

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY  
SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND  
SECONDARY DISTRICTS  
January 28, 2009**

**Convene Open Session**

Board President Wagman called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. in the Branciforte Small Schools Multi-Purpose Room, 840 N. Bay Ave., 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, 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**

The Superintendent did not have any agenda changes for the evening. Board President Wagman asked the Board Members to approve the following: after the Site Welcome, County Superintendent Michael Watkins and Associate Superintendent of Business Barney Finlay will open the Public Communications; a motion to add Item 3.8, Approval of the Brochure for the SCCS Superintendent Search, to the Items to be Transacted and/or Discussed. This brochure was not received in time to be published in the posted agenda, and an expedient approval of the brochure is important for the search process. The Trustees approved Superintendent Watkins opening the Public Communications, and Mr. Collins moved the addition of Item 3.8 Approval of the Brochure for the SCCS Superintendent Search to the Agenda. Ms. Dewey Thorsett seconded this motion, and the Trustees approved without dissent. Students Hashimoto and Seynhaeve abstained from this vote.

**Site Welcome**

Small Schools Principal Curt Coleman introduced teacher Lisa Glick and students Leticia Sandoval, Gabby Parra, and Taylon Sanchez to report on Sustainable Food Preparation ROP Program at the campus. This program was started with a grant to begin a kitchen classroom and address nutrition education and the culinary arts. The students grow, harvest, and use the crops to prepare food for teachers, staff and students at the campus.

The students also learn to prepare menus, market product, budget funds, and promote and demonstrate how proper nutrition improves overall student performance.

### **PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

County Superintendent Michael Watkins reported on the role of the County Office of Education to oversee the fiscal certification of school districts. Superintendent Watkins introduced Associate Superintendent of Business Barney Finlay to explain the process for the fiscal certification of Adopted Budgets. After the SCCS 1<sup>st</sup> Interim Budget was submitted and approved as Qualified in October 2008, changes in budget guidelines from the State were included in the review process. These changes will result in 600-800 Negative Certifications for districts when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Budgets are submitted for review and approval. The SCCS Board of Education will need to make substantial budget reductions to achieve the required reserve and a Positive Certification. The COE looks forward to working with the district to craft a balanced budget, but stands ready to intervene if necessary.

Retired teacher Marilyn Garrett discussed banning cell towers near public schools, and recommended that installations cease until proven safe. Ms. Garrett concluded by asking for removal of wireless technology in SCCS. Branciforte Small Schools Assistant Principal Lysa Tabachnick invited Trustees, District Staff, and members of the community to participate in the Monarch Alternative Elementary School Exit Presentations. Former Santa Cruz High School Counselor Jeanne Trebbien encouraged the Academic Excellence Task Force to establish a chapter of the National Honor Society for Santa Cruz City Schools. The NHS would create an avenue for students to set goals and be recognized for their achievements. Ms. Trebbien concluded with the suggestion to resume publication of Semester Honor Roll Students in the Santa Cruz Sentinel Newspaper. Santa Cruz High School Assistant Principal Kristin Sharp acknowledged Information Technology Director Susan Doucette and her staff for the notable accomplishment of instituting a new, web-based Student Information System district wide for Santa Cruz City Schools during this week.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Alan Pagano also acknowledged Information Technology Director Doucette and staff for the great effort in installing the new Student Information System for Santa Cruz City Schools. Mr. Pagano also discussed the newly revised Board Meeting Schedule, which includes a once-a-month meeting at the County Office of Education. These meetings will be centrally located, offer audio and technology services, and the meeting room is available at no cost to the district. Mr. Pagano acknowledged the efforts of Deputy Superintendent Krause in this regard. Superintendent Pagano attending the DLAC meeting at Branciforte Middle School. The Superintendent acknowledged the Santa Cruz Education Foundation for a \$2,500 donation to the Visual and Performing Arts programs at Santa Cruz City Schools.

### **BOARD REPORTS AND REFERRALS**

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

Board President Ken Wagman reported that SCCS will work with local legislators Simitian and Monning regarding the Solar Panel Projects. Mr. Wagman thanked SCEF President Bill Maxfield for his diligent work on behalf of students in the community.

President Wagman announced that Board Member Claudia Vestal will represent the SCCS Board of Education on the Delta Charter School Board.

Board Member Rachel Dewey Thorsett attended the Academic Excellence Task Force. Ms. Dewey Thorsett thanked former counselor Trebbien for the excellent suggestion regarding the National Honor Society. Trustee Dewey Thorsett anticipates federal budget information regarding possible changes in the No Child Left Behind program.

Board Member Don Maxwell reported visiting DeLaveaga Elementary and Harbor High to observe the food services offerings.

