

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY DISTRICTS
October 12, 2011**

Convene Open Session

Board President Hawthorne called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. in the County Office of Education Board Room, 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Attendance at Meeting

Cynthia Hawthorne	Steve Trujillo	Claudia Vestal	Ken Wagman
Rachel Dewey Thorsett	Deborah Tracy-Proulx	John Collins	

Student Representatives: Holly Borg, Santa Cruz High School Michelle Goodwin, Harbor High School

Gary Bloom, Superintendent
Alvaro Meza, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Kris Munro, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Members of the Audience

Welcome and Format

Board President Hawthorne welcomed those in attendance and explained the format used for this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education.

Agenda Changes

The Superintendent asked to move Item 3.5 Personnel Commission Update to immediately follow the Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session as the report will be very short and the presenters would like to be able to leave the meeting as soon as possible. The Board approved this change in sequence of reported items.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Curriculum Director James introduced Rick Linzer to the Board of Education. Mr. Linzer is committed to supporting Music Programs in Santa Cruz City Schools, and to that end, has developed a yearly show that presents musically talented local youth – Young Performer’s Showcase. Mr. Linzer presented a check to the district in the amount of \$16,000.00. These funds were raised at the spring 2011 Young Performer’s Showcase. Mr. Linzer was joined by former Bay View Principal Cavanaugh, as well as Music Teachers Bidelman, Stewart, Latham, Urquhart, Johannesson and Julin. Ms. Latham also invited Trustees, Staff, and Community Members to the 41st Annual Band Review on October 15th. Santa Cruz High School will host 53 marching bands in a wonderful community parade that provides fun for all. Gault Elementary School will host the 63rd Annual Community Halloween Parade and Carnival on Saturday, October 29th – and the SCHS Marching Band will perform at this event.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Bloom enjoyed seeing the SCCS Music teachers tonight, and acknowledged the dedication of Mr. Linzer toward ensuring that Music Programs will continue to benefit our students. Santa Cruz City Schools is proud to host the Center for Teaching Tolerance of the Southern Poverty Law Center for a two day workshop for students and teachers from all of the district’s middle and high schools. Today was the first day

and the reviews have been very positive. Santa Cruz City Schools has received a grant through the Safe and Drug Free school program that will provide approximately \$260,000 per year for three years to fund 2 full time counselors who will provide prevention and intervention support/services for our elementary schools. We are also investigating whether a portion of the funds can be used to fund the Playworks program at the elementary sites. SCCS has published Press Releases this week regarding the great success of our students in the National Merit Scholarship and the AP Scholars Program.

BOARD REPORTS and REFERRALS

Board President's Report

Board President Hawthorne attended the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Triangle Speakers and Assemblymember Monning's educational round table discussion. President Hawthorne suggests that if mid-year cuts are issued, this act should be partnered with a ruling that parcel tax measures could be passed by a simple majority vote or a 55% passage rate. This would give schools a fighting chance to recover from huge revenue losses.

Board Members' Reports and Referrals

Board Member Collins toured a high school in Oregon that partners with the Ashland Shakespeare Festival, and wonders if our local schools could work more closely with the Shakespeare Santa Cruz Program at UCSC. Mr. Collins attended the Pacifica Collegiate Charter School Long Term Facilities Planning Committee, and met with the Highway 1 Widening Project Committee. Trustee Collins is pleased to note that they are searching for more ways to mitigate the noise of this project for the students at Harbor High School. The widening project will begin in January 2012, and the La Fonda Bridge project will begin in June 2012.

Board Member Dewey Thorsett reported that the Santa Cruz High School College Night was a "standing room only" event and the information provided was very well received by the audience. Ms. Dewey Thorsett is glad that SCCS is giving the PSAT to every grade 11 student during the regular school day this year.

Board Member Tracy-Proulx attended a conference on childhood obesity and came away feeling like Santa Cruz City Schools is far ahead of the curve. Ms. Tracy-Proulx is very proud of both the SCCS Food Services and the district Wellness Committee. Trustee Tracy-Proulx saw California State Superintendent of Schools Torlakson speak at the Cocanut Grove. Ms. Tracy-Proulx is excited about the Oct. 15th Band Review, and pleased that the Santa Cruz High School Marching Band will perform at the 63rd annual Gault Elementary School Halloween Parade on October 29th.

Board Member Wagman congratulated Student Board Members and all SCCS students honored for academic achievement. The Green Schools Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 20. Mr. Wagman attended the Santa Cruz High School PTA meeting, the College Going Culture meeting and the Planned Parenthood Open House in September.

