

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JUNE 21, 1971

479/70-71

Meeting of
June 21, 1971

A meeting of the Board of Education of the Palo Alto Unified School District was held on Monday, June 21, 1971, at Escondido Elementary School, 890 Escondido Road, Stanford, California. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., by Mr. Preston Cutler, President.

Members present: Mr. Preston Cutler, President
Mr. David Fletcher, Vice President
Dr. Bernard Oliver
Mrs. Agnes Robinson
Dr. Royce Cole

480/70-71

Recognition of Service

In recognition of Dr. Oliver's ten years of service on the Board, he was presented with an engraved martini mixer. Mrs. Robinson praised Dr. Oliver for his extraordinarily competent brand of thinking. She went on to say that working on the Board with Dr. Oliver was very rewarding and exciting. Mrs. Robinson noted various contributions Dr. Oliver made to the Board including the new teacher salary schedule which is now a model for the state of California.

Dr. Oliver noted that the Board had been referred to as five individuals instead of a Board and that this was intended as a criticism. Dr. Oliver said he did not take this as a criticism because he felt a Board should consist of five different people with different points of view. He said the sine qua non of a good board is mutual respect. Dr. Oliver returned the sentiment that prompted this gift by saying that he had the most profound respect for the Board and the members who compose it. Dr. Oliver went on to say that the district administration has some marvelous examples of true total dedication to the education process and that it had been a privilege to have known and worked with these people. Dr. Oliver said his retiring in no way ends his interest in the school district.

Mr. Cutler remarked that it had been a pleasure, a stimulus and a privilege to work with Dr. Oliver.

481/70-71
Audience

Mr. Cutler indicated that members of the audience would be given opportunities to speak to agenda items at the time of their discussion.

482/70-71
Minutes of the meetings
of May 24, June 1, and
June 7, 1971

Motion: Mrs. Robinson moved approval of the minutes of the meetings of May 24, June 1, and June 7, 1971.
Dr. Oliver seconded the motion.

Mr. Fletcher corrected page 2 of the minutes of the meeting of June 1, 1971, to read; "Mr. Fletcher stated that in view of economic conditions generally, and conditions in the community in particular, he could not justify an increase in compensation in the form of salaries and compensation benefits in excess of 4.1%."

Mr. Fletcher further requested that motions which are not adopted unanimously be recorded with the names of those voting no. He referred to several motions in the minutes of June 1, noting those voting for and against the motions and requested that these be incorporated into the minutes.

Mr. Fletcher corrected the spelling of Mrs. Kitty Mones and Mr. Bob Kantor, members of the Citizens Ad Hoc Committee, listed on page 14 of the minutes of June 7, 1971.

Vote: The motion to approve the minutes as corrected carried unanimously.

483/70-71
Personnel Actions

Dr. Santee presented a list of 1971 summer session out-of-district certificated personnel actions, in addition to the regular certificated and classified personnel actions. This list included personnel who are not employed by the Palo Alto Unified School District during the regular school year.

Motion: Mr. Fletcher moved approval of the personnel actions as submitted. Dr. Cole seconded the motion.

Mr. Fletcher questioned if out-of-district personnel were given equal, greater, or less consideration than someone presently employed if both were competing for the same position.
Dr. Santee replied that personnel within the district were given priority.

Vote: The motion to approve the personnel actions as submitted carried unanimously. (These personnel actions are attached as a part of the permanent record -- Exhibit #31).

484/70-71
Bills

Motion: Dr. Cole moved approval of the bills in the amount of \$503,921.27. Dr. Oliver seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

485/70-71
Ratification of Membership
of Gunn High School
Foundation Board of
Trustees

Mrs. Robinson presented the membership list for the Gunn High School Foundation Board of Trustees and indicated that the Board is required annually to ratify this membership. She noted that she has been a member of this Board of Trustees for three years, as a member of the Board of Education is requested to serve. Mrs. Robinson stated that this has been a very satisfying experience, but requested that she be relieved of her tenure on the Board because she felt three years was long enough in terms of creative thinking on scholarship committees. She went on to say that she has nominated Mr. Donald Hammond, Board member-elect, and a Gunn father, and that he had agreed to serve. Mrs. Robinson identified the other two members as Mrs. Jean Hauser and Mr. Jerome Leva, both members of the Gunn community.

Motion: Mrs. Robinson moved that the school Board accept the nominations for the election of Mrs. Hauser, Mr. Leva and Mr. Hammond to the Gunn High School Foundation Board of Trustees for a three-year term. Mr. Fletcher seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

486/70-71
Jordan Junior High
School Fire

Dr. Santee stated that at this time there was no indication as to the origin of the blaze at Jordan Junior High School. He said a report would be coming from the fire marshal. Dr. Santee noted that surveillance of all buildings had been increased and that the Palo Alto Police were cooperating remarkably well. Dr. Santee explained that the fire almost completely destroyed the cafeteria which was a portion of the original construction built in the mid-thirties. He noted that there was some problem as to whether or not it would meet the building codes that it needs to meet without some modification, if it is restored. Dr. Santee went on to say that he would bring these matters before the Board when he had more information.

