

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

**May 24, 2006**

**Call to Order**

Board President Wagman called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:12 p.m., in the Harbor High School Library, 300 La Fonda Ave., Santa Cruz, CA.

**Attendance at Meeting**

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

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

**Agenda Changes**

Superintendent Pagano requested three changes to the agenda this evening. First, in General Public Business, Consent Agenda, an additional Certificated Personnel Appointment in Item 1.2. Second, an additional Purchase Order added to those contained in General Public Business, Consent Agenda, Item 1.5. Last, a request to delete New Business Item 4.3, Pre-K MOU Agreement. This item will be brought back on the June 21<sup>st</sup> Agenda. The Board of Education approved these changes to the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Assistant Principal Nannette Overley thanked the Board Members who attended the Westward Movement Enactments at Branciforte Middle School today. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade student Sophie Larson provided details regarding the June 1<sup>st</sup> Byzantine Banquet, and the Trustees received invitations. GSCFT President Barry Kirschen expressed concern regarding Policy 2121, Selection of Certificated Management Personnel; and also the Memorandum of Understanding with The Campus Kids Connection. Mr. Kirschen urged the Trustees to consider other proposals for Pre-K Programs in the district. District Teacher Casey Evans expressed the delight of staff members regarding the hiring of Director of Special Education Marilyn Torp. Ms. Evans also expressed concern regarding the non-credentialed teachers with The Campus Kids Connection. Gault Elementary Principal James invited the Board Members to a Fiesta on May 25. Ms. James reported on the Silicon Valley Higher Education Roundtable certificate ceremony for Gault on June 13, and also the Kindergarten Career Day and "How to Get to College" Presentation that took place last week. Teacher Laura Tobias thanked the Trustees for their diligent efforts on behalf of the district, and President Wagman for bringing the focus back to the students and classrooms. She invited the Board Members to the end-of-the-year celebration for the current district Pre-K program. Ms. Morgenstern recognized students Analisa Shields-Estrada, Leilani Allen, Stephanie Rodriguez, and Teresa Fukuda

for acceptance and participation in the summer “Girls in Engineering” program sponsored by the Baskin Foundation.

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Superintendent Pagano wished to acknowledge that the Consent Agenda contained a very generous \$15,530 in gifts to the district at this time, and asked to specifically recognize Dr. Karl Broce, Dr. Linda Bixby, and Dr. John Hedrick for the dental services provided to students. Update on Audit Findings Appeals Process: Waiver Request for Monarch Instructional Minutes will appear on the July agenda for the State Board of Education. Mr. Pagano visited with Site Councils for Soquel High School, Santa Cruz High School, Mission Hill Middle School, and Bay View Elementary. The Superintendent attended the Santa Cruz City/Santa Cruz City Schools Districts joint meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Lacey, Mr. Moss, and Mr. Pagano attended the May Revise workshop sponsored by School Services. Information on this matter will be contained in a report later in the meeting. Mr. Robles and Mr. Pagano attended the Delta School Board Meeting, at which the appointment of new Principal Mary Gaukel was announced. The Superintendent recognized Pat Davis and the Sunshine Rotarians for the donated sets of bilingual dictionaries for each elementary school.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT**

Ms. McElhinney was unable to be present at this meeting, but Mr. Porras read her report. The third quad construction has been started. The process for the 2006-07 Freshman Orientation has begun. Regret being unable to attend tonight – but am receiving an award at tonight’s Senior Awards Night at Soquel High School. Thanks for the great experience.

### **GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS**

#### **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Neustadter moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 10, 2006; Personnel Actions – *Certificated* (Ex. 165); Personnel Actions – *Classified* (Ex. 166); Gifts; Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids (Ex. 167); Change Orders (Ex. 168); Warrant Register Batches 291-303; Special Education Mediated Settlement Agreement (Ex. 169); Resolution #41-05-06 Authorizing Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent to Accept Construction Bids (Ex. 170); Consultant Services Agreement (Ex.171); New Job Descriptions: Classified: 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading (Ex. 172). The Board acknowledged, with gratitude, the following gifts: *Mission Hills Middle School*: Bill Saxton and Susan Strome have donated \$450. *Alternative Family Education*: Digital Strata of Scotts Valley has donated two sets of cupboards valued at approximately \$100. *Elementary District*: Dental services were provided free of charge to the following schools through the Monterey Bay Dental Society: Dr. Karl Brose screened 106 students at Bay View – Dr. Linda Bixby screened 58 students at Gault – Dr. John Hedrick screened 50 students at Westlake. Total savings to the community: \$14,980.

