

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

November 29, 2006

Call to Order

Board President Wagman called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:15 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 Felix Robles
Ken Wagman Tim Willis
Absent: John Collins, Mick Routh

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 Format

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

Agenda Changes

None

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

A group of UCSC students presented a senior curriculum project to the Board Members and the Superintendent for their review and approval. This week-long course of instruction on Sexual Aggression is proposed as an addition to the 8th grade Family Life Education curriculum. The class work includes skits, reflective writing, and role-playing, and the curriculum helps students define, prevent, and recover from sex crimes.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pagano recently attended the following meetings: a one-hour interview/discussion with Tom Brown at KSCO Radio on November 10; two sessions of the Health/Benefits Committee – this group will present a recommendation to the Board Members on December 13 regarding retention in the JPA; the 2nd BFAC meeting of the fiscal year; the November 16 Parcel Tax Oversight Committee meeting; DLAC Meeting at Branciforte Middle School on November 27; Dual Language Immersion Program Task Force meeting on November 28 – this group will present a report to the Board and a recommendation in March 2007. The Superintendent will attend a county-wide gathering at the County Office of Education on December 14 to hear a presentation from School Services, and invited any interested Trustees to R.S.V.P. to Gail Cothes regarding their attendance. Mr. Pagano thanked the Bond Oversight Committee members for their exemplary service to this educational community. The Superintendent concluded by

acknowledging the outgoing Board Members on this evening, and presented a framed certificate and a gift to Mr. Neustadter and Mr. Willis. Mr. Routh was not present at this meeting.

GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

Mr. Neustadter moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 8, 2006; Out-of-State Field Trip for Soquel High School Baseball Team; Supplemental Counseling Program for Grades 7 – 12 (Ex. 81); Revised Policy P5119 Independent Study (Ex. 82). Mr. Robles seconded this motion. The motion was passed by roll call vote, as follows:

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

STAFF REPORTS

Board of Trustee’s Self-Evaluation

The Board of Trustees discussed goal-setting for the current fiscal year, and also assessing the duties/accomplishments of this past year. Board Self-Assessment documents were posted on the walls of the meeting room, and the Trustees used colored dots to assess each item listed. Board President Wagman asked Superintendent Pagano to collect the poster sheets at the conclusion of this meeting, and save them for future Board discussion. Ms. Dewey Thorsett requested that the Board Members have more specific, concrete and measurable goals for this year, and also proposed a discussion to establish clarity regarding the responsibilities of the Trustees and those of district staff members. Mr. Robles hopes for more success in the coming year on collective and collaborative group work. Mr. Neustadter expressed the hope that the concepts of “majority” and “minority” disappear from the Board of Education. Mr. Willis stated that despite the reported divisiveness of this Board, the voting record reflects much more agreement than disagreement. Mr. Willis concluded this discussion with the comment that one cannot ignore the fact that this was an election year, and in some cases differences are manufactured in order to create a need for new or different members.

Bond Projects Final Report and Recognize the Bond Oversight Committee

The Board of Education received the Bond Projects Committee final report and recognized the Bond Oversight Committee members. Because of the efforts of the BOC, District staff, architects, other consultants, and all of the contractors and sub-contractors that have worked on construction projects over the years, SCCS school facilities

- better support the staff, students and educational programs of the District
- are more aesthetically pleasing to students, staff, and community
- are safer
- are more accessible to person with disabilities
- are more energy efficient

The BOC final report consists of the following three elements:

1. A newspaper ad in the Sentinel to thank the community for their support
2. A 30 minute video to air on Community Television
3. A written report

Mr. Moss also presented a recommendation from the Committee for the use of any monies left after completion of projects. Mr. Moss recognized the efforts of people who were not on the BOC, and they included: *District Staff* – Lynn Barry, Purchasing Manager; John Bramlett, Director of Facility Services; Cathy Braun, Projects Coordinator; Chet Watson, Bond Accountant; Mike Morehouse, Construction Projects Coordinator (Retired); *Strategic Construction Management* – Dave Tanza and Tom Armstrong; *Architects* – George Wilson and Beverly Prior, Beverly Prior Architects, high school projects; Mike Goldenstein, DES Architects, elementary and middle school projects; *Inspectors* – Loni Voogd and Fred Powers; *Financial Advisor* – Andy Ach, Northcross, Hill & Ach; *Bond Counsel* – Brian Quint, Quint & Thimmig; *Legal Counsel* – Paul Taylor, Hefner, Stark & Marois; Pat Stoll, Herrig, Vogt & Stoll; *State School Facilities Funding Consultant* – Mike Williams, Williams and Associates.

