

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

**March 11, 2009**

**Convene Open Session**

Board President Ken Wagman called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. in the County Office of Education Board Room, 400 Encinal St., Santa Cruz, CA.

**Attendance at Meeting**

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

Student Representative Seynhaeve

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

**Agenda Changes**

Board President Wagman asked to include an item to the agenda. President Wagman would like to have the Trustees take a separate vote on the 2009-10 Financial Stability Plan provided by Mr. Moss, Asst. Supt. of Business as an attachment to the Second Interim Report. This item was received too late for publication in the agenda, and President Wagman has determined an urgent need for action on this item. The Board approved the addition of Item 3.7, 2009-10 Financial Stability Plan, and also agreed to vote on this item following Item 3.3, 2008-09 Second Interim Report.

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Harbor High School Teachers Greg Spear, Jeff Holcomb, and Heather Murphy presented information on the after school Learning Center. The Harbor High Learning Center invites the Board Members and any other interested parties to visit. Hours for the center are Monday through Thursday, 2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Greg Spear also asked the Trustees to keep the district AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Program. Teen Age Parent Program (TAPP) Teacher Linda McGuire spoke regarding classes that serve all six SCCS high schools, and students from neighboring districts.. Dee O'Brien from the Walnut Avenue Women's Center reported the SCCS TAPP has received the honor of being named the top program in the State of California for teen parents, and also has the highest rate of graduates who continue on to higher education. Ms. O'Brien also asked the Board Members to consider replacing the Walnut Avenue Women's Center portable located on the Santa Cruz High Campus.. SCCCE President Joan Lowe commented

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regarding the Superintendent's presentation on facility use at the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. GSCFT President Barry Kirschen asked the Board Members to keep in mind that employees need quick action regarding how flexible categorical funds will be used by the District.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Deputy Superintendent Tanya Krause reported that despite the budget woes, great things continue to happen in Santa Cruz City Schools. The Santa Cruz High School Girls Basketball team recently won the CCS championship, and Mission Hill Middle School student Claire Grishaw-Jones was the winner of the Santa Cruz County Spelling Bee. The Deputy Superintendent encouraged members of the school community to attend local student events; these occasions remind us of why we commit our time and energy to children. Since the last Regular Meeting, the Deputy Superintendent has been meeting often with Director Harriett Lacey, Director of Finance regarding the State funding of the Tier 3 Categorical Funds. Ms. Krause attended a Superintendent's Retreat, and provided very clear feedback to Assembly member Bill Monning on steps to advocate for education in the State. Ms. Krause attended the Unity Task Force Meeting at DeLaveaga Elementary with Ms. Diane Morgenstern, Asst. Supt. of Ed Services. She also reported attending the countywide CTE meeting with Soquel HS Principal Ken Lawrence-Emanuel. The Deputy Superintendent asked the Trustees to schedule an additional Regular Meeting on April 29, 2009. Ms. Krause acknowledged the scheduled resignation of Mission Hill Middle School Principal Dona Abrahams-Johnson and the retirement of District Student Services Director Maryanne Tong. These employees have provided valuable service to students, and it is appreciated.

### **BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS OR REFERRALS**

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

President Wagman reported attending the Branciforte Middle School Home and School Club Meeting and the Branciforte Middle School ELAC Meeting. Branciforte Middle School Principal Kris Munro and Assistant Principal Angela Meeker each attended one of the meetings, and it was a pleasure to see these impressive leaders in action.

#### **Board Members' Referrals and Reports**

Board Member Claudia Vestal asked the Bargaining Units, District Staff, and Trustees to work creatively and collaboratively to discover solutions to our budget problems that can save vital programs and employees for SCCS. Ms. Vestal will bring a resolution to an upcoming meeting to set Board priorities during these budget revisions. Trustee Vestal reported she is proud to serve in this district, and is amazed on a daily basis by the excellent service provided to children in Santa Cruz City Schools.

Board Member Cynthia Hawthorne thanked Ms. Vestal for her comments. Ms. Hawthorne attended the Green Schools Committee Meeting, and is pleased to announce that Santa Cruz City employee Ross Clark will be able to provide a measurement of the SCCS carbon footprint. This will be the first step toward providing a more sustainable environment. The City of Santa Cruz and UCSC will partner to provide the \$26,000 service free to Santa Cruz City Schools. Ms. Hawthorne will attend the Wellness Committee meeting on March 12.

