

SAN JOSE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

855 Lenzen Avenue, San José, California

MINUTES

Special Session Meeting

February 7, 2008

The Board of Education met in Special Session on Thursday, February 7, 2008, in the Superintendent's Conference Room, 855 Lenzen Avenue, San José, California. The following Board Members were present: Mrs. Pam Foley, President; Mrs. Leslie Reynolds, Vice President; Mr. Rich Garcia, Mr. Jorge González, and Mrs. Veronica Grijalva Lewis, Members. The following staff members were present: Mr. Don Iglesias, Superintendent of Schools and Secretary to the Board of Education; Ms. Ann Jones, Chief Business Officer; and Dr. William Erlendson, Assistant Superintendent.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Special Session meeting was called to order by Board President, Mrs. Foley, at 7:42 a.m., in the Superintendent's Conference Room, at 855 Lenzen Avenue, San José, California.

ADOPT THE AGENDA

Mrs. Reynolds moved to adopt the agenda. Mr. Garcia seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Ten-year Independent Contract Agreement with Sunesys, LLC

Mr. Iglesias provided some background on the Board item by saying that the District has had E-Rate for nine years. The funding for this program is federal money from the tax that you may have noticed on your telephone bill. By taking advantage of this program, SJUSD will be able to update the "information highway" used by staff and students. The proposal is to contract with Sunesys and build a fiber optic highway that we would use for the next ten years. The fear is that if we don't keep up, our technology system slows down. SJUSD attempts to stay ahead of any slowdown.

There is a cost associated with this contract, which was explained to the Board by Mr. Paul Rische, Director of Technology, and Mr. Scott Buller, Regional Account Manager of Sunesys. If SJUSD does not act on this opportunity today, it will be twelve months before they would be able to sign up again, and another twelve months before installation. Mr. Rische verified that today is the deadline for signing up for E-Rate. The District sent out an RFP proposal, which was seen by thousands of vendors from the E-Rate website. The District does not usually receive a large number of bidders for this type of proposal and sometimes only one, because telephone companies have somewhat of a monopoly in the territory. For this reason, we made every effort to provide a competitive environment for this project. We did get three proposals this time.

The number of free and reduced lunch applications is used to calculate the discounts and, therefore, the discount changes from year to year. SJUSD currently has a discount of 65%. Even with the discounts, it is still expensive, and the District is constantly looking for the best rate and E-Rate helps us to do that. Mr. Rische distributed cost comparisons for the three bidders: AT&T, Sunesys, and Nth Air. The pricing for the first five years is different from that of the second five years for Sunesys. Their costs for the second five years drop dramatically making them the overall lowest bidder by over \$400,000. The costs for the AT&T and Nth Air proposals were the same for all ten years.

Another consideration in comparing the vendors was the billing process. AT&T billing is done first with the full cost of the service without the E-Rate credits being applied. The District is expected to pay the total amount even though our actual cost is much less. The E-Rate credits are applied up to three or four months later. With this resulting stack of bills, it is almost impossible to verify the amount owed. Mrs. Reynolds asked if we could request that AT&T move to a better billing system. Mr. Rische replied that we can ask, but this is just the way AT&T does their billing. Mr. Iglesias verified that AT&T is not flexible with their billing.

Sunesys billing is much simpler to manage and verify. It will consist of one monthly bill with E-Rate discounts already deducted. SJUSD will pay only the net cost monthly and then only after the complete network is installed.

The Sunesys proposal provides six fibers allowing for the possibility of three different types of networks. The AT&T proposal only allows the one data network. We would start with a high-speed Gigabit data network connecting the schools to the District office and eliminating the slow existing eleven-year-old T1 lines. The bandwidth for this network would be 1000 mbs compared to 1.5 mbs of the T1.

A new telephone system, using the fiber system and eliminating the Centrex that we are currently using, could then follow. Mrs. Reynolds asked if there is ever a time when staff does not have a line to make a phone call. Mr. Rische said that it was not a common problem, but it has happened. With the Sunesys proposal, the District could install a centralized telephone system that would cost about \$300,000. The Measure F Refresh Program would cover this amount. Mr. Rische explained that the District schools would be sharing the telephone lines, just as we share the Internet, allowing us to eliminate at least 50% of existing phone lines.