Board Member Vestal visited the Mission Hill Middle School Salad Bar and visited Harbor High School to watch Food Services workers prepare student meals. Each outing was great – the middle school students loved the salad bar and the Food Services staff members are very proud of the healthy cuisine they serve our students. Ms. Vestal attended the School Food Alliance Meeting, Delta Board Meeting and the Soquel High School College Night. Soquel counselors Banks and Anderson did a great job explaining graduation requirements, college entrance requirements, and the differences between the two.

Board Member Trujillo was able to see the presentation by State Superintendent of Schools Torlakson at the Cocoanut Grove and ask him to detail his ideas about supporting students who live in poverty. Mr. Trujillo asked community members to contact both Senate Majority Leader Reid and Senate Minority Leader McConnell to let them know that we support the American Jobs Act.

Student Representatives' Reports

Student Representative Borg attended a Student Leadership and Community Service Conference of 2,400 students from the Bay Area and including 170 Santa Cruz County High School students. Last week was Homecoming Week at Santa Cruz High School and school pride was in very visible. The Interact Club is sponsoring the Fall Food Drive and hopes to collect 15,000 lbs. of food to send to the Second Harvest Food Bank. The Santa Cruz High School Garage Sale was held on October 2, and raised \$1,700 for teacher classroom supplies. Having the PSAT given during the school day was really great – all grade 11 students were required to take the test.

Student Representative Goodwin is very proud to be recognized as an AP Scholar with Honors – granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Students will be receiving six week progress reports soon. The Learning Center is up and running for after school academic assistance, and the ELAC and Site Council had their first meetings of the year. This week is Homecoming Week at Harbor High School. Ms. Goodwin invited interested Board Members to attend the “Be the Difference” awards on October 20 at the Cocoanut Grove – Ms. Goodwin will be honored by this community volunteer center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. MSP (Vestal/Trujillo) 6-0-1 the Board of Education approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2011. Mr. Collins abstained from the vote as he was not present at this meeting. Students Borg and Goodwin voted yes.
2. MSP (Dewey Thorsett/Vestal) 7-0 the Board of Education approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 25, 2011. Students Borg and Goodwin abstained as they were not present at this meeting.

GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

Mr. Trujillo asked to pull Item 1.7 Settlement Agreement-Special Education from the agenda for a separate discussion and vote. Ms. Dewey Thorsett moved approval of the Consent Agenda minus Item 1.7, consisting of: Personnel – *Certificated Actions*; Personnel – *Classified Actions*; Purchase Orders; Warrant Register; Gifts; Williams Quarterly Report; Soquel HS – Out of State Field Trip; Contract – Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women; Change Orders. The Board acknowledged, with gratitude, the following gifts donated to the Santa Cruz City Schools: *Branciforte Middle School* - John and Ingrid Lindsay donated 30+ cookbooks to the exploratory cooking class of Sandra Jennings. *Mission Hill Middle School* - Nicholas and Katherine Astromoff donated \$100 to Kathleen Crocetti’s art classes. Joseph and Loren Valle donated \$100 to Kathleen Crocetti’s art classes. Poul and Elena Schiebel donated \$200 to Kathleen Crocetti’s art classes. Mr. Wagman seconded the motion. The motion was passed by roll call vote, as follows:

Roll Call Vote: Dewey Thorsett – Yes Hawthorne – Yes Tracy-Proulx – Yes
Trujillo – Yes Vestal – Yes Wagman – Yes Collins – Yes

Student Borg – Yes Student Goodwin – Yes

Item 1.7 – Settlement Agreement for Special Education

Following Board Member questions and discussion, Mr. Collins moved approval of the Settlement Agreement for Special Education and Ms. Dewey Thorsett seconded this motion. The motion was passed by roll call vote, as follows:

Roll Call Vote: Dewey Thorsett – Yes Hawthorne – Yes Tracy-Proulx – Yes
Trujillo – Yes Vestal – Yes Wagman – Yes Collins – Yes

Student Borg – Yes Student Goodwin – Yes

Closed Session Actions Report

1. The Board of Education approved the Certificated/Classified Management Leaves, Retirements, Resignations & Appointments as submitted with a vote of 7-0 to approve Guadalupe Rayas Jr.’s appointment as Director of Information Technology and Ed Victorine’s appointment as 1.0 Director of Maintenance and Operations.
2. The Board of Education received an update from and gave direction to Superintendent Bloom regarding negotiations with the GSCFT K-12 Unit for 2011-12.
3. The Board of Education received an update from and gave direction to Superintendent Bloom regarding negotiations with the SCCCE for 2010-11.