Dr. Santee said he had called upon the architectural firm of Clark, Stromquist and Sandstrom, who last did work at Jordan on a per diem basis and they indicated they would provide information in terms of what the problems are, what the estimated cost of repair is, and whatever other information would be useful to have.

487/70-71

Consider De Anza
Elementary School
Reconstruction Plans

Dr. Santee indicated that the district is not under the same kind of pressure to restore this building as it is with DeAnza. He said the fire did not damage any part of the building that is used for regular instructional purposes. He went on to say that the fire did damage a portion of the building that was being used for a summer class. This class has been moved to Cubberley High School. Dr. Santee commended the individuals on the summer school staff for their efforts to organize and continue instruction in spite of the fire. He stated that he would present recommendations concerning Jordan at a future Board meeting.

Mr. Tully Knoles indicated that following the fire at De Anza School, representatives of the staff, the faculty and parents met with the architect to determine whether it would be possible to reconstruct the area concerned to utilize the space more effectively and efficiently within the bid figures "as was." He presented a proposed realignment of spaces, partitions, etc., which would be feasible within the financial limitations.

Dr. Santee pointed out a problem of heat in the existing building and said a similar problem was anticipated with the new configuration of spaces and the number of support personnel in the area. He recommended that the Board consider adding an air conditioning system to the area at an additional cost of approximately \$11,000.

Mr. Sandstrom, the architect, addressed the Board noting the involvement of the staff in planning the new configuration of spaces. He indicated that he had spoken with Les Kelly, the contractor, who submitted the low insurance settlement estimate, and who assured him that everything except the air conditioning could be done within the money to be paid by the insurance company.

Dr. Santee pointed out that as this particular office unit was designed, the types of windows, the kinds of rooms it had, and its orientation to the sun presented problems that the district does not have in equal intensity in other schools.

Mr. Cutler commented that economic pressures facing the district must be considered in this additional expense.

Dr. Santee indicated that it was the administration's intent to budget this air conditioning out of the general funds. He noted that if after the Palo Alto High School construction job is complete funds are left, building funds could be transferred to reimburse the operational budget. He did not feel any more in-roads should be made into the building funds until Palo Alto High School has been completed.

Dr. Santee pointed out that the district would also receive the replacement of equipment and furniture lost in the fire.

Dr. Oliver expressed a concern that the cost to replace this building was extremely high. He felt the district might get a better deal, including the air conditioning, by asking for more bids on the project.

Mr. Heads, a Wilbur parent, questioned a final vote on this project which he said was going to cost the taxpayers \$105,000.

Dr. Santee clarified the fact that the cost to the taxpayers would be nothing because the insurance company was replacing the building. He said the administration is trying to get the building replaced so it will be improved over what it was at no added cost except for the air conditioning.

Mr. Fletcher requested that the administration strive to refurbish this facility within the insurance settlement.

Dr. Santee replied that this will be the administration's effort.

Motion: Mrs. Robinson moved that the Board accept the revised architectural plans for the administration area at De Anza Elementary School and accept the additional expense of adding air conditioning at this time. Dr. Oliver seconded the motion.

Dr. Cole requested that the administration wait two more weeks as he was not satisfied with the information presented. He asked why an insurance company was willing to pay the district more money than what the reconstruction of the building might cost on an open bid. He did not feel this extra money could be accounted for on the basis that it is a rush job.

Dr. Santee pointed out that the insurance company is responsible for paying whatever price is established. He stated that to call for bids now would involve a delay of approximately two months. He said action this evening would permit completion of the project by September.

Dr. Cole questioned how the additional expense of \$11,000 for air conditioning would affect thinking with respect to keeping Ross Road open.

Mr. Cutler said his own disposition was to move forward. He indicated that the sum of \$11,000 was not enough to sway him substantially in view of the other issues involved.

Vote: The motion to approve the revised architectural plan and the added expense of air conditioning carried four to one with Dr. Cole voting no.

Mr. Tully Knoles indicated that it was a pleasure to present the bids for the classrooms for the acoustically handicapped at Wilbur, Fairmeadow, and Cubberley Schools. He said this project has been going on since October 1968. Mr. Knoles noted that bids were opened on June 8th and that the Office of Local Assistance, State of California, has verbally approved the awarding of the base bid contract to the low bidder, Stevenson Pacific, Inc., and has advised the district to suggest that the Board authorize signing of the contract upon receipt of final, written approval from the Office of Local Assistance. Mr. Knoles commented that Mr. Walter Keller, the architect, has had a great deal of experience with Stevenson Pacific, Inc., and reports that they are a reputable and competent construction firm.

