

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY  
SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND  
SECONDARY DISTRICTS  
September 11, 2007**

**Call to Order**

Board President Dewey Thorsett called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Santa Cruz High School Theater, 415 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz, CA.

**Attendance at Meeting**

|                                       |                       |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| John Collins                          | Rachel Dewey Thorsett | Cynthia Hawthorne |
| Don Maxwell                           | Wendy Strimling       | Ken Wagman        |
| Student Representative: Kate Lerman   |                       |                   |
| Student Representative: Rebecca Clark |                       |                   |

Absent: Felix Robles

Alan Pagano, Superintendent  
Tanya Krause, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
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.

**Student Representatives – Swearing In Ceremony**

Board President Dewey Thorsett presided as students Lerman and Clark recited the oath of office.

**Site Welcome**

Santa Cruz High School Principal Edmonds welcomed the Trustees, District Staff, and Members of the Audience to the site. Principal Edmonds reported the year at Santa Cruz High School started well, and invited all community members to a Fish Fry on Saturday September 15, and Back to School Night. Three National Merit Finalists from this site will be announced later in the week. The ELAC President and the Migrant Program President reported to the Trustees. The Music Department also presented some information on the increased program possible this year due to the wonderful support from the District and the Trustees.

**Agenda Changes**

None

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

None

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Pagano visited each SCCS school site on the first day of school: the facilities looked excellent; the students and staff members were fully engaged; and the enthusiasm was contagious. Mr. Pagano asked the Trustees to make his office aware of intent to attend either the September 21<sup>st</sup> Monterey Bay Education Consortium or the CSBA Convention in San Diego. The first Principals' Meeting of the new school year took place on September 6<sup>th</sup>. The two School Resource Officers assisting in the District this year were present. The recent polling and survey results regarding the renewal of Measure B will be presented to the Trustees at the Regular Meeting on September 26.

Superintendent Pagano chaired the first Children's Network Meeting of 2007-08 on September 5<sup>th</sup>. On October 27, Santa Cruz City Schools will celebrate 150 years of service with a dinner reception at the Coconut Grove Ballroom. The keynote speakers will include Bruce McPherson, former CA Senator and former CA Secretary of State.

## **BOARD REPORTS AND REFERRALS**

### **Board President's Report**

Board President Dewey Thorsett reported her sixth grade student is enjoying middle school. Ms. Dewey Thorsett attended the BFAC debriefing meeting last week. President Dewey Thorsett distributed a CSBA Workshop packet to the other Board Members. The Board President looks forward to the New Employee Reception on Friday September 14.

### **Board Members' Reports or Comments**

Trustee Hawthorne acknowledged the efforts of the Green Schools Committee to work with district Purchasing Manager Lynn Barry and coordinate purchasing for Santa Cruz City Schools. Ms. Hawthorne expressed appreciation for the diligent work of Mr. Moss on the solar projects and bids. Board Member Hawthorne thanked SCHS Principal Edmonds for the pleasant school year start for her high school student.

Board Member Strimling noted that her children have enjoyed the start of the school year at middle and high school. Some members of the proposed Academic Task Force have begun to meet, and a report will be provided at a future Board meeting. Ms. Strimling requested an addition to the September 26 agenda – discussion on potential Board action regarding the reauthorization of NCLB. Trustee Strimling would like to have an SCCS delegation meet with Sam Farr. The student performance from Spring 2007 shows very impressive gains – and Ms. Strimling is amazed that a school or district can meet 24 of 25 requirements and not receive a positive certification.

Trustee Maxwell expressed the opinion that changes must be made in the NCLB policies. Board Member Maxwell encouraged those asking community members for support in the Measure B Renewal movement to discuss how poorly California funds student education when compared to other states. Mr. Maxwell encouraged all new employees to attend the mixer on Friday afternoon.

Board Member Collins welcomed the new Student Representatives to the Board of Education. Trustee Collins attended a technical and career education workforce development meeting, and found it informative and very useful. Mr. Collins gave a bike ride donation to the Rotarians who are advocating for the Santa Cruz High School Track and Field Sports Complex project. Board Member Collins finished his report with a powerpoint presentation containing global education information.

Board Member Wagman has started his 18<sup>th</sup> year as an educator at Gavilan College, and is still enjoying his employment. Mr. Wagman thanked Ms. Morgenstern for her diligence in locating two new Student Representatives – and informed the students that training for their Board Positions is available for them through the CSBA Student Conference. Trustee Wagman thanked the district office maintenance workers for the lovely landscape maintenance at this facility.

### **Student Representatives' Reports**

Ms. Lerman reported she currently attends Harbor High School, and Ms. Clark attends Santa Cruz High School.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Collins moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 22, 2007, and Mr. Wagman seconded this motion. The motion was carried without dissent. The Student Representatives abstained from the vote.

### **GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS**

#### **Consent Agenda:**

Ms. Strimling moved approval of the this Consent Agenda, consisting of: Personnel Actions – *Certificated* (Ex. 29); Personnel Actions – *Classified* (Ex. 30); Purchase Orders, Bids & Quotes (Ex. 31); Warrant Register; Change Orders (Ex.32); Resolution 4-07-08 Signature Authorizations (Ex.33); Consultant Services Agreements (Ex. 34). Ms. Hawthorne seconded this motion. The motion was carried by roll call vote, as follows:

**Roll Call Vote:** Collins – Yes      Dewey Thorsett – Yes      Hawthorne – Yes  
Maxwell – Yes      Strimling – Yes      Wagman – Yes  
Student Representatives: Abstained

#### **Closed Session Action Report**

The Board heard an update on negotiations with the GSCFT and provided direction to staff.

