

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

June 11, 2008

Convene Open Session

Board President Hawthorne called this Regular Meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. in Room 312 of the District Office, 405 Old San Jose Road, Soquel, CA.

Attendance at Meeting

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

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

Agenda Changes

None

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Logsdon congratulated the Special Projects Department, English Learner Program Staff Members, and Santa Cruz High School Administrators on the excellent celebration for Reclassified English Speakers. This ceremony is important to the District and to the Spanish-Speaking community, and it was very well done.

INFORMATION, DISCUSSION & FUTURE MEETINGS

Staff Report: Overview of Facility Plans

Superintendent Pagano presented current information and recommendations for future utilization of District facilities. Through efficient utilization, Mr. Pagano foresees maximizing student achievement, district operations, and revenue generation for the district. The Superintendent proposed moving the Dual Immersion Language program from DeLaveaga Elementary School to the Branciforte Middle School campus in 2009-10. Reasons for this move included over-utilized property at the elementary school, and the capacity at the middle. Benefits for DeLaveaga Elementary include: resolving capacity issues for the playground, library, and food services; restoring a singular focus to this elementary site; ensuring more available long-term capacity for elementary students in the coming years; more administrative coverage available at the proposed middle school site. Benefits for the Dual Immersion Language Program include: providing a home site for this program with capacity for growth; articulation with grade

levels 6-8; the opportunity to design the configuration for the program. Superintendent Pagano also referenced the properties and lease agreements at 255 Swift St. and 319 La Fonda Ave. – currently, both of these sites house private community schools. Options for 313 Swift St. include a discussion with the COE to house an ROP Green Career Program, as well as expansion of the Santa Cruz Adult School. Finding an appropriate place for the Facilities Department equipment and operations that are currently housed at 2931 Mission St. poses a challenge for the district, but the Superintendent does not recommend continuing to lease space at this location. The Superintendent will fully staff the Facilities Task Force Committee to investigate options and make recommendations to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will provide the Board Members with updates regarding these procedures.

Board Questions/Comments:

Mr. Collins would be interested in seeing the current lease agreements and determining the amount of revenue loss if these sites were utilized for expansion of SCCS programs. Mr. Collins advocates examining moving the Dual Immersion Language Program to Branciforte Middle School, and would also be interested in investigating a partnership with the COE, ROP, and neighboring districts for the expansion of technical/career programs at 313 Swift St. Mr. Collins inquired whether Superintendent Pagano had considered moving only one or two grades of the Dual Immersion Language Program to the middle school. Mr. Pagano replied that he had considered this option, but he did not favor the expense of two sets of administrative/operations nor potential redundancies for the program.

Mr. Maxwell wondered whether it would make more sense to move the Dual Immersion Language Program to the property located at 319 La Fonda Ave. The Superintendent replied that a self-contained program eliminates the possibility for articulation between grades and sites, and also necessitates separate administrative/operations.

Ms. Dewey Thorsett cautioned against finding a separate site for the Dual Language Immersion Program.

Mr. Robles commended Superintendent Pagano for making this information available to the community and the Trustees well in advance of making a decision regarding this situation. SCCS will have ample time to investigate many possible solutions, and ensure a smooth transition for the program.

Mr. Wagman felt that moving the Dual Language Immersion Program to the middle school should be investigated and encouraged SCCS Staff to search different venues over the summer school break so the District can be prepared to begin the transition as soon as possible.

Ms. Strimling expressed appreciation to the Superintendent for the very comprehensive work presented tonight.

President Hawthorne expressed her commitment for the District to provide resources to Branciforte Middle School if the Dual Immersion Language Program is moved to that site. Budgets could be structured to ensure that the site program additions/changes would provide increased opportunity for student achievement and success.

Public Communications:

Parents Shannon McCord, Kelly Salazar, and Susan Lasko advocated moving the Dual Immersion Language Program to Branciforte Middle School. Parents Dean Kingston and Tom Brown urged the Superintendent and Trustees to find a way to work out a site agreement with Pacific Collegiate School. SCCCE President Chacanaca noted that having the property sizes available in the handout from the Superintendent would make the site discussion easier. Regarding Facilities Maintenance and Operations, Mr. Chacanaca urged the Trustees to consider having separate facilities for separate departments, and parking buses at more than one location.

Break: President Hawthorne called for a short recess at 8:20 p.m.

