

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY DISTRICTS
March 22, 2006**

Call to Order

Board President Wagman called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., in the Harbor High School Library, 300 La Fonda Ave., Santa Cruz, CA.

Attendance at Meeting

Rachel Dewey Thorsett

Bruce Neustadter

Felix Robles

Mick Routh

Ken Wagman

Tim Willis

Student Representative: Bailey McElhinney

Absent: John Collins

Alan Pagano, Superintendent

Tanya Krause, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Dick Moss, Assistant Superintendent, Business

Members of the Audience

Agenda Changes

Superintendent Pagano asked to remove the leave request from certificated employee Marilyn Shuirman Maddux contained in Consent Agenda Item 1.2 (Certificated Personnel Actions), and add New Business Item 4.7, Acceptance of Letter to Rescind Leave Request from Marilyn Shuirman Maddux. The Trustees approved these changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Santa Cruz Education Foundation Member Janet Swann read a letter to the Board outlining the parent-led effort and organization that resulted in every Mission Hill Middle School 6th grader 's opportunity to attend Outdoor Science School. Harbor High School Principal Nancy Tocchini reported on the ending of CAHSEE testing for the year, and the anticipation of all SCCS High Schools for the STAR Testing. Harbor High School will host the Harbor HS Hall of Achievement in April - the two honorees will be community member Arnold Levine and 1991 Harbor graduate Adam Scott. The annual Harbor High School golf tournament will be held in May. Director Diane Morgenstern reported that CAHSEE testing for all three-grade levels today was achieved without any problems. The results for the tests taken in February will be available in April - and for testing done today, results will be available in May. Dr. Jim Logsdon commended Superintendent Pagano for his published piece in the Santa Cruz Sentinel. Dr. Logsdon invited SCCS staff and community to attend the County Office of Education Board Meeting to discuss an extension of the charter for Pacific Charter School. Mr. Paul Johnston thanked the Trustees for their approval of his appointment to serve on the Classified Personnel Commission.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pagano thanked Ms. Tocchini for hosting this Regular Meeting. He noted that Mr. Porras was attending a State Secondary Education Council Meeting in Ontario, CA. The Superintendent and Mr. Moss met with Santa Cruz Planning Commission members to hear community concerns regarding the use of the property at 313 Swift St., and will meet with community members on March 30th. The second joint City/SCCS meeting of the year was held on March 16. Student safety and security

issues were discussed. Mr. Pagano presented the Graduation Ceremony Schedule to the Trustees for their attendance considerations.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Ms. McElhinney reported on items for Harbor High School: the upcoming Prom theme is "A Night to Treasure"; the student production of "Guys and Dolls" will be presented near the end of April; ASB Elections for 2006-07 are scheduled in the coming weeks. Ms. McElhinney also included the following information regarding Soquel High School: the Prom will take place on May 5th, and the theme is "A Night Under the Stars"; Science Fair took place on March 20th, and seven students are eligible to represent Soquel High School in Los Angeles on May 23rd; the WASC Presentation is April 2 thru April 5; ROP Class Fair is this week; and construction on the quad area has been delayed by one more week due to the inclement weather.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Wagman reported attending the City Council meeting with Mr. Collins and Superintendent Pagano; the BFAC meeting on March 20th; and the Art Commission meeting at Mission Hill Middle School. The Santa Cruz High School Mock Trial Team placed 8th in the State Competition. The District has several hiring panels forming for Administrator positions, and Board Members who would like to participate should indicate their interest to President Wagman. Mr. Wagman will also meet with community members on March 30 about 313 Swift Street.

BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS OR COMMENTS

Trustee Dewey Thorsett reported attending the Wellness Committee Meeting, the BFAC Meeting on March 20th, and will meet with the Swift Street neighbors.

Board Member Neustadter attended the Wellness Committee Meeting, and was very impressed with Dan Cavanaugh's engagement in this process. Mr. Neustadter expressed pleasure with the district's purchase of a translation system to reach Spanish-speaking families.

GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

Mr. Willis moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2006; Personnel Actions – Certificated (minus the leave request from Marilyn Shuirman Maddux) (Ex. 116); Personnel Actions – Classified (Ex. 117); Gifts; Special Education Contracts (Ex. 118); Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids (Ex. 119); Notice of Completion (Ex. 120); Warrant Register Batches 228-239; Student Teacher Agreement CA State University, Monterey (Ex. 121); Santa Cruz High School Pool Contract with Architect Firm Arch-Pac (Ex. 122); Sublease agreement for 133 Mission St. (Ex. 123); CAHSEE Waiver for AFE (Ex. 124); Out of State Field Trip – Alternative Family Education. The Board acknowledged, with gratitude, the following gifts: *Mission Hill Middle School* - John Tinetti has donated \$500 to be used as a coaching stipend. *Santa Cruz High School* - Louis Salkind had donated a HP Fax/Printer and five cartridges, valued at approximately \$225. *Alternative Family Education* - John Wilkes has donated \$700, \$300 of which is designated for Meg Brown's clay studio. **Total value of gifts: \$1425**

Mr. Neustadter seconded the motion. This motion was carried by roll call vote, as follows:

Roll Call Vote Dewey Thorsett – Yes Neustadter – Yes Robles – Yes
Routh – Yes Wagman – Yes Willis – Yes
Student McElhinney – Yes

STAFF REPORTS

Bond Project Status Report

Mr. Moss delivered the Bond Project Status Report to the Trustees. This included the Elementary and Secondary Bond Budget Summary; Summary of Revised Budgets by Site for Elementary and Secondary Bonds; Bond Budgets by Site by Project; Bond Budgets by Site; Allocation of Escalation Funds; Status of Bond Projects by Site; Status of Bond Project Schedules. Mr. Moss provided significant changes from the 12/31/05 report in Revenue, Expense, and Reserves.

Additional District Funding Considerations for 2006-07

Superintendent Pagano presented a report on Additional District Funding Considerations for 2006-07. Expenditure Considerations discussed (not presented in any prioritized order) were: Salary Increases, Health & Welfare Benefit Costs; County Election Fees; Increase % in the Reserve; Additional FTE Above Contract; Classified Positions Specific to Audit Recommendations; Litigation Fees; Special Education Under funding; Technology Infrastructure; Pre-K; Full Day-K; Services to English Learners; Program Improvement Schools; District Grant Writer; Expiration of Parcel Tax Revenues; Food Services. In conclusion, Superintendent Pagano proposed that while all these considerations have value, it was not prudent fiscal sense at this time to commit dollars to expenditures not mandated nor determined by contract. The Superintendent will provide recommendations to the Board of Trustees as appropriate. The President of the Mission Hill Site Council and two other Mission Hill parents expressed concern that, due to large class sizes, three Mission Hill Math teachers may apply to transfer to other sites. Also, once incoming parents of 6th graders heard about the large class sizes, some of them have started looking for alternative schools for their children next year. This will lead to a loss of revenue for the District. The parents requested money be allocated to reduce the size of the Math classes from the current teacher staffing of 35 in a class (30:1 teacher ratio) to 30 in a class (25:1 teacher ratio). Since this was just a report, no action was taken. Following public comments and clarifying questions and comments by the Board Members, the Trustees thanked Superintendent Pagano and parents for their presentations.

Status of 2004-05 Audit Findings

Mr. Moss reported on the Status of Corrective Actions on 2004-05 Audit Findings. On 2/22/06, the Board approved a Waiver Request to the State Board of Education (SBE) that addresses audit findings 05-32, 05-41, and 05-42 related to Monarch's instructional minutes shortfall. The waiver will be on the 5/10/06 SBE agenda. Monarch has adjusted 05-06 bell schedules to make up the 04-05 shortfalls. The District's Legal Counsel filed an appeal to the Education Audits Appeal Panel (EAAP) on 3/1/06 on audit finding 05-28 on the ARK Independent Study Contract Form. The form has been revised. The EAAP Executive Officer will hear the appeal on an informal level before it goes to the EAAP. The Executive Officer will make a recommendation to the EAAP. The District is in the process of responding to a letter from the California Department of Education (CDE) to inform them of the status of implementing corrective action on audit findings 05-25 through 05-34, 05-38, 05-42, 05-45, and 04-10. The letter from the CDE is a standard letter received whenever there are audit findings. The District will receive a similar letter from the County Office of Education asking for a report on the status of

corrective action on all of the audit findings.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Closed Session Action Report

The Board approved the stipulated expulsion of Student 08-05-06 through the end of the first semester of 2006-07.

