

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

April 15, 2009

Convene Open Session

Board President Wagman called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. in the County Office of Education Board Room, 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Attendance at Meeting

Rachel Dewey Thorsett Cynthia Hawthorne Don Maxwell
Wendy Strimling Claudia Vestal Ken Wagman

Student Representative Seynhaeve

Absent: John Collins

Tanya Krause, Deputy Superintendent
Diane Morgenstern, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Dick Moss, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Members of the Audience

Welcome and Format

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

Agenda Changes

Board President Wagman stated that the Board Members pulled Items 3.4 *PUBLIC HEARING*: Initial Study on the Transportation Department Relocation to Soquel High School, and 3.5 *New Business*: Resolution 22-08-09 Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration on the Transportation Department Relocation to Soquel High School Project from the agenda for this evening. The Board has directed the district administration to conduct further due diligence on this matter, and to take additional time to explore and address the issues raised by the Soquel community.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Rick Linzer invited both the Board Members and the public to the “Don’t Miss This Show” show to benefit City Schools Music Programs. The benefit will take place on Saturday May 2, 7:30 p.m., Rio Theatre in Santa Cruz. Small Schools Principal Coleman invited the Board Members to a reception at Costanoa Continuation School on April 26, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., to welcome the WASC Accreditation Team. Parent Suzanne Williams invited the Trustees and community members to the Branciforte Middle School Spring Festival on May 15, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. Adult School Principal Mary Powers invited Board Members and community members to attend “1919 Days” on May 2, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Adult School. Bay View Principal Cavanaugh extended an invitation to the annual Fiestas de Las Artes on April 18, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. Branciforte Middle School Principal Kris Munro reported that, in collaboration with

AGENDA ITEM:
VI. 1

Harbor High School and UCSC, the middle school will host the 1st Annual College Awareness Night on April 16, 2009. The program will encourage parents/families to help students plan for college in grades 6 through 12. SCCS Director of Curriculum and Assessment, Mary Anne James invited the Trustees and all community members to the 5th Annual Santa Cruz City Schools Music Program on May 5th at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. Ms. James also commended the 40+ teachers who attended the Math Test Scoring Day for the MARS Assessments at the County Office of Education. The project to expeditiously score student responses from the recently administered math assessment enabled colleagues to use the results data at Professional Development trainings on the next day, and also allowed teachers time to use the results data to prepare students for standardized testing beginning April 20. Mission Hill Middle School Principal Dona Abrahams-Johnson extended an invitation to come to Mission Hill on Tuesday May 19, 2:30 – 6:00 p.m. for an afternoon of family entertainment, food, and fun. Andy Hartman, President of the Electrical Contractors Union Local 234, commended Mr. Moss and Santa Cruz City Schools for including prevailing wage language in the new Power Purchase Agreements. SCCS Director of Special Projects Laura Villalobos-Osey reported on a Workshop for Migrant Parents scheduled for April 23, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Branciforte Middle School. Several parents/community members/Soquel High School neighbors expressed concerns regarding the plan to house the district school buses at Soquel High School.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Deputy Superintendent Tanya Krause is pleased to announce that the Board of Education reached agreement on a contract with new Superintendent Gary Bloom on April 1, and Mr. Bloom will begin his work at Santa Cruz City Schools on June 1, 2009. Deputy Superintendent Krause participated in the DeLaveaga Unity Task Force Meeting, and the Cabrillo College CTE Summit to promote and strengthen Career/Technical Education in schools. SCCS has officially received a \$574,000 grant for Career/Technical Education facilities use. The Ark Independent Studies School received a glowing WASC review, and Ms. Krause looks forward to upcoming WASC visitations at Costanoa Continuation School and Santa Cruz High School. Soquel Principal Lawrence-Emanuel will report on the WASC visit at Soquel High School later in this meeting. The Deputy Superintendent acknowledged the generous donations to the district, including donations from Jim Logsdon and Sharon Maxwell.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS OR REFERRALS

Board President's Report

Board President Ken Wagman has learned a great deal about the Santa Cruz City Schools bus programs, and attended Budget, Green Schools, and the Santa Cruz High School PTA Meetings.

