

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**AND THE PLEASANT HILL CITY COUNCIL**  
**MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall**  
**100 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA**  
**Monday, October 20, 2014**

Board Members: Barbara Oaks, Brian Lawrence, Cheryl Hansen, and Linda Mayo

Administrative Staff: Superintendent Nellie Meyer and Assistant Superintendent Rose Lock

City Council Members: Mayor Tim Flaherty, Vice Mayor Ken Carlson, David Durant, Michael Harris, and Jack Weir

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call was conducted with all Board members present, with the exception of Ms. Dennler.

Roll Call was conducted with all Pleasant Hill City Council members present.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. Mt. Diablo Unified School District Staff Presentation and Overview of Pleasant Hill Schools**

Dr. Meyer introduced a video, which presented an overview of the vision for the Mt. Diablo Unified School District.

**2. Discussion Regarding Issues Such as Enrollment, Student Achievement, and Safety at College Park High School, Pleasant Hill Middle School, and Other Middle Schools in Pleasant Hill**

Felicia Stuckey-Smith, Director of Student Services, gave an overview of Pleasant Hill Schools.

Dr. Meyer provided information regarding the Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Program that will be implemented in the District next year. Dr. Meyer also described the Discipline Matrix, created to ensure consistency in discipline across schools.

**Public Comment:**

Gail Kinsley-Dame, Executive Director for JFK Community Counseling Centers, thanked Councilman Harris for offering \$30,000 to match donations to her organization funding the placement of students in Pleasant Hill schools.

Joanne Jacobs expressed concern that there is insufficient support staff at College Park High School.

Mary Gray distributed an email from Lynn Valdez, and requested information regarding why Pleasant Hill Elementary does not have a vice principal.

Tammy Mixon expressed her concern that staffing and other decisions are being made based on the prior year's enrollment numbers. Ms. Mixon also shared her belief that students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) are receiving the bulk of attention from staff to the exclusion of other students.

Dr. Meyer responded to public comments and council member questions.

### **3. Update/Discussion on Common Core Implementation in Pleasant Hill Schools**

Dr. Meyer presented an overview of the implementation of Common Core Standards. Assistant Superintendent, Middle Schools, Rose Lock discussed the implementation of the Common Core curriculum related to mathematics in middle schools. Dr. Meyer and Ms. Lock responded to council member questions.

Public Comment:

Ms. Maxon shared her concern that there is not sufficient space in accelerated classes.

Nils Kauffman shared his belief that the writing contained in the principal's newsletters from local schools often does not meet the grammar standards under the elementary school Common Core Standards.

Carla Burks expressed concern that there is no gifted program at Sequoia Elementary, and opined that some teaching methods being used are not developmentally appropriate.

Kelley St. Germain shared her opinion that adopting Common Core Standards would be a step backward for Pleasant Hill schools.

Ms. Gray expressed concern regarding funding for supporting the technology being used in the classroom.

Brian Lawrence reviewed some of the things that have been accomplished by the District since the Board's last joint meeting with the City of Pleasant Hill, including: the restoration of fifth grade music; the restoration of high school counselors; an increase in the graduation requirements; the restoration of medical benefits; an increase in teacher salaries; and movement toward the restoration of support staff hours.

Ms. Jacobs expressed her concerns about the amount of time teachers are out the classroom training for Common Core and the lack of quality substitute teachers. Ms. Jacobs also voiced her concerns about attracting computer science and engineering teachers, and large class sizes.

**4. Discussion Regarding What the Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board can do to Assist the Pleasant Hill Community**

Ms. Oaks indicated that the Board has listened to the concerns that have been expressed, and has reviewed the list of questions submitted by the Pleasant Hill Education Commission.

Ms. Hansen thanked the community members for attending, and reiterated that the Board's intent is to be responsive to residents.

Ms. Mayo discussed her experience sitting in on Common Core classes, and encouraged parents to sit in on a class and observe student engagement.

Mayor Flaherty thanked the MDUSD Board members, administration, and teachers who attended the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nellie Meyer, Ed.D.  
Superintendent