**Total value of gifts: \$15,530.** Mr. Willis seconded the motion. This motion was passed by Roll Call Vote, as follows:

**Roll Call Vote:** Collins – Yes                      Dewey Thorsett - Yes Robles – Yes  
Neustadter – Yes              Routh – Yes                      Wagman – Yes                      Willis  
– Yes

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **GATE Update and Status**

GATE Coordinator Sue Grasso provided the Trustees with an update on the District Gifted and Talented Education. This report included an explanation of what GATE funds support in elementary, middle school, and high school levels, program examples at sites, current practices, and future plans. The first year of a coordinated two-year effort to increase GATE services and visibility in both districts has been completed. The 2005-06 GATE allocation in the Elementary district was \$21,569. The 2005-06 GATE allocation in the Secondary district was \$39,670. The GATE website, provided by Margaret Rummens, includes basic information about how students qualify, programs and services, contact information, and links to other helpful websites.

### **Costen Family Foundation Educational Grant**

Ms. Morgenstern reported to the Board Members on the Costen Family Foundation Grant in the Elementary district. The “Art of Teaching” mentor program is dedicated to the development of gifted teachers. Instructional practices are supported through weekly individual coaching, target goal setting, and professional development. One unique feature is teacher release on special assignment within a school setting. In addition to funding the release of four mentor teachers for the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years, the Foundation provides additional resources for mentor and participating teachers, including but not limited to: mentor teacher training coordinated through Santa Cruz New Teacher Center; stipends for each participant; substitute release days for all participants; instructional materials; professional development.

### **Graduation Requirements: Recommended Additions**

Mr. Porras reported that on May 17, 2005, at the request of Cabinet, the counselors met to begin a discussion about possible changes to graduation requirements. The conversation focused on academic rigor and student success. Under the direction of Ms. Tong, Director, Student Support Services, counselors were assigned the task of researching graduation requirements at similar school districts. In addition, they were to determine the number of students currently graduating with more than 220 credits, the number of students taking 4 years of English, the number of students with a school service requirement, and the number of seniors graduating with 10 credits of world language. Research showed that requirements vary from district to district; there were no districts found that only required 3 years of English; credit requirements varied between 215 and 270. It is recommended that SCCS require 4 years of English and 230 credits for graduation. Hearing direction to begin this process, Superintendent Pagano noted that Ed. Code requires a 2-year announcement to change graduation requirements. Mr.

Pagano will bring this item back to the Trustees at a later date for timeline and implementation.

### **Local Educational Plan Alignment**

Ms. Hamilton reported on the Local Educational Plan Alignment (LEA Plan). The LEA Plan is developed and utilized by the school district to describe and implement state and federally funded initiatives aimed at improving student achievement. The LEA Plan must complement and align with other plans, such as the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA), in order to have the greatest impact on student learning and achievement. Ms. Hamilton presented the linkages between the SPSA, the LEA Plan, and Consolidated Application and Categorical Program Monitoring (formerly known as the Coordinated Compliance Review). The Board Members asked for more information pertaining to needs and resources, and commended Ms. Hamilton for her exemplary work for the district.

### **2006-07 Governor's May Revise**

Superintendent Pagano reported that on May 12 the Governor made public his 2006-07 May Revise Budget proposals. State tax receipts are \$4.7 billion above previous projections in 2005-06, and are being increased by \$2.7 billion in 2006-07. This adds \$7.4 billion in revenue to the budget. As a result, the Governor has 1) agreed to give schools \$2.1 billion in additional one-time funding in 2006-07 and \$2.9 billion of additional funding between 2007-08 and 2013-14, due to reaching a settlement of the lawsuit over Prop. 98 funding and, 2) has proposed \$800 million more on-going funding for schools than proposed in the January budget. Some points to consider:

- These are still proposals and may be different by final budget
- With the Elementary District projected to Basic Aid status in 2006-07, the proposed increases in Revenue Limit COLA, Equalization and Deficit Reduction may not translate into more revenue than currently projected
- The Legislative Analyst is projecting that the State budget will have a larger deficit in 2007-08 than 2006-07 and that some of the proposed on-going funding increases may not be sustainable
- The current collective bargaining agreement with GSCFT provides that 62.5% of any increase in Revenue Limit Funding must go to teacher compensation

After comments and questions from the Trustees, Superintendent Pagano concluded with an agreement to bring information back to the Board regarding what ADA would look like if SCCS were one unified district.

