

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY
SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE ELEMETNARY AND
SECONDARY DISTRICTS
February 28, 2007**

Call to Order

Board President Dewey Thorsett called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at Mission Hill Middle School, 425 King Street.

Attendance at Meeting

John Collins	Rachel Dewey Thorsett	Cynthia Hawthorne
Don Maxwell	Felix Robles	Ken Wagman
		Wendy Strimling
Student Representative Ian Magruder		

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

Welcome and Format

Board President Dewey Thorsett welcomed those in attendance and explained the format used for this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education announcing that a timeline had been set for tonight's Agenda items. Cynthia Hawthorne, Board Vice President would be the timekeeper. Ms. Dewey Thorsett also announced that at the February 21 Board Retreat a Strategic Plan Review and Goal setting meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 22, 2007.

Agenda Changes - None

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Dona Abrahams Johnson, Principal of Mission Hill MS welcomed everyone present and hoped that they had time to notice the wonderful artwork decorating the hallways. Kathleen Crocetti, Distinguished Visual Art Educator of the Year, made a presentation about the performing arts and technology program currently underway at Mission Hill. She then presented two notable student films, both part of the school's claymation project.

Jessica Curcio, nutrition education at Gault & Bay View and Trish Hildinger, Nutrition Education at Bay View spoke about their work with Denise McGregor, Food Services Supervisor regarding steps taken to bring nutritious healthy meals to the schools, improvements currently underway and future goals for the SCCS Food Service Program. An invitation was extended to Schools Board members to tour SCCS food services.

SCCS parent and PTA member Kathy Pappas had collected articles on obesity in children and the positive effects of physical education. There was a study done that concluded that children who participate in physical activities do better academically, showing improvement in reading, writing and test scores.

A Soquel High School parent spoke about the need for establishing districtwide technology requirements and in particular Soquel High School's need for improvement and modernization of the website and computer literacy program.

Marilyn Garrett, retired school teacher, talked about protecting children from microwave technology.

Sharon Maxwell, teacher DeLaveaga Elementary and Elementary Vice President of GSCFT expressed her excitement about the lower intermediate grade teacher/student ratio but also her concern about facility and capacity.

Parents of two district students spoke about their stay in India, the competitiveness of the global economy, the increasing need for global education, and their willingness to help with district efforts in this direction.

Sherri Kilkenny – Science teacher Mission Hill thanked the students, the community, and parents for the incredible job they did on the Science Fair at Mission Hill. It is the largest in Santa Cruz County, featuring over 500 projects.

Nancy Tocchini, Principal at Harbor High School thanked the Cabinet and Board for approving the Management salary increase.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

On 2/15 Superintendent Pagano attended the Santa Cruz City Council - District Sub-committee meeting with Board members Ken Wagman and John Collins. One of the collaborative efforts being discussed is the hiring of a second Student Resource Officer for 07-08 year. Mr. Pagano attended two Health Benefit Committee meetings one on 2/20 and the other on 2/27. On 2/20 he also attended a second Parcel Tax Oversight Committee meeting held at Gault. The notes from this meeting will be posted on our website. The Parcel Tax Oversight Committee took action by consensus to bring a recommendation to the Board on March 14 regarding the renewal of Measure B1. A Board Retreat was held on 2/21. Superintendent Pagano attended a Chamber of Commerce Board meeting on 2/26 followed that evening by a DELAC meeting. He wished to commend Betsy Hamilton and Patty Switzer for their continuing diligent efforts to inform Latino parents on school issues and encouraging them as leaders in our District. On 2/27 the Dual Immersion Task Force met and discussed some critical issues concerning this program. The Superintendent then invited Board members to attend the New Teacher Center Induction Summit on March 14 from 7:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Board members should email him by March 7 if they wish to attend. Mr. Pagano also acknowledged that there was a misunderstanding concerning the Board's action on school "wish lists." He stated that there is greater clarity now and we will revisit that item around April.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Ian Magruder, student representative, attended a JSA convention in Sacramento with 900 students from all over California. Students from SCCS Alternative Family Education, Santa Cruz HS and Harbor HS attended as well. The topic was Brown vs. Board of Education revisited. He

also expressed his disappointment that Ed Code won't allow for another student representative at this point.

GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

Board member Collins moved approval of the Consent Agenda consisting of: Personnel Actions – Certificated (Ex.133); Personnel Actions – Classified (Ex. 134); Gifts; Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids (Ex. 135); Warrant Register; Change Orders (Ex. 136); Westlake Elementary and Santa Cruz HS Discretionary Block Grant Budgets (Ex. 137); Disposal of Surplus Property (Ex. 138); Budget Transfers; Ratification of 2006-07 Supervisory Employees' Meet & Confer (Ex. 139); and CAC Membership. They acknowledged, with gratitude, the following gifts donated to the Santa Cruz City School District: *Santa Cruz High School* – Ventura D. Leon, VP of Wells Fargo Bank donated \$2,000; Annie Morthouser donated \$1,000 and Debra Alexander donated \$300. *Soquel High School* – The Santa Cruz Sheriff's Activity League donated \$1100 for the Lacrosse Team. **Total value of gifts: \$4400.** Mr. Robles seconded the motion. This motion was approved by roll call vote as follows:

