

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY
SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY DISTRICTS
January 14, 2009**

Convene Open Session

Board President Ken Wagman called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. in the Bay View Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room, 1231 Bay 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
Absent: Student Representative Hashimoto

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

None

Site Welcome

Bay View Elementary School Principal Dan Cavanaugh welcomed everyone to the site. Principal Cavanaugh introduced teacher Renee Golder to report on the supplemental class she teaches at Bay View School. Ms. Golder reported that in response to the school's Program Improvement status, programs were designed to provide school wide enrichment and strengthen talents in all students. The class she taught combined teacher-identified Non-Gate students with identified GATE students for one hour per week in a Microscope Biology class. Bay View teachers are working hard to provide opportunities for high levels of engagement and enjoyable and challenging learning programs for all students. Students Alexander Cicconi-Kaspar, Jailene Mims, Carlos Guerrero-Miranda, Mycah Miller, and George Perkins reported on their personal experiences in Microscope Biology class.

Award Presentation

Board President Wagman introduced Executive Director of the Statewide Consortium for Education Foundations Susan Sweeney. Ms. Sweeney presented a Golden Apple award to Santa Cruz Education Foundation Bill Maxfield and a certificate to SCEF Vice President and Newsletter Editor Suz Howells. This is the second time the SCEF has been

honored with an award from the consortium, and this year special recognition was given to the “Eddy” – a community newsletter highlighting excellent programs and attributes of Santa Cruz City Schools. Mr. Maxfield reported the publication is a great way to demonstrate pride in local schools and community, and Ms. Howells asked staff, parents, and students to send story ideas to the SCEF. Deputy Superintendent Tanya Krause thanked Mr. Maxfield and Ms. Howells for their involvement in the SCEF, and their commitment to education as involved parents and community volunteers.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Special Projects Director Laura Villalobos-Osey extended an invitation to interested Board Members to attend one of the new programs for migrant students. There is a course designed to help high school students make up credits, a pre-school program to provide skills to prepare students for instruction, as well as information for parents regarding how to provide educational support for students. In conclusion, Ms. Villalobos-Osey stated that these new district opportunities could provide an interesting contribution to the Santa Cruz Education Foundation newsletter.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Deputy Superintendent Krause reported the new Student Information System, Infinite Campus, is set to launch on January 26 due to the diligent efforts of Information Technology Director Susan Doucette, Education Technology Teacher Gino Raugi, and everyone in the IT Department. The Deputy Superintendent acknowledged the notification of award of a \$574,000 CTE grant for the district comprehensive high schools; however, as the State Budget is currently “frozen” it is unknown when these dollars would be received by SCCS. Ms. Krause attended a presentation in Sacramento on January 12 regarding the current State Budget. The Regular Meeting on January 28 is at the Small Schools Campus.

BOARD REPORTS AND REFERRALS

Board President’s Report

Board President Wagman thanked Board Members Cynthia Hawthorne and Rachel Dewey Thorsett for their hard work on behalf of the Board of Education during the Winter Break. President Wagman attended the Visual and Performing Arts meeting at Mission Hill Middle School on January 12.

Board Members’ Reports and Referrals

Board Member Claudia Vestal recognized the Santa Cruz Education Foundation for the important work of strengthening the link between public schools and the community. Trustee Vestal reported a workshop at the COE next week to provide information regarding the issues surrounding comprehensive pre-school programs for all children.

Board Member Cynthia Hawthorne offered congratulations to the SCEF for the Golden Apple award, and for the great community newsletter. Trustee Hawthorne thanked Deputy Superintendent Krause for her service to the district during this transitional period, and also recognized the great work and many volunteer hours of the members of the Wellness Committee. Ms. Hawthorne acknowledged Administrative Assistant to the

Superintendent Gail Cothes for her assistance and efforts regarding the search for the new Superintendent.

Board Member John Collins visited the Soquel High School softball field, and reported it is in terrible shape. The Soquel High School staff has made a concerted effort to improve student attendance in classes. Trustee Collins has procured more than 1000 copies of a guidebook/workbook regarding the California Bike Tour, and they will be sent to classrooms. Mr. Collins expressed interest in discussing the budget, and determining guidelines to help guide SCCS through a very difficult time. Board Member Collins congratulated Bay View Principal Cavanaugh for his leadership skills, and his ability to motivate staff, student, parents, and members of the community for the good of children.

