

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING**  
San Marino Unified School District  
**1665 West Drive  
San Marino, CA 91108**

Tuesday, March 10, 2020  
**Board of Education  
Closed Session – 5:30 p.m.  
Regular Session – 7:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

1. **OPEN SESSION** 5:30 p.m.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION - CLOSED SESSION**

No comments were presented.

3. **CLOSED SESSION** 6:30 p.m.

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation (Govt. Code 54956.9) (3)
- b. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation (Govt. Code 54956.9)(4) Student ID Number: XXXXXX9562
- c. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation (Govt. Code 54956.9)(1) OAH Case No. 2019120031
- d. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal or Release (Govt. Code 54954.5(e) pursuant to Govt. Code 54957 (b)(1)) Title: Certificated, Classified, Confidential, Administrative
- d. Conference with Labor Negotiators (Govt. Code 54957.6)

4. **REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION**

In Closed Session, the Board took unanimous action under agenda Item 3d to approve the non-reelection of probationary certificated employees, identified by Employee ID Numbers VX8923009, GN183676 and MX6904374.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. C. Joseph Chang	Aye	Ayes: 5, Noes: 0
Mrs. Lisa Link	Aye	
Mr. Chris Norgaard	Aye	
Mrs. Shelley Ryan	Aye	
Mr. Corey Barberie	Aye	

In Closed Session, the Board took unanimous action under agenda Item 3d to approve the service of a Notice of Release or Reassignment to certificated employee ID Number BX3286036.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. C. Joseph Chang	Aye	Ayes: 5, Noes: 0
Mrs. Lisa Link	Aye	
Mr. Chris Norgaard	Aye	

Mrs. Shelley Ryan      Aye  
Mr. Corey Barberie      Aye

The Board of Education took unanimous action in closed session to approve the Settlement Agreement for Student ID Number: XXXXXX9562.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. C. Joseph Chang	Aye	Ayes: 5, Noes: 0
Mrs. Lisa Link	Aye	
Mr. Chris Norgaard	Aye	
Mrs. Shelley Ryan	Aye	
Mr. Corey Barberie	Aye	

The Board of Education took unanimous action in closed session to approve the Settlement Agreement for Student ID Number: XXXXXX1174.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. C. Joseph Chang	Aye	Ayes: 4, Noes: 0
Mrs. Lisa Link	Aye	
Mr. Chris Norgaard	Absent (Arrived Late)	
Mrs. Shelley Ryan	Aye	
Mr. Corey Barberie	Aye	

5. **REGULAR OPEN SESSION**

7:30 p.m.

6. **CALL TO ORDER**

Board members present were Mr. Corey Barberie, Mr. C. Joseph Chang, Mrs. Lisa Link, Mr. Chris Norgaard, Mrs. Shelley Ryan and Student Board Member Grace Davis. Administrators present were Dr. Jeff Wilson, Dr. Stephen Choi, Mrs. Linda de la Torre, Mr. Jason Kurtenbach, and Ms. Amber Nuuvalli.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Norgaard moved to approve the agenda with the modification of moving Item 12b up before Item 11a.

Moved for approval by Mr. Norgaard, seconded by Mrs. Link

Ayes: 5, Noes:  
Abstention: 0  
Preferential: 1

c. Approval of Minutes

February 11, 2020

Moved for approval by Mr. Barberie, seconded by Mrs. Ryan

Ayes: 5, Noes:  
Abstention: 0  
Preferential: 1

February 25, 2020

Moved for approval by Mrs. Link, seconded by Mr. Norgaard

Ayes: 5, Noes:  
Abstention: 0  
Preferential: 1

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- a. Communications from the audience regarding matters not on the agenda.

**Public Comments:**

Ms. Denise Wadsworth and Ms. Serafina Palazzoto addressed the Board regarding the upcoming May 2020 Better Speech and Hearing Month. They provided an overview of the services that speech and language therapists provide to the District. They noted that although the state approved caseload is 55, caseload does not equal workload as extreme special needs students take more time than other students. SLPs are often the first line of intervention and are problem solvers that pride themselves on providing top quality services. They are proud to be at the District, and look forward to working with Mr. Kurtenbach in reaching LCAP goals, and welcome the Board to reach out and learn what they do as SLPs.

