

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

February 25, 2009

Convene Open Session

Board President Ken Wagman called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. in the Westlake Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room, 1000 High St., Santa Cruz, CA.

Attendance at Meeting

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

Student Representative Seynhaeve
Student Representative Hashimoto

Alan Pagano, Interim Superintendent
Tanya Krause, Deputy Superintendent/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 Wagman welcomed those in attendance and explained the format used for this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education.

Agenda Changes

Superintendent Alan Pagano submitted some additions to the Consent Agenda, Item 1.1, Personnel Actions – Certificated. This information was not available in time to include in the published Board Book for this meeting. The Trustees approved the addition to Consent Agenda Item 1.1.

Site Welcome

Westlake Principal Clyde Curley welcomed the Board Members, District staff members, and members of the audience to Westlake Elementary School. Mr. Curley presented a video highlighting the student art, dance, and music programs at Westlake School.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

DeLaveaga Parent Teacher Club President Shannon Green reported the PTC will host an auction Friday, February 27, 2009 to raise funds for school programs. The “Spirit of Mardi Gras” will feature class creations, special events hosted by teachers, and travel, service, dining and products donated by generous local businesses. Gault Parent Teacher Association President Debbie Tracey invited all community members to the March 22, 2009 Auction to support student programs. The Gault PTA will donate 5% of all proceeds to the Santa Cruz Education Foundation. Parent Amy Spiers reported attending the Outdoor Science School, and extended thanks to the Board of Education, the District, and all who support this wonderful program.

AGENDA ITEM:
VI.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Pagano thanked Principal Curley for hosting the meeting this evening. The Superintendent is pleased the District is able to conduct a Board meeting on a monthly basis at the County Office of Education. Mr. Pagano will continue to stay involved in various community organizations such as the Children's Health Network and the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce, and represent Santa Cruz City Schools for the duration of his commitment as Superintendent. The Superintendent acknowledged the diligent efforts of both Human Resources and Business Services for arrangements to host additional Special Board Meetings and Special BFAC Meetings over the last month. Mr. Moss will present the preliminary expectations of SCCS regarding the adopted State Budget and the Federal Stimulus Package later in the meeting tonight.

BOARD REPORTS AND REFERRALS

Board President's Report

Board President Ken Wagman reported attendance at many meetings at the District Office regarding budget development for SCCS. The Board of Education is seeking a location for a Special Closed Session on Sunday March 22, 2009 regarding the search for a new SCCS Superintendent. Mr. Wagman also expressed thanks to Dr. Logsdon and Principal Curt Coleman, and everyone who has written such thoughtful letters to the Santa Cruz Sentinel newspaper to express support for Santa Cruz City Schools.

Board Members' Reports and Referrals

Board Member John Collins reported he may know of an available facility for the Special Closed Session on Sunday March 22. Mr. Collins would like to assess Board Member committee participation, and the possibility of committee rotation for Trustees. Trustee Collins extended thanks to the Facility Department for the work done to the Soquel High School Softball Field, and also recognized the great work done by the Harbor Baseball Team for their field at Harbor High School. The Career Technical Education Conference on March 31 and April 1, 2009 will provide a forum for communication between local educators, businesses, and students.

Board Member Don Maxwell reported receiving emails from staff members and community members regarding budget options for Santa Cruz City Schools. Many people are advocating for "shared sacrifice" and having employees share in the maintenance of education for our students. Trustee Maxwell is concerned that this will weaken the incentive on the part of the state government to address the budget problems of public education.

Board Member Cynthia Hawthorne reported a wonderful Wellness Committee Meeting on February 20. The Committee will bring forward some recommendations to the Board of Education at a future meeting. Trustee Hawthorne extended her thanks to the Santa Cruz Education Foundation for the advocacy for district programs.

Board Member Rachel Dewey Thorsett enjoyed attending the Academic Excellence Task Force Meeting on Monday, February 23. These are fun meetings that discuss teaching, learning, and providing excellence in education for our SCCS students. The Task Force

will report to the Board of Education in May. Trustee Dewey Thorsett attended two BFAC Meetings since the last Regular Meeting on February 11.

Board Member Claudia Vestal visited Gault Elementary School on Tuesday, February 24, and thoroughly enjoyed this community of students, parents, and staff.

