1. Student Learning and Achievement to Close the Achievement Gap
2. Building Learning Communities
3. Maintain the Fiscal Stability of the District
4. Restore Staff and Public Confidence in the District through communication to all stakeholders

- I. BUSINESS MEETING – 6:00 P.M. – The meeting was called to order by Pres. Gabby at 6:04 PM
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Roll Call
John Gabby, President - present
Herb Cross, Vice President - present
Gil Piñon, Clerk -present
Irina Okhremtchouk, Member - present
Madisyn Rosenberger, Student Member - Absent

- II. NOTICE TO PUBLIC: Persons wishing to speak to agenda items may present their written request at this time. While the written request is optional, those making a written request will be recognized first. Persons wishing to introduce a subject not on the agenda may also present their request at this time. The Board President will recognize you for the discussion at the appropriate time. Non-scheduled agenda items will be introduced under Section III on the agenda. Speakers will be allowed five minutes per topic.

- III. PUBLIC COMMENT: Persons wishing to introduce a topic within the subject matter jurisdiction of the District and not on the agenda may do so at this time. By law, subjects not on the agenda cannot be acted upon by the Board, except to briefly respond, clarify, or refer to staff for review and presentation at a future meeting. Comments will be limited to five minutes per person to maximum of twenty five minutes per topic unless extended by the Board President.

- IV OPEN SESSION – A Joint Governing Board and Budget Advisory Committee Meeting
The Board and Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) will hold a discussion with the purpose of clarifying the role of the BAC for the 2011-12 school year.

Mr. Dolan gave some background on the BAC. Mr. Dolan stated that the BAC started in November of 2010. Some challenges we would like to talk about are; what didn't work, questions the committee has and questions the Board may have. Mr. Dolan said he would also like to decide as a group where we are now and where does the BAC want to start.

“Brainstorming”

What worked?

Mrs. Galloway-Open Communication, Safe to speak your mind
Mrs. De Weese-Active BAC, everyone participated, honest candid responses
Mrs. Huff, remind the public of the good things in our schools which is a positive
President Gabby-wide variety, all across the Board, lots of participation
Mrs. Mustard-diverse BAC, teachers, administration, parents, employees everyone was invested
Mrs. De Weese-the understanding of being careful and caring of not singling out any certain positions
Mrs. Mustard-anything we needed Ms. Nunley was very responsive, good communication
Mrs. De Weese-positive focus, initial goal was focused, generate revenue
Ms. Nunley, Pride
Mrs. De Weese-more taking away from students, voice of the students
Kelly-various roles of members were respected
Mrs. De Weese-students were at the center of our thinking

Challenges

President Gabby-blurred line of what were easy items to cut and what were negotiated items, there were no immediate cuts that could be made
Mrs. Galloway-it was easy to generate ideas. We were concerned these ideas would become recommendations when they were not, we didn't want to seem as if we wanted and recommended these cuts
President Gabby-the title was confusing
Mr. Forcier-department “pitches” were not valuable
Mrs. Mustard-dealing with potential salary cuts was uncomfortable, intimidating and changed the dynamic of the BAC
Ms. Linyard-the role of BAC was never clearly defined
President Gabby-brain storm session
Member Okhremtchouk-what was the goal?
Ms. Linyard-everyone knew about the 1.2 million in cuts, there is a difference from here is a list verses here are the cuts that need to happen
Clerk Piñon-what would work better, to work as a group or run like a Board?
Mrs. Galloway-was happy with last year's process, wasn't a formal process, it was more a sharing session
Ms. Linyard-we wrote down everything that was said
President Gabby-the BAC needed an advisory committee
Mrs. De Weese-thought that the Board would take our list and the Board's role is to choose

Mr. Dolan-no one was the bad guy last year
Mrs. Galloway-we needed more information on topics, and didn't have enough background
Mrs. Mustard-looked at the sacred cow issues. Untenable to put negotiable cuts on a list for the reps of the unions
Mr. Forcier-we are spending more money now from taking away deferred maintenance, money spent on repairs and assessments of equipment, we can look at bringing in a position to save on costs
Mr. Forcier- concern of our color coded list, should be more structured this year
Vice President Cross-discussions were good, and then came down to decisions it was confusing. We needed more clarity, the BAC was reluctant on taking charge. He was looking for direction. Less than adequate
Ms. Linyard-it needs to be really clear from Board what they expect, it was a challenge to give a proposal to the Board.
Process seemed backwards- let BAC respond to proposal
President Gabby-final decision will come from board
Vice President Cross-would have liked a stronger list
Mr. Dolan-in negotiations there was frustration that management was missing from the process, management list wanted
Vice President Cross-BAC didn't have a clear direction, BAC needed more feedback on impact of some ideas
Mrs. Galloway-the BAC didn't have the background of what could be done and what couldn't
Mrs. De Weese-asking for a specific proposal would come down to cutting positions and that puts us in a hard position with our coworkers
President Gabby-narrowing list down
Ms. Linyard-we put in all our ideas and when we added up the savings is was about \$400, 000 in savings, the only thing left is salaries
Mr. Simmons-management should explain things and give the facts without directing group, just information
Mr. Dolan-management should guide not to take over
Clerk Piñon-management should have information to committee by first meeting, go through all information
President Gabby-we need a plan to develop and share information with members, there was definitely a mistrust of certain members of our management
Mr. Dolan-agreed it was an issue