Board Member Wendy Strimling congratulated all involved with the Santa Cruz Education Foundation for the well-deserved award. Trustee Strimling also expressed appreciation to Principal Cavanaugh for the wonderful model of program with differentiated instruction and opportunities for students. Ms. Strimling unveiled the first product of the Academic Excellence Task Force – a brochure highlighting the opportunities at SCCS middle schools. It is important to make the community aware of the excellent education provided at the public schools. The brochures will be made available at each of the middle school Open Houses.

Board Member Don Maxwell acknowledged the work of the Academic Excellence Task Force and congratulated the SCEF for being one of the premiere education coalitions in the state. Trustee Maxwell expressed dissatisfaction with the proposal from the Governor to shorten the school year by five instructional days, and suggested that educators and public school advocates encourage discussion with the legislators to discuss options.

Board Member Rachel Dewey Thorsett thanked the members of the Santa Cruz Education Foundation, and also congratulated Ms. Howells for her work on both the “Eddy” and the Academic Task Force brochure. Trustee Dewey Thorsett reminded the public of two additional meetings scheduled for the week of January 19-23: the Open Public Forum for input on the Superintendent search on January 20 at Branciforte Middle School where both translation and childcare will be provided; and the January 21 Special Board Meeting at Harbor High School where an update on the search will be provided by the firm hired by the Board of Education.

Student Lauren Seynhaeve reported that many teachers are struggling to provide classroom supplies during this current budget crisis. The Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) Club is working to sell bracelets and raise funds for the group.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Collins moved approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2008, with a typing error noted and corrected. Ms. Dewey Thorsett seconded this motion. The Board of Education approved the minutes without dissent. Student Seynhaeve abstained from this vote.

GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

Ms. Dewey Thorsett moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of: Personnel Actions – Certificated (Ex. 90); Personnel Actions – Classified (Ex. 91); Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids (Ex. 92); Warrant Register; Gifts; CAHSEE Waivers (Ex. 93); Williams Uniform Complaint Report (Ex. 94). The Board acknowledged, with gratitude, the following gifts donated to the Santa Cruz City Schools District: *Alternative Family Education* – Michelle and Dana Massie have donated a telescope with accessories valued at approximately \$2,531. *District Student Services* – Sigma Alpha of Omega Nu Santa Cruz has donated \$1,000 for bus passes for various district high school students. Total value of gifts: \$3,531. Mr. Maxwell seconded this motion.

Public Comments: SCCCE President Lowe commented that the Warrant Register could include Department and Funding sources if the Board Members so desired.

The motion was passed by roll call vote, as follows:

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

Student Seynhaeve – Yes

Closed Session Action Report

The Board received information RE: an early retirement incentive program and gave direction to District staff to move forward in the negotiation process for all employee groups.

The Board received an update RE: Conference with Real Property Negotiator (Gov. Code § 54956.8) Property: 255 Swift Street - Under Negotiation: Lease Agreement

ITEMS OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED and/or DISCUSSED

Old Business: Facility Use Agreement with Pacific Collegiate School for 255 Swift Street

Deputy Superintendent Krause recommended approval of the Facility Use Agreement (FUA) as submitted.

Public Comments: None

MSP (Hawthorne/Dewey Thorsett) 7-0, the Board of Education approved the Facility Use Agreement as submitted. (Ex. 95)

Following approval, Deputy Superintendent Krause read a statement to the Trustees, the SCCSD community-at-large, and the media from the office of the Superintendent. “This FUA codifies the district’s position on: term (2 years); lease fee (\$330,000 to \$340,000); an enrollment cap; no preferential-in-district admissions amendment to the PCS Charter; no Prop. 39 pathway for 2009-10 or 2010-11.” The Deputy Superintendent thanked the

members of the PCS Board of Education for their input during this process, and acknowledged the important contribution of legal counsel Sue Ann Salmon Evans during these discussions and correspondences.

