

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY
SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY DISTRICTS
September 13, 2006**

Call to Order

Board President Wagman called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., in the DeLaveaga Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room, 1145 Morrissey Blvd., Santa Cruz, CA.

Attendance at Meeting

John Collins Rachel Dewey Thorsett Bruce Neustadter Felix Robles
Mick Routh Ken Wagman Tim Willis
Student Representative: Ian Macgruder

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

Trustee Collins requested that the Board President's Report and Board Members' Reports and Comments be moved to immediately follow the Student Representative Report for this meeting. The Board of Education agreed to this change, with the stipulation that this change of format was for one meeting only.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER ASSEMBLYMAN JOHN LAIRD

Assemblyman Laird addressed this meeting to speak of the additional funds for schools in the State Budget that was passed in June, and future funding prospects and expectations. Superintendent Pagano presented Assemblyman Laird with thank you cards in both English and Spanish from the students from the DeLaveaga Dual Language Immersion classes.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

DeLaveaga Principal David Freed welcomed all in attendance of this meeting, and shared the excellent results from the recently conducted school parent survey. Mr. John Wasserburger thanked President Wagman and Trustee Dewey Thorsett for the support towards enrollment of all students in classes on the first day of school, and the District for the additional counselors to ensure the success of students. Mr. Wasserburger advised that the refusal of Title I Funds for the district students would be foolish. DeLaveaga Teacher Sharon Maxwell read a letter signed by site staff detailing some of the problems associated with moving students after the school year began. Mission Hill Principal Dona Abrahams-Johnson acknowledged a great opening day with 583 students and 19

new staff members. Branciforte Middle School Principal Kris Munro reported on the Aligned Professional Development Program at the middle schools to address English Learner students, and the 6 new strategies that will be implemented into classroom standards. Curriculum and Assessment Director Diane Morgenstern reported on the recent Cotsen Family Foundation Conference that was attended by 20 SCCS teachers and 2 SCCS Principals. Mentor Teacher Jody Lusk and Fellow Elizabeth Lindsley presented the \$1,000 Cotsen Foundation Library Grant check to DeLaveaga Principal David Freed. Small Schools Principal Curt Coleman offered his thanks to AFE student Ian Macgruder for accepting the position of Board of Education Student Representative for the next six months. Principal Coleman invited the Trustees to the 3rd annual celebration of the Small Schools Programs on October 10th. Parent Juan Hernandez asked the Board for assurances that SCCS did not plan to refuse the Title I Funding that provides opportunities for his children. Representatives Dee O'Brian, Cathy Lusk and Jeannette Cooper from the Walnut Avenue Women's Center in Santa Cruz introduced themselves and offered information about the early education centers that support the Santa Cruz High School Teenage Parent Program. GSCFT President Barry Kirschen commended the Superintendent for his stance to cease the installation of cell towers near Santa Cruz schools, and urged the District to register opposition with the Planning Department also. Gault Principal Mary Anne James reported a great school year start and much anticipation of the Pre-K program that will begin in a few short weeks. Principal James also spoke of recent immigration deportations that have affected SCCS families. Director of Special Projects Betsy Hamilton volunteered to help facilitate an ELAC forum on the rights of immigrants. Ms. Hamilton reported that Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, and Title V funds provided a combined total of more than \$1,700,000 to our students last year. A speaker thanked Superintendent Pagano for his position on the cessation of cell tower installation near SCCS schools, and informed him of the new tower being installed by the Small Schools campus. A Beach Flats community member reported that an early childhood education center would open later this year through a program facilitated by the Santa Cruz Adult Education Program. The Beach Flats Community Center has also received a grant to develop after school programs. Gault School will host a Health Fair on October 15 to promote health and wellness. A detailed report on how Title I, II, III, IV, and V funds are used to support English Learners and low-income students and families was requested. Gault Parent Barbara Lawrence asked the Board to research funding options to replace Title I dollars, and present an alternative budget. Gault parents asked the Trustees to inspire the District Leadership regarding available Proposition 49 Funds – to work actively with parent groups, partner with other school districts, and actively pursue truly meaningful community collaboration to support student education as happened recently in Live Oak.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent offered commendations to all for working hard to achieve an extremely welcoming and successful first day of school at the sites. Superintendent Pagano provided an update on the 2004-05 Audit Findings and Appeals Process: the successful appeal of the Monarch school instructional minutes saved the district significant dollars; the appeal regarding the ARK Independent Study was filed in July, and an outcome is expected in November; the Kindergarten retention ADA appeal is still outstanding. Mr. Pagano offered his thanks to the Women's Center and acknowledged the current process to seek ways to strengthen this partnership. The Superintendent