Motion: Dr. Oliver moved that the Board authorize the signing of the contract to Stevenson Pacific, Inc., upon receipt of final, written approval from the Office of Local Assistance. Mrs. Robinson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Dr. Santee presented the nominations for election to the Area VI Vocational Education Planning Committee. He noted that Mrs. Robinson was selected as a nominee and that the Board was requested to vote for three candidates for committee membership. Dr. Santee stated that the ballot must be returned by June 25th. He presented information regarding several candidates, Mrs. Robinson being one of the candidates.

Mr. Cutler suggested that each Board member mark three names on the ballot, and return them to Dr. Santee for tabulation and that he could then cast the ballot for the Board. This was agreeable to all Board members. After tallying the vote, Mrs. Robinson was the first winner for Palo Alto.

88/70-71

Consider Awarding of
Contract for Construction
of Classrooms for Acoustically
Handicapped

89/70-71

Election of Boards of
Education Representatives
to Area VI Vocational
Education Planning
Committee

Dr. Santee recalled that at an earlier Board meeting an attempt was made to discuss Board policy for guidelines for programs which significantly alter the regular school day. He indicated that he tried to put on one page a Board policy that would allow some latitude in administrative procedure, and that would exercise the necessary controls. Dr. Santee said an attempt was made to place the responsibility upon the building principal for making the judgment as well as for informing the central office administration on the basis that the building principal is the one nearer the activity. Dr. Santee went on to say that the building principal would in turn notify the Associate Superintendent who would work with him and other individuals and would inform the Superintendent who would inform the Board at reasonable intervals.

The building principal would also use members of his professional staff, parents in the community, and students as advisors and would maintain close personal supervision over the project.

Mr. Fletcher suggested some alternative wording in the last two lines of the Board Policy statement to read "...nature as to make the prior approval of the Board advisable, and to obtain such approval in a timely manner." He felt the crucial question was to what extent does the Board become involved. He said the implication of the proposed wording indicates that the Board does not become involved in a decision making way.

Board members indicated agreement with the proposed revision. Dr. Santee said he would also accept this revision.

Dr. Cole requested that the Board consider extending the Administrative Procedure statement, "The building principal shall be the judge as to what constitutes a significant departure from the usual and regular school day to include, ...insofar as curriculum, staff, teachers, student time and school facilities are concerned."

Mr. Cutler expressed a preference for the simplicity and directness of the present statement.

Dr. Santee said he preferred the present statement as it is all inclusive.

Dr. Cole indicated that the present statement would be satisfactory.

Mr. Dave Thiemann addressed the Board with some concerns. He referred to a past meeting when Dr. Cole spoke of the administration as flaunting the legitimate authority of the Board, and said in this instance the Board is flaunting the legitimate authority of the administration. He noted that the Board has the implicit right to review

any of the workings, technical, mechanical or any other in the school district as well as certain statutory responsibilities. Mr. Thiemann could see no reason why administrators should be obligated to bring the matter to the Board for approval.

Mr. Cutler pointed out that the Superintendent has the responsibility of making the judgment whether or not a particular item is of such an unusual, potentially controversial nature as to make it necessary to get prior approval.

Mr. Thiemann remarked that the Board's requirement for approval instead of information could precipitate a controversy for the Board and could provide an unnecessary forum for proponents and opponents of the program. Mr. Thiemann went on to say that the Board should be informed, but need not participate in the specific mechanics of district operation.

Dr. Cole asked Mr. Thiemann if he thought that the Board and the community should know what is going on at school campuses. Mr. Thiemann agreed that they should.

Mr. Heads addressed the Board regarding his daughter, a student at Wilbur. He indicated that she had been excused a number of times from a class she was failing, in order to participate in extra curricular activities. He questioned what policy the Board has regarding this kind of situation.

Dr. Santee indicated that he would examine this situation.

Mr. Fletcher remarked that in his opinion, it is important that the majority of the Board be supportive of unusual or controversial programs in the district. He said members of the community feel that the Board is not adequately representing their interests if the Board has not taken the responsibility of taking a stand.

Mr. Fletcher went on to say that he saw this policy as a means by which the Board can support and give guidance to the administration, and assume responsibility to the public.

Motion: Dr. Oliver moved approval of the proposed Board Policy for guidelines for activities requiring suspension of regular school programs as amended. Dr. Cole seconded the motion.

Mrs. Robinson commented that when there is mutual trust between the Board and the administration, she could see no problem with these guidelines. She said if an attitude of mistrust developed to such an extent that the Board did not trust the Superintendent's judgment about what is a matter of unusual or potentially controversial nature, it could get very difficult. Mrs. Robinson indicated that she would not oppose it because the way the guidelines are written the responsibility does rest with the Superintendent. She stated that she trusts the judgment of the Superintendent entirely.

Procedure to include the provision of an agenda item so the Board can have a discussion in order to achieve some accountability for the program. He said this policy should establish principles of review, responsibility, assessment and accountability for what goes on in the school district.