Ms. Lettie Aranda addressed the Board regarding the SMTA Sunshine Proposal. Copies were made available at the back table, and it will be placed on the March 24 Board agenda for Public Hearing.

Mr. Daniel Lee presented his comment to the Board as a representative of the Census Bureau. He encouraged the Board and SMUSD community to participate in the 2020 Census and noted the impact it has on congressional house seats and funding. The last Census done in 2010 had low participation for California, and with the money and representation at stake, they hope to see a boost in the numbers for the 2020 count. The Census can be completed online and all information is kept confidential.

8. **PUBLIC HEARING**

- a. 2020-21 California School Employees Association (CSEA) Sunshine Proposal for Contract Negotiations between the San Marino Unified School District and the CSEA Local Chapter #120

Ms. Marguerite Lindsay addressed the Board reading the CSEA Sunshine Proposal for Contract Negotiations with SMUSD as presented for Public Hearing. Copies were available for the public.

9. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. 2019-20 Consolidated Application and Reporting System (CARS) Part II
- b. Budget Adjustments Report 2019-20 #7
- c. Certificated Personnel Documents
- d. Classified Personnel Documents
- e. Contracts and Agreements Report 2019-20 #19
- f. Contracts and Agreements Report 2020-21 #3
- g. Purchase Order Report 2019-20 #13
- h. SMHS Ojai Tennis Tournament CIF, Ojai, California, April 23-25, 2020

Mr. Norgaard moved to approve the Consent Agenda with Item 9h being subject to Item 11b.

Moved for approval by Mr. Norgaard, seconded by Mrs. Link

Ayes: 5, Noes: 0  
Abstention: 0  
Preferential: 1

10. **COMMUNICATION SECTION**

a. Communications from the Board

Following is a list of events attended by the Board members:

**Lisa Link**

2/26 Report by WASC Visiting Team  
2/27 Meet with Dr. Wilson  
2/28 PTAffiliates Wine Tasting  
3/3 Election Results Viewing  
3/5 HMS Sound of Music  
3/6 Meet with Dr. Wilson and Mr. Chang  
3/7 Valentine Parent Party  
3/9 Meet with Dr. Wilson

**Chris Norgaard**

2/26 WASC Wrap-up Meeting at SMHS  
2/26 SMSF Meeting  
2/27 Rotary Lunch: Dan Stover Music Contest  
2/27 Meeting with City Council representatives and City Manager re Stoneman  
2/27 SMUSD New Families Orientation  
2/29 Carver Parent Party  
3/3 HMS PTA Meeting  
3/3 Kathryn Barger Victory Party  
3/3 District Office Reception re Election Returns  
3/4 Email Exchanges with Various Other School District Board Election Winners  
3/4 SMHS Mock College Interviews  
3/5 SMHS Case Studies/College Fair Night  
3/5 Receive email from San Marino Rotary Club President regarding top prospect for teaching position  
3/6 SMHS Boys Basketball Banquet  
3/6 Memorial Service for Dr. Hwei-Chih Cheng Sun  
3/7 Valentine Parent Party

Various dates: Receive emails regarding Rotary Scholarship Committee members re scholarships.

**Corey Barberie**

2/29 Carver Parent Party  
2/3 PfA Tim Elmore: Generation Z at SMHS  
3/6 Sound of Music - HMS  
3/7 Valentine Parent Party  
3/9 Lunch with Dr. Wilson

**Shelley Ryan**

- 2/22 Robotics Rollout, SMHS
- 2/23 Joseph & I met with Linda Wah, PCC Trustee regarding dual enrollment & pathways
- 2/26 WASC Report, SMHS
- 2/27 Coronavirus Update, The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
- 2/28 Briefing on the Coronavirus, co-hosted by the League of CA API Caucus, Asian Pacific Islander School Board Member Association, and Dr. Richard Pan, Chair of the Senate Committee on Health
- 2/28 Dual Enrollment & Pathways, Linda Wah, Trustee
- 2/28 Dinner with 4 Community Members
- 2/29 President of PAAPI, PCC Spring Symposium
- 2/29 Carver Caper, Parent Party
- 3/1 Huntington Hospital Volunteer
- 3/3 Conversation with Community Member
- 3/4 Presidents Council, CSBA, Sacramento
- 3/5 Conversation with Dr. Wilson
- 3/6 Sound of Music, HMS
- 3/7 ACSA Conference, Monrovia High School
- 3/7 President of Asian American Pacific Islanders, Advisor to PCC President Conference
- 3/10 School Board Meeting

