

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
DISTRICTS
August 9, 2006**

Call to Order

Board President Wagman called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., in the District Office Board Room, Room 312, 405 Old San Jose Rd., Soquel, CA.

Attendance at Meeting

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

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

Welcome and Explanation of Format

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

Agenda Changes

Superintendent Pagano asked to include 2 additional names to the Certificated Personnel Appointments, Consent Agenda Item 1.2. This change was approved by the Trustees.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Community members spoke regarding the health risks imposed by the installation of a new cell tower by the First Congregational Church in Santa Cruz. Letters and articles were provided to the Trustees and the Board Members were asked to intervene on behalf of the students. GSCFT President Kirschen expressed concern that although SCCS would receive budget funds this year to purchase equipment for shop classes, there are not currently teachers for these positions. Mr. Kirschen asked the Trustees to replace the work force necessary to recover these programs. Harbor High School Principal Nancy Tocchini reported on a new orientation and welcome program that will train and utilize students and parents to welcome new children and new parents to the many opportunities available at Harbor High School. Mr. John Wasserburger repeated his request to ensure that all students who enroll at Santa Cruz City Schools are assigned classes and teachers by the first day of school. Mr. Wasserburger also requested that Site Administrators review the grades and attendance records of all 9th grade students at the conclusion of the first grading period – in order to address initial failure and adjustment problems of new high school students immediately. Dr. Jim Logsdon asked that Board Reports and Comments be returned to the beginning of the agenda at the Regular Meetings. If not, perhaps a brief summary at the beginning of the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent returned to his office on July 10, and is preparing for the students who will be in classes on August 30. In September, Superintendent Pagano will outline the state of the district, and present goals and objectives for the 2006-07 school year. Mr. Pagano attended the School Services Budget Presentation on July 21; the "Go For Health" county meeting to learn more about the well-being of youth; and the introduction of the interim UCSC Chancellor. The District would like to reconvene the Oversight Committee for parcel tax measures – nominations are needed. Commendations to Principal Coleman and staff – Costanoa School has received a total of 6 years accreditation from the WASC Review Committee. Congratulations are also in order for Soquel High School Principal Kollmann and staff, as this site has received 6 years tenure with a mid-term review from the WASC Committee. Santa Cruz High School and Harbor High School are in line for reviews during the 2006-07 school year. In order to assist in providing greater awareness of cultural differences and equal access for all in the District, Superintendent Pagano would like to invite Trustees to attend the "Vive Oaxaca" event on August 20th, 12:00 p.m., at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium.

GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

Mr. Willis moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 21, 2006; Personnel Actions – Certificated (Ex. 1); Personnel Actions – Classified (EX. 2); Gifts; Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids (EX. 3); Change Orders (Ex. 4); Notice of Completion (Ex. 5); Warrant Register Batches 328-350 & 1-29 (06-07); Contract with Williams & Associates (Ex. 6); 2006-07 K-3 Class Size Reduction Funding Application; Disposition of Surplus Property (Ex. 7); Consultant Services Agreement – Educational Services (Ex. 8); Carl B. Perkins Vocational & Applied Tech Application 06-07. The District acknowledged, with gratitude, the following gifts: *Branciforte Small Schools* – Elizabeth Gonzalez has donated a weight-training machine valued at approximately \$500. *DeLaveaga Elementary* – Wharf to Wharf has donated \$500. T-Shirts were purchased to be used as awards for the Running Club participants. Jeffrey Werner & Susan Lasko have donated \$250 towards Dual Immersion Program staff development. Hugh Zike & Sharon Jamieson have donated \$500 towards Dual Immersion Program staff development. The Volunteer Center of SCC has donated \$359.25 for the Dual Immersion Program. Susan Arias has donated 13 hours of labor and \$39 in materials to the window box project by the 3rd grade students. Total value of this donation is \$507.00 Schools Plus, Public Schools Foundations of Santa Cruz County has awarded the following grants: \$1457 for "Phonics for First Graders" – Sarah Balla; \$1000 for "Two Way Immersion K Reading Sets" – Gonzalez/Flowers; \$476 for "Juantos Family Literacy Program" – Hecko/Villareal; \$985 for "Ukeleles in the Classroom" – Wendy Molin. Target has donated \$2000 that will be used to pay for the Dual Immersion Music Summer Program. John & Carrie Howard have donated \$250. *Westlake Elementary* – Paul Sritzche of Longs Drug Store has donated \$500 in gift cards to help with much needed materials and supplies in classrooms and the Health Office. *Mission Hill Middle School* – NHS Inc. has donated a skateboard with pads, valued at approximately \$150, for the Open House Raffle. Zocoli's has donated ten \$10 gift certificates, total value \$100, for the Open House Raffle. Plantronics has donated a Cordless Headset Telephone, valued at approximately \$100, for the Open House Raffle. *Santa Cruz City Schools District* – Plantronics Inc. through the Santa Cruz Education Foundation has donated 20 CS50 wireless headsets and 20 Lifters for use throughout the District. This generous donation is valued at approximately \$7599.

