

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

**April 19, 2006**

**Call to Order**

Board President Wagman called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:13 p.m., in the Santa Cruz High School Auditorium, 415 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz, CA.

**Attendance at Meeting**

John Collins	Rachel Dewey Thorsett	Bruce Neustadter	Felix Robles
Mick Routh	Ken Wagman	Student: Bailey McElhinney	

**Absent:** Tim Willis

Alan Pagano, Superintendent  
Tanya Krause, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
Dick Moss, Assistant Superintendent, Business  
Ralph Porras, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Members of the Audience

**Agenda Changes**

Superintendent Pagano asked to change the title of Item 3.2 to read "Single Plans for Student Achievement". This change was approved by the Board of Education.

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Santa Cruz High School Principal Karen Edmonds welcomed the Trustees, and reported on the wonderful accomplishments of students at the high school, including: band participation; color guard; athletics achievements; science fair participants; many prestigious college acceptances – including RSP and ESL students; Mock Trial Team 8th place finish in State competition; and an appearance on The Oprah Show. Ms. Morgenstern reported the first round of CAHSEE test results for SCCS were received, and the number of seniors who need to meet this graduation requirement is decreasing. One additional set of scores will be received prior to the end of the school year. Ms. Hamilton reported approximately 50 parents recently graduated from the Early College Outreach Program, and also a great DELAC meeting earlier in the week. Ms. Hamilton also commended Harbor High School Calculus teacher Ms. Parrish for her commitment to student success. Gault School Principal James invited the Trustees to the Gault Open House on April 20, at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Jim Logsdon thanked Trustee Robles for coaching Mr. Gonzales in his quest to become a U.S. citizen. Gault parents are mailing 150 brochures to neighborhood families in an effort to ask students to return to Gault School. Bay View Principal Cavanaugh invited community members to enjoy student performances and presentations at the Arts and Music Festival.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Pagano reported significant progress toward a 2006-07 Pre-K Program. A full report on this item will be given at the May 10 Regular Meeting. The April 26 Regular Meeting agenda will contain a status report on the Audit Findings and Appeals Process. Westlake Principal Ken Miller has accepted a position as the Superintendent for the Mountain Elementary District. There are several administrative vacancies in the district. Staff and Leadership recommendations are being solicited, and full and

comprehensive selection processes and interview panels will be utilized. The Superintendent has met with several of the Costens family members regarding the family partnership grant participation. The Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce will host a roundtable discussion on May 9 to ensure that business leaders understand the needs of schools. On March 30<sup>th</sup>, District Representatives met with Swift Street Neighbors regarding the use plans for this site. While this meeting clarified significant areas of disagreement, stakeholders will continue to meet and mitigate concerns. Soquel High School recently hosted a WASC site visit, as part of the 6-year review process. Costanoa High School hosted a midterm WASC visit. The Superintendent wished to recognize Board President Wagman and Trustee Neustadter for their attendance at the April 6<sup>th</sup> County Office of Education meet. Mr. Pagano will be the Keynote Speaker for the 150-year anniversary celebration of Adult Education.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

Ms. McElhinney reported the WASC visitation at Soquel High School went very well – the group felt welcomed, and the work done for the process was appreciated. STAR Testing will take place the week of April 24 – 28. The Marketing Class has campaigned to ask students to take this testing seriously, and inform them that if the school receives State sanctions, some electives may disappear. Students who did not attend classes at Soquel High School during the recent Immigration Policy Protests were directed to the school Library to use computers to email their elected representatives regarding this situation. Ms. McElhinney has not received a report from students at Harbor High or Santa Cruz High all semester.

### **BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Wagman welcomed all those in attendance, and offered congratulations to Trustee Robles for his work with Mr. Gonzalez. Mr. Wagman reported a great presentation by Superintendent Pagano and Mr. Moss at the meeting with the Swift Street Neighbors, and a commitment to continue to meet and come to consensus regarding this issue.

### **BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS OR COMMENTS**

Trustee Collins reported attending a City Task Force meeting and being informed about gang activity in Santa Cruz County. SCCS needs to ensure that staff, parents, and community members are aware of symptoms and changes that could affect our students. Mr. Collins attended the Soquel High School WASC visitation, and was very proud of this school and the presentation. Trustee Collins encouraged the Board Members to attend one of the elementary school graduations for a heartwarming experience.

