

**SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES
January 26, 2011**

Chet F. Harritt School
Media Center
8120 Arlette Street
Santee, California

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Ryan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present:

Barbara Ryan, President
Dianne El-Hajj, Clerk
Ken Fox, Member
Dustin Burns, Member

Staff present:

Administration present:

Dr. Patrick Shaw, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board
Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Linda Vail, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary

Mrs. Ryan welcomed the staff and parents who were in attendance. The Board is very excited that modernization is starting up again after being stopped because of State budget problems. Board members and Executive Council members introduced themselves. President Ryan explained that Board members had come this evening to hear the thoughts and input from the Chet F. Harritt community about the LRC/Multi-purpose room and 6-8 learning structure as part of the Capital Improvement Program.

B. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Mr. Gabriel Pina, Chet F. Harritt PTA president, thanked the Board for coming and said Chet F. Harritt is very excited to know that modernization will be occurring this year.

C. COMMUNITY FORUM: Capital Improvement Program for Chet F. Harritt School

Dr. Pat Shaw, Superintendent, and Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Business, provided information on the current funding availability for modernization and construction. Funding is available at this time to modernize Chet F. Harritt this year, as well as Hill Creek and PRIDE Academy. Christina Becker introduced the Architect and Construction team members. Mrs. Becker shared what a modernized classroom will receive and look like. Modernization includes new paint and tackable walls, new ceilings, upgraded lighting, new individual classroom HVAC systems, new floors and/or carpet, teaching walls with cabinetry and sliding white boards, new wiring, computer connections and project mounts, and new fire alarms.

Dr. Shaw provided information on several options that could be considered for a 6-8 grade learning structure, Learning Resource Center and Multi-Purpose Room. The options included:

Option	Cost	Advantages	Disadvantages	Completion Date	Classrooms Available	*Surplus/ with new space
Option 1 10 classroom addition with separate multi-purpose room	9.3 million 6.8 million = 10 classroom 2.5 million = separate multi-purpose	Provides more than ample classroom space, space for up to 870 students Meets bond language Maintains current middle school environment	Indefinite funding timeline based on recommendation from administration	Unknown	34	+7
Option 2 - Modified 8 classroom room addition	7 million	Provides ample classroom space, space for up to 810 students Meets bond language	Indefinite funding timeline Locker location	Unknown	32	+5

		Maintains current middle school environment	further from ball fields			
Option 3 Multi-purpose building addition with new locker rooms and a classroom Convert old lockers to classroom space	3.5 million 3.2 million for multi-purpose room \$300,000 locker room conversion	Can complete with current funding Provides space for highest enrollment over 6 years, 665 students Meets intent of bond language Maintains current middle school environment in Building C	Meets intent of bond language but does not provide new construction of a 6 – 8 learning center	Completed multi-purpose room, August 2012	27	0
* (Based on K-3 20:1 and 7-year & peak enrollment trend: 2004/05 – 2010/11)						

Following the presentation of information, the floor was opened for comments from the community.

Chet F. Harritt teachers presented information to the Board about how the surplus classrooms could be used if a 10-classroom structure was built. The goal is to increase enrollment through various programmatic offerings. Ninety-eight percent of the staff is planning to become GATE certified to keep their students at Chet F. Harritt. They would also like to see YALE preschool offered at their site. They believe their full-day kindergarten will attract students from San Diego. Their desire is to continue to provide a quality education for all learners and wish to have the same 21st learning environment offered at other schools in the District. Their theme of the presentation was “If you build it, they will come.”

Comments from the audience comprised of Chet F. Harritt staff, parents, students and volunteers:

