

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

December 12, 2007

Convene Open Session

Board President Dewey Thorsett called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:43 p.m., in the Gault Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room, 1320 Seabright Ave., Santa Cruz, CA.

Attendance at Meeting

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

Alan Pagano, Superintendent
Tanya Krause, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Diane Morgenstern, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Dick Moss, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
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.

Agenda Changes

The Board approved the following changes: Move Items of Business to be Transacted and/or Discussed Item 3.4 **Public Hearing:** Initial Study of Santa Cruz High School Track/Field Project and Item 3.5 *New Business:* Resolution #15-07-08 Adopting a Negative Declaration on the SCHS Track/Field Improvement Project to immediately follow the Closed Session Action Report.

SITE WELCOME

Principal James welcomed the Board of Education, District Staff Members, and community members to Gault Elementary school. Spanish teacher Smith acknowledged the Trustees and the District for their continued support of Gault School, and, in particular, for the new Spanish program for native English-speakers. Susan Dahlgren and Jessica Curcio presented information on Nutrition, the Life Lab program, and the outdoor “green” kitchen at Gault School. On December 13, 2007, Gault School will host a Holiday Crafts workshop and bake sale fundraiser – all are welcome!

PRESENTATIONS BY SUPERINTENDENT PAGANO

Superintendent Pagano presented a proclamation to Principal Edmonds, Football Coach Trumbull, and members of the team recognizing the work and effort to become the CCS League Champion Football Team. Superintendent Pagano presented a mini engraved-gavel to past Board President Dewey Thorsett to acknowledge her year of service as President of the Board of Education.

ANNUAL BOARD REORGANIZATION

President: MSP (Wagman/Collins) 7-0, the Board of Trustees elected Ms. Hawthorne to serve as Board President for the 2008 year.

Vice President: MSP (Strimling/Dewey Thorsett) 7-0, the Board of Trustees elected Mr. Wagman to serve as Vice President for the 2008 year.

Board Clerk: MSP (Dewey Thorsett/Hawthorne) 7-0, the Board of Education approved Superintendent Pagano to serve as Board Clerk for the 2008 year. Students Clark and Lerman voted yes on all nominations.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

SCCCE Negotiator Lowe reported that during participation in the Measure P Phone Bank people were very positive regarding the parcel tax. Measure P Co-Chair Spiers mentioned that after the holiday season, Measure P supporters would begin walking the precincts, installing yard signs, etc. Ms. Spiers forwarded a contribution envelope to all Board Members for Measure P. Gault Parent/Teacher Association member Barbara Lawrence thanked the Trustees for the great addition of the Spanish program at Gault School. GSCFT Kirschen acknowledged Ms. Krause for her tireless negotiation efforts with the Union, and the positive and constructive collaboration with teachers. Mr. Kirschen also acknowledged Professional Development Coordinator Brown for meeting with Site Representatives. Although exit evaluations are collected after each Wednesday P. D. session, President Kirschen reported that site reps encourage Ms. Brown to collect more input from staff members in the form of a year-end evaluation, as faculty do not feel that they have had enough opportunity to provide detailed input concerning the professional development program. The Administrators and Managers Association officers presented a donation to the Trustees for the Measure P campaign. Dr. Logsdon offered public commendations to Harbor High School for the outreach program to Hispanic families. Santa Cruz High School ASB Vice President Chavez invited everyone to participate on Thursday December 13 in a blood drive at the site. Parcel Tax Oversight Committee members displayed to the Board a new banner thanking the community for its support for the previous parcel taxes that have benefited all students in the District.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pagano congratulated Board President Hawthorne and Board Vice President Wagman on their new 2008 positions. The Superintendent reviewed some of his comments from a United Way CAP Presentation regarding the state of public education in Santa Cruz County on November 19, 2007. Mr. Pagano commented on the expected continued student decline in Santa Cruz schools, and the need to recruit and retain the highest qualified teachers. Superintendent Pagano met informally with the bargaining units, and will continue to schedule these meetings on a regular basis. The Superintendent attended the Santa Cruz Chamber of Business Board Retreat, and will serve on the Executive Board for this organization. Mr. Pagano will attend a CSBA meeting in San Diego in 2008. Superintendent Pagano offered his commendations to Harbor High School, and, in particular, to Assistant Principal Michele for working hard to provide a partnership event with the Latino community of Harbor High School.