Mr. Cutler did not see any great requirement to include Dr. Cole's suggestion in this motion. He said it has a wider applicability and could either be found elsewhere in Board Policy, or could be placed elsewhere in Board Policy.

Dr. Cole did not feel it would harm the proposal to spell this out in the Administrative Procedure.

Dr. Santee pointed out that the Board was voting on Board Policy and not on Administrative Procedure. He went on to say that Dr. Keepes, Director of the Research Department, would be doing the very thing Dr. Cole described.

Mr. Fletcher remarked that Dr. Cole's suggestion for a fourth item under Administrative Procedure was appropriate, but he was not sure that it was proper that the Board should write it. Mr. Fletcher suggested the Board indicate its agreement with the principle that the Administrative Procedure include appropriate evaluation procedures.

Dr. Santee underscored the fact that the administration does support Dr. Cole's position; however, if it were to become item number four under Administrative Procedure it would become the responsibility of the building principal.

Mr. Cutler suggested that Administrative Procedure, item 1.b., be expanded to include an assessment of the activity.

Dr. Santee assured the Board that any activity would be assessed. He pointed out that the district employs a Director of Research for this very purpose, and that this is included elsewhere in Board Policy and Administrative Procedures.

Vote: The motion to approve the Board Policy concerning the guidelines for activities requiring suspension of regular school programs carried unanimously.

Dr. Cole asked how the principles of assessment and accountability would be established. He also inquired why the Board was not voting on both the Board Policy and the Administrative Procedure.

Dr. Santee said he would excerpt from Board Policy those items which deal with this situation. He indicated that there is sufficient policy and procedure regarding this.

91/70-71

Recess

92/70-71

Progress Report on

Participation of Private/
Parochial School Students
in Public School Classes

The Board recessed at 9:25 p.m., and reconvened at 9:35 p.m.

Dr. Stevens presented a progress report on participation of private and parochial school students in Palo Alto school classes. He pointed out that this year the program would be different because the year's programs are already established. He said the subjects, hours at which they meet, and the positions available would be identified for students at private schools. In the future, Dr. Stevens continued, it would be helpful to have the number of students identified and then these requests could be worked out in the scheduling of classes.

Dr. Stevens explained that if a class is filled with students from public and private schools, and new people move into the community, either another class must be opened or the present class must be overloaded. He noted that this situation raises questions about the expenditure of tax money.

Mr. Cutler pointed out that students whose parents are residents and taxpayers in the district should not receive any preferential treatment, nor should they be discriminated against.

Mr. Fletcher agreed that the problem of overcrowding should be dealt with the same way as if the overcrowding resulted from resident students.

Dr. Santee pointed out that the usual way of handling overcrowding in electives is to counsel students to take another course, or to hire another teacher, the latter being much less frequently done.

Mr. Cutler noted the position Board members had taken that the district try to be hospitable about this. He said these people are taxpayers and are entitled to this.

Dr. Stevens remarked that in discussions with the private schools, they could not give the exact numbers of students interested in courses because the students had not been surveyed. The schools did indicate a potential of 5 to 14 students in particular areas. Dr. Stevens said the district might attempt to provide a class at one period so that all students could be brought over and taken back at the same time. He added that this could not be done this year, but could be considered in the future. Dr. Stevens said this could make quite a difference in scheduling and staffing. He indicated that if the Board gives direction to accommodate these students and hire the staff, then it is quite clear what the administration needs to do.

Mr. Cutler commended the staff for responding constructively to the comments received from the Board.

Dr. Stevens stated that the Board would receive a report in the future about the status of this item.

Dr. Santee stated that he was pleased to present information regarding the Alternative School at Cubberley Senior High School for discussion. He noted the need to bring about some constructive changes in public education in order to better serve the needs of youngsters. With this in mind, Dr. Santee continued, members of the staff have been encouraged to address themselves to the important problems in education and to suggest solutions that would bring about a higher quality of education for the students.

Mr. Jim Warford, Coordinator of the Alternative School, briefly reviewed the chronology in the development of the Cubberley Alternative School. Mr. Warford noted that in December 1970, Dr. Ohme, Principal of Cubberley, met with a group of teachers and students who were interested in curriculum development. He went on to say that after a series of meetings the group came up with a proposal for a curricular development project. Mr. Warford pointed out various problems the group addressed itself to, such as the fragmentation that occurs during a regular school day, and for many students, the feeling of a lack of personalization in their education. Mr. Warford noted that many teachers felt they were competing between classes for the students' time, interest, and involvement. Mr. Warford stated that this proposal was presented to the faculty, and to all students who might be concerned. The students were requested to take the proposal home and have their parents sign a statement if they were interested in having a community meeting to explore the possibilities of a different style of education. This community meeting was followed by a general application time in which students applied. It was taken to the district office and discussed with the Superintendent and Mr. John Martin. Mr. Parrish and Mr. Warford discussed it at the Cubberley Critical Issues Program and at the Multicultural conference at Wilbur Junior High School.

