

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

February 13, 2008

Convene Open Session

Board President Hawthorne called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:44 p.m. in the Branciforte Small Schools Multi-Purpose Room, 840 N. Branciforte, Santa Cruz, CA.

Attendance at Meeting

John Collins	Rachel Dewey Thorsett	Cynthia Hawthorne
Don Maxwell	Wendy Strimling	Ken Wagman
Absent: Felix Robles		

Student Representative Clark
Absent: 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

Site Welcome

Small Schools Principal Coleman thanked all in attendance for visiting the site, and introduced Monarch Elementary Lead Teacher Lysa Tabachnick, student Annika Tabachnick, and teacher Jamie Andres-Larson. Monarch has 89 students enrolled in four multi-age classrooms. This school takes a developmental approach to learning. The school-wide thematic curriculum based on State Standards is changed three times per year. Parents are required to work in classrooms. As part of the Exit Process, students give an Exit Presentation in one subject area to explain to staff, family, and the school community what they have learned. This presentation is scored using a rubric by a panel consisting of Board Members, Staff Members, a classroom companion, and a younger school student. In closing, the Trustees and the senior District Administrators were acknowledged for their support of Monarch's self-directed staff development.

Welcome and Format

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

Agenda Changes

None

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

None

MEASURE P PARCEL TAX RECOGNITIONS

On behalf of the District, the Superintendent took a few minutes to express his deep gratitude and appreciation for the passage of Measure 'P.' He first acknowledged the generous support and validation of SCCS in particular and public education in general which were reflected by approximately 80% of voters voting in favor of Measure 'P.' Mr. Pagano acknowledged the following persons and representative groups: Co-Chairs of the Measure 'P'; campaign, Trustee Ken Wagman, Glen Schaller, Amy Spiers. Trustees Cynthia Hawthorne and Rachel Dewey Thorsett, Campaign Coordinator Leslie Whighton, Campaign Treasurer Branwyn Wagman, Jane Forbes, Sarah Stern and Jared Boigon from TBW&B, The Federation led by Barry Kirschen and Casey Carlson, The classified staff led by Robert Chacanaca, Bill and Paula Maxfield, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell, Assembly Member John Laird, Santa Cruz County Superintendent Michael Watkins and the 100's of volunteer phone callers, precinct walkers, lawn sign planters, endorsers and all other supporters. Those who were present came forward to sign one of the Measure P Campaign lawn signs.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

None

BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS AND REFERRALS

Board President's Report

In addition to working long hours to help the Measure P Campaign, Board President Hawthorne has been busy advocating against the Governor's Budget Proposal, and delivered a copy of Resolution #17-07-08 Opposing the Governor's 2008-08 Proposed Budget to the Simitian and Laird offices within 48 hours of approval.

Board Members' Reports or Comments

Board Member Collins attended Open House at both Harbor and Soquel High Schools, and the events were wonderful. Mr. Collins would like to discuss utilizing the Swift St. property for a Dual Immersion Program for grades 6-12. In order to cease the current rent expenditure, the District needs to begin a discussion regarding relocation of the Maintenance and Transportation Departments. Trustee Collins attended the BFAC Meeting at the District Office on February 12.

Board Member Strimling acknowledged the very generous school community responsible for supporting Measure P. This evening Branciforte and Mission Hill Middle Schools are hosting Science Fairs – these events are very special programs that promote wonderful work by students. Trustee Strimling attended the CCS Honor Band and Choir Event – SCCS students were included in these groups, as well as other prestigious Northern California Honor Band Programs. The Santa Cruz High School Band will host a fundraiser at Woodstock Pizza in Santa Cruz on February 20. The National Merit Finalists were announced this week, and SCCS has a student in the running. As the Special Board Meeting on February 20 conflicts with the Mission Hill Open House, Ms. Strimling may need to be absent for a part of the meeting.

Student Representatives' Reports

Student Representative Clark reported Santa Cruz High School will host a formal dance at the Coconut Grove on February 22. Santa Cruz High School Grad Night will host a fundraiser on February 23 at Michael's On Main. Tickets for the Wine Tasting and Silent Auction are \$25. Mock Trial Semi Finals will continue next week. Water Polo season end results include Santa Cruz High School Boys' and Girls' Teams with first place finishes, and the Soquel High School Boys' Team in second place. In basketball, the Soquel High School Boys' and Girls' Teams finished in first place, and the Santa Cruz High School Boys' and Girls' Teams finished second and third place respectively.

Student Representative Lerman reported the Harbor High School Escapade Dance Group will perform this weekend in the Little Theatre. Harbor High School will host a formal dance on March 7 at the Coconut Grove in Santa Cruz. Alternative Family Education is planning a trip to the Shakespeare Festival in Oregon, but more people are needed to make this travel possible. A workshop on the trip will be held on February 20, and the proposed travel dates are May 5 through May 8, 2008.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Collins moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 30, 2008, and Ms. Dewey Thorsett seconded the motion. The motion was approved without dissent. The Student Representatives voted yes.

GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

Mr. Collins moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of: Personnel Actions – *Certificated* (Ex. 105); Personnel Actions – *Classified* (Ex. 106); Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids (Ex. 107); Gifts; Warrant Register; Change Orders (Ex. 108); Proposal to Conduct District Annual Financial Audit 2007-08 and 2009-10. The Board of Education acknowledged, with gratitude, the following gifts donated to the Santa Cruz City Schools District: *DeLaveaga Elementary* – Greg and Janis Ford have donated \$1,000 towards the beautification of Sara Poyadue's memory garden. *Mission Hill Middle School* – Clare Choate has donated a Korg piano to the school Music Program. This donation is valued at approximately \$1,200. *Santa Cruz High School* – Steven Colton, Class of 1977, has donated \$500 to be used by the Santa Cruz High School Surf Team. **Total value of gifts: \$2,700.** Ms. Dewey Thorsett seconded this motion. This motion was passed by Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Closed Session Action Report

The Board took action to expel student #06-07-08.
The Board heard an update and gave direction Re: Real Property Negotiation, 255 Swift Street.
The Board heard an update and gave direction Re: negotiations with the SCCCE.
The Board heard an update and gave direction Re: negotiations with the GSCFT.

Item Re: Anticipated Litigation. Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Subdivision "B" of Government Code Section 54956.9: One Case was tabled.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED OR DISCUSSED

Old Business: Approve Re-bidding the Santa Cruz HS Swimming Pool Project

Mr. Moss introduced project architect Ken Moeller to detail for the Board Members why the current proposed location is the least costly, why the current design is the least costly given the geological conditions of the site, how changes to the project can be structured in the re-bid, and what can be done to increase the number of qualified bidders to obtain lower bids on the project. Following discussion and public comments, MSP (Collins/Wagman) 6-0, the Board of Education approved re-bidding the Santa Cruz High School Pool Project. The Student Representatives voted yes.

New Business: 2006-07 Audit Report from Stephen Roatch Accountancy Corp.

Mr. Moss introduced Stephen Roatch to report to the Board of Education. Mr. Roatch reported that State and Federal findings have decreased significantly, and the 30 findings in this report are mostly due to Student Body Accounting. These issues will be addressed during the 2007-08 school year. Mr. Roatch also extended thanks to Mr. Moss and Ms. Lacey and Staff Members for the generous help provided during this time. MSP (Collins/Wagman) 6-0, the Board approved the 2006-07 Audit Report from Stephen Roatch Accountancy Corp. The Student Representatives voted yes. (Ex. 109)

Staff Report: Student Information System

Information Technology Manager Doucette reported to the Board Members detailing the need for a new Student Information System. This report gave information on the capacity and costs of the current system, as well as the costs and expected benefits of a new system. The Trustees thanked Ms. Doucette for the information.

New Business: Academic Excellence Task Force

Board Members Strimling, Robles, and Dewey Thorsett, along with Assistant Superintendent Morgenstern and GSCFT President Kirschen have continued to meet informally with the Superintendent to discuss the purpose, scope, and implementation of an Academic Excellence Task Force. Two input gathering sessions were held at Branciforte Middle School and Mission Hill Middle School. Such as Task Force would support one of three common Board and District goals of increasing academic rigor and achievement, and would begin to outline ways in which to support a well-articulated academic pathway K-12. The first official Task Force Meeting is scheduled for early April 2008 at a location to be determined, and a meeting schedule would be set at that time. These meetings would be public meetings, and the public would be welcome at all times. Mr. Collins moved approval, with an amendment to the composition of the group to add one Classified Representative and one DLAC Representative. Ms. Dewey Thorsett seconded this motion. The motion was approved without dissent. Student Representatives voted yes.

Staff Report: Unrestricted Budget vs. Actual Expenses for Month Ending 12/31/07

Mr. Moss provided a comparison of Unrestricted General Fund Projected Budgets to Actual Expenditures from 7/1/07 through 12/31/07. This reporting period represents 50% of the school year. Overall, 36% of the expense budget has actually been spent during this period, as expenses for teachers and support staff are not incurred during July and August. Projected budgets will continue to be adjusted as new information is received to closely reflect actual expenditures at year end.

Staff Report: Investment Report for the Quarter Ending 12/31/07

Mr. Moss reported the SB564 requires local California governments to make quarterly reports 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. The report of interest rates for the period 7/1/07 through 12/31/07 was presented to the Trustees. Interest rates have declined, and are expected to continue to decline. Downward adjustments will be made on the projected interest to account for these declining rates.

New Business: 2008-09 Budget Reductions

Superintendent Pagano presented information on goals that he shares with the Board of Education, his opposition to the Governor's Budget Proposals, and factors that influence the effect of the proposed State Budget on Santa Cruz City Schools. The Superintendent discussed total compensation for the Personnel Budget, expenditure increases since 2004-05, different approaches to achieve his recommendation of \$1.7 million reductions for 2008-09, and proposals to reinstate positions and rescind budget reductions when the fiscal situation improves. Mr. Pagano introduced two different options for these budget reductions. Following discussion among Trustees, District Staff, and Members of the Community, Ms. Dewey Thorsett made the following recommendation: \$1.55 million budget reductions - \$695,000 Certificated Staff; \$610,000 Classified Staff and Non-Personnel Items; \$250,000 Administration. \$150,000 from the GASB45 07-08 reserve funds would make up the difference to achieve total budget reductions of \$1.7 million for 2008-09. Mr. Wagman seconded this motion. After further discussion from the Trustees, Santa Cruz City Schools Staff Members, and Public Comments, the Board of Education approved the 2008-09 Budget Reductions. The vote was 5-1, and Mr. Collins cast the "no" vote. The Student Representatives voted yes. (Ex. 110)

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/AJOURNMENT

Information

The Board of Education will hold a Special Study Session Re: Budget/Staffing on February 20, 2008, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., at Santa Cruz High School, 415 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz, CA. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for February 27, 2008, 6:30 p.m., Soquel High School Library, 401 Old San Jose Rd., Soquel.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education at this time,
Board President Hawthorne adjourned this Regular Meeting at 10:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Pagano, Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Cynthia Hawthorne, President
Board of Education