Total value of gifts: \$17,720. Mr. Neustadter seconded the motion. This motion was carried by Roll Call Vote, as follows:

<u>Roll Call Vote</u>	Dewey Thorsett – Yes	Neustadter – Yes	
Robles – Yes	Routh – Yes	Wagman – Yes	Willis – Yes

STAFF REPORTS

Report on 2006-07 State Education Budget

Mr. Moss provided the Trustees with an update on the 2006-07 State Education Budget. State tax revenues increased by 12.5% in 2005-06, and these unanticipated one-time revenue increases are being used to fund \$2.3 billion in one-time education expenses in 2006-07. The settlement agreement that resolved the lawsuit over the 2004-05 funding resulted in an additional \$2.9 billion coming to Education – but these funds are one-time and will be paid back over several years. There is an increase in ADA to the High School District of \$47, 413. Santa Cruz City Schools will experience a reduction in federal funds in 2006-07, as will 96% of school districts in California. All regular State categorical programs are receiving a 5.92% COLA for 2006-07, except for EIA. SCCS will realize an estimated 75% increase in EIA funding in 2006-07. The advice for 2007-08 and beyond is caution. Less vigorous growth and revenues are projected; one-time funding for 2006-07 is not available for 2007-08; Special Education under-funding continues to increase; 2007-08 is the last year for parcel tax measure B1, unless it is renewed; employee health benefit costs show no signs of abating below double-digit increases; utility costs are increasing significantly.

Status Report on 313 Swift Street

Mr. Moss provided the Status Report on the property located at 313 Swift Street to the Trustees. This report included updates and agendas from the meetings with neighbors to examine ways to mitigate concerns about the project. The District has committed to meet again with the subcommittee of neighbors, then with the full neighborhood group before returning to the Planning Commission. As requested by the Planning Commission, the District asked its environmental consultants to update their studies from the ones originally done in August 2003. Potential mitigations include: convert all diesel buses to bio-diesel fuel, significantly reducing harmful emissions; limit diesel bus warm-up times to not more than 5 minutes; provide three-foot wide bicycle and pedestrian pass-through in the fence to provide access from Swift St. to Derby Park; plant a flowering vine on the six-foot high chain link fence facing south and east to provide a visual barrier. Additional mitigations (including the possibility of obtaining an easement so that buses could exit to Delaware Ave.) are being investigated but have not yet been agreed upon. As requested by neighbors, alternatives to relocating to this site are being considered – but financial and logistical considerations make them less desirable for the District than the proposed plan. The Board heard from several of the neighborhood residents regarding their concerns (especially noise and traffic) and ideas. After further questions and comments from the Trustees, direction was given to continue working with the neighbors to mitigate concerns, and provide evidence of serious investigation of other sites for the City and Planning Commission.

Investment Report for the Quarter Ending 6/30/06

Mr. Moss provided the quarterly report to the Governing Board on the investments of the agency. District cash for all funds is on deposit with and is invested by the Santa Cruz County

Auditor-Controller. Interest revenue in all funds during the 2003-04, 2004-05, and 2005-06 fiscal years was provided. The debt service reserve for the 1998 COPs is \$484,779. The Foundation Trust Fund includes common and preferred stock that was donated to the District, the dividends from which are used to fund a student scholarship program.

Bond Projects Status Report

Mr. Moss provided the regular bi-monthly Bond Projects Status Report for the period ending 6/30/06. Financial Reports included: 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. Other reports included: Allocation of Escalation Funds; Status of Bond Projects by Site; Status of Bond Projects Schedules.

Grand Jury Report on the Bond Projects

Mr. Moss reported that on 6/26/06 the Grand Jury released its 2005-06 Final Report. Included in that report was a section on Santa Cruz City Schools' 1998 Measure E and H and General Obligation Bonds and the modernization projects funded by the bonds. The District has until 10/1/06 to submit a response to the findings and recommendations. The responses are whether the District agrees, partially agrees, partially disagrees, or disagrees with the findings, and if the District does not agree, why. Mr. Moss provided the Board of Education with draft responses that incorporate input from Strategic Construction Management and the Bond Oversight Committee. The District would like Board feedback on the responses to recommendations. After hearing the report and reading the proposed draft responses, the Board commended Mr. Moss for his diligence and hard work on behalf of the District, and expressed satisfaction with all proposed responses.

OLD BUSINESS

Closing Sunshine Period for SCCS Contract Proposals for the GSCFT for 2005-06

Ms. Krause reported that the Santa Cruz City Schools contract proposals are being submitted for final "sunshining" in accordance with the Employees Relations Act for public notice of contract proposals before official negotiations may begin. MSP (Willis/Robles) 6-0, the Board approved the closing of the Sunshine Period for contract proposals.

NEW BUSINESS

Closed Session Action Report

Board heard an update on negotiations with the GSCFT.