BOARD REPORTS and REFERRALS

Board President's Report

Board President Hawthorne thanked Ms. Dewey Thorsett for her hard work during the past year. President Hawthorne also extended thanks to Superintendent Pagano and the SCCS Leadership Team, Site Administration, and others for welcoming her and working diligently with her over the past year. Ms. Hawthorne is certain that Santa Cruz City Schools is on the path to providing continued success and improvements for students.

Board Members' Reports or Comments

Board Member Dewey Thorsett congratulated Ms. Hawthorne and Mr. Wagman on their new roles for the Board of Education. Ms. Dewey Thorsett attended the CSBA Meeting in San Diego, and found the workshops very informative. She encourages SCCS to work at connecting Access and Equity to Academic Excellence – not to choose one or the other.

Board Member Strimling acknowledged the efforts of all of the Trustees and especially the stewardship of President Dewey Thorsett during the previous year. Ms. Strimling would like to increase the SCCS role in legislative advocacy issues. Trustee Strimling distributed a Guideline for Activities for Election Campaigns to the Board Members.

Board Member Robles reflected on his past 11 years of service on the SCCS Board of Education, and is proud of the continuous improvement for the educational quality of life for students in this community. Mr. Robles attended an informative presentation by VISTA, a relief organization that works with school districts to bring help to students in need. Trustee Robles would advocate continued focus on collaboration in the coming year.

Board Member Collins thanked Principal James for hosting the Regular Meeting this evening. Thanks are extended to Ms. Dewey Thorsett for previous year's leadership on the Board of Education, and congratulations to President Hawthorne and Vice President Wagman. Mr. Collins visited Harbor High School and saw the school Drama Production. From an ecological standpoint, some plumbing improvements have been made in the restrooms. Mr. Robert Soderholm, who was the very first Soquel High School Principal, passed away, and services will be held on December 15.

Board Member Maxwell also acknowledged former Soquel High School Principal Soderholm. Trustee Maxwell attended the DeLaveaga Professional Development meeting on Wednesday December 12, and will strive to attend the next meeting at another site in order to obtain an additional, different perspective.

Board Member Wagman thanked Ms. Dewey Thorsett, and acknowledged Ms. Hawthorne. Since the last Regular Meeting, Mr. Wagman visited Home and School clubs and PTA meetings; Branciforte Middle School; Santa Cruz High School PTA; received information regarding solar power from staff members at both the Laird and Simidian offices – and will continue these conversations and report back to the Trustees.

Trustee Wagman acknowledged the SCEF newsletter the “Eddy” for keeping the public informed about school site happenings and projects.

Student Representatives Reports

Student Representative Lerman discussed the State of California Virtual Enterprise Competition in Bakersfield, CA. More than 107 teams participated in a conference comprised of simulated businesses set up and run by students to provide preparation for entry in the business world.

Student Representative Clark noted that both the Soquel and the Santa Cruz High School football teams played in CCS games this season; the Girls’ Water polo Team captured the State Academic Championship. The Drama Production “The Crucible” will be seen at Santa Cruz High School this coming weekend, and there is a Winter Concert on December 20. The Soquel High School Blue and Gold Café will donate 10% of earnings to charity this holiday season, and Santa Cruz High School has several holiday charity programs in progress.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSP (Maxwell/Robles) 6-0-1, the Board approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 14, 2007. Mr. Collins cast the abstaining vote, as he did not attend the meeting. Students Clark and Lerman voted yes.

MSP (Maxwell/Robles) 7-0, the Board approved the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 17, 2007. Students Clark and Lerman voted yes.

GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

Ms. Strimling moved approval of the Consent Agenda, and Mr. Collins seconded the motion.

Public Comment: SCCCE President Robert Chacanaca asked the Members of the Board of Education to pull Item 1.2 *Personnel Actions – Classified* and to have a separate discussion at the end of the Regular Meeting regarding this item. The Trustees did pull Item 1.2 *Personnel Actions – Classified* – for a separate discussion prior to adjournment of this Regular Meeting.

The Consent agenda contained: *Personnel Actions – Certificated*; Purchase Orders, Quotes and Bids; Warrant Register; Change Orders; Disposition of Surplus Property; Gifts; Consultant Services Agreement; and Special Education Contracts. The Board acknowledged, with gratitude, the following gifts donated to the Santa Cruz City Schools District: *Mission Hill Middle School* – Kevin Refsnider of Driscoll Strawberry Associates, Inc. has donated a matching amount of \$169 for the students’ magazine drive. An anonymous donation of \$2,000 was received. *Alternative Family Education* – Albert Pimental and Diego Magdaleno of Santa Cruz Auto Stereo have donated a complete auto detailing of their school van valued at approximately \$350. Maria and Charlie Keutmann of the Garden Company have donated plants and seeds for the school garden and science

classes. This gift is valued at approximately \$1,836. Mary Bodge has donated 12 CDs and workbooks for Algebra I and II by the Teaching Company: Great Courses. This gift is valued at approximately \$100. **Total value of gifts: \$4,455.** Ms. Strimling moved approval of the Consent Agenda, minus Item 1.2 Classified Personnel Actions, and Mr. Collins seconded the motion. The Board of Education approved the Consent Agenda without dissent, with approval from both Student Representatives also.

