

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY
SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY DISTRICTS
September 10, 2008**

Convene Open Session

Board President Hawthorne called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. in the Branciforte Middle School Multi-Purpose Room, 315 Poplar St., Santa Cruz, CA.

Attendance at Meeting

John Collins	Rachel Dewey Thorsett	Cynthia Hawthorne	Felix Robles
Ken Wagman	Wendy Strimling	Don Maxwell	

Student Representative Seynhaeve
Student Representative Hashimoto

Alan Pagano, Superintendent
Tanya Krause, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Diane Morgenstern, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Dick Moss, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Members of the Audience

SITE WELCOME

Branciforte Middle School Munro welcomed the Board of Education, District staff, and members of the audience to the site. Assistant Principal Angela Meeker introduced three students to provide a report on the new Advisory Class offered at Branciforte Middle School. Omar Fabian, Erin Woods and Mia Richie submitted a lively description of the Home Room Program, including goals to stay organized, get to know each other more, relax a little bit, and begin to think about college opportunities.

PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/CELEBRATION

Superintendent Alan Pagano provided an explanation in Spanish regarding the translation services and equipment available at the meeting tonight. The Superintendent asked Bay View Elementary School Principal Dan Cavanaugh and staff members present at this Regular Meeting to step forward. Mr. Pagano asked the Board of Education and the District Staff and School Community to celebrate an outstanding programmatic achievement. Based on student achievement and proficiency results on Standardized Testing, Bay View Elementary School has exited "Program Improvement" status in the Federal AYP Program. It is a magnificent achievement. The entire district benefits from the great work done by this site staff.

Assistant Superintendent Diane Morgenstern noted that the concept of demonstrating proficiency through a narrow measurement of a once a year test by students who are testing in a non-native language cannot be overstated as an achievement. Ms. Morgenstern has asked the Santa Cruz Sentinel newspaper to consider a full feature article on this site. Through focus on the whole child – utilizing the Arts, Life Lab,

Library Media Teacher and program, and the shift to a culture of inclusion in supplemental services and a student posture of “I am college bound” – this school has realized a monumental achievement.

Board President Hawthorne invited Principal Cavanaugh to join her in writing a letter to California State Superintendent O’Connell regarding this achievement, and the means used to reach this goal.

Agenda Changes

Ms. Strimling suggested the addition of an Item for Discussion: Two Way/Dos Alas Program. This item was removed from the Agenda late Tuesday; however, there may be people here who were not aware of the Agenda change. MSP (Strimling/Wagman) 7-0, the Board of Education added an Item for Discussion: Two Way/Dos Alas Program.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Branciforte and Gault Schools parent Suzanne Williams welcomed the Board Members to this site, and expressed immense admiration for Administrators Kris Munro and Angela Meeker, who have turned this site from a struggling campus to an opportunity for all students. Ms. Williams thanked the Board for the inclusion of the Dos Alas Program into the agenda this evening, and for the appointment of the outstanding administrator Molly Parks as Gault Elementary School Principal. Student enrichment classes will begin at Branciforte Middle School next week. Mr. Ira Schwartz delivered a letter for the Superintendent and Board Members regarding an article in the San Francisco Chronicle on school seismic safety. Mr. Mark Gottlieb, who lives across the street from the Santa Cruz High School Athletic Field and represents approximately 12 homes in the neighborhood, shared some concerns about this project. The neighbors are seeking information regarding parking, night games, traffic impact on the neighborhood, and protection of local walnut trees. Small Schools Principal Curt Coleman distributed an invitation for Board and Cabinet Members to attend the 5th Annual Small Schools Celebration that will take place from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. on October 14. Mission Hill Middle School Principal Dona Abrahams-Johnson invited the Trustees to the Mission Hill Back-To-School Night on September 16. Ms. Abrahams-Johnson wished to publicly thank the students, staff, and parents of Mission Hill Middle School; along with Scotts Valley Middle School, this site has the highest county middle school Academic Performance Index score reflecting student results of Spring 2008 Standardized Testing – Mission Hill Middle School also was given a Similar Schools Rank of 9 (scale of 1-10) from the California Department of Education. Dr. Jim Logsdon added his commendations for the staff of Bay View School for the exit of “Program Improvement” status in the Federal Accountability program.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Pagano reported on his invitation to participate in the development of a strategic plan for Community Television. Mr. Pagano provided flyers regarding a September 15 event at Chaminade. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Manuel Pastor and

the evening will include a discussion with California State Superintendent of Schools Jack O'Connell. Thanks to a community neighbors group that included Soquel High School Principal Lawrence-Emanuel and other site administrators, and also Mr. Moss and Trustee Collins, SCCS is pleased to announce that beginning Monday, September 15; Soquel High School will have a community School Resource Officer on campus.