The Board approved the readmission request of student 03-04-05 who was previously expelled from SCCS and is now eligible to apply to return to a school in our district. It is further recommended that the student be assigned to Costanoa High School.

Resolution #28-05-06 Standards Based Textbooks and Instructional Materials Adoption for Grades 9-12

Ms. Morgenstern reported that Section 60400 of the Education Code requires the governing board of each school district to adopt instructional materials of those publishers who comply with the requirements of the Ed Code for use in the high schools under its control. Ms. Morgenstern proposed that for District Wide adoptions, SCCS would continue the minimum 2-week viewing period – but singleton adoptions for a site could be approved in the Consent Agenda. Mr. Willis moved approval, and Mr. Robles seconded the motion. The motion was carried by roll call vote, as follows: (Ex. 125)

Roll Call Vote Dewey Thorsett – Yes Neustadter – Yes Robles – Yes
Routh – Yes Wagman – Yes Willis – Yes
Student McElhinney – Yes

Revised Policy 6161.1 Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials (1st Read)

Ms. Morgenstern presented this policy revision as an opportunity to reform district practices for selection of materials – and offered commendations to the teachers who have served on the panels to review these procedures. 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. MSP (Robles/Routh) 6-0, the Board approved Revised Policy 6161.1 Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials (1st Reading). Student McElhinney cast a vote of “aye”.

Reopening of Sunshine Period for the SCCS Contract Proposals to be GSCFT for the 2005-06 School Year

Ms. Krause reported that the SCCS proposes to reopen Article XVII Salary and Fringe Benefits, B.3 Partial and Shared Contract Employees and side letter Common Planning Time for negotiation with GSCFT. After hearing public comments, and clarifying questions and comments from Board Members and District Staff, MSP (Neustadter/Robles) 6-0, the Board approved the “Sunshining” of reopeners to the GSCFT. Student McElhinney – Yes

Opening of Sunshine Period for the SCCS Guest Teachers Contract Proposals for the 2005-06 School Year

Ms. Krause reported the 2005-06 Santa Cruz City Guest Teachers contract proposals are being submitted for “Sunshining” in accordance with the Employees Relations Act for

public notice of contract proposals before official negotiations may begin. MSP (Robles/Willis) 6-0, the Board approved the Sunshine Period for the SCCS Guest Teachers Contract proposals for the 2005-06 school year. Student McElhinney – Yes

Santa Cruz City Schools 2006-07 School Calendar

Ms. Krause reported the Bargaining Team members for both the GSCFT and SCCS worked very hard to arrive at the school calendar for 2006-07. The GSCFT membership ratified this calendar on March 14, 2006. Mr. Neustadter moved approval, and Mr. Willis seconded this motion. After discussion and questions from the Trustees (and concern about the possible loss of common planning time at the elementary and middle schools), this motion was approved with a vote of 5-1. Ms. Dewey Thorsett cast the dissenting vote. Student McElhinney – Yes

Accept Letter to Rescind Request for Leave of Absence

Superintendent Pagano introduced a letter from Certificated employee Marilyn Shuirman Maddux, rescinding her previously submitted request for leave. MSP (Robles/Dewey Thorsett) 6-0, the Board approved this Letter to Rescind Leave Request. Student McElhinney – Yes

INFORMATION & FUTURE MEETINGS

Information

Mr. Moss reported that information was provided at the 2/8/06 Board Meeting that the SCCHSIG JPA had received a preliminary renewal quote from Blue Shield for the PPO Medical Plan for 2006-07 with a 37% increase. On 3/16/06, the JPA received 2006-07 PPO and HMO quotes from Blue Cross, Health Net, and a revised quote from Blue Shield. Mr. Moss anticipates that the benefits increases will be closer to the projected budget assumptions of 20%. The final decision on provider coverage for 2006-07 from the JPA will be made on April 26, 2006.

Future Meetings

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2006, at Santa Cruz High School, 415 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz, CA. Open session will begin at 6:00 P.M.,

Following Regular Board meeting will be held on April 26, 2006, at Harbor High School, 300 LaFonda, Santa Cruz, CA. Open session beginning at 6:00 P.M.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, Board President Wagman adjourned this Regular Meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Pagano, Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Ken Wagman, President
Board of Education