**Joseph Chang**

- 2/26 SMHS WASC Recap
- 2/27 Stoneman Meeting: Joseph Chang and Chris Norgaard met with two City Council Members
- 2/27 Registration Information Meeting for New Parents
- 2/28 Dedication of the Barry H. Herlihy Horticultural Pavilion at Huntington Library
- 2/28 San Marino PTAffiates's gathering at Karen Wicke's house
- 2/29 Walk for Health at Legg Lake Park hosted by San Gabriel Lion Club
- 2/29 Carver Parent Party
- 3/3 San Marino Council of PTA's Meeting
- 3/3 Election Day - Results Reception at 9:00 pm, District Office
- 3/4 FiRST Meeting
- 3/5 Weekly San Marino Rotary Club Meeting
- 3/5 HMS Spring Musical: The Sound of Music
- 3/6 Memorial Service for Mrs. Hwei-chih Cheng Sun at Rose Hills
- 3/6 Meeting with Dr. Wilson
- 3/6 SMHS Basketball's banquet at Altadena Country Club
- 3/7 Valentine PTA Parent Party
- 3/8 Visited Mr. Loren Kleinrock to congratulate him as a recipient of Golden Apple Award
- 3/8 Installation Party for new Board of Directors, Chinese Club of San Marino

**b. Communications from the Superintendent**

Dr. Wilson reported having a couple of wonderful weeks being out with students. He went to the Huntington Library to see the Honors program and attended the HMS Sound of Music production and Carver's 49er Day.

c. Communications from the Student Board Member

2/28 Carver and Valentine End of Trimester 2  
2/28 7th/8th Grade ASB Dance  
2/29 SMHS Game Con  
3/2 Carver Dr. Seuss Day  
3/3 Valentine 5th Grade Descanso Gardens  
3/3 HMS Dr. Elmore All-School Assembly  
3/4 Valentine 1st Grade Huntington Library  
3/4 Valentine Danny's Petting Zoo  
3/4 SMHS PfA Assembly  
3/4 Healthy Kids Survey  
3/5 SMHS Club Recruitment  
3/5 SMHS Case Studies Night  
3/5-7 HMS Spring Musical  
3/6 SMHS Club Rush

11. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

a. San Marino Student Spotlight

Dr. Wilson announced that the San Marino Student Spotlight would be a new feature on Board agendas. The SMHS Speech and Debate Team was recognized with Mr. Matt Slimp and 10 of his students, current national qualifiers, in attendance.

Mr. Slimp stated that the recognition of this program of excellence means everything to him. He noted that under his leadership SMHS has won the trophy 19 of the 20 times it has been offered. He stated that speech and debate creates lives for a lot of students and that it is a blessing to work in the District and teach these students. He introduced the 10 current students who have qualified for national championships and added that with two more tournaments to come there will be more.

The Board congratulated Mr. Slimp and his students and presented them with a certificate.

b. COVID-19 District Update

Dr. Jeff Wilson provided a presentation and update on COVID-19. His presentation included the most recent update on statistics and recommendations. Administration continues to monitor information from a variety of agencies and is consolidating the information. While the risk at this time remains low for southern California, it is a must to prepare for the possible spread of the virus. The District's primary objective is to provide a high quality education for all students in a healthy and safe environment for all.

Student and Staff Safety: Ms. Amber Nuuvalli reported that across the District all hands have been on deck and that she has been consulting daily the District nurse Mr. Bob Judge who remains in contact with LACOE and their nurse. The health aids are being trained and he is ensuring that everybody is equipped at that level. There is coordination among a variety of organizations including the CDC, LACOE, and California Department of Public Health, and the District is staying on top of their resources.

Custodial and Physical Plant: Mr. Gil Cardenas indicated that surface areas and frequently touched areas are being wiped down and disinfected against the CoronaVirus. Dr. Stephen Choi addressed the training and certification that faculty and staff are undertaking regarding sanitation and the handling of chemicals. Tech staff has also completed training to learn how to properly clean keyboards, chromebooks, etc.