Board Member John Collins attended the Harbor High School Sophomore Counseling night, and commended Assistant Principal Gwen Heskett for her excellent presentation. Mr. Collins attended the Soquel High School Neighbors meeting, and was pleased to learn that the city intends to make improvements to allow students easier access to the campus. Trustee Collins acknowledged the District for the improvements to the Soquel High School Softball field. The Board of Education will conduct interviews for the Superintendent's position on March 22 at the Goodwill Industries buildings in Santa Cruz. Mr. Collins acknowledged the great work of the Harbor High School Learning Center. Board Member Collins suggested adding one or two additional student representatives to the Board of Education. Board Member Collins provided some background on long time Santa Cruz City Schools Teacher Linda McGuire, and recognized her vision and skill in leading TAPP for SCCS. Ms. McGuire has provided a tremendous opportunity to the Santa Cruz community.

Board Member Wendy Strimling thanked the many members of the audience who came to support the Teen Age Parent Program this evening. Ms. Strimling also thanked Goodwill Industries for providing the interview facilities on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Santa Cruz High School students Sage Farrell, Chandan Lodha, and Devlin Mallory have the distinction of being named National Merit Scholar Finalists.

Board Member Rachel Dewey Thorsett thanked Principal Dona Abrahams-Johnson for her service to students. Ms. Dewey Thorsett attended a free webinar sponsored by ACSA regarding Title II funds. Trustee Dewey Thorsett intends to search for funds to retain the AVID Program, the Harbor High School Learning Center, and the SCCS TAPP.

### **Student Representative**

Ms. Lauren Seynhaeve invited members of the community to join SCCS teachers and supporters on Friday at one of the local statewide rallies to protest employment pink slips. The Mister Soquel High School competition will be held on Thursday March 12 at 7:00 p.m., and the Soquel High School Pops Concert will take place on March 18. Tickets for both events are \$5.00.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

MSP (Dewey Thorsett/Collins) 5-0-1, the Board of Education approved the Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting with BFAC on February 24, 2009. Ms. Strimling abstained from this vote. Student Seynhaeve voted yes.

MSP (Collins/Dewey Thorsett) 6-0, the Board of Education approved the Minutes of the Special Study Session on February 18, 2009. Student Seynhaeve abstained from the vote.

MSP (Dewey Thorsett/Collins) 5-0-1, the Board of Education approved the Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting with BFAC on February 17, 2009. Student Seynhaeve voted yes.

## GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

### Consent Agenda

Mr. Collins moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of: Personnel Actions – Certificated (Ex. 146); Personnel Actions – Classified (Ex. 147); Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids (Ex. 148); Warrant Register; Change Orders (Ex. 149); Notices of Completion (Ex. 150); Gifts; Approve \$1,100 Budget for Music Festival from Measure P; CAC Membership. The Board acknowledged, with gratitude, the following gifts donated to the Santa Cruz City Schools: *Bay View Elementary* – Maryann Wagner has donated a check in the amount of \$200, books for the school library valued at approximately \$110 and materials for the Kindergarten classes. *Santa Cruz High Schools* – The Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County’s Driscoll’s Charitable Fund donated \$500 to the “Sober Grad Night” Committee. George Ow Jr. has donated \$1,000 to the Black Student Union. *Soquel High School* – Mr. and Mrs. Mike Quinn have donated 40 cases of copy paper valued at approximately \$1,200. **Total value of gifts: \$3,010.**

### Closed Session Action Report

Conference w/ Real Property Negotiator – Board gave direction to move forward with property representatives.

The Board took action 5/0 – Student 11-08-09 – Stipulated expulsion through the end of the 08-09 school year.

Board heard an update and gave direction on negotiations with the GSCFT for 2009-10

Board heard an update and gave direction on negotiation with the SCCCE for 2008-09

Ms. Dewey Thorsett reported the Board of Education gave unanimous (6-0) direction to the Negotiation Team: Based on the information available on this day, in order to protect the integrity of the District we are asking all employee groups to agree to a 2% reduction in calendar. However, at this time, we have directed our negotiating team not to accept more than a 2% reduced calendar from any employee group.