shared a letter sent to Assistant Superintendent Dick Moss from Barney Finlay of the County Office of Education regarding potential funds realized by the transition to Basic Aid Status for the Elementary District. Mr. Pagano shared his draft letter to the First Congregational Church asking for the cessation of the installation of cell towers until such time as such structures are proven conclusively to be safe, and committed to making this position known to the Planning Department also. Superintendent Pagano reported that members of the Santa Cruz City Schools community have been reprehensibly treated concerning the immigration deportation process, and Mr. Pagano will forward Trustees information from the ACLU in both English and Spanish informing families of their rights. The District legal counsel has also been contacted. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Porras are pursuing open communication and potential collaboration with UCSC, and the acting Chancellor seems open to continuing this conversation. Mr. Pagano asked Mr. Porras to conclude this report by introducing the new Student Representative to the Board of Education. Mr. Porras introduced AFE student Ian Macgruder.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Student Macgruder is a 16 year old junior at Alternative Family Education who has spent his entire school career at AFE. He has been given the opportunity to choose a curriculum with his parents that works best for him, and also to be part of the rich and vibrant program at Santa Cruz City Schools. Ian Macgruder has many friends at Harbor High School and Santa Cruz High School, and currently attends classes at Cabrillo College. He is looking forward to ensuring that more students become aware that they enjoy the benefit of representation on the Board of Education, and hopes to schedule meetings among the ASB Presidents to discover common goals, issues, and areas of concern.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board President Wagman welcomed Ian Macgruder to the Board of Education. President Wagman presented one of the eleven books donated to Santa Cruz City Schools by the Davenport Cement Plant at an August 30th event at the Chaminade. Mr. Wagman commended DeLaveaga Principal David Freed on the school survey results – especially the results detailing how welcome students feel at school, and how effective students and parents find the leadership of the Principal. Since the last Regular Meeting, President Wagman met with both Trustee Collins and Trustee Neustadter. Mr. Wagman stated the Board of Education has no current plans to reject any Title I Funds.

BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS OR COMMENTS

Board Member Neustadter reported attendance at the Harbor High School Parent Orientation, and found this to be an excellent resource for helping parents through the process of sending a student to high school. Mr. Neustadter welcomed Ian Macgruder to the Board of Education. Trustee Neustadter acknowledged that the SCCS API scores increased from 2005 to 2006 – and this reflects arduous work at the sites and the success of the district in academic improvement. Mr. Neustadter asked the Trustees to direct Superintendent Pagano to write a letter expressing dismay at the actions of INS agents who identified themselves as school personnel. Board Member Neustadter expressed confusion by President Wagman's comments regarding Title I Funds. Mr. Neustadter inquired as to whether Mr. Wagman had changed his position on this matter? Mr.

Neustadter stated for the record that he does not support rejection of these funds in any form or fashion. Trustee Neustadter wanted to clarify that the changes regarding science classes at the middle schools is a joint staff decision based on the fact that critical math skills are necessary in order for advanced secondary science classes to be useful and meaningful to students.

Trustee Robles welcomed Student Ian Macgruder, and congratulated the district personnel on the formation of the fourteen newest committees. Board Member Robles expressed shock and dismay at the information contained in the Santa Cruz Sentinel article regarding the possibility of refusing Title I Funds due to the No Child Left Behind sanctions – and stated that he would not support the loss of these funds for as long as he remains on the Board of Education.