New Business: Policy Revision: P5030 – Integrated Wellness Policy

Deputy Superintendent Krause commended the people who have given generously of their time to work on this important project. A wellness policy is required by law – but the District policy will exceed the requirement.. A 1st reading approval is recommended tonight, and the policy will be brought back for a final reading at a later date. Board Member Hawthorne stated that the edits were done on an inclusive and thorough basis – with line by line edits at the final committee meeting. Three sentences were added to the Mission Statement by Student Services Director Tong, and Assistant Superintendent Moss made an edit.

Public Comments: Small Schools Principal Curt Coleman reported how proud he was to have a district committee with the word “wellness” in the title. Students tell Principal Coleman each year how they would appreciate fresh, local, healthy food. Santa Cruz High School Principal Karen Edmonds clarified the policy use of advertisements for scoreboards, etc. Ms. Hawthorne reported the policy has been adopted for future use, and current signage would not be affected. Bay View staff member Mary Anne Robb offered to help in any way possible to reduce waste at school sites. SCCCE President Lowe reported the food service workers look forward to taking even greater pride in the food served to students.

Board Comments: Mr. Maxwell commended the Wellness Committee for the diligent work. During the 1960’s, SCCS served tofu and salads, and received national attention in this regard. Thanks to Thelma Dalman for helping SCCS keep an eye on the prize.

Ms. Dewey Thorsett remarked although this project began as part of a federal requirement, it has become a wonderful vision for the district. Ms. Dewey Thorsett hopes to see other district policies reflect our visions for students.

Ms. Strimling reported her respect for the policy, and encouraged the committee to look closely at the suggestions from the legal counsel. Ms. Strimling admitted initial concern about the cost of the policy, but after speaking with community members, believes there is a possibility that increased wellness may lessen illness and loss of ADA in the secondary district, which could save revenue for the district.

Mr. Collins supports a first reading approval, but shares Ms. Strimling’s concerns regarding the word changes suggested by legal counsel.

Ms. Hawthorne thanked an amazing committee. The hope is that this policy will result in increased business for food services, improved product, increased work hours, etc. UCSC and the Green Careers Center have procured land to farm and provide produce to the schools, and we have many people in our community who would like to be involved and offer their expertise.

Board President Wagman thanked Ms. Hawthorne for taking the great energy of the people on the committee and providing a focus for the group. The fact that no student shall go hungry while in school, and that SCCS recognizes the benefit of physical activity for students and staff members make huge statements about our district.

Staff Report: Delta Charter School Report

Delta School Principal and CEO Mary Gaukel Forster reported to the Board of Education. Ms. Gaukel Forster provided an overview of the current status of the school, including the mission, history, and progress. Board President Kit Anderton asked for each of the Trustees to visit this site at least once this year, and also asked for a Board Member to replace Felix Robles on the Delta Charter School Board of Education. Assistant Principal and Social Studies Teacher Gustas reported on the cross-curricular work for students, and the creative classes crafted by teachers to address/achieve the California State Standards in each grade. A recent graduate related how the Delta program taught her to focus on stated goals, and the Delta staff and students made her feel like a member of the family.

Recess: Board President Wagman called for a short recess at 8:04 p.m.

Reconvene: Board President Wagman reconvened this Regular Meeting at 8:17 p.m. Student Representative Seynhaeve did not return to the meeting.

New Business: 2007-08 Audit Report

Dick Moss, Asst. Supt. of Business reported that this report by the firm of Messner & Hadley from the prior school year has come to the Board of Education for approval. The District is required to have an independent financial audit performed annually in accordance with audit standards established by the State Controller. There were 20 audit findings in the 2006-07 Audit. Nine of those were resolved, three were partially resolved, and eight were not resolved. There are twelve audit findings in the 2007-08 file, ten that were not resolved from 2006-07 and two new findings. There are no apportionment related audit findings in 2008-09. Paul Messner from the accounting firm was on hand to discuss the audit findings and answer questions from the Board. Following questions and discussion, MSP (Collins/Dewey Thorsett) 7-0, the Board of Education approved the 2007-08 Audit Report. (Ex. 96)

Old Business: Amendment to Power Purchase Agreement w/MP2 Capital for the Solar Voltaic System at Soquel High School