Mr. Warford presented a summer schedule for work on the Alternative School. He noted that this was not the presentation of a finished product. He said people are being asked to join together to try and find ways of better educating children. Mr. Warford commented that one of the overriding feelings that has led to this Alternative School Program is that seven courses a day taken in a similar structure of time and place are not enough in terms of one's total educational experience.

Mr. Warford mentioned that one answer to the problem of fragmentation was the effort to individualize the student's program with the involvement and consent of his parents and with the involvement and consent of credentialed teachers. He stated that this is not an attempt to build a reactive or a separatist school, it is an attempt within the Cubberley community to develop one of the most exciting curricular experiences possible. Mr. Warford stated that in working with these people who are interested, some very definite strides will be made towards improving education in Palo Alto.

Mr. Warford remarked that individualization is the major goal of this program. He said this program has appealed to a wide variety of students, both those who have been highly successful in the regular school system and those who have not been so successful.

Mr. Warford discussed some of the different types of instruction that were being organized such as workshops, independent work, tutoring sessions, exploratory experience, and peer learning groups. He noted that nothing has been finalized. Mr. Warford pointed out that the regular school will backstop the alternative school. He added that parents are being very closely involved with their student education.

Mr. John Martin stated this proposal is primarily an effort in organizing selected students for their instructional programs. He likened the program to one which has been taking place at Terman Junior High School for a number of years. These are plans where selected groups of students are organized for their instructional program in a different fashion than is ordinarily pursued. Mr. Martin observed that the basic thrust of the alternative school proposal is one which deals with the way administrators and faculty choose to organize students for their instructional programs.

Mr. Martin remarked that the program objectives grow out of, and are integral parts of courses which are already district approved. He said the basic curriculum that will be pursued is that which has been approved by the Board of Education. He reviewed the three basic procedures by which students will pursue the objectives of their educational program. The first of these will be the same for the youngsters in the Alternative School as it would be for the other youngsters. Some students who are identified as "alternative school attendees" will pursue certain of their courses in regular classes with students who are not members of the alternative school student body. Mr. Martin pointed out that certain courses lend themselves far better to pursuit of the program objectives within the regular program. In the second instance, youngsters will approach the achievement of program objectives by entering into a series of contractual agreements with a department member who regularly provides instruction in a given area. Mr. Martin observed that under these contract agreements students may pursue these objectives on an individual basis in a setting to be determined by the student, the teacher of record and/or the person administering the school. He went on to say that one of the goals is to permit these settings to be as diverse as students' interests, learning styles, and available resources. The third procedure to achieve the program objectives would be a combination of the first two and may well prove the most often used, Mr. Martin said.

Mr. Martin stated that in his judgment, this plan for organizing students for instruction is an effort to incorporate many of the practices currently employed in the district in attempts to individualize instruction. He added that contract teaching and independent study techniques are employed at all levels in many of the district's classrooms.

Mr. Martin commented that the Alternative School Proposal makes a contribution in the regard that it does provide for additional parent involvement. He concluded by saying that the plans for the Cubberley Alternative School can function in a manner consistent with existing provisions that both the Education Code and District Policy state.

Mr. Clyde Parrish, Assistant Coordinator of the Alternative School, indicated that Cubberley is an excellent subject-oriented, group-mode school and seems to be satisfactory to a majority of students. He said, however, it does seem unsatisfactory to some students.

Mr. Parrish felt a distinct restriction on the way the school operates at present is that students are given a great deal of subject instruction and not enough beyond this. Mr. Parrish noted the need for teachers and parents to help students integrate all the diverse bits of knowledge they receive into a meaningful whole. Mr. Parrish said he sees the alternative school as an excellent prospect for doing this. He went on to say that he felt the schools were becoming too institutionalized and formal. He also noted the need to involve parents in the community with the school in an active way. Mr. Parrish said he finds the alternative school very exciting.

Dr. Ohme indicated that he has the administrative responsibility and accountability for this program. He said it is his responsibility to supervise the program and demonstrate to the Superintendent that all state and district requirements are being met in accord with the California Education Code, Title V, and the Palo Alto Unified School District rules and regulations.

Dr. Ohme explained that the cost of the program would come out of the regular budget at Cubberley and added that built into this is an evaluation which will be conducted by the district office in conjunction with the school.

Dr. Cole said for a program to begin at the outset declaring goals and at the same time neglecting procedure by which to assess whether these goals are reached, was a backward way to approach a program.

Mr. Parrish pointed out that the contract will be used to an extensive degree. He said in this contract, objectives will be very clearly defined by the student, teacher and parents working together. He added that the way in which these objectives will be reached would also be clearly defined. Mr. Parrish said essentially the evaluation would deal with how well the student reached the objectives. He pointed out that the contracts will be negotiable and that the goals will have to be reassessed frequently.