#### **Old Business: Santa Cruz High School Track & Field Sports Complex Project**

Superintendent Pagano reported this item was brought back to the Board of Education this evening with a strong recommendation from the District to authorize District participation in the project. A short report and slide show was delivered by representatives from the SC Sunrise Rotary. After discussion among Board Members, District Staff Members, Members of the Audience, and Student Representatives, Ms. Strimling made a motion and Mr. Wagman seconded this motion. MSP (Strimling/Wagman) 6-0, the Board of Trustees directed the Superintendent to order an

initial environmental study of the proposed Santa Cruz HS Track & Field Sports Complex Project. Pending the receipt, final review, and approval of this research, the intent of the Trustees is to commit \$750,000 from the district building fund to complete the \$2.2 million support needed for this project. The Student Representatives voted “yes” on the project.

**Old Business – District Facilities-Identification of Needs and Task Force Composition**

Superintendent Pagano reported on 5/23/07, the Board Members asked to receive a report on current District facilities as a first step in evaluating options for the relocation of the Facility Services and Transportation Departments as well as assess options regarding additional facility needs. Mr. Pagano also recommended that the composition of the District Facilities Task Force be approved as proposed. MSP (Hawthorne/Collins) 6-0, the Board of Education approved the composition of the District Facilities Task Force.

**Staff Report: Superintendent’s 2007-08 Goals and Objectives**

Superintendent Pagano presented the State of the District, as well as the Superintendent’s Goals and Objectives for 2007-08. SCCS needs to continue to address current and future challenges in three principal arenas: Student Learning and Achievement; Administrative governance, team building and communication; Financial Stability. Trustee Wagman also presented the Superintendent and Board Members with a copy of the Focus Areas and Goals established by the Board of Trustees at the April 23, 2007 Goal Setting Meeting.

**Staff Report: Final 2007-08 State Budget**

Mr. Moss reported that the 2007-08 State Budget was signed by the Governor on August 24. There are no significant differences in the K-12 Education Budget from the May Revise Budget. The COLA on Revenue Limits, State Categorical programs and State Special Ed funding is still 4.53%. No additional funding is provided for Revenue Limit equalization. No funding is provided for Mandated Cost reimbursements. Federal Special Ed Funding is receiving a modest COLA, much less than 4.53%.

**Staff Report: Opening School Enrollment Report**

Mr. Moss presented the report of daily student attendance during the first two weeks of school, as reported by sites. Actual attendance on September 4 was compared to projected enrollment and prior year CBED enrollment. Superintendent Pagano reported he will bring a comprehensive report to the Trustees at a future meeting detailing trends, transfers, and demographics.

**Staff Report: SCCOE 07-08 Conditional Budget**

Mr. Moss reported the Board approved the 2007-08 Budget on 6/20/07, at which time it was submitted to the County Office of Education (COE) for their review and approval. SCCS received a letter from the COE on 9/4/07 indicating their conditional approval of the budget. The COE wants the District to submit a plan by December 15 with the 07-08 Second Interim Report: among the issues the District is asked to address is the potential non-renewal of the “B1” parcel tax which expires June 2008. On September 26, Mr.

Moss will detail for the Trustees the actual year-end report, with an updated Multi-Year projection.

**Old Business: Accept Solar Proposal for Phases I and II**

Mr. Moss reported on 6/20/07, the Board approved issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to install solar voltaic systems on eight schools. The RFP was distributed to 22 firms on 6/28/07 with proposals due by 7/31/07. At this time, the Solar **Committee has not reached decision; Mr. Moss outlined some of the issues that were still unresolved and asked for input from the Board, which was given.** The Committee will continue to meet, and Mr. Moss hopes to bring a recommendation to a future meeting.

**Old Business: Budget Process Review**

Superintendent Pagano reported that on 8/22/07, the Trustees requested that the 06-07 Budget Finance Advisory Committee (BFAC) review and debrief the budget development process and provide feedback and recommendations at this Board Meeting. BFAC met on September 4, and the minutes from the meeting, along with suggested budget policy and procedure considerations from BFAC were presented to the Trustees this evening. Board President Dewey Thorsett also presented her suggestions for overall budget goals and discussions/meetings she would like to see take place

**New Business: Certificated Job Description – Special Education Coach**

Ms. Krause recommended the job description for the classification of Special Education Coach be approved for first and final reading and approval. This new job classification addresses IEP compliance, development and implementation and support for classroom teachers. MSP (Collins/Hawthorne) 6-0, the Board approved this job description for final reading and approval. Student Representatives Lerman and Clarke voted yes. (Ex. 35)

**Information**

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled on September 26, 2007, 6:30 p.m., Branciforte Middle School, 315 Poplar Ave., Santa Cruz, CA. The Regular Meeting on October 10, 2007, will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Bay View Elementary, 1231 Bay Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education at this time, Board President Dewey Thorsett adjourned this Regular Meeting at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Pagano, Superintendent  
Santa Cruz City Schools

Rachel Dewey Thorsett, President  
Board of Education