Board Members' Referrals and Reports

Board Member Wendy Strimling attended the Senator Joe Simitian meeting regarding an assessment of the state of the State Finances for Education and the analysis of the May 19 Special Election Ballot Initiatives. The reports were not positive, but did highlight the wonderful generosity of the Santa Cruz City Schools community for programs provided through parcel taxes.

Board Member Cynthia Hawthorne expressed interest in securing space on a COE or SECA Board Meeting agenda to discuss centralized school bus transportation in Santa Cruz County. The Trustees would like to ask the COE to take a leadership role in this area, and Board Member Hawthorne will make the formal request for this item to be on an upcoming COE Board Meeting agenda.

Board Member Claudia Vestal attended the Simitian meeting, the Wellness Committee Meeting, and a very enjoyable Beach Flats Community Fundraiser. Ms. Vestal noted the Parent Co-Op Preschool prepares parents to be active in schools. Trustee Vestal received a disturbing letter from the Gault Teachers, and would like to assure teachers the furlough days requested by the Board do not reflect a lack of value for teacher preparation time, but, rather, the fiscal situation in Santa Cruz City Schools.

Board Member Don Maxwell attended the Career/Technical Education Summit at Cabrillo College, and reported a vast number of young people who are seeking employment that provides adequate living wages. Community Colleges report an increasing number of students with BA degrees returning to school to seek education for available jobs. Trustee Maxwell suggests an IEP for all students to plan/prepare for post-secondary needs. Student counseling programs need to be re-designed for the new economy. Mr. Maxwell welcomes discussion regarding consolidation of bus services in the county.

Student Representative Report

Student Lauren Seynhaeve reported Soquel High School will host an annual Calamari Dinner Fundraiser on April 18 at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSP (Hawthorne/Dewey Thorsett) 6-0, the Board of Education approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 25, 2009. Student Seynhaeve voted yes.

GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

Deputy Superintendent Krause spoke regarding the Certificated Personnel Actions listed on the agenda this evening. Ms. Krause noted that Harbor High School Principal McGuire has served 33+ years in the district – as a Teacher, Coach, Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, Principal – and all at Harbor High School. The additional four teacher retirements collectively total 95 years of service to students in Santa Cruz City Schools – and 82 of these years have served the Elementary District. All of these personnel are to be commended. Ms. Dewey Thorsett moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of: Personnel Actions – Certificated (Ex. 157); Personnel Actions – Classified (Ex. 158); Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids (Ex. 159); Warrant Register; Gifts; Consultant Services Agreement(s) (Ex. 160). The Board acknowledged, with gratitude, the following donations to the Santa Cruz City Schools Districts: *DeLaveaga Elementary* – Sharon Maxwell donated an Imac computer, two computer printers, classroom supplies, teacher resource books, teacher desk, small file cabinet, student trade books, math manipulatives and games, art supplies, and library books for an approximate total donation of \$1,490. *Santa Cruz High School* – Dr. Jim Logsdon donated \$100 to the Teenaged Parent Program. *Branciforte Small Schools* – Langdon Morris of

InnovationLabs LLC in Walnut Creek donated an agenda design and facilitation valued at approximately \$5,000. Michael Kaufman of InnovationLabs LLC in Walnut Creek donated an agenda design valued at approximately \$2,500. **Total value of gifts: \$9,090.** Ms. Hawthorne seconded the motion. This motion was passed by roll call vote, as follows:

Roll Call Vote: Dewey Thorsett – Yes Hawthorne – Yes Maxwell – Yes
Strimling – Yes Vestal – Yes Wagman – Yes

Student Seynhaeve – Yes

Closed Session Action Report

The Board of Education approved the Expulsion of Student 13-08-09 through the end of the fall semester of the 2009-10 school year.

The Board of Education approved the Expulsion of Student 14-08-09 through the end of the 2008-09 school year.

Regarding negotiations with the GSCFT, the Board agreed unanimously (6-0) that if we don't obtain significant movement specifically related to the calendar at Friday's negotiation session, the Board authorizes the District team to consider moving to impasse.