Dr. Cole expressed great doubts about the program.

Dr. Oliver noted that this program has been undertaken in the spirit of great exploration and great hope. He went on to express serious caveats about it. Dr. Oliver disagreed that the secondary schools in Palo Alto are too formal. He said in one sense, some of the problems occurring in education today stem from an acceptance of certain looseness with respect to achievement, requirements and the acceptance of discipline study habits by students. Dr. Oliver expressed concern that adult leadership is not being provided to the extent it should be provided. He went on to describe a logistic difficulty with this program. Dr. Oliver stated that unless teachers decrease contact with individual students they will have a 150 period day.

Dr. Ohme pointed out that there are many potentials within the community, the student body, and the faculty that are not currently being utilized. He said instruction cannot be individualized on the basis of a certificated teacher one to one with a student. He indicated that other resources and personnel would be utilized.

Dr. Oliver remarked that parents have the right to not be involved in the school system. He added that parents should be interested, but did not feel the educational process should depend on their being interested.

Dr. Ohme pointed out that it doesn't depend on parents, it opens the door to them. He went on to say that this is a presentation of some of the work that has been done and some of the ideas involved. Dr. Ohme said by September there will be a lot more concrete evidence to present to the Board.

Dr. Oliver commented that there is a great diversity in students' ability to assume the independent sort of activity that is pre-supposed by this program.

Mr. Fletcher stated that this proposal recognizes the need for changes in education today. He said this is a responsible thing for professional educators to be concerned about, to think about, and to come up with proposals for. Mr. Fletcher indicated that as a non-educator he would define the needs of students in a different way. He did not feel that situations should be created where students are given an opportunity for self-fulfillment according to their own definition, because they are not in a good position to make such a judgment. He said students need more and better training to be more competent people in the outside world. He expressed concern that this program would handicap students in the development of the skills needed to function as effective adults.

Dr. Ohme pointed out that students would be involved in the discussion of what a contract will be, and that the teacher, parents and the student will decide on the final contract.

Mr. Fletcher expressed a concern that individual contracts, no matter how they are arrived at, will result in a lower level of achievement sought than professional educators would otherwise establish if they were setting the standards independently.

Dr. Ohme pointed out that the 50 minute period every day of the week is not the most ideal way to learn. He said breaking up your time when your momentum and your interest are high, is against all the learning processes in psychological findings.

Dr. Ohme said the Board needs to see the kinds of programs that will be prescribed for students, and at that time a decision can be made whether this is just improving the student's emotional state or their psychological well being.

Mr. Fletcher remarked that it is justifiable for the Board to require that the administration demonstrate how this program will make the students more competent people.

Dr. Ohme noted his agreement and added that the Board must extend the privilege of getting the program underway so that it can be demonstrated how this program will make students more competent people. He extended an invitation to the Board to attend Cubberley this summer to become involved in the details of the program and to sit in on the curriculum workshop sessions. He noted that a session held earlier that day, concerning foreign language, presented fifteen different alternative kinds of experiences that could be added to the regular classroom experience.

Mr. Cutler questioned if students in the alternative school would get more time and attention from the staff than students at large. Mr. Parrish replied that students in the alternative school will get a lot more attention in a different way. He said under the present school, a teacher is tied down in simply instructing and expounding information about his subject. He said the alternative school will allow teachers to work with individual students, developing individual programs which the student in a semi-independent way can work alone or with another two or three students. Mr. Parrish noted that the actual teacher load would not be any different, but the way in which the teacher/student association is carried out would change quite markedly.

Mr. Cutler questioned whether students in the alternative school would enjoy freedoms from disciplinary constraints that would set them apart from the remainder of the students in the school.

Mr. Parrish stated that youngsters would be students at Cubberley first, and students of the alternative school second. He said the general rules of discipline will apply to all students.

Mr. Cutler said he was curious whether or not the relationships between the administration and the school have been altered, amplified, or clarified as a result of discussions concerning this program.

Dr. Santee indicated that the working relationship between the central office and Cubberley has been enhanced as a result of this program.

Mr. Cutler questioned whether there have been any innovations proposed for next year in any of the schools that have been scrutinized by the administration, substantially modified or turned off.

Dr. Santee replied that there have been other programs that have been modified and turned off.

Mr. Cutler noted that the Board has indicated its readiness to see alternatives tried in the district. He went on to say that this looks like a very lively alternative. He added that he has many questions about it and also that he shares some of the concerns noted by other Board members. Mr. Cutler said this is an exploratory kind of activity involving a small portion of the staff and students. He pointed out that the involvement of interested parents is a wonderful feature of this proposal. Mr. Cutler felt this program should be encouraged. He said this is such an important experiment that the Board might very well have been informed at an earlier date. Mr. Cutler noted that it has been stated several times that all existing Board policies and state requirements are being met by this program, and that one might argue to let the professionals do their job and bring pressure to bear at a time when it is proper for evaluation. He added that he was a little uncertain about just where the Board ought to be on this. Mr. Cutler stated that he would like to know a great deal more about this program, and commented that he felt very optimistic about this program.