BOARD REPORTS AND REFERRALS

Board President's Report

Board President Cynthia Hawthorne reported she attended and enjoyed the New Teacher Orientation event which included a dedication theme of service to students.

Board Members' Reports of Comments

Trustee John Collins offered congratulations to Principal Dan Cavanaugh and the Bay View staff and thanks to Soquel Principal Ken Lawrence-Emanuel for meeting with the Soquel neighbors group to address concerns about Soquel Village. Mr. Collins has visited both the DeLaveaga and Branciforte Middle School campuses, and walked the sites to get an understanding of the site issues. The Harbor High School Counseling staff is providing a wonderful early intervention program for students with special needs.

Board Member Rachel Dewey Thorsett also enjoyed the New Teacher Orientation event. The very smooth start to this school year is a great measure of how well the District/Site staff is functioning.

Board Member Don Maxwell attended the New Teacher Orientation, and it was a fine event. Mr. Maxwell invited Board Members, District and Site Administrators, and all new Certificated and Classified staff members to a reception at the Maxwell home on September 19 in Soquel.

Trustee Ken Wagman extended thanks to Mr. Maxwell for hosting the New Employee Reception. Mr. Wagman has responded to many emails over the last two weeks; attended the VAPA meeting chaired by Ms. Kathleen Crocetti; and attended the first Santa Cruz High School PTA meeting.

Board Member Felix Robles thanked all those who have sent him emails regarding the Two Way/Dos Alas Program. Mr. Robles complimented the SCCS Staff for the smooth school opening day – and remarked on the continual improvement in this area over the years.

Trustee Wendy Strimling offered congratulations for the great start to a new school year. Ms. Strimling attended the first Mission Hill Middle School PTA Meeting, and the energy was great.

Student Reports

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Collins moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 20, 2008, and Mr. Wagman seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0-2, with Mr. Maxwell and Ms. Strimling abstaining from the vote.

GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

Mr. Collins moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of: Personnel Actions – Certificated (Ex. 16); Personnel Actions – Classified (Ex, 17); Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids (Ex. 18); Warrant Register; *Revised* Change Orders (Ex. 19); Nutrition Education Contract (Ex. 19); Consultant Services Agreements (2) (Ex 20); Consultant Services Agreement (Ex. 21). Mr. Wagman seconded this motion. The motion was passed by roll call vote, as follows:

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

Student Seynhaeve – Yes Student Hashimoto – Yes

Closed Session Action Report

Heard an update Re: Negotiations – Collective Bargaining Session (Govt. Code Section 3549.1(d) Executive session between the public school employer and its designated representative, Alan Pagano, for the purpose of giving direction regarding negotiations with the GSCFT and SCCCE for 2008-09

Heard an update Re: Negotiations – Collective Bargaining Session (Govt. Code Section 3549.1(d) Executive session between the public school employer and its designated representative, Alan Pagano, for the purpose of giving direction regarding negotiations with the GSCFT for 2007-08 –Adult Education

Gave staff direction Re: Conference with Real Property Negotiator (Gov. Code § 54956.8) Properties: 255 Swift Street & 840 N. Branciforte Ave.
Under Negotiation: Lease Agreements – Head Start

ITEMS OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED and/or DISCUSSED

Staff Report: Wellness Committee

The Santa Cruz City Schools Wellness Committee provided a staff report for the Board Members. The purpose of the committee is to advise the District on health related issues and programs by examining standards and assessing practices based on the most current research available. The Committee will report at least annually to the Board on activities, and recommend initiatives for Board approval, including quality indicators to measure the implementation of wellness policies district wide and at each school site. Initial focus for the 2008-09 school year will be a district-wide analysis of nutrition as per Policy 5030(a), including nutritional content of meals, student participation in school meal programs, and the impact of student nutrition on wellness of the school communities and families. Additional areas of content for the 2008-09 school year may include a review of student health, student and staff wellness, and student physical activity.