Questions

Mr. Dolan-how do you feel about Membership?
Mrs. Mustard-we need a member from each school and would like a primary teacher K-3
Mr. DiPaola-last year wasn't clear; Mr. Halberg wasn't a voting party?
Member Okhremtchouk-did departments come in based on questions that came in, or did Cecile ask to invite?
Member Okhremtchouk-Tech was needs based presentation
Ms. Linyard-Special Education was about budget and why costs are so high
Ms. Nunley-questions after presentations
Mrs. Kett-need basis on presentations
Community Member-thought it was a good idea to hear from all areas
Mrs. De Weese-we were not looking at spending money, looking to save
Mr. Garcia-how do you see yourself as the BAC? What would you like to do?
Board and BAC are good with continuing with the BAC members as they are
Need for an elementary teacher?

What's the role of Board Members this year?

President Gabby-agrees to be full members everyone input is equal
Vice President Cross-Board's role should be to get a feel for what's going on in the BAC
Exerting some authority
Member Okhremtchouk-not giving advice to the BAC, same for management
Mr. Forcier-we need a little bit more guidelines, 3 years ago wasn't the budget advisory's proposal was Mr. Halberg's
Mr. DiPaolo-would like to know that the recommendations that come from the BAC was their input and not managements
Mr. Dolan-Board members should listen and be attentive in the BAC
Member Okhremtchouk-BAC should create their own leadership
President Gabby-structure
Vice President Cross-advised the BAC is not the purpose
Committee member-these are rules and playing fields
President Gabby-we can work with the BAC and help with our experience
Mr. Dolan-is it safe to ask of formal structure
Mr. Forcier-would like to see the board not be involved, ask questions but no opinions,
Mr. Garcia-the structure of the BAC should have a function of what the goal is.
Mr. Arnold-the Board should be there for questions, not input
The Board agreed to let the committee decide what organization it would like to have.

Administration role?

Clerk Piñon-information source should be the goal of the management, no sales pitch
Mrs. Altieri-it should be clear why management is there

Ms. Nunley-we didn't talk about all functions of District

Mr. Dolan-how many meetings should there be? We should start meetings in 2 to 3 weeks so we can have as many meetings as possible. A lot of ground work should be done before making decisions. Last year there was not enough assistance. Mr.

Dolan's role will be the bad guy

BAC to decide how much input, govern themselves

Vice President Cross- no restrictions from this board

Mr. DiPaola-Board and management should be part of team but not part of leadership

Community Member, reality not taking on responsibility of agenda, management should provide the structure

Mr. Dolan-the committee should decide how much they want from management

The Board agreed to let the BAC dictate what role management should have in the process.

Role of group?

Mr. Dolan-there should be something more definitive as a group

Vice President Cross-regardless of role what the BAC does is valuable no matter what the decision or presentation is

Mrs. De Weese-BAC's role of the final product needs to be clear, what the expectations are so the BAC will have a product you want to work with

Mr. Dolan-suggested once a month, at a Board Meeting the BAC updates board on what BAC is up to, and receive status on finance and state, in December should start an ongoing dialog of needs and wants

Ms. Linyard-as long as we have a good target of scenarios, not knowing what we are working towards is hard

Mr. Dolan-we will have mid-year cuts conversations in November and December, and committing to more dialog between board and management in Board Meetings earlier on. If we are wasting time for committee let us know

Mr. Forcier-what we do actually have numbers whole scenarios. Actuals?

Mrs. De Weese-BAC needs a clear definition on role, is it a laundry list and Board to sift or proposal with ownership

President Gabby-BAC should provide proposal not a brain storming laundry list

Ms. Nunley-retaliation concerns for members from employees and peers

Mr. Dolan-we can't expect you to be the bad guy for us, there are concerns of conflict

President Gabby-the proposal doesn't have to be the full amount of cuts maybe just a portion of the target amount and let management decide the rest

Member Okhremtchouk-BAC should be able to share what you decide whatever it may be, maybe it will be no cuts, or to bring back programs

Mrs. Mustard-K-3 member to replace exiting BAC member

Mr. Garcia-should the BAC help build a budget calendar, and be proactive of what we do have, the BAC should understand the actions of cutting or bringing back

Mr. Dolan-final comments

The State has total control and we are at the mercy of Sacramento for our Budget

Mr. Arnold-Thank you Brian

V. ADJOURNMENT – 7:39 pm