Roll Call Vote: Wagman – Yes Strimling – Yes Collins – Yes
Robles – Yes Maxwell – Yes Hawthorne – Yes
Dewey Thorsett – Yes Student Magruder - Yes

STAFF REPORTS

Branciforte Middle School Program Update

Kris Munro, Principal of Branciforte MS introduced staff and. She talked about the incredible work being done to transform and work with students in creative ways. Ms. Munro complimented her staff for their values as educators. Wendy Thompson and her students in the Arts exploratory classes spoke about their commitment to arts and literacy and the fusion of these subjects. Students then showed their artwork connected to this project as well as written work done in conjunction to their pieces.

Erin Petersen-Lindberg, teacher, and members of her 6th graders Literacy in the Arts class, distributed “goodie” bags to the Board containing student gifts and art cards.

Nanette Overley, Asst. Principal at Branciforte MS, reviewed the changes in the last year and a half and the positive response to program improvement. She spoke about the rich and challenging curriculum and the importance of professional development.

Renee Figura, RSP at Branciforte MS narrated a PowerPoint presentation, A Look into Literacy through the Arts and Technology, emphasizing that the whole process was a staff collaboration. A review of the timeline for goals, process and achievements was discussed as well.

Board members expressed their positive reactions to the work being done at Branciforte Middle School and thanked staff and students for their presentation.

Measure B1 Parcel Tax Report

Superintendent Pagano introduced this item saying that this is just a beginning to think about potential actions regarding the renewal of Measure B1. President Dewey Thorsett believed it important that the community understand that Measure B1 was created to meet a financial crisis facing SCCS at that time. Its continuance would not be in response to financial crisis but would enable the district to continue to raise the level of the educational programs provided students. Board members felt it was important to question and educate the community so that the community fully understands how these tax funds have benefited the schools and what they will continue to do for the education of our students.

A report from the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee will be included in the March 14 Board of Education meeting.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Closed Session Action Report

The Board heard an update on the Delaware St. access lease and gave direction to staff.

The Board heard an update on negotiations with The GSCFT.

Resolution 13-06-07 To Establish the Week of March 5-9, 2007 as ‘Week of the Administrator’

Superintendent Pagano introduced this item by stating that we have currently the strongest most effective leadership team during his tenure. He would like to commend all the administrators who work countless hours and whose primary purpose is for academic and social success for all our students. Approval of Resolution 13-06-07 was moved by Mr. Wagman, seconded by Ms. Hawthorne and passed by a roll call vote as follows: (Ex. 140)

Roll Call Vote: Wagman – Yes Strimling – Yes Collins – Absent
Robles – Yes Maxwell – Yes Hawthorne – Yes
Dewey Thorsett – Yes Student Magruder - Yes

Resolution 14-06-07 in the Matter of Releasing Temporary Certificated Employees for 2007-08

The Human Resources Department has worked diligently to accurately identify temporary employees holding positions for those on leave, positions that are not necessarily funded for 07-08, VAPA and retirees that have to remain in temporary status. This Resolution follows Ed. Code 44954.

A lengthy discussion ensued and Board members had concerns about teachers we may lose due to this process and the tediousness of having to lay off temporary certificated personnel only to rehire them after funding has been secured. Ms. Krause, Asst. Supt. of HR assured the Board that we did not layoff any categorical positions for which we had adequate reassurances for funding. Betsy Hamilton, Director of Special Services spoke to the Board about the funding variables and stated that the March 15 layoff deadline does not coincide with State and Federal funding timelines.

Mr. Kirschen, President of the GSCFT urged the District and Board to change this policy of laying off temporary employees every year and to become more discriminant next year in how the District looks at funding for these positions.

Both the Board and administration were very clear that this is not a process by choice but by necessity. President Dewey Thorsett and Trustee Strimling asked that a more in-depth discussion the process, including alternative the District may have for positions funded by different sources, be scheduled for early in the 07-08 school year.

Moved by Hawthorne and seconded by Robles, Resolution 14-07-08 was approved by a 5-0-2 roll call vote as follows: (Ex. 141)

Roll Call Vote: Wagman – Yes Strimling – Yes Collins – Abstain
Robles – Yes Maxwell – Abstain Hawthorne – Yes
Dewey Thorsett – Yes Student Magruder - Yes

Resolution 15-7-08 Intention to Dismiss Certificated Employees (Particular Kinds of Service)

Asst. Supt. Krause explained that the decision to layoff the noted two partial FTE positions was based on projected high school enrollment and what subsequent subject areas needed to be reduced for the next year at Santa Cruz HS. This resolution recommends a total of .66 FTE: .33 Instrumental Music, and .33 World Languages.