Board Member Dewey Thorsett offered congratulations to Mr. Miller on his new position. Ms. Dewey Thorsett reported attending the following meetings: Swift Street Neighbors; Wellness Committee; and the Pre-K Committee. Trustee Dewey Thorsett expressed concern regarding the lack of formalized process regarding the hiring of administrators, and would like clarification on policies.

Board Member Robles commended Mr. Miller for his proven leadership abilities and offered his congratulations. Mr. Robles is impressed with the high school student college acceptances – these children have received a quality education from kindergarten through grade 12. Trustee Robles expressed dismay at the letter received

regarding Mission Hill Middle School class size reduction – facts and figures were distorted to benefit an agenda – this is not the example to give our children. Trustee Neustadter will present this letter.

Trustee Neustadter read the letter received from the Mission Hill Middle School Math Department teachers Landry, Nacht, and Nixen. This correspondence corrected inaccuracies that were presented at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting regarding the issue of staff transfer requests and class sizes at the school. It is not true that teachers are threatening to leave this site unless class size reductions are made, and no ultimatums have been issued. This discussion should not revolve around any particular personnel – but in regards to student and teacher benefits, and school and program reputation.

Board Member Neustadter reported he was very impressed with the Teenage Mothers' Program at Santa Cruz High School, and gave commendations to the Santa Cruz Women's Health Center for the day care provisions for this project. Mr. Neustadter attended the Wellness Committee Meeting, and also participated in the beginning of communications to expand UCSC volunteer programs at Santa Cruz City Schools. Trustee Neustadter commended Principal Edmonds for recognizing her students this evening, and providing positive information to the community. Mr. Neustadter concluded his comments with congratulations to Mr. Miller on his new venture.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS**

### **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Robles moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 22, 2006 – including a correction to the minutes brought forward by Ms. Dewey Thorsett; Personnel Actions – Certificated (Ex. 126); Personnel Actions – Classified (Ex. 127); Gifts; Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids (Ex. 128); Notices of Completion (Ex. 129); Warrant Register Batches 240-261; Standards Based Textbooks and Instructional Materials Adoption for Grades 9 – 12 (Ex. 130); Special Education Contracts (Ex. 131). Ms. Morgenstern publicly recognized Staff Members for their exceptional work regarding textbooks and instructional materials adoption. The Board acknowledged, with gratitude, the following gifts: *DeLaveaga* -Tim and Jamie Loustalot of the DeLaveaga Golf Shop have donated \$220 towards the purchase of umbrellas. Julia Wiley has donated hundreds of books, many of which are hard-to-come by Spanish literature books, to the Dual Immersion Program. This donation is valued at approximately \$1,000. *Santa Cruz HS* – Susan Mellor has donated an overhead projector valued at approximately \$200. *Branciforte Small Schools Campus* – Cynthia Hawthorne has donated a computer valued at approximately \$200. **Total value of gifts: \$1,620.** Mr. Neustadter seconded the motion. This motion was passed by roll call motion, as follows:

<b><u>Roll Call Motion</u></b>	Collins – Abstain	Dewey Thorsett – Yes	Robles – Yes
Neustadter – Yes	Routh – Yes	Wagman – Yes	
Student McElhinney – Yes			

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Santa Cruz Adult School Report**

Santa Cruz Adult School Principal Mary Powers reported on the Adult School program. She provided a history of the school, an update on instructional programs, enrollment trends and other resources. The Adult School continues to fulfill its charge to provide educational opportunities for adults, recognizing that it is not only the persons pursuing

continuing education who benefit, but also the public at large, which benefits from the provision of educational opportunities for adults.