Mrs. Robinson noted that "schools within schools" have been going on in different parts of the country for quite a while. She added that she has returned from many conferences concerning these schools feeling very enthusiastic. Mrs. Robinson pointed out that alternative

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schools are also coming about outside of public education, leading to the possibility of a voucher system. She said the alternative she liked was that the people within the public school arena try out various types of schooling which will offer different alternatives to different students. She said the kinds of students that sign up for this type of school usually know what they are doing. Mrs. Robinson stated that she was excited about the way in which the alternative school has been integrated into the regular program. She pointed out that students will be able to flow freely in and out of it.

Mrs. Robinson stated that she is very enthusiastic about this program and that she is excited that it is finally happening in Palo Alto. She went on to say that another very important possibility to consider is the vocational school in San Jose. Mrs. Robinson said this option should be opened to students to attend for half a day.

Dr. Cole stated that the first responsibility of the public school is to review mankind's experience for the greatest number of students. He expressed some concern that students identified with the alternative school will form a particular special clique that will be given special privileges and will form a separate and distinct group from the rest of the school. Dr. Cole said this program has aspects of a very permissive private school and should not be done at the taxpayer's expense. Dr. Cole indicated that he was prepared to make a motion suggesting that this program be put off until a more definitive workable system can be presented. He said he could not foresee the Board approving such a program based upon the information given. Dr. Cole suggested that this program be delayed for perhaps a year, until the realities that this program will face have been thought through by the people proposing it, with their proposal being modified and changed and brought into accordance with those very realities they are going to face.

Dr. Oliver indicated that he would feel uneasy approving this program without a good deal clearer picture of the actualities involved. He said what the Board has so far received is a fine statement of goals and objectives. Dr. Oliver suggested that the Board hold a study session in which a detailed exposition can take place.

Mr. Fletcher remarked that this proposal raises some basic questions of educational philosophy. He agreed with the proposal for a study session.

Mr. Cutler indicated that he would favor a study session provided it was scheduled for an early date. He noted a grave risk that the Board could stultify some perhaps untidy, but nevertheless very creative activity.

Mr. Fletcher stated that there are times when it is appropriate to take such risks.

Dr. Cole requested that the Board establish that it be given the responsibility of approving or disapproving this program.

Mr. Cutler stated that the Board has to settle within itself whether it is going to presume that that is a decision the Board has to make. He went on to say that the Board has been informed by the staff that this is a program within existing district policy. He said the Board must settle this preliminary question before it moves on to a judgment about the program. Mr. Cutler stated that he had not heard the Superintendent or any member of his staff ask for the Board's approval. He noted that a policy was passed at this meeting which agreed that it should be the responsibility of the Superintendent to identify those programs that require Board approval. He said that this is therefore a very new policy and that he was unaware that it had been violated.

Dr. Cole requested permission to read a letter without identifying the writer.

The Board indicated that it would not accept anonymous contributions.

Dr. Santee suggested that a date for a study session on the alternative school be established, and that people who wish to comment be invited to attend that meeting.

The Board agreed to set a date for a study session on the proposal at the next meeting to be held on July 6, 1971.

Mr. James Mathiott, Principal of Ohlones School, addressed the Board regarding the Ohlones Plan. He noted that this was an information item. Mr. Mathiott indicated that this proposal is the opportunity to join other Bay Area elementary schools in developing ways of individualizing instruction, utilizing the existing elementary school curriculum and the existing staff conditions.

Mr. Mathiott pointed out that the Ohlones School has a history of involvement in working toward individualized instruction. He said the staff feels that it can learn from others and that others can learn

from it by working together with other elementary schools which have similar interests and with a consulting group that has knowledgeable experience behind it.

Mr. Mathiott stated that the program would start next fall by taking a survey of the Ohlones parent community, asking them to react to the goals which they see for their children at Ohlones. He went on to say that the staff is not talking about implementing a program on September 7th, but beginning to develop a plan. He said the full implementation of this plan would not be established for possibly three years. Mr. Mathiott indicated that because this is a preliminary plan, the staff was not prepared to inform the Board as to what precisely it will be doing. He noted that in the field of individualized instruction there have been three thrusts. The first is to segment the curriculum into very small units and to present those units to the children in a predetermined sequence. The second main thrust is to individualize by adding staff. The third thrust and the one the staff is interested in is to change the relationship of the teacher to the pupil by having the professional teacher and the pupil working together rather than the pupil merely a reactive agent to what the teacher gives out. Mr. Mathiott noted that many things that would be done under this plan are already being conducted in the Palo Alto Unified School District quite successfully.