Information Updates to Staff, Families & Community: Ms. Amber Nuuvalli indicated that as things develop rapidly and evolve daily, updates are being sent out and are available on the website. Community members can subscribe to newsletters and updates on the District website.

Interagency Support: Ms. Nuuvalli reported that the District and Administration is in active communication and collaboration with numerous sources including:

- Internal Team Discussions
- Daily input from our District Nurse, Maintenance and Operations, Principals, and Executive Team
- City of San Marino
- SMFD - Daily communication with Fire Chief Rueda on the City's actions and updates to ensure continuity in plans and communications
- LA County Office of Education
  - We have worked closely with the LA County Office of Education, its nurse and leadership teams to receive updates and guidance
- School Districts Locally and Statewide
- The District continues to follow guidance received from:
  - California Department of Education
  - California Department of Public Health
  - Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - World Health Organization

Attendance Issues & ADA: Dr. Wilson addressed the uncertainty regarding concerns about attendance and ADA. He provided an overview of what ADA and absences can do to funding and the steps that districts could take to try and recover funding. He reiterated that the first order of business is about student safety, but noted that there are many things to consider should school closure be recommended or required.

Preparing for "Teleschool": Dr. Stephen Choi reported that the District has developed and delivered training to teachers on how to prepare for online classes and that the District would be leveraging two systems: PowerSchool Unified Classroom and Google Meet. The tech team has begun training to use LiveChat, a support tool for real-time technical assistance, and has been developing a "Preparing for Online Classes" mini-site as a resource for parents, students, and teachers - [www.smusd.us/onlineclass](http://www.smusd.us/onlineclass).

Community Gatherings: Dr. Wilson indicated that many organizations are cancelling events and gatherings, however, as of March 7, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) does not recommend the cancellation of community gatherings unless a case of COVID-19 exists within the community. He reviewed the CDPH scenarios that have been provided as guidance regarding gatherings.

#### **Public Comment:**

Ms. Lettie Aranda presented her comment to the Board regarding concerns transpiring from District communication about the COVID-19 virus. She feels that responses recently fell short and she is concerned about information going out that makes it look like more is going on than what is actually in place. She asked that the District work closer together with teachers to relieve anxieties and that the District include teachers in meetings and dialogue as they would like to be a greater part of the process.

**Board Comments:**

A Board member expressed appreciation toward the custodial staff for taking on the additional work and certifications that are being required as a result of the virus.

A Board member recommended that the community be cautioned about not putting themselves in positions where they could be exposed and encouraged the changing of habits and interactions as a means of protecting themselves and others.

A Board member suggested that the community also start looking at how to be prepared at home and to begin having those discussions with their families. Think about what responses would be if there were closures and how to be prepared for 7-14 days. Take into consideration changes in travel plans, practices, and how things are handled as families and individuals.

A Board member thanked Dr. Wilson, Dr. Choi, and Ms. Amber Nuuvai for all the work they are doing to get communications out to the community.

A Board member addressed concerns from a legal standpoint suggesting that the District should make sure that it is doing everything that it can as accurately and effectively as it can to ensure that no repercussions come back on the District.

A Board member remarked on standardized testing and questioned what the impact would be to students.

A Board member asked about the status of the spring break choir trip to Washington DC. Dr. Wilson indicated that there has been no directive provided at this point. However, the situation changes daily. Parents can pull their students if they want and the District will stand behind them and in support of their decisions as much as it can.

A Board member addressed the need for parents to begin thinking about what they would need to do if students were home due to a shut down and prepare. Parents should speak to employers about working from home and look at what alternatives are available. It was suggested that it may not be the best choice for parents to rely on elderly family members in this situation, as the CDC has recommended closing all convalescent homes and retirement aid types of homes to visitors altogether.

Student Board Representative Davis addressed attendance concerns from a student standpoint indicating that students will likely opt to attend school if sick so they do not violate the absence policy.

c. Recognition of Board President C. Joseph Chang

Dr. Wilson thanked Board President Chang for securing 1,000 medical masks as a donation to the District. Mr. Chang expressed concern about what could potentially happen and wanted to ensure that the District was prepared with adequate supplies.

Board Vice President Ryan recognized Board President Chang acknowledging how hard it currently is to secure such supplies unless they have connections and resources.

d. Resolution No. 13 - to Order Biennial Governing Board Election - Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Mrs. Linda de la Torre presented Resolution No. 13 to the Board as first reading. It will be brought back to the Board for second reading and approval on March 24, 2020.