### **2006-07 Health Benefit Programs and Rates**

Superintendent Pagano reported that on 4/22/06 the SCCSHIG JPA voted on the 2006-07 programs and rates for medical, dental and vision plans. The significant change is that the JPA decided to change from a Blue Shield PPO to a Health Net PPO. The Health Net HMO plan remains intact. The benefits for the Health Net PPO are similar to the Blue Shield PPO. There are no changes in dental plans or rates, and no change in vision plans or rates. The total cost of health plans in 2006-07 will be less than the 20% increase assumed in the ZBB. Exact figures will not be known until after the open enrollment period end on 6/30/06.

### **Bond Project Status Report**

Superintendent Pagano reported that this Bond Project Status Report is for the period ending 4/22/06, and includes information from Financial Reports: 1) Elementary and Secondary Bond Budget Summary 2) Summary of Revised Budgets by Site for Elementary and Secondary Bonds 3) Bond Budgets by Site by Project 4) Bond Budgets by Site – and Other Reports: 1) Allocation of Escalation Funds 2) Status of Bond Projects by Site 3) Status of Bond Projects Schedules.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Closed Session Action Report**

The Board heard an update Re: negotiations with the GSCFT and provided direction to District Staff.

The Board discussed the Superintendent's evaluation.

#### **New Policy 5030: Student Wellness**

Superintendent Pagano asked the Trustees to approve the first reading of the 5030 Student Wellness. The Federal Child Nutrition and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act of 2004 mandates that any district participating in a federal nutrition program adopt a policy on student wellness that includes goals for nutrition education and physical activity; includes nutrition guidelines for all foods on each campus during the school day; provides assurance that the guidelines for reimbursable meals will not be less restrictive than the federal regulations; and establishes a plan for measuring implementations of the policy. This policy is to be in place by the beginning of the 2006-07 school year. A Wellness Policy Committee was formed to develop the policy presented for approval. If approved tonight, the policy would come back to the Board Members for final approval. MSP (Collins/Neustadter) 7-0, the Board approved the first reading of the New Policy 5030: Student Wellness.

#### **Resolution #42-05-06 Requesting County Elections to Conduct the Election, Requesting Consolidation of the Election, and Specification of the Election Order**

Superintendent Pagano reported this resolution is a requirement for the Board of Trustees election that will be held on November 7, 2006. The resolution defines the specification of the order listing the number of seats being vacated, area represented, length of term, responsibility for the cost of the Candidate's Statement of Qualification and length of statement. It also requests that the County Elections Board conduct the election and consolidate it with the General Election on November 7, 2006. The Board must decide if the candidates' statements should be 200 or 400 words, paid for by the candidate or the district, and whether a tie vote should be resolved by a run-off vote or by lot. Mr. Willis moved approval of this resolution with statements of 200 words, paid for by the candidate, and with a tie vote resolved by lot. Mr. Collins seconded this motion. The resolution was approved by roll call vote, as follows: (Ex. 173)

**Roll Call Vote:** Collins–Yes            Dewey Thorsett–Yes            Neustadter–Yes  
Robles–Yes            Routh–Yes            Wagman–Yes            Willis–Yes

**Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators**

Ms. Krause recommended that the Board adopt this Declaration of Need for both the Elementary and Secondary Districts. Beginning July 1, 1994, any public school wishing to employ individuals on emergency permits must file a Declaration of Need with the Commission on Teacher Credentialing on an annual basis. The Estimated Number Needed refers to the number of permits that may be applied for, including credentials that may be issued to cover the 2006 Summer School Program – not FTE. SCCS will adhere to NCLB requirements as well as Williams’ compliance, but this allows the District flexibility as an option for compliance. MSP (Routh/Robles) 7-0, the Board approved the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators. (Ex. 174)

**Facility Advisory Committee Status Recommendation**

Superintendent Pagano recommended that the Facility Advisory Committee (FAC) be dissolved. At the 4/4/06 meeting, the FAC decided that the original purpose to consider potential future school reorganizations is currently not a significant need in the school district. The FAC members have agreed to stay on “call” should a further discussion of school reorganization be necessary. The Superintendent wishes to recognize committee members for their service to this community: Laurie Bair, Susan Rose, Emily Reilly, Martin Bernal, John Collins, Janet Grellman, Nancy Tocchini, Tanya Krause, Jackie Ghio, George Martinez, Barry Kirschen. Dick Moss, Catherine Meyer-Johnson, and Alan Pagano served as staff to the committee. MSP (Dewey Thorsett/Willis) 7-0, the Board approved the dissolution of the FAC.

