

## School Board Meeting Summary, January 12, 2011

### Finance

- The Board discussed the 2009-2010 district audit prepared by Stephen Roatch Accountancy Corporation
- Superintendent/Principal Pattie Dullea introduced Sarah Blackstone, Ross School's new business manager.
- The Board discussed preliminary guidelines for development of the 2011-2012 budget. The Board expressed its intention to avoid deficit spending. Assumptions used for multi-year projections were discussed; these include items such as the estimated property tax increase (0-2%) and the estimated "Fair Share" state-mandated payback for next year (\$127,000-\$260,000).

### Student Learning

- Julia Vander Vennett, school psychologist and special education coordinator, presented a summary of the district's special education program. Ross School was one of only two districts in Marin County found to have no systemic compliance items on a recent state-mandated review.
- The update about the Response to Intervention (RTI) program was postponed to the February 9 meeting because of time constraints.
- The first draft of the 2011-2012 school calendar was presented. The Board expects to approve the calendar at its February meeting. The draft calendar shows the first day of school as Monday, August 29th and the last day of school, a minimum day, as Thursday, June 14th. Dates of winter and spring vacations match those of the Tamalpais High School District.

### Facilities

- Mark Quattrocchi, Ross School's architect, and Brett Long, a consultant, presented drawings showing possible locations for the main baseball diamond on the Ross Common. Possible sites for a possible second diamond for T-ball were also shown. Many neighbors and community members offered comments about the location of the baseball diamond. Some neighbors from Redwood Avenue expressed concerns about placing the diamond in the southwest corner; these concerns included parking problems, possible risks to nearby trees, and foul balls. Other audience members expressed concerns about placing the field in its prior location; these concerns included the loss of functionality of the new outdoor stage since the bleachers and baseline would be very close to the stage. A second meeting for community members was scheduled for January 13. The Board will vote on the proposals at the February 9 School Board meeting. The Board will present this recommendation to the Town at the February 10 Town Council meeting. The Town is responsible for making the decision about baseball diamond placement because the Common is Town property.
- A discussion was held about the timing of the restoration of the Ross Common. The District is scheduled to restore the Common immediately upon completion of the gym (expected completion date August 31, 2011). The restoration is expected to take three months; this will be followed by a three month period during which no field use is allowed in order to permit the grass to take root. Ross Recreation presented its request to consider delaying this timeline to accommodate the fall soccer program. Mark Quattrocchi pointed out that this would involve additional costs, estimated at \$120,000-\$240,000. The Board expects to vote on whether to postpone its timeline at the February 9 School Board meeting.
- The Board discussed and approved the Endowment's plan to place a plaque with names of major donors inside the school; possible sites were discussed.

The next regularly scheduled School Board meeting will be Wednesday, February 9.

We hope to see you there,  
Ross School Board of Trustees