

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

October 10, 2007

Call to Order

Board President Dewey Thorsett called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. in the Bay View Elementary Multi-Purpose Room, 1231 Bay Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Attendance at Meeting

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

Alan Pagano, Superintendent
Diane Morgenstern, Assistant Superintendent, Education 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 Trustees approved the following changes: the Special Legislative Report from Assemblyman Laird would precede the Site Welcome; Items 3.2 Public Hearing: B1 Parcel Tax Renewal and 3.5 New Business: New Policy 3535.1 Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Medtronic CR Plus Fully Automatic AED would precede Item 3.1 Information/Discussion: Dual Language Immersion Task Force Update.

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Assemblyman John Laird addressed the meeting to provide updated information from Sacramento regarding the issues of education and health care. Following questions from the Board Members, Assemblyman Laird acknowledging the citizens of Santa Cruz for continuing to remain well informed and engaged in educational issues.

SITE WELCOME

Principal Cavanaugh welcomed all to Bay View Elementary. Mr. Cavanaugh acknowledged the Home and School Club for the recent renovations to the Garden Project, and the development of the upper grade quad area. Bilingual Coordinator Arturo Lopez explained how his presence provides a needed connection for Spanish-speaking families regarding the school, the teachers, and community services and resources. Staff member Beth Landry recognized Principal Cavanaugh's educational vision and inspirational leadership. Mr. Cavanaugh concluded his report with a Bay View API/AYP Spring 2007 update for the Trustees.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

DeLaveaga Teacher Reeves presented a letter signed by many of the staff members at this site, asking the Trustees to review and reconsider the policy that prohibits the use of one-time money for personnel salaries. DeLaveaga has an established practice of using these funds to support the classrooms with learning assistants, and wish to continue these expenditures. Santa Cruz High School student Angela Scrivens introduced a letter to the Trustees expressing concern about the healthfulness of the food served at the site; especially for students who receive free and reduced lunch. Superintendent Pagano translated for a Spanish-speaking Branciforte Middle School parent who wished to inform the Board Members and the community of the upcoming Tamalada fundraiser on Friday, November 2, 2007, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. featuring food, music, and a folkloric dance performance. Items are available for pre-sale.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pagano expressed gratitude from the District to Assemblyman Laird for his district support and report this evening. The Superintendent outlined the meetings he has attended since the Board of Education met on September 26, 2007. Superintendent Pagano commended Assistant Superintendent Morgenstern and Professional Development Coordinator Brown for the excellent district wide professional development meetings that began on October 3. The New Teacher Project has issued an invitation for a District Team for a meeting on October 24 at the County Office of Education. The Superintendent reported that two of the issues raised at Public Communications on September 26, Camera Security and the Cardinal Café, have been addressed and resolved.

BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS AND REFERRALS

Board President's Report

Board President Dewey Thorsett reported progress in finding a satisfactory date for the CSBA Training for the Board of Education. The President has submitted several training date alternatives to the Trustees, and asked for a prompt response regarding availability of Board Members for these dates. Board President Dewey Thorsett asked for a presentation of the new guidelines for hiring professional experts to the Trustees.

Board Members' Reports

Board Member Hawthorne reported attendance at meetings for BFAC, Facilities Task Force, and an Environmental Organization breakfast meeting last week with Mr. Collins. Trustee Hawthorne plans to visit each elementary school.

Board Member Strimling asked for a future agenda item for a discussion on how to best promote district accomplishments. Trustee Strimling would also like to explore a district wide arts calendar. Ms. Strimling concluded with an invitation to attend the October 20 Band Review hosted by Santa Cruz High School.

Board Member Maxwell attended a Health Care Reform meeting. Trustee Maxwell advocates informed choice for benefits.

Board Member Collins completed the Rotary Bike Ride Fundraiser and will be sending a payment reminder to supporters who made a pledge. Trustee Collins is interested in the food discussion brought forward tonight by the Santa Cruz High School students and volunteered to take a leadership role in defining community standards in this regard. Mr. Collins appreciated the receipt of the solar proposals and noticed that none of the bidders were local companies.