Regarding negotiations with the SCCCE, the Board agreed unanimously (6-0) that the District is open to working positively and collaboratively with the SCCCE, but in order to avoid incurring additional costs to the District, the Board directed staff to continue with Classified layoffs as scheduled. However, the Board hopes that a reasonable agreement will be made soon which will allow the District to rescind layoff notices.

Public Employee Appointment/Employment (Govt. Code Section 5495.7)

Title: High School & Middle School Principalships

The Board heard both timeline and process for recruitment and hiring and gave further direction.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED and/or DISCUSSED

Staff Report: Soquel High School 3-Year WASC Progress Report

Ms. Morgenstern introduced Soquel High School Principal Ken Lawrence-Emanuel to report to the Board of Education. In 2006, Soquel High School was granted a 6-year accreditation with a 3-year revisit by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The revisit will occur on April 27, 2009. Principal Lawrence-Emanuel also discussed truancy abatement/increased attendance programs, improved student safety measures at the school, and the Mechanical Engineering Construction program.

Staff Report: Infinite Campus Update

Information Technology Director Susan Doucette and Coordinator of Education Technology Gino Raugi reported to the Board Members on the new Santa Cruz City Schools Student Information System. The presentation included information on finances

and savings achieved through the use of the system, district wide protocols for the new web based system, program features, and next steps for completion of implementation.

New Business: Facility Improvement Projects

The Board of Education took the following actions on the eleven projects brought forward in this report:

1. Relocate Transportation to Soquel High School

As this item was removed from the agenda for this evening, no direction was given and no action taken.

2. Relocation of Maintenance & Operations from 2931 Mission St.

The Trustees gave direction for Mr. Moss to proceed with the Use Permit that would be required to move Maintenance & Operations.

3. Harbor High School Electrical Upgrade

The Board gave direction to Mr. Moss to proceed with the electrical upgrade at Harbor High School.

4. Demolish the Old Santa Cruz High School Pool

Once the new pool is complete and operational, the Board directed Mr. Moss to demolish the old pool and have the area turned into field space.

5. CTE Projects at the Three Comprehensive High Schools

The District applied for and received 50/50 matching grants from the State to use towards Career Technical Education facilities. Deputy Superintendent Krause gave strong support to these projects. MSP (Hawthorne/Strimling) 6-0, the Board approved the CTE projects at the three comprehensive high schools, and committed to submit DSA-approved plans for the projects to OPSC by December 2009 to receive funds.

6. TAPP Child Care Portable at Santa Cruz High School

The High Schools are planning for the continuation of the TAPP program in the 2009-10 ZBB budgets. The Child Care Program is operated by the Walnut Avenue Women's Center (WAWC). The cost of the 2400 sq. ft. portable building is funded by a State grant obtained by WAWC. The District contribution to the project is for site preparation and utility hook-ups. MSP (Hawthorne/Maxwell) 6-0, the Board of Education approved sending this project to bid.

7. Branciforte Middle School Field Improvements

SSA Landscape Architects has developed a concept plan and estimates for the project. The estimated cost is \$1,260,000 for natural grass and \$2,274,000 for artificial turf. \$20,000 has been raised through a parent committee. Following lengthy Board discussion public comments, Ms. Strimling made the following motion: The Board of Education is preliminarily in favor of pursuing this project, and requests district staff to bring back a proposal for completing this project in phases, including funding sources for each phase; and, specifically, to have the plans include the cost options for artificial turf. Ms. Hawthorne seconded this motion. The motion was approved without dissent.

8. Adult Ed Relocation from 536 Palm St. to 319 La Fonda Ave.

This project originally came to the Board on March 25, 2009, but was pulled from the agenda on that evening. Following discussion, the Board gave Mr. Moss direction to proceed with the costing out of the project, which includes the potential of relocating four portables and adding a larger portable for the Co-Op Preschool.