ITEMS of BUSINESS to be TRANSACTED and/or DISCUSSED

Staff Report: Personnel Commission Update

Personnel Commission Member Brad Elliott and Classified Personnel Director Ochoa reported on the activities of the Personnel Commission since July 1, 2011. Mr. Elliott also noted one vacancy on the Commission and reported that applications for this opening would be accepted through December 2011. This report was provided for information only, and the Board of Education did not take any action on this matter.

Staff Report: CBEDS 2011-12

Mr. Meza reported that the California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS) is an annual data collection administered the first Wednesday in October. The 2011-12 CBEDS took place on October 5. The purpose of CBEDS is to collect demographic information on students, faculty and district employees. Mr. Meza’s report included: 2010-11 CBEDS Enrollment; 2011-12 Projected Enrollment; 2011-12 Actual Enrollment; Difference from Projected Enrollment; Difference from previous year Actual Enrollment; Breakdown by School Site; Breakdown by Grade Group; Feeder District Information. The Board provided feedback questions and comments to Mr. Meza, including a request for follow-up information on elementary schools capacity and open enrollment numbers. This report was provided for information only, and the Board of Education did not take any action on this matter.

New Business: Budget Development Calendar

Mr. Meza reported the Budget Development Calendar establishes a timeline for development, review and acceptance of the 2012-13 budget. The process begins early so that timely decisions can be made to adjust existing programs and evaluate new expenditures for possible inclusion in the adopted budget. Three of the seven scheduled Budget Advisory Committee meetings will be joint meetings with the Board of Trustees for Budget Study Session. MSP (Dewey Thorsett/Collins) 7-0 the Board of Education approved the Budget Development Calendar. Students Borg and Goodwin voted yes.

New Business: Superintendent’s Advisory Committee – Review of SCCS Graduation Requirements

Superintendent Bloom reported that Santa Cruz City Schools has adopted the strategic goal that all of our students be college and career ready and will access post-secondary opportunities as motivated, well-rounded learners. We have also committed ourselves to eliminating the achievement gaps that exist within the SCCS student community. Santa Cruz City Schools has committed to building a college-going culture, to expanding AVID programs and to participating in the Santa Cruz County College Commitment. To these ends, it is time for us to review our high school graduation requirements. It is our plan to convene an ad hoc advisory group that will meet three or four times and will bring any recommendations to the Board of Education in January 2012. Following questions and discussion from the Trustees and the public, Superintendent Bloom assured all interested parties that the expectations regarding outcomes for this process include small adjustments as opposed to major changes in graduation requirements. This report was provided for information and discussion only, and the Board of Education did not take any action on this matter.

New Business: Parcel Tax Renewal Survey

Superintendent Bloom reported that Parcel Tax A, which provides funding to the high school district and supports secondary library and counseling services, and Parcel Tax B, which provides funding to the elementary district and supports K-8 art and music programs, library and counseling services, will expire in June 2013. In order to place a renewal measure on the June 2012 ballot, the Board must be prepared to take action by March 2012. Both TBWB and Goodwin Simon have worked successfully in the past with Santa Cruz City Schools in assessing prospects and planning for parcel tax measures. The Superintendent asked the Trustees to engage these firms to plan for the possibility of these parcel tax measures to be placed on the June 2012 or other future ballots. Following questions, discussion, and direction from the Board of Education, Ms. Dewey Thorsett made the following motion regarding this item: The Board of Education moves approval of the contracts, including specific language to: 1) Seek an informed recommendation/advisement on June 2012 vs. November 2012 ballot measures; 2) Ensure the polling questions deal with explicit program support and information on which programs voters will support; 3) Investigate the length of time (sunset date) voters will support; 4) Investigate whether any increase in parcel rate would be supported – and if so, what amount. Mr. Collins seconded the motion, which was approved by a vote of 7-0. Students Borg and Goodwin voted yes.

Information

1. The Regular Meeting on October 26, 2011, 6:30 p.m., will be held in the COE Board Room, 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA.
2. The Regular Meeting on November 16, 2011, 6:30 p.m., will be held in the COE Board Room, 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA.
3. The Regular Meeting on December 14, 2011, 6:30 p.m., will be held in the COE Board Room, 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Adjournment

There being no further items of business to come before the Trustees, Board President Hawthorne adjourned the Open Session of this Regular Meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Bloom, Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Cynthia Hawthorne, President
Board of Education