**Recommendations for Additional Expenditures**

Superintendent Pagano presented the Additional Funding Recommendations for 2006-07 for approval. SCCS will continue to make expenditure decisions based on the highest academic achievement for all students, and the financial solvency and stability of the District, both short and long term. The Superintendent presented recommendations to the District Budget & Finance Committee (BFAC). The BFAC added two additional expenditures, which are included for approval. Mr. Willis moved approval of the recommendations, and Ms. Dewey Thorsett seconded this motion. Mr. Routh moved for an amendment to separate the Grant Writer position for a separate vote, and Mr. Collins seconded this amendment. The amendment received a vote of 2-5, and was not passed. Mr. Neustadter moved for an amendment to allocate 40% of funds for program improvement to Gault Elementary, and 30% of ELL services to Gault. Mr. Routh seconded this amendment. After further discussion among the Trustees, Mr. Routh removed his second to the amendment. Lacking a second, this amendment was taken off the table. After more discussion among Trustees, staff members, and the members of the audience, there was an understanding that more discussions would take place after the final State Budget is approved. Further recommendations and details will come with the next round of available monies. The Recommendations for Additional Expenditures as presented by the Superintendent were approved without dissent. (Ex. 175)

## **BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Wagman met with Soquel High School Principal Coleman to discuss the WASC review. Mr. Wagman also met with Branciforte Middle School Principal Munro, and visited this site. President Wagman assured GSCFT President Kirschen that the Board would be watchful regarding the approval of interim appointments for Certificated Management positions. Mr. Wagman thanked Superintendent Pagano for his attendance at Site Council Meetings. Mr. Wagman attended the Queer Youth Leadership Awards. Santa Cruz City Schools was recognized for their Leadership role in supporting GLBT Youth, and for the adopted AB 537 Policy. President Wagman's daughter was the recipient of the Queer Youth Leadership Ally Award.

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

Trustee Routh reported spending three days at Branciforte Middle School organizing completed testing results for shipping. He also spent time with a student teacher at Gault Elementary.

Board Member Collins distributed a handout to the Trustees and staff members. This handout contained a response to the concerns expressed by Board President Wagman regarding correspondence privacy and access requirements vs. expectations of privacy in communications. Mr. Collins read this letter aloud.

Mr. Willis reported that working relationships need to be repaired, and suggested that each member reduce concerns and increase influence.

Board Member Dewey Thorsett attended the BFAC meeting. Ms. Dewey Thorsett acknowledged there are considerable philosophical political differences among Board Members – and these are not things that should be worked out behind closed doors. How the Trustees handle and work out these differences is important to the public. Protocol has become very subjective, and this process should not be used as a way to distance Board Members from the public.

Trustee Robles voiced support for the statement read by Board Member Collins. Mr. Robles would rather concentrate on the students, upcoming graduations, etc. – but expresses hope that the Board of Education will be stronger for the discussion. Trustee Robles complimented Education Foundation Chairman Hawthorne for the wonderful article in the SC Sentinel – this was a great way to take achievements to the public. 2007 will bring the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the District, and we should begin to consider how this would be recognized. The Delta Board Meeting was excellent. Mr. Robles will be out of the country with student groups.

Board Member Neustadter thanked Superintendent Pagano for including the two items recommended by BFAC to the list of Additional Expenditures. Mr. Neustadter attended the Western Movement Enactments at Branciforte Middle School. The students were having a wonderful time, and much was being learned in the process. Tonight, discussions have included many visions, and the continued theme is that SCCS is doing incredible things for students. Mr. Neustadter is the only remaining member of the

original Delta School staff, and this site remains near and dear to his heart. This year, Delta graduates 16 students – all who passed the CAHSEE and Algebra requirements. New Principal Gaukel will continue to support these programs. Trustee Neustadter concluded with the expressed hope that the divisive Board difficulties will be resolved as quickly as possible.

## **INFORMATION & FUTURE MEETINGS**

### **Information/Discussion**

The Board Members had a discussion on Policy 6143, Electronic Communications/Public Records Act. Board President Wagman indicated he would like to update this policy. The Superintendent will check with Legal Counsel for recommendations on how this could be achieved.

### **Future Meetings**

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for June 21, 2006, 6:00 p.m., in Room 312 of the District Office, 405 Old San Jose Rd., Soquel, CA. On August 9, 2006, the Board of Education will meet at 6:00 p.m. in Room 312 of the District Office, 405 Old San Jose Rd., Soquel, CA.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, President Wagman adjourned this Regular Meeting at 10:22 p.m.

### **Reconvening Closed Session**

The Board unanimously approved a waiver Re: a PE requirement for a student.  
The Board unanimously approved extension of Hope Lease for 133 Mission St.  
The Board voted unanimously to renew and extend the Superintendent's contract with an additional year.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Pagano, Superintendent  
Santa Cruz City Schools

Ken Wagman, President  
Board of Education