Mr. Mathiott discussed the proposed consortium of Bay Area elementary schools. He said it is being coordinated through the California Teachers Association. The main agent for the impetus of new ideas, Mr. Mathiott continued, will be the International Center for Educational Development, of Encino, California. He noted that at this time there are eight schools in eight different districts which have some type of commitment and there are three or four others that have indicated great interest in joining in the fall.

Mr. Mathiott indicated that this proposal was first presented to Ohlones about two months ago. He added that he was very impressed with the seriousness with which the staff examined the pros and cons of the consortium. Mr. Mathiott stated that the Ohlones staff carefully investigated the consortium proposal, met with those who will be directing it, visited schools which are attempting to implement some of its concepts and after extended discussions, voted overwhelmingly to participate in the plan. He went on to say that the school has been in communication with the parents through letters and the P.T.A.

Mr. Mathiott stated that this proposal has been approved by Cabinet and by the Certificated Employees Council. He said the staff at Ohlones is asking to work with other schools to develop programs which will be implemented gradually.

Mr. Mathiott introduced Mrs. Fay Morrison, a teacher at Ohlones. Mrs. Morrison told the Board how she first reacted unfavorably to the program. She indicated that after close examination of the program instead of objecting she couldn't bear to be left out of something that can really help to develop a more promising educational environment.

Mr. Kris Krause explained what an Ohlones classroom might be like under this proposal. He noted that the ideas were suggestive only and that much development of ideas, teaching techniques, etc., were necessary. He said under this plan, a classroom would be more structured for learning.

Mr. Krause said this type of program will require increased skills and ability both on the part of the children and the teachers. He said teachers at Ohlones feel a very personal, professional responsibility to insure that students get the best education possible. He said the staff feels that these ideas have great potential benefit for students. He noted that students would be meeting for various group discussions.

Dr. Cole expressed disappointment that Mr. Krause did not indicate that such group discussion time would not be used to teach history. He stated that there are parts of the proposal that are exciting and do indicate possible success. He suggested that the staff not make the program highly complicated with mechanical devices.

Mr. Fletcher noted that this is a specialized type of in-service training limited to Ohlones. He asked how the Board, as a matter of policy, could justify this program which is expensive in time and funds and is limited to one school.

Mr. Mathiott noted that this has been done in the past for Ventura School. He said he could be comfortable with this because he could foresee the Ohlones teachers being able to help other staff members within the Palo Alto Unified School District.

Mr. Fletcher questioned how many years were necessary to make this a feasible and productive program.

Mr. Mathiott said it would be evaluated after the first year and that it could go on for three to five years.

Mrs. Robinson noted that a program that is very rich in its offerings is one where each child can get the most benefit. She indicated her approval of this proposal.

Mr. Cutler stated that he was all for this program if the district could afford it. He noted that the Board had been given a good exposure to this proposal and that no action was necessary at this time.

495/70-71

Response to CSBA
Questionnaire on Legis-
lative Committee's Report
on Educational Goals and
Evaluation

A letter strongly supporting the consortium proposal at Ohlones School was received from Mr. O. W. Markley, Ph.D.

Dr. Santee noted that a California School Boards Association questionnaire and a covering memo had been received by Board members asking if the Palo Alto Unified School District Board of Education had developed a statement of philosophy, goals and objectives. He stated that he attempted to answer the questionnaire with Mr. Cutler. Dr. Santee did not feel the questionnaire was applicable because it placed philosophy, goals, and objectives all in one question which cannot be answered together. Dr. Santee noted that the Ad Hoc Committee on Educational Goals had just presented its suggestion to the Board concerning goals. He suggested that he and Mr. Cutler be given the responsibility of writing a letter, rather than answering the questionnaire, about what is going on in the district including a copy of the philosophy statement.

Board members indicated their consent regarding this matter.

496/70-71

Communications and Reports
from the Public

Letters supporting Adult Education classes for visually handicapped senior citizens were received from the Palo Alto Society for the Blind, Mrs. Mildred Pointer and Mr. A. L. Piedmonte, and from the Woman's Club of Palo Alto, Mrs. Phil Bodley and Miss Amelia Anderson.

Mr. Cutler noted that a memo had also been received from Dr. Damon noting that some classes were being planned for the autumn.

A critical letter from Mrs. Henry Lavendel regarding "peer counseling" at Jordan Junior High School was received. Mr. Martin indicated that he would send a memo to Board members concerning this letter.

497/70-71

Audience

Mr. Cutler called for persons from the audience who wished to speak to non-agenda items. There was no audience response.

498/70-71

Executive Session

At 12:45 a.m., the Board recessed to an executive session.

499/70-71

Adjournment

At 1:05 a.m., Mr. Fletcher moved the meeting be adjourned to the organizational meeting, July 6, 1971, at 7:30 p.m., at Escondido Elementary School. Mrs. Robinson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.