- ◆ One of the current “empty” rooms is currently being used to hold art classes. This space has become very valuable for teaching art.
- ◆ There are a lot of issues with the old facilities, leaky roofs causing flooding of classrooms (portables), torn carpets, etc.
- ◆ Parents are taking students to other schools because of the condition of the classrooms.
- ◆ Fourth option, Chet F. Harritt gets option 1 and the other school gets option 2 or 3. They might not need it as much as Chet F. Harritt needs it right now.
- ◆ Chet F. Harritt has the best teachers in the school district and it is not fair that the classrooms have torn and taped carpets, and leaky roofs and other schools received modernization before Chet F. Harritt.
- ◆ The school needs to be modernized because the classrooms are in poor shape, ripped carpet and leaky roofs.
- ◆ This school deserves to be able to teach in a more positive environment.
- ◆ Does not remember the school ever being modernized, and it really needs it.
- ◆ Younger students can’t wait to go to school because of the caring staff. It would be nice to give the teachers something better to work with since they work so hard.
- ◆ It would be nice to give the teachers something special because they put so much out for our kids.
- ◆ Looking at the future at Chet F. Harritt, h may wish to transfer his son in junior high to have better science facilities – no choice but option 1. You know what we deserve and you know what we want so there is really no other option.
- ◆ The facilities are not safe and sanitary and are not good for kids. They cannot learn in this type of environment.
- ◆ Chet F. Harritt is a family. If we take option 3, she is afraid that in later years they will get nothing because they will not be eligible.
- ◆ Hope to have GATE at Chet F. Harritt so he can keep his kids here. Need to make option 1 work. Option 2 is acceptable but option 3 is not. Asked about the sale of the Santee School property since the ball fields are being moved and that was part of the money to be used for the CIP. The Board needs to go out and find the money.

- ◆ We are going to grow. You will have to come back later and add classrooms. Need to do it and do it right.
- ◆ If option 1 is not done, how is that preparing them for high school? They will be further behind in technology.
- ◆ Option 1 is the one Chet F. Harritt wants. Because we will have to wait for the building to be done, how will the portables be modernized?
- ◆ Understands why schools were selected to be modernized first. The schools that were modernized are in a higher socio-economic area. Education is the great equalizer. We need to provide our students with what the other kids have for a level playing field.
- ◆ Schools that were modernized in Phase I were from higher socio-economic areas. Chet F. Harritt has a lower socio-economic community. Chet F. Harritt kids deserve the same or more, to make it equitable.
- ◆ All kids deserve an equal education. It should not matter what side of Mission Gorge they live on. The “intent” of the bond is not an option for our community. Moral is low because we have not received any modernization.
- ◆ If Chet F. Harritt does not get the building, families are going to leave.
- ◆ The building is needed. We need to be able to provide above and beyond for our students who do not get the enrichment at home.
- ◆ Why can't you merge Santee Pioneer with the other leagues to use their new facilities? Why are you using money on fields for Little League that you could be using for the classrooms?
- ◆ Please make a decision based on where you would send your kids. Please fight for us with the same vigor and compassion.
- ◆ The school needs to be modernized.
- ◆ Staff wants the opportunity to share some of the comments/concerns they have heard from other teachers about their classrooms after modernization and suggest changes.
 - Dr. Shaw reported that Administration will have regularly scheduled logistical meetings with the Principals. Staff should discuss these concerns with the principal to bring to those meetings.
- ◆ Information was requested about the building costs and budget for Capital Improvements at Chet F. Harritt. It was asked who was tracking expenses.
 - Dr. Shaw responded that a budget for the Chet F. Harritt project will be sent to the Principal to share with the staff and community. He explained about the Citizens' Oversight Committee who oversees the expenditures of the taxpayer dollars. Expenses are monitored closely.
- ◆ Parents and Teachers expressed concern that the numbers projected for future enrollment are not generous enough for growth.
- ◆ Option 3 is an insult. The 8-classroom looks good.
- ◆ It was recommended to consider changing school boundaries to include additional and new residential areas to be part of Chet F. Harritt.
- ◆ Teachers at other schools have classes with fewer students in their classrooms and that does not seem equitable.
- ◆ Chet F. Harritt started full day kindergarten and Project SAFE. They have an innovative, enthusiastic staff and are a committed family. The staff does not feel what is being offered is equitable.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Members Fox, El-Hajj, and Burns each thanked the community for coming and sharing their thoughts and passions with the Board. Each explained some of the things they will be considering, as well as the input received in this meeting, when making a decision about the building for Chet F. Harritt. President Ryan thanked the audience for their comments and said the Board must consider all of the community of Santee when making decisions as well as be fiscally responsible.

The January 26, 2011 special meeting was adjourned.