Mr. Rische explained how we could then create a third private network, if needed in the future, allowing for a closed circuit video system.

Mr. González said that he liked the analogy of a real highway with the capability of upgrading the lanes, removing garbage from the highway, and fixing potholes. Mrs. Reynolds asked about how this new system would work with controlling spam. Mr. Rische said that we would still use spam blockers, as the District is required to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Mrs. Foley asked Mr. Rische to explain what the "burning need" was for the District to convert to fiber optics. She wondered if it was a slowdown on the Internet or incompatible software. Mr. Rische explained that the current District bandwidth of 1.5 has been in place for

about eleven years and is very slow. As more and more multi-media is incorporated into worldwide websites, the network will only get slower.

Mrs. Lewis expressed a concern about some of the schools that have lost connections to EdTek recently, sometimes for several days, and wondered if this new technology would prevent that from happening. It was explained that the fiber optics would help with that. Sunesys offers a 24/7 guarantee that all repairs will be made within 24 hours with liquidated damages. They have a 99.97% “up time” record. Mr. Buller explained what the system would look like at the schools and answered Board member questions.

Mrs. Foley expressed her concern that this was such a complicated issue and she did not feel that she had time to adequately research this and make a decision. Ms. Jones apologized to the Board that the materials were not given to them earlier. Mr. Rische explained that additional time was given to one of the bidders and that had delayed the process but it was necessary to make sure we had a competitive environment. He also apologized to the Board about the short time frame.

Mr. Garcia said that she would like to hear from the staff with their recommendations. Mr. Iglesias, Dr. Erlendson, and Ms. Jones all supported going ahead with the project. Mrs. Reynolds asked Ms. Jones if, considering the budget issue, the District could afford to proceed. Ms. Jones acknowledged that it is an additional cost, but that the District already has the money for this in the 2008-09 budget and felt that the expense was justified considering the E-Rate savings.

Mr. Garcia said that this sounded like something we want to do, but his concern was whether the District could afford it. He said he was excited about this upgrade. Mr. González concurred and said that he was ready to vote.

Mr. Garcia moved that the Board of Education approve a ten-year Independent Contract Agreement with SUNESYS, LLC. in the estimated amount of \$1,210,092.60 (5 years @ \$15,514.01 per month and an additional 5 years @ \$4,654.20 per month) to provide a complete turnkey solution for Managed Gigabit Fiber Optic Network Services from February 7, 2008 through the 2017-18 school year.

Budget Source: Unrestricted General [Fund 031]

Mr. González seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

H. STUDENT DISCIPLINE

The Board of Education has held hearings in Closed Session to consider the recommendation of the Administrative Hearing Panel to expel the students discussed. The Board of Education will now take final action on these student expulsion cases.

1. Student Expulsion Case Number 007-08-039
AYES: Foley, Reynolds, Garcia, Lewis
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
ABSENT: González

2. Student Expulsion Case Number 007-08-043
AYES: Foley, Reynolds, Garcia, Lewis
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
ABSENT: González

3. Student Expulsion Case Number 007-08-044
AYES: Foley, Reynolds, Garcia, Lewis
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
ABSENT: González

4. Student Expulsion Case Number 007-08-045
AYES: Foley, Reynolds, Garcia, Lewis
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
ABSENT: González

5. Student Expulsion Case Number 007-08-046
AYES: Foley, Reynolds, Garcia, Lewis
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
ABSENT: González

6. Student Expulsion Case Number 007-08-047
AYES: Foley, Reynolds, Garcia, Lewis
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
ABSENT: González

7. Student Expulsion Case Number 007-08-048

AYES: Foley, Reynolds, Garcia, Lewis
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
ABSENT: González

8. Student Expulsion Case Number 007-08-052

AYES: Foley, Reynolds, Garcia, Lewis
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
ABSENT: González

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Lewis moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Garcia seconded. The motion carried unanimously [preferential vote by Student Board Member – Aye].

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.