Board Member Wendy Strimling acknowledged the parents who came to this meeting to provide information on fundraising programs at the sites. Parent advocacy for school programs is a wonderful way to become involved in the local community. Trustee Strimling attended the Academic Excellence Task Force, and stressed the importance of maintaining this commitment in this fiscally challenging environment. SCCS needs to identify improvements that don't increase costs now, and plan for better times in the future.

Student Representatives' Reports

Student Lauren Seynhaeve reported two upcoming events for Soquel High School – the Senior Male Beauty Contest and the March 18 Pop Concert. Tickets for both events are \$5.00.

Student Kiko Hashimoto reported on an event to develop an action plan for the prevention of violence in our community scheduled for March 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Small Schools Campus Multi-Purpose Room. Everyone is welcome to attend.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSP (Hawthorne/Maxwell) 7-0, the Board of Education approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 11, 2009. The Student Representatives voted yes.

GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

Ms. Dewey Thorsett moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of: Personnel Actions – Certificated, including the approved additions (ex. 135); Personnel Actions – Classified (Ex. 136); Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids (Ex. 137); Warrant Register; Change Order (Ex. 138); Budget Transfers; Unrestricted Budget vs. Actual Expenses, 7/1/08 – 1/31/09; Gifts; Disposition of Surplus Property (Ex. 139). The Board acknowledged, with gratitude, the following gifts donated to the Santa Cruz City Schools District: *DeLaveaga Elementary* – Janis Ost Ford has donated \$1,000. *Santa Cruz High School* – Ms. Emily Honig has made the following donations: \$1,000 to the Santa Cruz High School General Fund; \$1,000 to the Santa Cruz High School Science Department; \$2,000 to the Santa Cruz High School Boys' Tennis Program. The employees of Schewitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. of Pullman, WA made the following donations: \$100 on behalf of former student Karen Herman; \$100 on behalf of former student Matt Lawton. **Total value of gifts: \$5,200.** Ms. Hawthorne seconded this motion. This motion was approved by roll call vote, as follows:

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

Student Hashimoto – Yes

Student Seynhaeve – Yes

Closed Session Action Report

The Board took action Re: Student 10-08-09 - Stipulated expulsion for one year from the date of this Board action.

The Board heard an update Re: negotiations with GSCFT and SCCCE and provided direction

ITEMS OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED and/or DISCUSSED

New Business: Resolution #12-08-09 Determination of District Needs for the 2009-10 School Year

Ms. Krause reported pursuant to Education Code Section 44955, the Board of Education determines the District needs in order to deviate from terminating certificated employees in order of seniority, and presented a resolution to establish the District's needs for 2009-10. Ms. Dewey Thorsett moved approval, and Ms. Strimling seconded the motion. This motion was approved by roll call vote, as follows: (Ex. 140)

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

Student Hashimoto – Yes Student Seynhaeve – Yes

New Business: Resolution #13-08-09 Determination of Tie-Breaking Criteria for 2009-10

Ms. Krause reported pursuant to Education Code Section 44955, the Board of Education determines the District need should it become necessary to establish the seniority of employees rendered paid service to the District on the same day. Mr. Maxwell moved approval, and Ms. Dewey Thorsett seconded the motion. This motion was approved by roll call vote, as follows: (Ex. 141)

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

Student Hashimoto – Yes Student Seynhaeve – Yes

New Business: Resolution #14-08-09 Notice of Intent to Dismiss Certificated Employees for 2009-10

Ms. Krause presented the identified FTE and advised the Board of Education to reduce or discontinue particular kinds of service for the 2009-10 school year. Following many questions and much discussion among Trustees, District staff, Bargaining Unit members, and members of the audience, Ms. Hawthorne moved approval and Ms. Dewey Thorsett seconded the motion. This motion was approved by roll call vote, as follows: (Ex. 142)

Roll Call Vote: Collins – No Dewey Thorsett – Yes Hawthorne – Yes
Maxwell – Yes Strimling – Yes Vestal – Yes Wagman – Yes

Student Hashimoto – Yes Student Seynhaeve – Yes

New Business: Resolution #15-08-09 in the Matter of Releasing Temporary Certificated Employees for 2009-10

Ms. Krause recommended release of those temporary certificated employees identified in Exhibit "A" for the 2009-10 school year. Ms. Hawthorne moved approval, and Ms. Dewey Thorsett seconded the motion. This motion was approved by roll call vote, as follows: (Ex. 143)