Board Member Wendy Strimling attended the Academic Excellence Task Force meeting, and found an opportunity to discuss cost-neutral opportunities for students. There will be a presentation for parents and students on February 5 at Branciforte Middle School entitled “Drawing Out the Best in Your Brain – Making Learning Lasting and Meaningful”. Ms. Strimling was inspired by the Costanoa Café presentation. The Board Meeting on February 21 coincides with the Mission Hill Science Fair.

Board Member John Collins reported attending the BFAC meeting, and a meeting with Senator Simitian. Mr. Collins received a call from Congressman Farr today reporting the possibility of increases in federal funding for Special Education, Title I, and funds for Green Schools Construction. Former SCCS Food Service Director Thelma Dalman is in the audience this evening, and Mr. Collins would be interested in her comments regarding the Food Services Consultant report. Trustee Collins thanked Deputy Superintendent Krause for finding monthly meeting space at the COE for the SCCS Board of Education. Mr. Collins enjoys the email communications he received from Soquel and Santa Cruz High Schools, and encouraged Harbor High School to reconsider utilizing this positive form of contact.

Board Member Claudia Vestal has continued to visit sites and acquaint herself with SCCS staff and students. Adult School Principal Mary Powers was very helpful regarding the programs and offerings, and continues to build strong cooperative relationships with community partners. Ms. Vestal attended the Preschool For All Meeting to learn how other districts are funding this program.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MSP (Hawthorne/Collins) 7-0, the Board of Education approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 14, 2009. Students Seynhaeve and Hashimoto voted yes.

### **GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS**

#### **Consent Agenda**

Ms. Strimling asked that Item 1.4, Warrant Register, be pulled for a separate vote, and informed the Trustees she would recuse herself from a vote on this item for personal reasons. Ms. Hawthorne moved approval of the Consent Agenda, minus Item 1.4, consisting of: Personnel Actions – Certificated (Ex. 116); Personnel Actions – Classified (Ex. 117); Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids (Ex. 118); Gifts; Special Education Contracts (119); Consolidated Applications, Part II, Elementary & Secondary; SB77 Arts and Music Block Grant Summary Report; Soquel High School Course Description (Ex. 120);

Policy Revision: P5030 – Integrated Wellness Policy (2<sup>nd</sup> and Final Reading) (Ex. 121); Internet Service Provider Contract (Ex. 122); Unrestricted Budget vs. Actual Expenses 7/1/08 – 12/31/08; Approval of Budget Transfers; Disposition of Surplus Property (Ex. 123). Ms. Dewey Thorsett seconded this motion. The Board of Education acknowledged, with gratitude, the following gifts donated to the Santa Cruz City Schools District: *Soquel High School* – Mr. and Mrs. Michael Quinn have donated five (5) trumpets to the Soquel High School Music Program. This generous donation is valued at approximately \$1,000. **Total Value of gifts: \$1,000.** The motion was passed 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

#### **Item 1.4 Warrant Register**

MSP (Collins/Dewey Thorsett) 6-0-1, the Board of Education approved the detail report of warrants in batch numbers 129 through 136. Ms. Strimling abstained from the vote. Students Hashimoto and Seynhaeve voted yes.

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

The Board approved the Special Education Compromise/Release Agreement.

#### **ITEMS OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED and/or DISCUSSED**

##### **Staff Report: Food Services Consultant Report**

Superintendent Pagano commented that this presentation marks a significant step for our District. On 12/10/08, the Board approved engaging the consultant services of Local Plates, LLC to review and make recommendations for improvements to the Food Services program. These services were prompted by the Policy Revision: P5030 – Integrated Wellness Policy. In addition to demonstrating the correlation between student wellness and academic achievement, students of poverty will significantly benefit from this reform. This is the first step in a long process that has complete support from the Superintendent’s Office, significant support from the Bargaining Units, and concrete and tangible support from the community. This is a report, and not an action item. The Wellness Committee will be charged to bring items for action from the Trustees over a period of time. Beth Collins, Coleen Donnelly, and Ann Cooper attended this Regular Meeting to present their report and answer questions from the Trustees. The report covered key findings, an outline for recommended next steps, and in conclusion, Ms. Collins reported that, based on her work with teachers, staff, administrators, parents, and community members, it is clear there is strong optimism that progress in improving the delivery of food for students is possible. Support for moving forward in this arena was offered by Community Alliance with Family Farmers, Life Lab Science Program, La Familia Center, Santa Cruz Education Foundation, Unity Task Force, local restaurateur Joseph Schultz, SCCCE President Lowe, GSCFT President Kirschen, and others. Questions and comments followed by the Trustees, District Staff, and district parents and community members. Ms. Thelma Dalman, former SCCS Lunch Program Manager, expressed her support for the report and the interest in continuing an SCCS tradition of nationally recognized nutritional quality.

