

WHEATLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
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WHEATLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees
DISTRICT OFFICE
June 30, 2010
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

All open sessions will be recorded. A CD of the recorded meeting is available upon request.

6:02 P.M.

1. OPEN SESSION – District Office

1.1 MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER – by Sue Abe, Board President

1.2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Major Julie Newlin – Beale Air Force Liaison was not present.

2. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC

There were several comments made by the public regarding Measure R (see below).

3. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO REPEAL THE MEASURE R BONDS-

Wayne Bishop did a powerpoint presentation on the history leading up to Measure R and events after Measure R passed. Mr. Bishop explained that before and after the election he asked repeatedly for costs of the proposed projects and ongoing maintenance. He expressed his concerns that the cost of building a community pool and maintaining it is not feasible. Mr. Bishop stated that the voters put their trust in the Board and he feels as though they misled the community. Mr. Bishop stated that there is no way that all of the projects that are listed on the bond brochures can be funded. He said that he feels that the Board has never had a full understanding on how this bond was structured and what it would be used for. Mr. Bishop said that to do anything less than to repeal the bond would be a breach of the voters trust. With a majority vote by the Wheatland School District Board to repeal the bond, the District can petition the Yuba County Supervisors to have a Public Hearing and vote on the issue.

Johnna Bartholomew said that the Board should act in unison. She stated that when the majority of the Board voted to put the bond on the ballot, that the entire board should have supported it and campaigned for it. She said that Mr. Bishop and Mrs. Abe did not. Mrs. Bartholomew stated that the Board has the power to decide what projects are a priority and when the bonds will be issued. She said that it would be devastating to repeal the bond, which would take options off the table for the

Superintendent and the future board. Mrs. Bartholomew agree that the lists of projects were hastily made. She said that the bonds can be put on hold for years. She stated that there was no way to predict the decline in property values.

Wayne Bishop said that he did not campaign for the bond. He said that he stayed quiet until it became obvious that they were misled. Mr. Bishop stated that he feels that without the swimming pool on the project list that the bond would not have passed.

Denis O'Connor said that he does not feel that the voters were misinformed. He said that knows that a lot of the information was not given until the "11th hour". Mr. O'Connor asked why anyone would repeal the bond when it can sit "unissued" for years and years. He said that when things did come to light, that the board did put the bond on hold indefinitely.

Jeff Small, from the Capital Public Finance Group, stated that he is an impartial consultant. He said that he has never heard of a school district that has repealed a bond that was passed by the voters. He said that California Education Code 15200 identifies the process for canceling a bond.

Paul Carras said that he has never seen a community swimming pool on an elementary school bond before. He said that he agrees that the swimming pool appears to have been put on the ballot to garnish support for the bond. Mr. Carras stated that if the bond is canceled, that the District will fall out of line for any construction money coming from the State.

Roy Crabtree stated that if there had been a cooperative effort by Wheatland High School and the Wheatland School District, the community could have had a swimming pool a long time ago. Mr. Crabtree said that he does not feel that the voters were misled. He questions if it is legal to repeal the bond. Mr. Crabtree pointed out that the people of the Wheatland community voted for it.

Paula Lamb said that she continues to hear that the Board makes decisions without having all of the facts and information on various items. She said that at some point she hopes that you learn from the mistakes and gather the information before approving something.

Benjamin Bartholomew said that he did not vote for Measure R specifically because of the swimming pool. However, he said that he questions why the Board would consider rescinding the board during these tough economic times. He said that leaving it on the table will leave options open.

Wayne Bishop said that it comes down to a moral issue. He said that the District offered a swimming pool and now it is obvious that we can probably not deliver that. He said that he is not "OK" with that. Mr. Bishop said that if you are going to put it on the ballot, you need to carry through with it.

Wendy Cabrales said that she went door to door and spoke to many community members. She does not feel that the community was misled.

Sue Abe expressed similar concerns as Wayne Bishop. She said that the Board had not discussed any specifics. An emergency board meeting was scheduled. She said that Wayne Bishop was on vacation. Mrs. Abe said that the pressure was on her, as it had to be a 4-0 vote on that date or the bond could not be put on the ballot. A scheduled ten minute meeting turned out to be a two plus hours meeting. She said she did not want to tax voters. She said the economy was beginning to fall apart, and she was concerned that this additional tax would push people over the edge. Mrs. Abe said that the swimming pool was the driving force behind the passage of the bond.

Mrs. Abe said that she asked for information on costs, etc for over a year and could not get any information. She said she finally put her questions in writing. Mrs. Abe said that it will cost \$240,000 to issue the bonds. She said she is not against a swimming pool and believes that the vote's passed this bond to get a swimming pool. They will now get an updated telephone system and a parking lot. She said we abandoned the old Wheatland Elementary with no planning. She said it was a "knee jerk" decision to save money. Mrs. Abe said that it will take at least 30 years to pay off these bonds.

Ish Medina said that he looks at the bond like a "savings account". He said that it is very possible that when the City begins to grow again, that the old Wheatland Elementary will need to be re-opened. It will need some major updating and repairs. The bond money can be used for that.

Nikki Crabb said that she went door to door. She said it wasn't just the swimming pool that sold the bond, but it did help. She said that by repealing the bond, that we are tying the hands of future boards and the superintendent. Mrs. Crabb said that when the economy recovers, the bonds can be issued. She said that she knows that the voters and the community had the information and that she has a hard time taking that option away.

Denis O'Connor stated that we are not giving the voters enough credit.

After a lengthy discussion, Wayne Bishop made a motion to file a petition with the Yuba County Board of Supervisors to rescind Measure R.

Sue Abe seconded the motion.

Denis O'Connor, Ish Medina, and Nicole Crabb voted against the motion.

Motion did not pass.

4. ADJORNMENT - 7:20 PM