

**JOINT MEETING OF
ANTIOCH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
ANTIOCH CITY COUNCIL
Lone Tree Elementary School
1931 Mokelumne Drive
September 15, 2009
7:00 p.m.**

1. ROLL CALL:

ANTIOCH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS: President Walter Ruehlig, Board Members Claire Smith, Diane Gibson-Gray, Wade Harper, and Teri Lynn Shaw.

Interim Superintendent Donald Gill, Ed.D.

Staff Present: Tim McClure, Interim Assistant Superintendent
Suzanne Pfeiffer, Human Resources Office
Denise Porterfield, Chief Business Official

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Mayor James Davis, Council Members Brian Kalinowski, Mary Rocha, Reginald Moore, and Martha Parsons.

Staff Present: City Manager Jim Jakel
Assistant City Manager Arlene

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Rocha led the Council, School Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. School Opening: Teacher Training

Mary McCarty, AUSD Director of Assessment presented a reported on School Opening and Teacher Training. She stated the goal was to include more structured assessment of the curriculum with a goal of improving the students learning experience. The 8-day training was well attended; the feedback from those attending had been positive.

Robin Schmitt presented a report on the NCB, stating those who attended would be responsible to train those staff members who were unable to attend the 8-day training.

4. Prewett Community Center Project, Artificial Turf Field "WW Project"

Chairperson Ruehlig discussed the Prewett Park Community Center.

Lonnie Karste, Special Projects Manager, working in conjunction with Antioch resident Dee Vierra, reported the 35,000 foot building, being built to help save the Burrowing Owls, was progressing nicely. The building would serve as a learning center to educate the community and children regarding conservation of indigenous wildlife.

The plan for the Prewett Park Community Center also included an amphitheatre, currently slated to seat 3,000, and an area for special events. Police services would be looking at the location to establish a sub-station at a cost of \$22M (virtual tour was available online).

Will Whitney reported on the current plans for sports, stating there was plans in progress for both baseball and softball fields. Currently, those fields being used were in constant use, and were unable to sustain themselves due to a lack of down time for regeneration. Therefore, artificial turf was being considered for future use.

Jesse Merlin, Music Director, added the addition of turn fields would make it easier for the marching band to practice.

Thomas McNell, Antioch resident, stated he supported the addition of the all-weather turf fields. He stated there would be many groups who would benefit from utilizing the new fields, adding class "A" fields would attract a greater influx of field events. He further stated a competition pool was needed in the City.

Andrew Rollie felt Astro Turf was safer than natural grass. He noted injuries had dropped during the past 8-10 years, after the use of Astro Turf became the standard turf. He stated there was a cost associated with disposal of the turf in a landfill, but they were continually finding new uses for old products.

Per Council and School Member's inquiry, Mr. Rollie stated their price was about \$5.00 per square foot for Astroturf with 10 – 15% of projects each year financed.

Scott Joseph, AUSD coach, discussed those students who were most apt to receive full athletic scholarships because they play on turf fields.

Allen Payton stated he was in support of the turf fields; emphasizing Antioch was also in need of an all-weather track adding from a business aspect, the businesses could help to provide sponsorship for the track.

James Tarabeni spoke to the issue of the dramatic difference a facility makes in a community, and also in the eyes of outside communities and sport groups.

Statements were read from Michal Sage and Terry Ramus in favor of the addition of the artificial turf for use at both locations.

In response to Councilmember Moore, Boardmember Ruehlig felt a 50/50 funding split, or either the AUSD or the City of Antioch could pay their half up front, and the other entity pay the balance when the turf job was completed and accepted. He further stated the hope was to be fruitful and mindful in the best interest of the City as a whole.

Councilmember Moore stated there had been much discussion regarding the use of the RDA monies to fund some of the costs for the turf fields, and asked if an MOU between the City and the AUSD would be used? He stated both parties would need to come together ready and willing to act.

Councilmember Kalinowski felt the cost of some of the turf fields should be a joint venture. He further stated his current view of the issue was that the City's funding was at least 4-5 years away. Additionally, should the current economy continue, the number would need to be pushed out further.

Boardmember Smith stated she hoped to hear the two boards saying they were trying to do the best for all of the kids, and felt it would work to sell the turf by the foot.

Mayor Davis stated there was a need for a design for the track and proposed continuing dialogue with Antioch Unified School District Board at a later date.

Councilmember Moore urged all to continue to remember the AUSD pool.

5. Measure "C" Bond Status Report

Tom Forrester, Executive Director of Operations, presented the staff report regarding the Measure C Bonds, which were passed in June 2009, with funding available in September.