**Board Comments:**

A Board member noted that due to the merging of the San Marino Tribune with the San Marino Outlook, another newspaper option needs to be listed as a second choice.

A Board member asked about the language used in the resolution and recommended that the voting poll times be confirmed and revised as needed.

**12. ACTION ITEMS****a. 2019-20 Second Interim Financial Report and Long-Range Financial Projections**

Mrs. Linda de la Torre presented the 2019-20 Second Interim Financial Report and Long Range Projections for Board approval. Her presentation included an overview of key revenue and expenditure assumptions, general fund revenue sources and expenditures, projected CalSTRS and CalPERS employer contributions, Special Education revenues and expenditures, and ending balance assumptions. She also reviewed future year projections and focus areas for balancing the 2019-20 Budget.

Revenues include:

- Decline in enrollment, funded ADA and unduplicated count
- One-time funding for Special Education Early Intervention Preschool
- Increase in Parent/Miscellaneous Donations

Expenditures include:

- Step and column increases
- Rate increases for STRS/PERS and health benefit contributions
  - 80% of the District's budget goes toward salary and benefits. This is not unique to San Marino as many districts spend 85-90% on personnel costs. It was noted that school district employees contribute toward their retirement.
- Special education program costs - far exceed state and federal funding

Ending Balance:

- 3% Reserve in Economic Uncertainties

Balancing the Budget: Mrs. de la Torre indicated that adjustments to staffing need to be made and conservative efforts made to balance the budget going forward. The Superintendent and Administrators are looking for budget savings and reductions, along with FiRST which is looking for creative streams of revenue and ways to increase it that have not been considered before.

Mrs. de la Torre indicated that the District is very thankful for the tremendous support that it receives through local funding, and acknowledged that the District would look very different if it were not for those contributions.

**Board Comments:**

A Board member asked if the Special Education funding was the Federal contribution. Mrs. de la Torre indicated that it was a combination of the Federal and State. Ms. Vangie Lingat indicated that Federal IDEA contributions are \$180K, state \$2.5M, and regional programs approximately \$900K.

A Board member asked for an explanation regarding the difference in LCFF funding. Mr. Kurtenbach and Ms. Lingat indicated that there was an audit finding where the EL count was miscounted and the \$52K is the adjustment to correct the error. This finding was reported to the Board at a previous Board meeting.

A Board member commented on the District's use of negative versus positive figures on the report and the difference in meaning from standard accounting processes, noting that it causes some confusion.

A Board member expressed interest in seeing more detail for some of the line items and hopes that the new BEST accounting system will be able to provide it. Regarding the BEST system, Ms. Lingat indicated that the program will be fully implemented in July and that all accounting for the 2020-21 year will be done in the new system.

A Board member asked about food services actuals and if there will be a shortfall that will need to be addressed. Mrs. de la Torre indicated that Food Services is a self funded program and that while the figures are solid, there is a possibility due to COVID-19 and resulting changes in serving and cleaning that their budget will see an increase in expenses.

A Board member asked if the Second Interim Report had to be approved at this meeting. It was confirmed that it is due March 15 and must be voted on. Mrs. de la Torre reminded the Board that the budget is a fluid document that will change. Dr. Wilson stated that confidence should be high based on the SSC review of the budget.

A Board member asked to defer the vote on this item until agenda Item 12c is heard and action taken.

Deferral moved for approval by Mr. Barberie, seconded by Mrs. Link	Ayes: 5, Noes: 0
	Abstention: 0
	Preferential: 1

After approval of Item 12c the Board voted to approve the Second Interim Report.

Moved for approval by Mr. Barberie, seconded by Mr. Norgaard	Ayes: 5, Noes: 0
	Abstention: 0
	Preferential: 1

b. Dual Enrollment MOU with Pasadena Area Community College District

Mr. Kurtenbach presented the Dual Enrollment MOU with Pasadena Area Community College District for the third reading.

**Board Comments:**

It was confirmed that there were no significant changes since the last reading.