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

Student Hashimoto – Yes Student Seynhaeve – Yes

New Business: Resolution #16-08-09 Notice to Release or Reassign District Administrators for 2009-10

Superintendent Pagano advised that this action is unpleasant but necessary, and his hope is to rescind these reductions as soon as possible. This action is not included in Resolution #14-08-09 as reassignments are different than reductions. Adult School Principal Powers commended Assistant Principal Bilardello for his voluntary decision to reduce his position .2 FTE, and reported the intention for Adult School is to leave this portion of this position unfilled to save money at this site. Mr. Collins and Mr. Maxwell indicated they could not support this resolution. Ms. Dewey Thorsett expressed support in an effort to try and solve current budget problems, not enact others. Ms. Hawthorne indicated her belief that these are only placeholder cuts, and positions will be restored. Ms. Strimling indicated pursuant to law, this action must be taken; however, there is still time to do much work to change this outcome. Ms. Dewey Thorsett moved approval of this resolution, and Ms. Hawthorne seconded the motion. This motion was approved by roll call vote, as follows: (Ex. 144)

Roll Call Vote: Collins – No Dewey Thorsett – Yes Hawthorne – Yes
Maxwell – No Strimling – Yes Vestal – Yes Wagman – Yes

Student Hashimoto – Yes Student Seynhaeve – Yes

Recess: Board President Wagman called for a short recess at 7:52 pm.

Reconvene: Board President Wagman reconvened this meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Note: Student Hashimoto did not return to the meeting following the recess.

Staff Report: Budget Update

Mr. Moss provided the update on the budget following the adoption of the State Budget and the signing of the Federal Stimulus Package. Mr. Moss reported the general sense is that the adopted State Budget will leave SCCS a little better off financially than previously expected. The approved budget is a 2 year adoption, so the budget for 2009-10 is already in place. While the reduction to Restricted Maintenance did appear in the final budget, the ability for school districts to reduce reserves from 3% to 1.5% was not included. It will take some time to determine how these funds could result in restoration of positions or to identify reductions that could be put aside. The District will come back to the Board of Education with recommendations at a later date. As this report was for information only, no action was taken by the Trustees.

New Business: Resolution #17-08-09 Week of the School Administrator

Superintendent Pagano reported after six years of working with the district administrators, he will continue to hold profound gratitude for the work they accomplish. The Superintendent acknowledged his tremendous honor of teachers and excellent teaching and the exemplary performance of support staff but the true success of a district relies on the mutual appreciation that all employees have for each other. Mr. Collins and Board President Wagman asked all administrators to stand for acknowledgement. Ms. Strimling moved approval, and Mr. Collins seconded this motion. This motion was approved by roll call vote, as follows:

(Ex. 145)

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

Student Seynhaeve – Yes

Staff Report: Facilities Projects

Superintendent Pagano delivered an update on the status of various facilities projects in the Santa Cruz City Schools. Information included current sites & utilization lease agreements, primary outcomes of facility proposals, considerations involving these proposals, and changes for district owned properties in 2008-09 and 2009-10. As this report was informational only, no action was taken by the Trustees.

Note: Student Seynhaeve left following this report.

New Business: 2009 CSBA Delegate Assembly Election Nomination

Ms. Dewey Thorsett moved approval on the nomination of Allison Niday as the continuing delegate for CSBA Region/Sub region 9/9A, and Mr. Collins seconded this motion. This motion was approved by the Trustees without dissent.

Old Business: Superintendent Search Process and Timeline

The Board Members discussed the Special Meeting on March 10, and also the time frame to meet prior to the meeting and read applications. Discussion regarding revising questions included the ability to provide public notice for a Special Closed Session if more than three Trustees opted to participate.

Information

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for March 11, 2009, 6:30 p.m., County Office of Education, Board Room, 400 Encinal St., Santa Cruz, CA. The Special Meeting/Closed Session on March 10, 2009, 6:00 p.m., will be held at the District Office, Room 312, 405 Old San Jose Rd., Soquel, CA. The Special Meeting/Closed Session March 22, 2009, 9:00 a.m., for the interview of Superintendent Candidates, will be held at a location TBA. The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education for March 25, 2009, is scheduled for the Soquel High School Library, 6:30 p.m., 401 Old San Jose Rd., Soquel, CA.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Trustees, Board President Wagman adjourned this Regular Meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Pagano, Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Ken S. Wagman, President
Board of Education