Board members discussed what effects laying these positions off would have, how can this be avoided, and the concern that the .33 layoff in Instrumental Music would actually happen at Mission Hill due to the sharing of this position between Santa Cruz HS and Mission Hill.

Moved by Robles, seconded by Collins the Resolution failed by a roll call vote as follows:

Roll Call Vote: Wagman – No Strimling – No Collins – Yes
Robles – Yes Maxwell – No Hawthorne – No
Dewey Thorsett – No Student Magruder – No

Alternatives to Remaining in the SCCSHIG JPA

President Dewey Thorsett explained that the District voted in December to withdraw from the JPA and has until March 15 to rescind that decision.

Mr. Moss, Asst. Supt. of Business, presented an updated spreadsheet of alternative health plans and the rates that are available to the District. The top half of spreadsheet showed all active employees, and how many participate in the HMO and PPO. The bottom half showed how many retirees who are Active/Early Retirement and those who are 65 or older receiving benefits. Percentages in each column show the percentage increase for next year and their costs assuming that participants stay in their current plans.

One other proposal will be sought from SISC. Cabrillo College is currently under this. Mr. Moss will attempt to get a quote from SISC prior to the March 12 Benefit Committee meeting. Because this item is returning to the Board on March 14 for a decision, the goal is to bring a

consensus decision from the Benefit Committee at that time. No Board action was requested at this time.

2007 CSBA Delegate Assembly Election:

There were two CSBA delegates being proposed to represent SUBREGION IX, (San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties). It was moved by Collins, seconded by Hawthorne followed by a unanimous vote to support the nomination of Allison Niday of the Scotts Valley USD. Ms. Niday is also an alumna of the Santa Cruz City School District.

BOARD REPORTS & COMMENTS

Board President's Report

President Dewey Thorsett spoke about the Board Retreat on February 21 mentioning that she had written a summary of discussions held and had distributed to the Board tonight as well as made copies available for the public. This document was still in draft form. She also mentioned her desire to consider suspending Board Policy 9341.8 Order of Business – Agenda. This policy no longer accurately reflects current practice. In closing Ms. Dewey Thorsett asked that Board members who are pursuing ideas for the District keep both her and Superintendent Pagano informed.

Board Members' Report or Comments

Board Member Cynthia Hawthorne has now been to every site but two. She expressed how wonderful the sites are, - their leadership, teachers and physical appearance and she would like to help get that message out to the community.

Don Maxwell had attended The Dual Immersion Task Force meeting. He also made a request that the District start looking at the creation of a tech program possibly beginning with a study session on vocational and technical education and another session on college prep education. A good time to look at this may be in April or May after the Board goal setting meeting.

Member Felix Robles reported that he had been working with 35 college students in Peru. While there they attended intensive language classes. He felt that great things were happening in the District. He also mentioned the need to recognize people that make it possible, especially those that volunteer their services. Mr. Robles attended the Delta Charter Board meeting, of which he is a member. In closing he encouraged the public to support Goodwill Industries as he is on this Board as well.

Board Member John Collins complimented President Dewey Thorsett on the new seating plan for meetings and also stated his appreciation for the SCCS staff's hard work. He concurred with Member Hawthorne's desire to educate the community on all the fine things that the District is doing and has to offer. He has recently attended the Soquel HS and Harbor HS Back to School Nights and visited Mission Hill and Branciforte Middle School. He referred to a recent article in The Sentinel regarding the Latino population and student achievement and this is an area of concern for him. He attended the City/Board Subcommittee meeting with Superintendent Pagano and suggested that a Certificate of Appreciation be given to the District Student Resource Officer Sergio Venegas for the great job he is doing. He met with Wendy Strimling and Ken Wagman of

the District Policy Committee and ended his report by stating his support for a vocational/technical education program previously mentioned in Mr. Maxwell's reports.

Trustee Strimling is a member of the Policy Committee. They have met numerous times to discuss the need to update policies. She suggested that at the March 14 Board meeting discussion could be held as to the order of the Agenda. Ms. Strimling also met with middle school parents about ideas for invigorating the middle schools and would like to bring those forward in the goal setting session.

Mr. Wagman, Board member, thanked President Dewey Thorsett for presenting a new seating plan. Trustee Wagman visited Soquel HS today, and while watching the students in the quad thought about what the bond money has made possible. He also met with Branciforte MS Math Department. Mr. Wagman mentioned briefly a new program at Gavilan Community College whereby high school students can also take college classes and will continue to follow this program. In closing Mr. Wagman thanked the administrators, specifically Tanya Krause, for their fine work and Mr. Moss for his accurate estimate of a 15% increase in Health & Welfare costs.

Information/Discussion – None

Future Meetings

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for March 14, 2007 at Branciforte Middle School. The Regular Meeting on March 28 will be held at Westlake Elementary School.

There will also be a Goal Setting/Strategic Plan Review meeting held on Thursday, March 22. Location to be announced.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, Board President Dewey Thorsett adjourned this Regular Meeting at 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Pagano, Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Rachel Dewey Thorsett, President
Board of Education