

July 19, 2011 School Board Meeting Summary

Governance

- The Board welcomed Dr. Scott Mahoney to his first Ross School board meeting. Scott's first official day as Superintendent/Principal at Ross School was July 1st.
- Historically, Board officers (president and vice president) have been elected in December of each year, as required by the California Education code. Board liaison positions to school committees, parent organizations, and task forces have also been assigned in December. With the Board's desired goal of providing a greater level of continuity to parent organizations and committees, the Board has decided it would be in the school's best interests if board officers and liaison positions matched the school year (July to June) rather than the calendar year. In order to effect this change, Elizabeth Robbins and Rob Hobart resigned their positions as President and Vice President, respectively, at the July 19th meeting. The Board subsequently held an election of new officers: Todd Blake was elected President, and Whit Gaither elected Vice President.
- Additionally, new board liaison positions were chosen; board members will soon be in touch with the leaders of each organization. A list of Board liaison assignments follows this meeting summary.

Facilities

- Jim Walton presented an update about the Kindergarten project: Playground construction has begun, with a raised planter/seat wall, new drainage and irrigation, and a replacement oak tree planned for completion prior to the first day of school. Efforts are being coordinated with District and Town arborists.
- Multi-Purpose Room construction is progressing nicely, with the anticipated completion date remaining at mid-October.
- Construction progress for the children's playground is pending the Town's approval of enhanced tree protection measures. As a result, the playground may not be completed prior to the first day of school.
- Progress on the restoration of the Ross Common has been put on hold pending Town authorization to move forward. The District has provided requested information to the Town, and is working collaboratively with the Town to once again move construction towards a timely completion.

Student Learning

- The Board discussed the results of the Healthy Kids Survey from 2010 pertaining to the Ross School Elementary and Middle School. In light of its results, the Board voted to adopt for next school year the "Being Adept" Substance Abuse Prevention Program for grades 5-8.

Finance

- There was a brief update about the State's education budget.
- The Board voted to lease new computers for the 4th and 6th grade classes, as the previous lease had expired and the computers needed replacement. (The 5th grade class is in the second year of a three-year computer lease). Similarly, the Board voted to lease replacement laptops for teachers and staff. In accordance with District goals to reduce paper usage as much as possible, the Board will lease iPads to implement paperless board meeting packets, saving on administrative time and improving efficiency.
- Utilizing one-time funding from the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Board elected to purchase MacBooks and iPads for the Special Education department teachers and students. Additionally, 6 new computers will be purchased to replace the outdated library computers, using funds from the PTA "Fund the Need" auction and Friends of the Library resource.
- The Board approved hiring the Marin County Office of Education to provide IT support for our district, replacing the previous services provided by Marin IT. For essentially no change in cost, the District will receive a greater amount of IT support.

Ross School Board of Trustees

ROSS SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS (effective 7/19/11)

President	Todd Blake
Vice President	Whit Gaither
Safety Task Force	Rob Hobart
Site Council	Todd Blake
Technology Committee	Whit Gaither
Wellness Committee	Rob Hobart
TALK 12	Scott Mahoney
Negotiations	Elizabeth Robbins & Todd Blake
Sunshine	Todd Blake
FAC	Whit Gaither
Friends of Library	Bob Dickinson
EKOM	Todd Blake
PTA	Elizabeth Robbins
Ross Recreation	Rob Hobart
Town Council	Bob Dickinson
Foundation/Endowment	Whit Gaither
Coordinating Council	Todd Blake
MCSBA	Elizabeth Robbins
Golden Bell	Scott Mahoney
JLAC	Bob Dickinson
Citizen's Oversight Committee	Elizabeth Robbins