**Recess:** Board President Wagman called for a short recess at 8:51 p.m.

**Reconvene:** Board President Wagman reconvened this meeting at 9:01 p.m.

**\*Note:** Students Hashimoto and Seynhaeve did not return from the recess.

**Staff Report: Two-Way Immersion (TWI) Program, Grade 6**

Ms. Morgenstern introduced Curriculum and Assessment Director Mary Anne James and Branciforte Middle School Principal Munro to report on the planning to date for the expansion of the 2009-10 Two Way Immersion Program to Grade 6 at Branciforte Middle School. There are currently 32 grade 5 students in the TWI Program at DeLaveaga School. The presentation included background information, fiscal and programmatic questions related to expansion to middle school, a sample middle school schedule, and the next steps planned in the process of expanding the TWI program. This item did not require any action by the Trustees.

**Staff Report: Governor's Proposed 2009-10 Budget**

Mr. Richard Moss reported the Governor made the general elements of his 2009-10 Proposed Budget public on 12/31/08, and followed up with more details about the proposals on 1/10/09. This report contained information on the Governor's proposals to eliminate the \$41.6 Billion Budget Deficit; the Governor's Revenue Proposals; the 2008-09 Proposition 98 Guarantee; 2008-09 and 2009-10 K-12 Revenue Limits; the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; and the 2008-09 to 2011-12 General Fund, Four Year Projection Assumptions.

**Old Business: 2009-10 Revised ZBB Revenue Distribution**

Mr. Moss presented the changes in the 2009-10 ZBB Revenue Distribution from 12/3/08 Preliminary to 1/28/09 Revised, including Revenue, Expenditures, Summary of 2009-10 ZBB Net Revenue Allocations and Personnel Costs by Grade Level Group, Comparison of 2008-09 ZBB and 2009-10 ZBB Revenue Distribution; and 2009-10 Grade Level Budget Reduction Targets. No action was taken by the Trustees regarding this item.

**New Business: Budget Reduction Options**

Superintendent Pagano reported that based on the revised General Fund multi-year projection based on the Governor's Budget, 2009-10 budget reductions have been identified to achieve a 2009-10 budget that has at least a 3% reserve in 2009-10 and 2010-11, and is approvable by the County Office of Education. The Superintendent discussed previously approved reductions and categorical fund shifts, and presented three options of different levels of budget reductions for the Board Members to consider. Option #1 identified a total budget reduction of \$3,500,000; Option #2 included Option #1 plus additional identified reductions totaling \$506,000, bringing total reductions to \$4,006,000. Option #3 included Options #1 and 2, plus additional identified reductions of \$600,000, bringing total reductions to \$4,606,000. Mr. Pagano recommended Option #2. Trustee Don Maxwell proposed a fourth option, wherein each stakeholder group would decide on its own reductions as follows: Certificated (20%); Classified (20%); Central Office including Facilities and Maintenance (30%); Site Administration (15%); Site Budget (15%). Mr. Maxwell's motion did not receive a second. Following further Board Members' questions, public comments, and Board comments, Ms. Hawthorne moved approval of Option #2, setting the dollar target at \$4 million, but including a 4<sup>th</sup> furlough day, the Restricted Maintenance lowered to 2.0%, and class size reduction to be part of this option. Ms. Dewey Thorsett seconded the motion. The motion was passed 5-2, with Mr. Collins and Mr. Maxwell casting the "No" votes. (Ex. 124)

**New Business: Classified Management Longevity**

This item was continued until the Regular Meeting of February 11, 2009.

**New Business: Resolution #10-08-09 (Elementary) and #11-08-09 (Secondary) Accepting Special Education Behavioral Intervention Plans Mandated Cost Claims Settlement**

This item was continued until the Regular Meeting of February 11, 2009.

**New Business: Approval of the Santa Cruz City Schools Brochure to Advertise the Position of Superintendent**

Several suggestions were made for the brochure, including adding the words “Strongly Preferred” when referring to the Bilingual requirement; removing the description of the “opportunity school program” (no longer exists); and adding the number of students in Santa Cruz City Schools (7,000 K-12 and 4,500 Adult School). MSP (Hawthorne/Vestal) 7-0, the Board approved the Brochure with noted changes/suggestions.

**Information**

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is February 11, 2009, 6:30 p.m., County Office of Education, Board Room, 400 Encinal St., Santa Cruz. The Special Budget/Staffing Board of Education Meeting on February 18, 2009 is scheduled 6:30 p.m. in the District Office, Room 312, 405 Old San Jose Road, Soquel, CA. The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on February 25, 2009, is scheduled at Westlake Elementary School, 6:30 p.m., 1000 High St., Santa Cruz, CA.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Trustees, Board President Wagman adjourned this Regular Meeting at 10:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Pagano, Superintendent  
Santa Cruz City Schools

Ken S. Wagman, President  
Board of Education