Board Member Dewey Thorsett welcomed Student Macgruder to the Board of Education, and wished him success in his quest for wider student involvement. Ms. Dewey Thorsett expressed pleasure to hear of the Cotsen Grant Program, the work of the Walnut Ave. Women's Center, and the new Beach Flats Pre-K Program. Trustee Dewey Thorsett endorsed President Wagman's statement that there are no plans to refuse Title I Funds. Ms. Dewey Thorsett reported that at the last Regular Meeting, she posed a budget question asking at what point is SCCS spending more money to comply with No Child Left Behind than receiving in funding – but did not intend to suggest that services to students in need be diminished in any way. Ms. Dewey Thorsett inquired as to whether the students who were moved from DeLaveaga to Bay View Elementary were provided transportation by the District to the new school site.

Board Member Routh expressed concern regarding the mixed message that is sent to the taxpayers who have been so generous to the schools when statements are made implying that the district may refuse funding that provides direct support and opportunity for any segment of the student population.

Trustee Willis welcomed Student Macgruder to the Board of Education. Mr. Willis reported that while he was sorry that there were some details to be worked out regarding the oversized class at DeLaveaga at the start of the school year – he would rather be handling an over-enrollment issue in the primary grades than the continuing declining enrollment SCCS has experienced. Board Member Willis pointed out that although he is an outspoken opponent of No Child Left Behind, the positive effect is the spotlight on the underrepresented students who have been ignored for too long. No Child Left Behind is punitive and sets districts up for failure – still, it would be irresponsible to refuse or remove the Title I funds that support some of our demographic groups. Mr. Willis recalled the issue of military recruitment – it would have been easy to reject the Federal Funding due the district through the right to recruit students for the military – but it was better to find an alternative to serve the community and keep the funds.

Board Member Collins welcomed Student Macgruder to the Board of Education, and offered to sponsor a breakfast, lunch, or dinner meeting of the various ASB Presidents. Trustee Collins thanked fellow Board Members for their statements regarding Title I Funds in Santa Cruz City Schools, and wished the Jewish community a joyful Yom Kippur. Mr. Collins thanked Superintendent Pagano for his thoughtful response to the

issue of cell tower installations near Santa Cruz City Schools, and reported he has hired two of his best employees from the Walnut Ave. Women’s Center in Santa Cruz. Trustee Collins visited Soquel and Harbor High Schools, and spoke with Harbor Principal Tocchini about starting an academy at Harbor High School. Mr. Collins also visited Gault Elementary and the Small Schools. Through a consortium of local churches, Harbor High School has received an offer of services for campus beautification, and Soquel High School has also received offers of help. Trustee Collins asked Superintendent Pagano to look into the over-enrollment situation at DeLaveaga. Mr. Collins thanked Director Morgenstern for her report this evening, and said the Cotsen Grant Program sounds great.

GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

Mr. Willis moved approval of Consent Agenda, consisting of: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 23, 2006; Personnel Actions – Certificated (Ex. 18); Personnel Actions – Classified (Ex. 19); Gifts; Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids (Ex. 20); Warrant Register; Change Order (Ex. 21); Notice of Completion (Ex. 22); Disposal of Surplus Property (Ex. 24); Memorandum of Understanding/Special Education (Ex. 25); Special Education Contracts (Ex. 26); Student Teacher Agreement (Ex. 27); Consultant Services Agreement – Educational Services (Ex. 28). The Board acknowledged, with gratitude, the following gifts to Santa Cruz City Schools: *District Office – Jim Urbani* of Palace Art & Office Supply donated 45 New Teacher “Goodie” Boxes, valued at approximately \$1,200. Kaleidescope donated 40 - \$10 gift cards valued at \$400. All of these donated items were distributed at the New Teacher Orientation held on 8/24/06. Robert Rees donated sheet music for the District music program via the Visual and Performing Arts Task Force valued at approximately \$600. Total gifts: \$2,200. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. This motion was passed by Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent’s 2006-07 Goals & Objectives