Moved for approval by Mr. Norgaard, seconded by Mrs. Link	Ayes: 5, Noes: 0
	Abstention: 0
	Preferential: 1

c. Resolution No. 15 Intention to Reduce or Eliminate Particular Services, and to Layoff Affected Certificated Employees

Mrs. Linda de la Torre presented Resolution No. 15 Intention to Reduce or Eliminate Particular Services, and to Layoff Affected Certificated Employees, effective at the end of the 2019-20 school year. She indicated that there are three reasons that the resolution is being presented:

- The projected \$3M deficit for the 2020-21 year

- The decline in enrollment over the past 5 years, during which time the District has not reduced staffing to commensurate with enrollment
- To allow the Board to take action to reduce or eliminate services/positions that fell under the early retirement resolution and approve the District's plan to absorb 11 of the 17 certificated positions that opted for the early retirement incentive. Under this Resolution, 11 of the positions will be absorbed and not receive notice, and 20.2 are actual positions that will receive notice.

She stated that the Human Resources Department has spent hours looking at seniority lists, master schedules, reviewing enrollment patterns, class sizes, and has conducted several meetings with the middle school and high school Administrators on how to provide a meaningful schedule with the least disruption. It has been a difficult and thoughtful process that does not take into consideration employee performance, but looks at seniority and credentials to determine who receives notices. She cautioned not to immediately put an incumbent to a position as there are many considerations that apply and added that certificated employees have bumping rights based on seniority and credentials, potentially creating changes in the outcome.

Mrs. de la Torre reviewed the positions included in the Resolution as listed below:

Athletic Director (.8) (1 in the District at SMHS currently falls within the bargaining unit)  
 Elementary K-5 (4.0) (3 teachers taking early retirement incentive)  
 Elementary Music (1.0) (Funded by PTA)  
 Elementary STEM (K-5) (2.0) (Funded by PTA)  
 Music (Band) (1.0) (HMS has 3 music teachers with music credentials and numbers are low)  
 Music (Choir) (.4) (SMHS - 2 sections of choir being reduced due to class sizes)  
 Foreign Language-Spanish (1.0) (SMHS early retirement, changes in delivery of foreign languages)  
 Foreign Language-Japanese (1.0)  
 Science-Physical (1.4) (HMS and SMHS)  
 Science-Life (.6) (3 sections at SMHS)  
 Social Science (Departmentalized) (1.6) (HMS and SMHS)  
 English (Departmentalized) (2.4) (Partial attrition at HMS and SMHS)  
 ELD (1.0) (HMS & SMHS considering ways to deliver services differently)  
 Math (Departmentalized) (2.4) (HMS and SMHS)  
 Speech and Debate (.6) (3 sections at SMHS consider changing to a club rather than a program)  
 Drama (1.0) (SMHS)  
 Yearbook (Middle School) (.4) (HMS 2 sections)  
 Art (Middle School) (.2)  
 Media Arts (Middle School) (.2)  
 ASB (Middle School) (.2)  
 Elementary 6th Grade (2.0) (Decreased enrollment)  
 School Counselor (3.0) (Keep school psychologists at elementary schools and eliminate counselors, 1 eliminated through attrition. The District's student to counselor ratio is lower than required.)  
 Speech Language Pathologist (1.0) (Reduction recommended by Consultant Linda Low)  
 School Psychologist (1.0) (Resignation resulting in no notice but a change in location)  
 Special Education Program Specialist (1.0) (Resignation and elimination of the position)

Total: 31.2 FTE (11 retiring and not being refilled, 20.2 receiving notice)

Mrs. de la Torre indicated that action on the resolution has to be taken by March 15, and notices have to be given to the employees by the close of business Friday, March 13, or the positions remain and must be filled.

She also indicated that positions funded by PTA may be rescinded, but all positions are listed out of caution as funding has yet to be determined.

Regarding choir and band, Mrs. de la Torre stated that the high school would still have three sections of choir, but delivery of services might look different. The numbers in band at HMS are not sufficient to justify a second teacher.

#### **Public Comments:**

Student Jacob Chon presented his comment to the Board addressing his support of the Speech and Debate program. He stated that students find their passions and purpose in the VAPA programs, and the programs provide a unique environment for students to grow up in. He asked that the District carefully consider its options regarding this situation. He believes that the programs are what keep students coming back to SMHS and encouraged the Board to keep the programs as a legacy for the future. He expressed hope that the community will come together to address this problem.