Board Member Wagman attended a breakfast meeting sponsored by Ecology in Action. This meeting provided an additional vendor for the solar projects proposals. Trustee Wagman visited Gault Elementary and DeLaveaga Elementary, and attended the Branciforte Middle School Field Committee meeting. We are lucky to live in a supportive community that is committed to school excellence.

Board Member Robles complimented Principal Curley for sending a copy of the Westlake school newspaper to the Trustees. Board Member Robles had a preliminary conversation with the members of the Task Force for Academic Excellence. Trustee Robles noted that the current projected Budget does not include any employee compensation, and that the SCCS obligation to retirees must be honored. Trustee Robles will not be present for the January 2008 Regular Meetings, as he will be attending to commitments for Cabrillo College during that time. Mr. Robles anticipates productive direction and outcomes from the CSBA discussions.

Student Representatives' Reports

Student Lerman reported the Harbor High School Club Recruitment Day was a success. Harbor High School participates in "Schools for Schools". This group fundraises for student supplies and schools in disadvantaged countries.

Student Clark reported the Club Congress Reps for Santa Cruz High School meets one time per month to discuss projects and disseminate information. The Environmental Club Carnival took place last weekend, and tonight the school hosts College Night. College Week lunch activities will include how to fill out UC and CSU applications and scholarship information. The PSAT will take place on October 20. Students in grade 9 will attend planning sessions with counselors this month. The Cardinal Café has reopened. A Powder Puff Football League has been established. Ms. Clark attended the Santa Cruz vs. Harbor football game.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSP (Robles/Collins) 7-0, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 26 were approved, with a correction noted for the record regarding the votes of the Student Representatives on the Gann Limit Resolution. The Student Representatives voted yes on this item.

GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

Ms. Hawthorne asked that Item 1.9 Consultant Services Agreements be pulled from the agenda for separate discussion. Mr. Collins moved approval of the Consent Agenda,,

minus item 1.9; Ms. Hawthorne seconded the motion. The Consent Agenda was approved as follows: Personnel Actions – *Certificated* (Ex. 46); Personnel Actions – *Classified* (Ex. 47); Gifts; Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids (Ex. 48); Warrant Register; Resolution #8-07-08 to Close County School Facilities Fund (Ex. 49); Resolution #9-07-08 to Open Retirees Benefits Fund; Change Orders. (Ex. 50) The Board acknowledged, with gratitude, the following gifts donated to the Santa Cruz City Schools Districts: *Mission Hill Middle School* – Peter & Patricia Likins Family Trust have donated \$1,000. **Total value of gifts: \$1,000.** This motion 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 Representative Lerman – Yes Student Representative Clark – Yes

Consultant Services Agreements

Board Member Hawthorne noted that two district sites have instituted Conflict Resolution Programs, and Ms. Hawthorne would appreciate a discussion of this program. If the district values this training, it may be appropriate to offer these services to all sites. Mr. Collins moved approval of the Consultant Services Agreements, and Mr. Robles seconded the motion. These agreements were approved by roll call vote, as follows: (Ex. 51)

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

Closed Session Action Report

The Board approved the stipulated expulsion of student 1-07-08.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED AND/OR DISCUSSED

PUBLIC HEARING: B1 Parcel Tax Renewal

Open: Board President Dewey Thorsett opened this Public Hearing at 7:39 p.m.

Superintendent Pagano reported that prior to placing parcel tax measures on an election ballot, the District and Board of Trustees must hold a public hearing and take comments on this matter. Tonight the Board will have the opportunity to review sample ballot language that was contained in the polling survey recently conducted by the firm of Goodwin Simon Victoria. The Superintendent asked for input from the Trustees on the following questions:

- What tax rate (i.e., per parcel rate) will be set in the elementary district?
- What programs will be funded by the parcel tax revenue?
- Will a senior citizen's exemption be part of the parcel tax ballot measure?
- What will be the length of the parcel tax reauthorization?
- How will community oversight be acknowledged?