Board President Wagman reported the excellent track record and community trust in this group contributed significantly to the approval of other tax measures to the benefit of Santa Cruz City Schools students. President Wagman presented a plaque to the following BOC members: Bob Thornton, Chair – 6 years service; Laurie Bair, Vice-Chair – 6 years service; Judy McGooden – 8 years service; Jim Logsdon – 8 years service; Matt Farrell – 6 years service; William May – 6 years service; Kathryn Blackwood – 2 years service; Jeffree Lee – 2 years service.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Closed Session Action Report

Board voted to accept the stipulated expulsion of Student #08-06-07
There was no quorum for discussion of other Closed Session item.

Recess: Board President Wagman called for a short recess at 7:50 p.m.

Reconvene Meeting: Board President Wagman reconvened the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Approval Plan and Mitigations for Facility Services/Transportation Facility at 313 Swift Street Site

Mr. Moss asked for the Trustees to approve the project plans and mitigation measures to relocate the Facility Services/Transportation Departments from 2931 Mission Street to 313 Swift Street prior to the public hearing on the Use Permit application for the project before the City of Santa Cruz Planning Commission on 1/18/07. Mr. Moss presented the Historical Timeline for Relocation of Facility Services/Transportation to 313 Swift Street; the project plans for the facility at 313 Swift Street; the Mitigation Measures; the Estimated Project/Financing Costs; and the Letter to the Santa Cruz Planning Commission regarding this Project. In June 2005, the Board approved using Certificates of Participation (COPs) to finance construction of this project, including the \$133,467 to be paid to the U.S. Department of Education for the land, and to repay that debt using Redevelopment Agency pass-through revenue to the District.

Public Comments: Carrie Birkhoffer asked for a delay of the vote until the detailed analysis of land use asked for by the Planning Commission is made available. Jim Gill, a Swift Street Neighbor, expressed appreciation for the Mitigation Measures extended by Mr. Moss, and provided the Trustees with four reasons for non-approval. He asked the Board of Education to decline this project. Janet Swann, Swift Street neighbor, has no problems with the physical aspect of the project, but expressed dissatisfaction with the financial implications of this relocation. She asked the Trustees to postpone this decision. David Terrazas asked for the vote on this item tonight, and urged the Trustees to decline the project. BOC member Laurie Bair asked about the financial costs to the District if a plan is not settled upon, and also asked the Trustees to speak to whether the Loma Prieta site is a viable alternative for this project.

MSP (Willis/Robles) 4-0-1, the Board of Education approved the Plan and Mitigation Measures for Facility Services/Transportation Facility at 313 Swift Street Site. Mr. Neustadter abstained from the vote on this item. (Ex. 83)

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Wagman noted his attendance at the following meetings: Attendance at the New Santa Cruz City Council Members installation; met with Superintendent Pagano and Special Education Director Torp; attended a UCSC Community Based Intervention Class to discuss the roles of all stakeholders in education. President Wagman noted that a UCSC instructor volunteered to have students work on research projects for Santa Cruz City Schools. Board President Wagman concluded his report by acknowledging the three departing Trustees.

BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS OR COMMENTS

Board Member Neustadter reported that discussions regarding charter schools need to include the fact that charter schools have a place in public education. Charter schools have the potential to support students in ways not possible in comprehensive schools; however, opening schools for students that do not have the greatest need is contrary to the purpose of charter schools. Trustee Neustadter thanked the community for this opportunity to serve, and vowed to continue to support students in the district.

Board Member Robles thanked Mr. Willis and Mr. Neustadter for their passion and interest in the students and community. The Harvard Business Review contained an excellent article on urban school communities. This article maintains that solutions are not reached by replacing board members, but, rather, through cooperation and collaboration. Board Member Robles reported that his recent visit to Sacramento to read grant proposals was very informative – there were great ideas for alternative funding for school communities and many of the proposals included drug use prevention and family counseling options, suggestions for English Learner programs, and CAHSEE outreach programs.

Board Member Dewey Thorsett expressed her gratitude to Mr. Willis and Mr. Neustadter.

Board Member Willis acknowledged teacher Sharon Maxwell, in attendance at this meeting, and expressed his appreciation of the long friendship and support he has

received from this colleague. Trustee Willis commended the work of the BOC and noted that these projects are what motivated him to be a part of the Board of Education for Santa Cruz City Schools. The Committee has been the greatest success of his tenure on this Board. To be seated on the Board during the tenure of 4 Superintendents, 4 Assistant Superintendents of Instruction, 4 Assistant Superintendents of Human Resources, and 2 Assistant Superintendents of Business Services has been rewarding. While Mr. Willis is retiring from elected public service, his career in teaching continues, but for the first time in 26 years, he will not be associated with Santa Cruz City Schools. He had hoped to return to SCCS to finish his teaching career, but that will not be the case.

INFORMATION & FUTURE MEETINGS

Future Meetings

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be on Wednesday, December 13, 2006, 6:00 p.m. at Westlake Elementary School, 1000 High St., Santa Cruz, CA. This meeting will include the installation of the New Trustees.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, Board member Tim Willis adjourned this Regular Meeting at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Pagano, Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Ken Wagman, President
Board of Education