

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT CITY COUNCIL/
MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
JUNE 2, 2008**

The Special Joint City Council/Manhattan Beach Unified School District Meeting of the City of Manhattan Beach, California, was held on the 2nd day of June, 2008, at the hour of 6:35 p.m., in the Police/Fire Conference Room, 400/420 15th Street, in said City.

06/02/08-1. Pledge to the Flag

Mayor Montgomery and School Board President Howorth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

06/02/08-2. Welcome and Introduction

Mayor Montgomery and School Board President Howorth welcomed those present. The City Council, The Manhattan Beach Unified School District Board and staff members introduced themselves as follows:

Present: Councilmembers: Jim Aldinger, Nick Tell, Mitch Ward, Portia Cohen and Mayor Richard Montgomery.

MBUSD Members: Ida VanderPoorte, Nancy Hersman, Bill Eisen, Bill Fournell and President Amy Howorth.

MBUSD Student Board Members: Jarrett Margolis and Mary Wheeler.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Geoff Dolan, Parks & Recreation Director Richard Gill, MBUSD Superintendent Dr. Bev Rohrer, MBUSD Assistant Superintendent Dr. Steve Romines and Executive Director of Education Services Carolyn Seaton

Clerk: Dolan (Acting).

06/02/08-3. Public Comments

Lester Silverman commended the efforts of the City Council and School Board in working together. He suggested the idea of students being transported to and from school on “green” buses in an effort to improve traffic flow.

Angela Silverman also commended the efforts of the City Council and School Board in working together. She highlighted the importance of a group effort toward the District’s upcoming General Obligation Bond Measure and related her desire to be part of the bond financing strategy.

SCHEDULED

06/02/08-4. Update on State Budget Impact on the Manhattan Beach Unified School District

Assistant Superintendent Romines presented updated information on how potential reductions in the State budget will impact the Manhattan Beach Unified School District, including changes made to the State budget in May.

Superintendent Rohrer expressed District staff’s and students’ appreciation of the City’s financial contribution to the District.

The Council's and School Board Member's discussion of the information provided by Assistant Superintendent Romines included: revisions made to the State budget in the Governor's May budget revision, the State's May budget revision projects no cost of living adjustment and reduces restricted budgets by 6.5%. The State is doing this to help balance their budget. In addition, to help eliminate a potential cash flow problem the State will postpone revenue apportionments to districts for several months.

06/02/08-5. Discussion of Collaboration Between the Manhattan Beach Unified School District and the City of Manhattan Beach

School Board President Howorth provided examples of how the City and School District could collaborate during this difficult financial climate, as shown on the meeting agenda (safety, maintenance, administrative support and other).

Assistant Superintendent Romines shared information on budgeted items for which the District anticipates it will receive inadequate funds from the State, including \$640,000 for health and welfare and \$270,000 in deferred maintenance, as well as \$200,000 for staff salaries that was eliminated in May.

Board Member Hersman clarified that, when the District approved the 3% salary increase, funds were set aside to pay for it for three years.

Superintendent Rohrer explained that revisions to the State budget in May included a 55% reduction in funds allocated for summer school, which will cost the District approximately \$200,000 that was not anticipated, and that a reduction in the State's allocation of categorical and other funding will result in a critical financial situation for the District in 2009-2010.

Board Member VanderPoorte pointed out that the planned bond measure is, in no way, a revenue enhancement.

The Council and Board Members discussed the idea of the City utilizing District facilities, and visa versa, and the need to examine possible revenue enhancements/generating local revenues.

The Council emphasized the importance of developing a plan of action to assist the School District, particularly if the General Obligation Bond Measure does not pass in November, and on an on-going basis. The Council indicated that the City's 2008-2009 Budget will be discussed at the Council meeting on June 3rd, and that opportunities to help the District on an on-going basis could be considered at that time.

It was agreed that the Council subcommittee (Councilmembers Cohen and Tell) will work with staff to examine possible ways in which the City and School District can collaborate (such as safety, maintenance and leasing District surplus property) and present a proposal at another joint meeting of the City Council and School Board to be held in September.

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

06/02/08-7. Discussion of Manhattan Beach Unified School District November General Obligation Bond

Mr. Paul Westberg, Westberg-White, Inc., gave a presentation on needed renovations to Mira Costa High School (MCHS), especially to the Fine Arts and Sciences' facilities, should the General Obligation Bond Measure pass. He clarified that the anticipated large voter turn out in November could contribute to a positive outcome; that the bond measure would require a 55% majority vote to pass; and that funds from the bond measure could also be used to pay off debt.

The Council stressed the importance of notifying property owners about needed renovations to MCHS in hopes of increasing support for the bond measure; questioned why Mira Costa Library was not included in the renovations; and discussed the need to let the District determine how funds provided by the City should be spent.

The Board Members related their appreciation of the City's support to the District. They offered information about plans to poll property owners concerning how funds from the bond measure could be used and noted the following: that a decision to place the bond measure on the November ballot must be made by late July; that an effort was made to ensure that curriculum will drive the facilities, and not visa versa; that because the MCHS Library was recently remodeled, it was not included in the renovation plan; that the District's payments would increase a maximum of approximately \$12.00 per \$100,000 as a result of the renovations; that the bond measure would cost approximately \$50.00 per year/per household; that the District is interested in moderate facilities that meet needs, and not "architectural splendor"; that a question about constructing a new pool next to Begg Pool (which is an overlapping need, particularly with Seniors) could be included in the poll for the General Obligation Bond Measure; and that items for which the bond monies would be used, including those that would mutually benefit the community and the School District, must be included in the bond measure wording.

The Council and the Board Members mentioned the State's encouragement of communities and school districts sharing land/facilities and various options along these lines to be discussed in the future (such as the MCHS auditorium and the construction of a new pool next to Begg Pool). The Board's plans to discuss the District's surplus properties/leasing options and the revenue this would generate in the near future were confirmed. It was agreed that another joint meeting of the Council and the School Board will be held in September.

DISCUSSION RETURNED TO REGULAR AGENDA ORDER AT THIS TIME

06/02/08.6. Discussion of Ways to Increase Attendance and Promote Community Events

School Board President Howorth highlighted the need to inform the community about School District events.

The Council and School Board discussed various means by which the City could advertise District events and encourage seniors' attendance at them, including the free admission the District offers to seniors. The District advertising community events was also discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was duly adjourned at 8:44 p.m. to the 5:30 p.m. Adjourned Regular Meeting to be followed by the 6:30 p.m. Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 2008.

Wendy Weeks
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

Richard Montgomery
Mayor

Liza Tamura
City Clerk