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

Staff Report: Potential Reinstatement of Personnel/Non-Personnel

Based on the Governor's May Revise of the State Budget, Superintendent Pagano was very pleased to report that SCCS can begin the first phase of personnel and non-personnel reinstatement. After providing some background information on the personnel budget for 2007-08 and district expenditure increases since 2004-05, the Superintendent reported that the factors used to determine these recommendations included student achievement and learning, equity and access, and our district commitment to career and technical education. Mr. Pagano also reported that, as SCCS had done an excellent job of making earlier reductions in a collaborative manner that followed similar reductions in all departments and for all matter of personnel, he would propose proportional and simultaneous reinstatements also. Superintendent Pagano recommends the following reinstatements, totaling \$550,000, to the Trustees: 1) 4.0 FTE Classroom Teachers = \$300,000; 2) 1.1 FTE Secondary Assistant Principals = \$110,000 – this money includes an additional .1 FTE AP for the Small Schools site; 3) 1.0 FTE (.5 FTE for Special Education Program Specialist and .5 FTE for the District Grant Writer) = \$80,000; 4) restoration of Free and Reduced Lunch funds to be directed to reinstatement of Classified Personnel = \$60,000. Following Mr. Pagano's presentation, Mr. Moss provided two slides showing how these expenditures would affect the three year budget projections required by the County Office of Education.

Immediately following Superintendent Pagano's recommendations, Mr. Wagman distributed hard copies of an alternative proposal for expenditures to reinstate positions. This proposal called for additional expenditures of \$225,000, which included an additional 1.0 FTE Teacher for a total of 5.0 FTE; .3 FTE Math Instructional Resource Teacher; an additional \$135,000 to the Free and Reduced Lunch funds for sites; and a decrease of .1 FTE (no addition to the Small Schools campus) for Assistant Principals.

Public Comments:

GSCFT President Kirschen and Teacher Casey Carlson advocated for the reinstatement of 5.0 FTE Teachers. Principals Coleman, Edmonds, Abrahams-Johnson, and Assistant Principal Whitmore asked the Trustees to approve the 1.1 FTE Assistant Principals recommendation. Parents Kelly Salazar and Barbara Lawrence, and Principal Cavanaugh asked the Trustees to approve the FREL funds in as large an amount as is fiscally prudent. PTOC Member Amy Spiers asked the Trustees to consider the commitment to grades 4 & 5 class size reduction when approving these funds. Special Projects Director Villalobos-Osey and ELIRT Winkler asked the Board of Education to reinstate the ELIRT position. SCCCE President Chacanaca advocated for the Classified Personnel reinstatements.

Board Comments:

Ms. Dewey Thorsett expressed concern that the district has developed a compensation model that is not sustainable if the property taxes in Santa Cruz do not continually increase. Ms. Dewey Thorsett is willing to consider Mr. Wagman's proposal in order to retain the instructional innovations and progress made in the district. If the budget situation does not improve by October, then SCCS must take a serious look at how funds are deployed.

Ms. Strimling expressed approval of the Superintendent's recommendations. Ms. Strimling advocates reinstatement of the ELIRT, as opposed to the increased expenditure to the FREL proposed by Mr. Wagman.

Mr. Robles advocated for Superintendent Pagano's recommendations. We have great fiscal limitations and we have to make hard choices – this requires a comprehensive look at programs to ensure we honor the commitments we have made to students. The Trustees have asked the Superintendent for his recommendations, and his recommendations come with the full participation of a dedicated and professional staff. Mr. Robles encouraged the Trustees to honor the process and the work of the District personnel and Superintendent Pagano.

Mr. Collins expressed concern that Mr. Wagman's proposal makes it more difficult for SCCS to reach the 3 year budget requirement from the County Office of Education. Mr. Collins urged caution as we move forward, as economic uncertainties make it difficult to predict how the property taxes and/or health care costs may change in the near future.

Board President Hawthorne reported that SCCS is fortunate to be in the position of reinstating positions, as many neighboring districts have not restored any positions at this time. Also, President Hawthorne recalled that the Board had previously discussed a process for the reinstatements. The Superintendent's recommendations are not explicit when it comes to the Classified restorations; therefore, President Hawthorne would ask Superintendent Pagano to guide the sites to reinstate the positions.

Information

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for June 18, 2008, 6:30 p.m., Room 312 of the District Office, 405 Old San Jose Road, Soquel, CA.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Trustees, Board President Hawthorne adjourned this Regular Meeting at 9:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Pagano, Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Cynthia Hawthorne, President
Board of Education