9. DeLaveaga Site Information

The Unity Task Force developed a list of facility improvements for the site which include: new Kindergarten play structure; relocate two portables; reconfigure front parking lot and driveway; resurface asphalt playground; remove cement training wall; new pathway to playing field; improve bell and intercom system; new drinking fountains. With the expanding Dos Alas Program, the site expects approximately 620 students beginning in the 2009-10 school year. Ms. Dewey Thorsett moved approval of engaging an architect to prepare a concept plan and cost estimates that include: a) \$8,000 for the architect; b) \$250,000 preliminary mitigations to be set-aside; c) Report due to the Board of Education regarding the progress on this item at the end of May 2009. Ms. Hawthorne seconded the motion, which was approved without dissent.

10. Kitchen Upgrades at All Sites

The Wellness Committee is proposing that the District move toward being able to do scratch cooking at each site. The Board directed the Wellness Committee to search for federal monies to pursue engaging an architect to develop plans and cost estimates for this project.

11. Santa Cruz High School Track/Field Improvement Project

Mr. Moss reported that the Santa Cruz Sunrise Rotary and the Santa Cruz Soccer Fund would report to the Board in the near future with an update on the donations fund monies collected for this project. Also, the District is sending to project out for re-bid to take advantage of a more favorable customer climate. This item does not require action by the Board of Education tonight.

New Business: New Job Description: Senior Manager/Nutrition and Food Services

The Wellness Committee has recommended and the Board has approved the reformation and the reorganization of the Food Services Department in order to better serve nutritional foods to the students in our district. Inclusive of this reorganization is a recommendation for the creation of a new position that will provide leadership and movement toward the goals of the District and Wellness Committee Policies and Procedures. Ms. Krause recommended that the Board of Education approve the 1st reading of the job description. MSP (Dewey Thorsett/Hawthorne) 6-0, the Trustees approved the 1st reading of the job description for the new Senior Manager/Nutrition and Food Services. *Student Representative Seynhaeve left the meeting prior to the vote.

PUBLIC HEARING: Adoption of Instructional Materials Adoption in Language Arts for Grades 6-8

Open: Board President Wagman opened this Public Hearing at 10:05 p.m.

Public Comments: None

Close: Board President Wagman closed this Public Hearing at 10:07 p.m.

New Business: Instructional Materials Adoption in Language Arts for Grades 6-8

Director of Curriculum and Assessment James reported on the Pilot Plan and Timeline which began in December 2008 and continued thru early April 2009 for the adoption process. Materials were delivered to each piloting teacher, evaluations were sent to the Curriculum Office, and the Adoption Team had regular meetings to discuss the materials. Adopted materials will be purchased with the expectation that products shall arrive to the sites in mid-June. New books will be utilized beginning in the 2009-10 school year. Following Board questions, Ms. Dewey Thorsett moved approval, and Ms. Hawthorne seconded this motion. The Instructional Materials Adoption in Language Arts for Grades 6-8 was approved without dissent. (Ex. 161)

New Business: Opening of Sunshine Period for SCCSD Adult School Proposals to the GSCFT for the 2008-09 School Year

Deputy Superintendent Krause recommended approval of the SCCS Adult School contract proposals for “Sunshining”. MSP (Hawthorne/Maxwell) 6-0, the Trustees approved the SCCS Adult School contract proposals for “Sunshining”.

New Business: Side Letter Agreement Between the GSCFT and SCCSD Re: 2009-10 Certificated Layoffs

Deputy Superintendent Krause reported that SCCS and the GSCFT were able, even in this unprecedented budget year, to agree on side letter language in lieu of certificated layoff hearings. The letter details the process for rescission of layoff notices as well as the order in which the District will hire from the layoff list. Ms. Dewey Thorsett moved approval and Ms. Strimling seconded the motion. This motion was passed 5-0-1. Board President Wagman abstained from the vote. (Ex. 162)

Information

There will be a Special Meeting of the Board of Education on April 22, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., District Office, Room 312, 405 Old San Jose Road, Soquel, CA. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled April 29, 2009, 6:30 p.m., Harbor High School Library, 300 La Fonda Ave., Santa Cruz, CA. The Regular Meeting on May 13, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. will be at the County Office of Education Board Room, 400 Encinal St., Santa Cruz, CA.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Trustees, Board President Wagman adjourned this Regular Meeting at 10:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Krause, Deputy Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Ken S. Wagman, President
Board of Education