Mr. Steve Talt presented his comment regarding Resolution No. 15 acknowledging that the District has a problem with tough decisions to be made. He questioned why the list on the Resolution was not made public prior to the meeting and why the community was only able to learn about it on the same day Board action would be taken. He suggested that given that the District has until May 15 to make the final decisions, the District enters into a well publicised dialog with the community as students are the ones impacted by these decisions. He also questioned what the community is supposed to believe when the District proposes cutting the programs that were presented to WASC and that the WASC team just reviewed the District as doing well. He asked what WASC would think of the programs after May 15, finding that those programs are no longer available.

Ms. Jane Chon presented her comment to the Board regarding concerns about the counseling department. She said the department is known for having problems and she is frustrated at the presentation of a "we can survive attitude" by reducing the number of counselors available as the alternative. She stated that the San Marino community doesn't compare to public schools, it compares to private schools. Private school ratios are in the range of 20-80 students per counselor and 2-3 advisors per student that follow them from 9th - 12th grade. She believes this is a huge gap in the District's system, and the ratio of students to counselors should not be determined based on public school ranges. She indicated that the letters of recommendation carry tremendous weight for students in finding and getting into the right college. Her sons have had three different counselors during their four years at SMHS, which she feels is not acceptable. She sees the timing of this Resolution being made public as unfortunate because the community was recently faced with making a decision and voting on funding that they didn't have a clear picture of. She suggested that had they been given the full picture of what was at stake they may have responded differently.

#### **Board Comments:**

A Board member acknowledged the difficulty of the decision they face and stated that the Board has done its best to delay in making these types of decisions but cannot continue to do so any longer. It was noted that the community went through this before, in 2009 and 2010 and was able to restore positions through the Refuse to Lose campaign. The community wanted dollars to go to smaller classes and has enjoyed that for the last 10 years. Despite declining enrollment, classes were added and small class sizes remained. Now, 10 years later the District is being forced by the state to undo some of the progress that it made. The District has been trying to address these issues through attrition, a hiring frost, no employee raises last year, and offering an early retirement incentive. Unfortunately, these efforts are not enough. The question to the Board is what are the options moving forward. It is important that the teachers know they are valued, and does the District demonstrate that support to the teachers when the state funding is not there.

A Board member suggested that lobbying should be done to address the dysfunctional state system as well as reaching out to the community and conducting a campaign. There is a need for accelerated and supplemental meetings with the Foundation, and it is important to mobilize public support and to reach out to San Marino residents who do not have students in the District. The Board member also acknowledged the importance of maintaining and increasing the District's excellence and recognized the importance and impact it has on property values.

A Board member addressed the fact that the state has left the District woefully short of funds to run the programs that the community expects, and also questioned why this information wasn't presented to the community sooner. The community is clearly upset about the delay. It was noted that without this Resolution being passed, the Board can't effectively vote on the Second Interim Report. The Board has no way out but to approve the Resolution and then dialog with the community in hopes of saving some of the positions and programs. The District has been run on its savings account for some time and the community needs to be aware of it. It is essential to find additional revenue and support from the community.

A Board member thanked the community for attending the meeting and challenged them to think about the actions that can individually and collectively be taken to resolve these issues. It is not by accident that the District is in this position, and school finance is something that a lot of people don't understand the intricacies of. None of the decisions have been made lightly and now isn't the time to point fingers. The District, Board and Cabinet are passionate about these programs, and there was nothing disingenuous presented to WASC.

A Board member reiterated that because the District is small it gets less revenue and relies on funding from the community, donations to the SMSF and the District self funding. The Board member also stated that the District needs to conduct a fundraising campaign and offered to personally write a \$10K check to the Foundation. The community needs to work together and look for the positive instead of the criticism.

Student Board Representative Davis stated that while she has the utmost respect for each Board member, she very much struggled with seeing the list. She indicated that teachers are part of what makes the program and without specific teachers, the programs would not be what they are and the District would be compromising what are currently award winning programs. She finds it difficult and unfair to congratulate a program and then turn around and make it into a club. She stated that she came back to SMUSD because of the programs that are offered and compromising them compromises San Marino High School as a whole. She urged that the District needs to do whatever it can to ensure that it keeps the teachers and programs intact.