### **Williams Uniform Complaint Quarterly Report**

Mr. Porras reported that school districts must submit quarterly reports to their County Office of Education of all complaints filed in the areas of insufficient instructional materials, teacher vacancy or “misassignment”, and inadequate facilities. The District received one complaint this quarter. This complaint was received on March 17, 2006, and the work is in progress. The resolution of this complaint will be reported in the next quarterly report in July.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Revised Policy 6161.1 Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

Ms. Morgenstern reported that this policy was last revised in 1986 and is outdated. The proposed new policy embeds the current Education Code, including recent revisions in Instructional Materials Realignment funding K-12 and Williams Settlement compliance in Sufficiency of Textbooks/Instructional Materials. Policy 6161.1 would be in place for the upcoming History/Social Science adoption in grades K-12. The intent of the policy revision is to encourage legally compliant instructional materials expenditures and to provide the highest quality standards-based and standards-aligned instructional materials for all students and teachers. MSP (Robles/Neustadter) 6-0, the Board approved Revised Policy 6161.1 Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading). Student McElhinney – Yes (Ex. 132)

### **Single Plans for Student Achievement**

Mr. Porras reported that the Board of Trustees addressed this item on February 8, 2006. At that time, a motion was made, but, after discussion, the item was tabled. Since that time, the Trustees have had the opportunity to review the plans in their entirety, and some Single Plan summaries have been revised. The Single Plan for Student Achievement is a required plan for schools that participate in any state or federal program included in the State’s Consolidated Application. The plan, developed with the school site council, must describe how the school will spend the funds received to improve student achievement. Since Dewey Thorsett and Collins previously made a motion on February 8th, they must move to untable this previous motion. This being done, a new motion was made by Mr. Collins and seconded by Ms. Dewey Thorsett. MSP 6-0, the Trustees approved this new motion and approved the Single Plans for Student Achievement.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Closed Session Action Report**

Board heard an update on negotiations

Board heard an update and gave direction on a personnel issue

The Board ordered a one-year suspended expulsion for Student 09-05-06

### **Resolution #29-05-06 Transfer of Territory to Scotts Valley Unified School District**

Superintendent Pagano reported on February 1, 2006, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education received a request to transfer two properties from the Santa Cruz City School District to the Scotts Valley Unified School District. The properties are located in the SCCSD and are contiguous and abut the boundary between the SVUSD and SCCSD. Property owners wish to send their child to Brook Knoll Elementary in SVUSD due to the

proximity of this school to the home location, and also because a family preschooler attends school in Scotts Valley and transportation for both children would pose a problem. During discussion, the Trustees inquired whether an inter-district transfer request had been made. Superintendent Pagano indicated that no transfer request was received. Board Members asked if granting these requests would set a precedent, and Mr. Moss replied that anytime one request is granted, you might be approached for others. Trustees Robles, Routh, and Dewey Thorsett suggested that an inter-district transfer might be the best solution to the problems for this family. Board Member Collins stated the family has followed a legal process for this request, and would likely be successful if they appealed a negative outcome. Mr. Collins moved approval, and Mr. Robles seconded this motion. This motion was approved with a vote of 5 ayes and 1 abstention. Mr. Collins abstained because the property owners were not present to state their case. Student McElhinney – Yes (Ex. 133)

## **STUDY SESSION**

### **ZBB 2006-07 Budget Review**

Mr. Moss reported that the final budget adoption will take place on June 21, 2006 – and all budgets presented to the Board Members tonight have been approved by BFAC. Discussion and clarifying questions revolved around the projected Elementary District Basic Aid; deficit spending; expected revenues; set asides; Special Education Transportation; Food Services; distribution of funds and services to disadvantaged socioeconomic students; and class size reduction. Board President Wagman stated as further monies are realized; it is his hope that 95% of these funds will return to classrooms. Board Member Dewey Thorsett expressed support for Class Size Reduction. The Superintendent reported there is no dispute or debate regarding CSR – all hold this idea in high regard. Mr. Pagano reported that once he has more explicit figures, he would bring recommendations to the Board Members. Superintendent Pagano stated his focus would be to ensure that funds are used to have the greatest effect on student achievement. Board Member Dewey Thorsett expressed disappointment that SCCS is under budgeted in areas previously discussed, and that BFAC worked very hard all year with incorrect dollar amounts. Trustee Neustadter noted that this community presents a consistent desire to have class size reductions, but we must also take action to address the 45 functional problems clarified by the auditors that do not revolve around class sizes.

## **INFORMATION & FUTURE MEETINGS**

### **Future Meetings**

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 6:00 p.m., at Harbor High School, 300 La Fonda, Santa Cruz, CA. On May 10, 2006, the Board of Education will meet at the Branciforte Small Schools Campus.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, Board President Wagman adjourned this Regular Meeting at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Pagano, Superintendent  
Santa Cruz City Schools

Ken Wagman, President  
Board of Education