Superintendent Pagano presented an outline of his goals and objectives for the 2006-07 school year. The Strategic Plan serves as the guiding document and context from which aligned District and site goals and objectives emerge. This Strategic Plan addresses strategies that encompass student achievement, continuous improvement, facility, staff development, teacher retention, and finance. The Superintendent presented a comparison and contrast between 2005-06 and 2006-07 following three categories: discretionary allocations to sites; certificated FTE and classified FTE. The Superintendent expressed a deep belief in Access and Equity for all students, and SCCS intends to put resources, staff, and money behind the effort to close the achievement gap in student populations.

Core Values Proposed as a Guide to Negotiated Agreements

Ms. Krause presented the core values agreed upon by the District negotiations team that will serve as a guide to assist and support District negotiations efforts.

Opening of School Enrollment Report

Mr. Moss presented a report on the 2006-07 Opening School Enrollment by site. The student numbers reflected growth at the elementary school level, an almost identical number of students at the middle schools as in 2005-06, and a significant decline in the numbers of students at the high schools.

OLD BUSINESS

New Certificated Management Job Description

Ms. Krause recommended the job description for the District Professional Development Coordinator be approved for final reading. At the April 26, 2006 Board Meeting, this position was presented and discussed. Since then, the job duties and responsibilities listed within the description have been addressed by both Education Services Directors Betsy Hamilton and Diane Morgenstern. It has become clear that these duties require additional management coordination and cannot be absorbed within the current duties of those Directors. MSP (Robles/Neustadter) 7-0, the New Certificated Management Job Description of District Professional Development Coordinator was approved for final reading. Student Macgruder – Yes (Ex. 29)

NEW BUSINESS

Closed Session Action Report

The Board received information Re: Conference with Real Property Negotiator (Gov. Code S 54956.8) Property: 2931 Mission Street, 313 Swift Street & 319 LaFonda Avenue. Agency Negotiator: Alan Pagano. Negotiating Parties: SCCS and SC Public Housing Authority. Under Negotiation: Terms of lease/purchase. No action was taken.

New Policy: 6164.4 Steroids and Students

Mr. Porras recommended that the Board of Education approve new Policy 6164.4 on Steroids and Students for final reading. According to California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) legislation, this policy must be implemented in all schools participating in the CIF. This policy directly prohibits the use and abuse of steroids by student athletes. Administrative Release 6164.4 was also supplied for Board review. During discussion, Board President Wagman asked that the second paragraph on page two of this policy be amended to include 6th grade students to receive a lesson on the effects of steroids as part of their health, physical education, or drug education program. Mr. Collins moved approval for final read of this new policy, including the amendment to include 6th grade students in the lesson on steroids, and Mr. Robles seconded the motion. The Board of Education approved this motion without dissent, and Student Macgruder provided a vote of “yes”. (Ex. 30)

INFORMATION & FUTURE MEETINGS

Information/Discussion

Electronic Communications – Policy Information

Superintendent Pagano reported the Board requested information regarding electronic communications for discussion and for the purpose of potential revisions to SCCSD Board Policy 6143. Mr. Pagano presented the following:

- SCCSD Board Policy 6143 and Administrative Release 6143

- Santa Cruz City Schools Employee Computer, Telephone and Network Acceptable Use Policy
- Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board Policy 4040(a) – Employee Acceptable Use Policy
- University of California Electronic Mail Policy
- California Public Relations Act

Future Meetings

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, 2006, 6:00 p.m., at Pacific Elementary School, 50 Ocean Street in Davenport. On October 11, 2006, the Board of Education will meet at 6:00 p.m., at Bay View Elementary School, 1231 Bay St., Santa Cruz, CA.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, Board President Wagman adjourned this meeting at 10:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Pagano, Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Ken Wagman, President
Board of Education