Mr. Moss reported that MP2 Capital encountered some last minute difficulties closing their financing on the Soquel High School solar project after construction on the project was nearly complete. The proposed revision was reviewed by legal counsel Peter Brown and by the Solar Committee. Following questions and discussion, MSP (Hawthorne/Maxwell) 7-0, the Board of Education approved the Amendment to the Power Purchase Agreement w/MP2 Capital for the Solar Voltaic System at Soquel High School. (Ex. 97)

Old Business: Site Lease Agreement w/MP2 Capital for the Solar Voltaic System at Soquel High School

Mr. Moss recommended approval of the Site Lease Agreement. This agreement gives the company the rights to do the work approved in the Power Purchase Agreement. Following discussion, Ms. Dewey Thorsett moved approval with an amendment to change the wording stating that SCCS may not make or publish any public statement or notice relating to the System or the energy output of the System. Mr. Collin seconds this motion. The motion is approved without dissent. (Ex. 98)

New Business: Policy Revision: P4133.1 – Reimbursement of Mileage

Mr. Moss reported the proposed policy revision would allow for mileage reimbursement at the IRS standard rate, adjusted when the IRS standard is adjusted. The IRS rate effective 1/1/09 is \$.550/mile. MSP for 1st and Final Reading (Collins/Dewey Thorsett) 7-0, the Board of Education approved Policy Revision P4133.1 – Reimbursement of Mileage. (Ex. 99)

Staff Report: Third Party Administrator for 403(b) and 457(b) Plans

At the 11/12/08 Board Meeting, the GSCFT expressed a concern about the firm the District contracts with to provide third party administrator (TPA) services for these plans. IRS regulations affecting 403(b) plans have changed, resulting in more work for the TPA, and prompting the current administrator, Envoy, to begin charging employees an administrative fee each month. Also, the changes in IRS regulations now require Information Sharing Agreements between TPA and vendors. Envoy has been unsuccessful in getting all vendors to accept their agreement, and, as a result, there are fewer vendor choices through Envoy after 1/1/09. On January 9, representatives from three firms were interviewed. There is no recommendation yet, as SCCS is waiting for additional information from vendors. The committee hopes to bring a recommendation to the meeting on January 28, 2009.

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

Deputy Superintendent Krause reported the 2008-09 SCCS contract proposals are being submitted for “Sunshining” in accordance with the Employees Relations Act for public notice of contract proposals before official negotiations may begin. MSP (Dewey Thorsett/Collins) 7-0, the Board of Education approved the Opening of the Sunshine Period for SCCSD Contract Proposals to SCCCE for the 2008-09 school year.

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

Deputy Superintendent Krause reported the 2008-09 SCCS contract proposals are being submitted for “Sunshining” in accordance with the Employees Relations Act for public notice of contract proposals before official negotiations may begin. MSP (Strimling/Maxwell) 7-0, the Board of Education approved the Opening of the Sunshine Period for SCCSD Contract Proposals to GSCFT Guest Teachers for the 2008-09 school year.

New Business: Opening of Sunshine Period for SCCSD Contract Proposals to GSCFT K-12 for the 2008-09 School Year

Deputy Superintendent Krause reported the 2008-09 SCCS contract proposals are being submitted for “Sunshining” in accordance with the Employees Relations Act for public notice of contract proposals before official negotiations may begin. MSP (Collins/Maxwell) 7-0, the Board of Education approved the Opening of the Sunshine Period for SCCSD Contract Proposals to GSCFT K-12 for the 2008-09 school year.

Old Business: Superintendent Search Process and Timeline

Activities undertaken by Leadership Associates were discussed. Board President Wagman acknowledged Ms. Hawthorne and Ms. Dewey Thorsett for the work over the winter break and to Superintendent Pagano and Administrative Assistant Cothes for succeeding in publishing and mailing an informational letter from the district regarding this process to interested Stakeholders.

Information

There will be a Special Meeting of the Board of Education on Wednesday, January 21, 2009, at Harbor High School, 301 La Fonda Ave., Santa Cruz, CA. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is on January 28, 2009, 6:30 p.m., Branciforte Small Schools Campus, 840 N. Branciforte, Santa Cruz, CA. The Regular Meeting scheduled for February 11, 2008, 6:30 p.m., will have a location announced at a later date.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Trustees, Board President Wagman adjourned this Regular Meeting at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Krause, Deputy Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Ken S. Wagman, President
Board of Education