A Board member commented that they would like to see the District get the \$45K per student tuition that the private school competitors get. The District does a great job with the approximate \$10K that it does receive.

A Board member remarked that when SMUSD students apply for college, the colleges don't make any adjustments or take into consideration that the District they come from gets less funding. The District and its students are competing against other well funded districts.

The Board moved to approve Resolution No. 15 with the hope that solutions and funding will be found allowing for some rescinding

Moved for approval by Mrs. Link, seconded by Mr. Norgaard  
Student Board Representative No

Ayes: 5, Noes: 0  
Abstention: 0  
Preferential: No

d. Resolution No. 16 Determining Tie-Breaking Criteria for Purposes of Certificated Layoffs

Mr. Jason Kurtenbach presented Resolution No. 16 Determining Tie-Breaking Criteria for Purposes of Certificated Layoffs for Board approval. He read the Resolution that outlined the criteria that would be utilized should the issue arise.

**Public Comments:**

Student Looloo Al-Soufi, addressed the Board about the decision to cut the proposed programs and stated that it would decrease the mental and emotional health of students. She indicated that she wouldn't have discovered her passions nor have been as emotionally happy without them, and she finds it heartbreaking that this would be a consideration. She said that the District will lose more students and teachers if these programs are cut and students no longer have these outlets. She asked the Board members to put themselves in the position of the students and consider how they feel and the impact it has on them.

Student Jolene Nesnas addressed the Board about proposed program cuts stating that she learned common core values and life skills through the VAPA programs. She has made her friends and matured through these programs, and it hurts her to see that her siblings and younger students will not have the same benefit and access to the programs. She also addressed the difference between a class and a club and noted that Mr. Slimp has three classes of speech and debate which seems like a lot of students to turn into a club.

Student Heein Kim addressed the Board regarding the proposed cuts. She is concerned about the loss of opportunity for her younger siblings. She stated that the job of the School Board is to provide the resources to shape students into well rounded students who are prepared for college and beyond. With the cuts, students will be even more limited in class selection and seeing so many arts programs are on the line is disheartening.

Student Leighton McBryde addressed the Board regarding the proposed cuts and the sense of community that VAPA provides. The programs have given him something to look forward to and created a community where the students have been together through thick and thin. The choir room has been his safe place, and the programs, teachers and friends he has made have offered him the best wellness center he has ever had. He expressed concern about the wellbeing of the underclassmen and friends should they not have access to the VAPA programs.

Student William Ford addressed the Board regarding the proposed cuts and indicated that as a junior, cuts in these programs will leave him with a massive hole in his senior year. The programs have offered him a safe place where he felt accepted and could go when suffering. Cutting these programs also ruins the friendships that have been developed through them. Citing a number of the District's award winning programs, he questioned the proposal to cut them. He suggested that the District not look at people as a statistic or point of plus and minus' as they are more than just a number.

Student Logan Wing addressed the proposed cuts being considered and spoke of the personal impact that the VAPA programs have had on his life. Not being a San Marino resident, his family was very excited when they learned he was accepted as a student. Having been diagnosed with anxiety and depression at the age of 11, he believes that his access to choir and drama programs has saved him. The programs provided him with connections and relationships, and without the programs he does not know where he would be. He questioned what other kids like him will do if the District cuts them.

**Board Comments:**

A Board member thanked the students for their bravery and passion and invited them to connect and meet in order to finish the dialog.

A Board member thanked the students for sharing their experiences and explained that the District is short \$3M and is looking for ways to find the funds. The Board member indicated that the students will be instrumental by using their voices to reach the community and help the District regarding these concerns.

A Board member explained for clarity how a tie-breaker works and another indicated that it is a mechanical function of the Education Code.

Moved for approval by Mrs. Link, seconded by Mr. Barberie

Ayes: 5, Noes: 0  
Abstention: 0  
Preferential: 1

**13. BOARD-SUPERINTENDENT DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Dr. Wilson thanked the students who addressed the Board and encouraged that their voices would cause the community to listen. He believes that the community has the resources and ability to unite and come together as one to take on this challenge. He is committed to what the students and Board have said and will be meeting with the SMSF administration and will hit the ground running to seek out solutions and resources.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no need to return to Closed Session, the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 p.m.

Unadopted  
Dr. Jeff Wilson  
Superintendent  
Secretary to the Board