The District will bring a proposed resolution for adoption to the Regular Meeting scheduled on October 24, 2007.

Public Comment: None

Close: Board President Dewey Thorsett closed this Public Hearing at 7:42 p.m.

Board Discussion: The Board Members agreed that the rate of \$105 per parcel in the elementary district seemed appropriate, and the term of the measure should be 9 years. An exemption for senior citizens is appropriate, and a similar exemption for disabled citizens may be discussed. The Consultants and Legal Counsel will continue to work on the ballot language. The Parcel Tax Oversight Committee would include this new measure in their responsibilities. Superintendent Pagano thanked the Trustees for their input.

Break: Board President Dewey Thorsett called for a short break at 8:05 p.m.

Reconvene: Board President Dewey Thorsett reconvened this meeting at 8:17 p.m.

New Business: New Policy 3535.1 Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

Medtronic CR Plus Fully Automatic AED

Ms. Morgenstern noted this policy was crafted with the help of Director of Student Services Tong and the District Nurses. Ms. Morgenstern recommended that the Board of Education approve this policy as a first reading. The purpose of the AED policy is to provide guidance in the management or administration of a school-based Automated External Defibrillator program. District Nurse Dees reported this policy is a duplicate of one that has already been passed in a neighboring district, and that such a policy must be in place in order to receive the free equipment and training provided by the accompanying grant. Following discussion, the Board of Education approved as a first reading *New Business: New Policy 3535.1 Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Medtronic CR Plus Fully Automatic AED*, with amendments that the policy will not contain specific locations for equipment, trained personnel are not listed in the policy, and that policy includes all district AEDs, not just the equipment received through the grant. Mr. Wagman moved the motion with the friendly amendments, and Mr. Collins seconded the motion. This motion was passed without dissent. Student Representatives Lerman and Clark votes yes.

Information/Discussion: Dual Language Immersion Task Force

Superintendent Pagano provided an update to the Trustees on the Dual Language Immersion Task Force activities. At this time, there is no firm consensus on program status or location. The committee intends to provide recommendations in these regards to the Board Members later in the fall, and the Superintendent commended the Task Force members for their diligence and efforts toward this end.

Staff Report: Budget Priority Recommendations

Mr. Moss reported that the Board of Education expressed interest in establishing Board budget priorities to guide development of the 08-09 Budget, and Cabinet recommends the Board consider incorporating the following areas in budget priorities: a GASB 45 transfer to fund other Post-Employment Benefits liability; an undesignated set-aside; a Basic Aid reserve; a weighted revenue distribution to address access and equity. A Special Study

Session was established Wednesday, Oct. 17, 7:00 p.m., Harbor High School Library, 300 LaFonda Avenue.

New Business: 08-09 Budget Development Calendar

Mr. Moss recommended approval of the Development Calendar for the 2008-09 Budget. The Budget is divided into three timeline columns for the Board, the Budget Finance Advisory Committee, and for staff members. Mr. Moss explained the changes in the budget from last year. MSP (Hawthorne/Wagman) 7-0, the Board approved the 2008-09 Budget Development Calendar, with the provision that an additional one-hour discussion for the Budget will be added to the February 13, 2008 Regular Meeting agenda. Student Representatives Lerman and Clark voted yes on this matter.

Information/Discussion: Academic Excellence Task Force

Superintendent Pagano and Trustee Strimling provided an update on the Academic Excellence Task Force. After scheduled conversations with middle school teachers and informal community meetings, the group would like to return to the Board with more solid recommendations for task force membership.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Information

The Board will meet for a Special Budget Study Session on October 17, 2007, 7:00 p.m., Harbor High School Library, 300 LaFonda Ave. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for October 24, 2007, 6:30 p.m., Westlake Elementary, 1000 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA. The Regular Meeting for November 14, 2007 is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at Mission Hill Middle School, 425 King Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, Board President Dewey Thorsett adjourned this Regular Meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Pagano, Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Rachel Dewey Thorsett, President
Board of Education