Restoration of Board Trustee Stipend

At the December 11, 2002 regularly scheduled Board meeting, the Trustees took action to approve additional fiscal year 2002-03 budget reductions, including Board Trustee Stipends. Board Policy 9250 was not amended, revised or deleted. At the June 21, 2006 Board meeting, a request to restore the payment of stipends was brought forward. Staff was directed to compare Trustee compensation information including stipends and/or benefit plans. Board Member Dewey Thorsett moved to continue to suspend the payment of stipends for one additional year, in order to give the Board Members time to review this information and determine whether Board Policy 9250 should be revised and/or rewritten. Mr. Neustadter seconded this motion. After public comments and Board discussion, this motion was passed with a vote of 5-0-1. Mr. Willis abstained from the vote.

Approval of 2006-07 Meal Prices

Mr. Moss recommended approval of the 2006-07 meal prices for full-price meals for breakfast and lunch. Information presented included prices in neighboring districts for meals, and expected revenue increase of \$29,500 to the Cafeteria Fund. The middle and high school breakfast price would be increased by \$.25 from \$1.75 to \$2.00. Lunch prices would be increased at elementary schools by \$.25 from \$2.25 to \$2.50, and \$.50 at middle and high schools from \$2.50 to \$3.00. These changes do not affect free and reduced lunches. MSP (Routh/Neustadter) 6-0, the Trustees approved the 2006-07 Meal Prices.

Resolution #1-06-07 Declaring an Emergency to Bypass the Public Works Bid Process

Mr. Moss asked for this authorization to address the emergency repair of the arson and vandalism damage to Branciforte Middle School that occurred on the night of July 23, 2006. The estimated cost of the building repairs and replacement of damaged furniture and equipment is between \$400,000 and \$500,000. Public Contract Code, Section 20113, authorizes a Board of Education, in an emergency, to award contracts for school facilities in order to limit the disruption of school operations by not advertising or inviting bids, thereby speeding up the process of effecting repairs. This Resolution requires unanimous approval by the Board of Education and certification by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education. Costs associated to this project will be charged to the Building Fund and will be reimbursed by the District’s Property and Liability insurance JPA. Superintendent Pagano asked to acknowledge the commend Branciforte Middle School Principal Munro and Assistant Principal Overley, Director of Facilities Bramlett, and the contractors involved in this project for their diligence and commitment to having the site up and running with little impact to the students. Mr. Robles moved approval, and Ms. Dewey Thorsett seconded this motion. The motion was carried by roll call vote, as follows: (Ex. 9)

<u>Roll Call Vote</u>	Dewey Thorsett – Yes	Neustadter – Yes	Robles – Yes
Routh – Yes	Wagman – Yes	Willis – Yes	

BOARD REPORTS & COMMENTS

Board President’s Report

President Wagman reported he attended the Swift Street Neighbor Meetings, and acknowledged the hard work and open communications between the two negotiating teams. Trustee Wagman is pleased to see the CST Testing window will remain at 21 days, as opposed to the CDE 11 day recommendation. Mr. Wagman will be out of town and unable to attend “Vive Oaxaca”.

Board Members’ Reports or Comments

Board Member Neustadter acknowledged the news article regarding the funds and the class slots that became available due to Campus Kids Connection Pre-K at Gault Elementary School for Fall 2006. Delta Charter School had a smooth transition from one location to another – thanks to assistance from Superintendent Pagano. Trustee Neustadter attended a very positive meeting with UCSC representatives, and discussions will continue to discuss reinstatement of the Honors Program. Mr. Neustadter asked the Superintendent to bring information regarding costs and available activities on CSBA Membership to the next Regular Meeting.

Board Member Robles thanked everyone for the great cards and wishes for a speedy recovery – they worked! Trustee Robles supports CSBA Membership. Congratulations on the approval of so many new faculty/staff members – the backgrounds of these employees are impressive. Mr. Robles asked for confirmation of the support systems in place for 1st and 2nd year SCCS teachers. Board Member Robles concluded his comments by reporting on the Latino family meetings designed to improve District/Student/Family communications.

Board Member Dewey Thorsett attended the Campus Kids Connection Board Meeting to support the approval of the Pre-K memorandum of understanding and also attended the meeting with the Swift Street neighbors group.

Trustee Willis reported he would try to attend the “Vive Oaxaca” celebration on August 13 at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. Mr. Willis reported that he came across the District Administration Phone List for school year 2003-04 – and only six people remained in the same positions. Education requires constant change – but SCCS has a system in place to ensure smooth transitions to new positions. Board Member Willis concluded his remarks by stating he is looking forward to the impending school year.

Board Member Routh was at the Wharf to Wharf Race in Santa Cruz and acknowledged the number of amazing schools that provide volunteers for this event. Through this event, more than \$2 million had been given to schools.

INFORMATION & FUTURE MEETINGS

Future Meetings

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for August 23, 2006, 6:00 p.m., in Room 312 of the District Office, 405 Old San Jose Rd., Soquel, CA. On September 13, 2006, the Board of Education will meet at 6:00 p.m. at DeLaveaga Elementary School, 1145 Morrissey Blvd., Santa Cruz, CA.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, Board President Wagman adjourned this Regular Meeting at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Pagano, Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Ken Wagman, President
Board of Education