



Santa Barbara SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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To: Dr. Brian Sarvis, Superintendent
From: Barbara Keyani, Special Projects and Communication
Re: Translation/broadcast of board of education meetings

Following is an update regarding translation of the districts' board of education meetings, I continue to be in contact with the city to regarding their translation costs, equipment systems, and how scheduling of translated meetings might be accommodated. Following are three areas that need to be considered. I start with the broadcast schedule because it may drive the decision-making process regarding translation and equipment costs.

1. **Broadcast schedule.** The city's government access channel has indicated a willingness to accommodate a request from the Santa Barbara School Districts for a Spanish-translated airing of its board meetings. However, the challenge is that the city has existing broadcast commitments. This is not likely to change soon as it reflects conversations I have had with the city on this matter for the past couple of years.

While Channel 18 could schedule a time for board meetings in Spanish, the only time slot available is 11p.m. (the day of the week is flexible).

2. **Cost of translation.** The city contracts with Carlos Cerecedo to translate Santa Barbara City Council meetings. He generally has one assistant that works the meeting with him. The city contract with him is for an hourly rate of \$112.50 for actual time spent translating the meetings. They do not pay for preparation time or break time. The contract requires that the translator be a state court certified translator, which limits the pool of potential translators. The reason for the requirement is that the translation would be more literal than conversational and therefore less likely to be subject to different interpretations.

The districts' translator is paid \$25 per hour and she is generally at the meeting for up to two hours. In 2008-09 there were 34 board meetings at an estimated four hours per meeting = 136 hours per school year. Cost would increase from approximately from \$1,700 (based on two hours per meeting) to \$3,400 for four-hour coverage. In the event that the districts' current translator is unavailable the feasibility of securing a back-up translator for a four-hour night meeting could present challenges as our current back-up translators may find it difficult to commit to late hours.

3. **Equipment.** The city's translator sits in the city's studio in the basement and watches a direct TV feed and translates at that location. The translation is primarily for television, and the city pipes the translation up to the council chambers and into headphones, if someone in chambers requests translation.

In order to achieve a low-budget version of the city's system, an option considered by the districts' facilities personnel is the purchase of cables as well as a DVD recorder (approx. \$350). This option assumes that current translation equipment could be adapted. It would require relocating the translator to a different part of the room so that her mic/headset equipment could be connected to the videographer's equipment.

If the board decides that an 11p.m. broadcast is acceptable and directed staff to move forward on adapting the current translation equipment, if the adaptation proves to be viable, then the additional hours in translator time (\$1,700) plus equipment modification (\$350) would total an estimated \$2,050.

Adams Elementary School	McKinley Elementary School	Roosevelt Elementary School	Goleta Valley Junior High School	Dos Pueblos High School
Cesar Chavez Charter School	Monroe Elementary School	Santa Barbara Charter School	La Colina Junior High School	La Cuesta Continuation High School
Cleveland Elementary School	Open Alternative School	Santa Barbara Community Academy	La Cumbre Junior High School	San Marcos High School
Franklin Elementary School	Peabody Charter School	Washington Elementary School	Santa Barbara Junior High School	Santa Barbara High School
Harding Elementary School				Home School Santa Barbara