Denise Porterfield stated there was \$700 M in interest free bonds, which would need to be sold by December 2009.

Tom Forrester suggested splitting the projects between four architects, as there were three phases of the bid packet. He explained as a School District project, there were many caveats that must be met. Per inquiry, he noted the architect had been involved since April looking at those sites on a "most needed" basis. All classrooms would be receiving LCD screens; 70 – 75% of CFD classes would receive LCD screens, and the District was able to provide many upgrades to many of the playgrounds.

Mr. Forrester stated the Beede auditorium would have air conditioning installed and become ADA compliant. Mr. Forrester also expressed concern to hazardous areas in the front offices of the Antioch Unified School District.

6. Graffiti Task Force

Ryan Graham, Code Enforcement Manager for the City of Antioch, presented the staff report on the Graffiti Task Force, and the changes regarding responses to graffiti and its removal, at a cost of approximately \$40K per year. He noted a volunteer Graffiti Program was being implemented with grant funding.

Mayor Davis stated there were three items he had wanted to implement in an effort to thwart the continuing spread of graffiti were: *education, eradication and enforcement*. He noted a phone number for those interested for applying to the volunteer positions.

Councilmember Parsons challenged the Council and Board to organize their neighborhoods to keep their neighborhoods clean.

Discussion ensued regarding the need of immediate action from the public to eradicate graffiti. Gary Agopian stated he had researched the issue and found there was general agreement graffiti should be removed with the first 48 hours, as there was an alter gang language in graffiti, which is “gang related”. He suggested a “gang related task force” be implemented.

7. *School Uniforms*

Ms. Phillips gave the staff report, stating Antioch Unified School District currently had a 98% compliance rate. Mrs. Birdsell stated there had been 5 waivers out of 698 students at one of the District’s elementary schools. She also stressed many of the students endorse the uniforms as it places all the children as equals.

Tim Cobert, Black Diamond School, spoke in relation to the difference the uniforms had made in many children. Since the enforcement of school uniforms, competition between the students had been greatly reduced, replaced by a wholesome level of camaraderie.

In response to Councilmember Rocha, Mr. Cobert noted new and used uniforms were available for those students who could not afford uniforms. Boardmember Gibson-Gray also stated should a parent request a waiver stating they do not want their child to wear a uniform, it was granted.

In response to Councilmember Rocha, Boardmember Ruehlig stated 13 of the 17 schools in Antioch had adopted a uniforms policy. He felt statistically, when people voluntarily invest in a program, they generally had greater compliance.

Dee Vierra stated she would like to see the uniforms mandated across all the Antioch’s schools and stated Principal Dee Del Chiaro had stated the same sentiment.

Tom McNeil stated there were many students who were still not wearing uniforms and felt the clothing attire of some of the students were not conforming to school policy.

Councilmember Kalinowski felt the dress code needed to be enforced.

Allen Payton stated he would donate 100-150 uniforms to students this year.

8. *Public Comments*

Gary Agopian agreed with the uniform policy and expressed support for turf fields, as grass fields were difficult to maintain, due to the heavy usage. He supported fund raising for turf fields.

9. *Future Meetings and Standing Meetings AUSD/City of Antioch Staff*

As per discussion, it was agreed joint meetings would be held in September and January.

Urgency Item for Antioch City Council

A motion by Council Member Kalinowski, seconded by Council Member Moore, to add the following Closed Session to the agenda as an urgency item because issues had arisen during the mediation that day with the parties that had not been contemplated at the time the agenda was posted and action was needed before the Council's next regularly scheduled meeting due to court-imposed deadlines in the litigation. The motion to add the item was unanimously approved by the Antioch City Council:

CLOSED SESSION — CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R5-2006-0512 issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Central Valley Region to the City of Antioch and Somersville-Gentry, Inc. re: Markley Creek; SPPI-Somersville, Inc. et al. v. TRC et al. (USDC N.D. Cal Case No C04-2648 SI); SPPI-Somersville, Inc. et al. v. Chevron (USDC N.D. Cal. Case No. C07-05824 SI). This Closed Session is authorized pursuant to Government Code §54956.9 (a).

There was no public comment for the Closed Session.

10. Adjournment

With no further business, the Joint Meeting was adjourned.

The City Council and City staff adjourned to Closed Session to the teacher's lounge at Lone Tree Elementary School at 9:40 p.m.

Closed session was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. City Attorney Nerland reported out in the Lone Tree Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room that the City Council had approved settlement in the referenced closed session.

Respectfully Submitted

L. Jolene Martin, CMC

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Antioch City Clerk