The Board heard a report on Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation, Govt. Code Section 54956.9(b), Significant Exposure to Litigation: One Case

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

#### *New Business: Resolution #18-08-09 Notice to Release or Reassign District Administrators for 2009-10*

Ms. Krause reported on this item to the Trustees, and recommended approval. Ms. Dewey Thorsett moved approval, and Ms. Vestal seconded this motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote, as follows: (Ex. 151)

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

Student Seynhaeve – Yes

**New Business: Resolution #19-08-09 Notice of Intent to Dismiss Certificated Employees for 2009-10**

Ms. Krause reported that the Board of Education is advised to reduce or discontinue particular kinds of service for the 2009-10 school year (the services are itemized in “Exhibit A”). Following Board questions, and discussion among Trustees, District Staff, and Members of the Audience, Ms. Hawthorne moved approval of the resolution and Ms. Dewey Thorsett seconded the motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote, as follows: (Ex. 152)

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

Student Seynhaeve – Abstain

**New Business: 2008-09 Second Interim Report**

Ms. Lacey and Mr. Moss reported to the Board of Education, including information on: Significant Factors Affecting 2008-09 Second Interim Budgets; Variance Between 1<sup>st</sup> Interim Budget on 12/10/08 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Budget; Elementary District Revenue Limit With & Without Basic Aid; Budget Figures after 7 months (58%) of the Fiscal Year; Significant Factors Affecting 2009-10 and 2010-11 Multi-Year Projection; Multi-Year Projection; Negative Certification; Factors that will change the Budget in the future; and Corrections to the 2008-09 Second Interim Report. Following lengthy discussion among Board Members, District Staff, and Members of the Audience, Mr. Collins moved approval of the 2008-09 Second Interim Report, and Ms. Dewey Thorsett seconded this motion. The motion was approved without dissent. (Ex. 153)

**New Business: SCCS 2009-10 Financial Stability Plan**

Mr. Moss presented the 2009-10 Financial Stability Plan to the Board of Education. An Additional \$2.9 million in budget reductions will be needed in 2009-10 to achieve a 3% reserve, and \$2.45 million in additional reductions will need to be made in 2010-11 to reach a 3% reserve in that year. During discussion, Board Members voiced concern that the layoffs given to staff members this year may become permanent reductions. Ms. Hawthorne repeated that the Board is giving direction to every employee group in this district to come together to save jobs and programs for students. During this catastrophic year, the District must maintain the integrity of student services. MSP (Dewey Thorsett/Strimling) 6-0, the Board approved the SCCS 2009-10 Financial Stability Plan. (Ex. 154)

**Recess:** Board President Wagman called for a short recess at 9:05 p.m.

**Reconvene:** Board President Wagman reconvened this Regular Meeting at 9:19 p.m.

**\*Note:** Student Seynhaeve did not return to the meeting after the recess.

**New Business: Resolution #20-08-09 Terminating Contract with Envoy Plan Services, Inc. & Approving Contract with Great American Plan Adm., Inc. for 403(b) and 437(b) Plan Administration Services & Related Documents**

Mr. Moss reported this item to the Board of Education and recommended approval. This recommendation follows the review of proposals from three vendors. After discussion, Ms. Hawthorne moved approval, and Mr. Collins seconded this motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote, as follows: (Ex. 155)

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

**New Business: Contract with Macken Properties to List Office Space for Lease at 133 Mission Street, Santa Cruz, CA.**

Mr. Moss reported the current Lease agreement with Valerie Macken of Macken Properties expired on 8/31/08. The submitted agreement would extend the term to 8/31/09. After review of the lease extension, Ms. Dewey moved approval with the following amendment: delete the words “\$1.65 NNN or as negotiated” at the end of the second paragraph. Ms. Strimling seconded this motion. The motion was approved without dissent. (Ex. 156)

**Old Business: Superintendent Search Process and Timeline**

Board President Wagman provided an update on this recruitment process for the Superintendent’s position. On March 22, 2009: the Board will meet at Goodwill Industries, 350 Encinal St., Santa Cruz, CA. Public Comments will be available at the start of the meeting; however, once the interviews have begun, members of the public will not be allowed in the meeting.

**Information**

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for March 25, 2009, 6:30 p.m., Soquel High School Library, 401 Old San Jose Road, Soquel, CA. The Special Meeting/Closed Session on March 22, 2009 is scheduled to begin with Public Comments at the Goodwill Industries building, 9:00 a.m., 350 Encinal St., Santa Cruz, CA. Following Public Comments, the Board of Education will adjourn to Closed Session. The Regular Meeting scheduled for April 15, 2009, is scheduled for the County Office of Education Board Room, 6:30 p.m., 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA. There will be a Regular Meeting scheduled for April 29, 2009 that will take place at a location to be determined at a later date.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Trustees, Board President Wagman adjourned this Regular Meeting at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Krause, Deputy Superintendent  
Santa Cruz City Schools

Ken S. Wagman, President  
Board of Education