Closed Session Action Report

Break: Board President Hawthorne called for a break in the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Reconvene: Board President Hawthorne reconvened the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED OR DISCUSSED

PUBLIC HEARING: Initial Study on Santa Cruz High School Track/Field Project

Open: Ms. Hawthorne opened this Public Hearing at 7:58 p.m.

Mr. Moss reported the District is planning a facility improvement project that will install an all-weather track and artificial turf on the existing football field at Santa Cruz High School. The Board of Education is required to conduct a public hearing to allow for public comment on the Initial Environmental Study on this project prior to adopting a Negative Declaration in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The adoption of the Negative Declaration is on this agenda as a separate item. Mr. Moss reported that the Initial Study had found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment with the implementation of mitigation measures contained in the report.

Public Comments: Community member Bruce McGuire encouraged the Trustees to support this project. SCCCE President Chacanaca supports the project, but did ask that the District use cultural sensitivity when the work for this project is conducted. A Rotary Club Representative reported the “Wharf to Wharf” fundraiser granted \$60,000 to the fundraising effort for this project.

Close: Board President Hawthorne closed this Public Hearing at 8:10 p.m.

New Business: Resolution #15-07-08 Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration on the SCHS Track/Field Improvement Project

Mr. Collins moved approval of the Resolution, and Mr. Wagman seconded this motion. Ms. Strimling made a friendly amendment to change the wording of paragraph six of the resolution to add: “adopts a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project, and agrees to implement and monitor mitigation measures as listed in the attached exhibit (pg. 98).” This amendment was accepted by the motion maker and the second, and the Resolution was passed by roll call vote, as follows:

Roll Call Vote: Collins – Yes	Dewey Thorsett – Yes	Hawthorne – Yes
Maxwell – Yes	Robles – Yes	Strimling – Yes
Wagman – Yes	Student Clark – Yes	Student Lerman – Yes

New Business: CSBA Delegate Nomination

MSP (Collins/Robles) 7-0, the Board of Education nominated Ms. Dewey Thorsett for the CSBA Delegate position.

New Business: 2007-08 First Interim Financial Report with a Positive Financial Solvency Certification

Ms. Lacey reported to the Board Members for the period 7/1/07 through 10/31/07. The report included: First Interim Report for the General Fund; Three-Year Budget Projection; Budget Criteria and Standards; Projected ADA; Cash Flow Projection; First Interim Report for Other Funds. A positive certification is recommended for the First Interim Report. The District will meet its financial obligations in 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10. MSP (Dewey/Robles) 7-0, the Board of Education approved the 2007-08 First Interim Financial Report with a Positive Financial Solvency Certification. Students Clark and Lerman voted yes.

Staff Report: Summer School Report

Ms. Morgenstern introduced Harbor High School Assistant Principal Heskett to report on the SCCS Summer School Programs. Ms. Heskett, Principal of the District's 2007 Summer School Program, included information on course offerings, attendance, accomplishments, and recommendations for future summer school programs. Vice Principal Gino Raugi was available to answer elementary program inquiries.

Consent Agenda Item 1.2 Classified Personnel Actions

Following discussion among Board Members, District Staff, and Union Leadership, the Board of Trustees directed Superintendent Pagano to further study two actions to hire staff for 3 hours and 57 minutes: these two employee actions were held for approval pending further information. The balance of the Classified Personnel Actions was passed without dissent on a motion made by Mr. Collins and seconded by Mr. Robles. Students Clark and Lerman votes yes.

INFORMATION

Information

The next Regular Board of Education Meeting is scheduled on January 16, 2008, 6:30 p.m., Room 312, District Office, 405 Old San Jose Rd., Soquel, CA. The Regular Board of Education Meeting on January 30, 2008, is scheduled at 6:30 p.m., DeLaveaga Elementary School, 1145 Morrissey Blvd., Santa Cruz, CA.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Trustees at this time, Board President Hawthorne adjourned this Regular Meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Alan Pagano, Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Cynthia Hawthorne, President
Board of Education