Discussion: Two Way/Dos Alas Program Transition

The Board of Education opened a discussion for members of the public and school communities to voice opinions/recommendations regarding the Two Way/Dos Alas Program. Board President Hawthorne also announced a Community Forum, scheduled for September 20, 2008, 10:00 a.m., Branciforte Middle School Multi-Purpose Room, 315 Poplar St., Santa Cruz. Translation services and childcare will be provided at this Forum. This item may come back to the Board of Education for action at a later date. Board President Hawthorne also asked Board Members to hold questions until the Community Forum on September 20, as one would connect with more people at that time. Ms. Hawthorne invited staff and community members to access the SCCS District website beginning Thursday, September 11, as one will be able to post questions online at the website. Ed Ferrell, the Santa Cruz County Middle School Athletic Commissioner, expressed concerns about how the Branciforte Middle School Athletic Fields will be affected by the program move. Twenty-four Branciforte Middle School staff members signed a letter listing concerns regarding this program transition. The staff members asked to consider waiting until a new Superintendent is in place before making this decision. English and Spanish speaking parents and neighbors spoke to tell the Trustees that they would like to slow down the process for action and take more time to study the situation. Some speakers expressed concern that the Superintendent's presentations on this matter address many of the ways in which this transition would satisfy the needs of the Dual Immersion program – but does not address how the district would continue to meet the needs of the Branciforte Middle School students and programs. Some parents and neighbors expressed concern about the safety of students, and increased traffic in the area. Some speakers indicated they felt the district was simply moving a problem from one campus to another, providing relief at one site, but creating problems at the next site.

Board Comments: Ms. Strimling assured the members of the audience that all ideas presented this evening would be seriously considered by the Board of Education. Mr. Collins expressed appreciation to all who came to address the Trustees – and indicated that he felt this item was still open for additional considerations and conversations. Mr. Collins urged community members to share not only their concerns, but their solutions to this complex predicament. Mr. Maxwell appreciated the thoughts on overcrowding, and reported he felt it was in the best interest of everyone concerned to get more input from the site staff members and the community members before moving forward with action. Board President Hawthorne reported that these recommendations come from SCCS Administration, and everyone involved continues to strive to resolve critical issues associated with enrollment and facility use. The Board of Education will listen to all stakeholders.

Recess: Board President Hawthorne called for a short recess at 8:30 p.m.

Reconvene: Board President Hawthorne reconvened this Regular Meeting at 8:47 p.m. Mr. Robles and Students Hashimoto and Seynhaeve did not return to the Regular Meeting after the break.

Staff Report: Opening School Enrollments

Mr. Moss provided the annual report to the Board of Education regarding opening day enrollments at sites and district-wide. The total number of students in this district on opening day was 6,836. While this number was 125 more than District projections, it was still a decrease of 57 students from the 2007-08 CBEDS. The Board Members thanked Mr. Moss for his accurate projections for the district.

PUBLIC HEARING: AB 1200 GUEST TEACHERS

Open: Board President Hawthorne opened this Public Hearing at 8:56 p.m.

Mr. Moss reported the GSCFT and SCCS reached a tentative agreement regarding the 2007-08 collective bargaining agreement for Guest Teachers on August 7, 2008. Approval of this item is on this agenda as a separate item. The Board is required by AB 1200 to make this tentative agreement available to the public, to publicly disclose its costs and to conduct a public hearing to receive public comments prior to approval. The total increased costs of this agreement are \$22,298. These figures are estimates based on last year's budget expenditures.

Public Comment: None

Close: Board President Hawthorne closed this Public Hearing at 8:59 p.m.

New Business: Tentative Agreement between the GSCFT Guest Teachers and SCCSD for the 2007-08 School Year

Ms. Krause recommended that the Board of Education approve the August 7, 2008 Tentative Agreement between the Greater Santa Cruz Federation of Teachers, Guest Teachers and Santa Cruz City Schools. MSP (Wagman/Collins) 6-0, the Board of Education approved the Agreement. (Ex. 22)

Staff Report: Program and Staffing Reinstatement Report

In June 2008, the Santa Cruz City Schools Board of Education reinstated 5.0 Certificated FTE, totaling \$375,000 in the unrestricted budget. In addition, a percentage of the Free and Reduced/English Learner Lunch Program (FREL) funds originally allocated in the ZZB budget process redistributed for priority expenditure. Educational Services and Human Resources provided the Trustees with information regarding the distribution and programmatic implication of the redistributed staffing resources. Asst. Supt., Diane Morgenstern and Asst. Supt. Tanya Krause provided this report, and informed that Trustees that all but .06 of the 5.0 FTE have been reinstated and that teachers were in place for the first day of school. How funds from the Targeted Intensive Instructional Grant (TIIG) were distributed to provide program augmentation was discussed, and also how the FREL funds were used.

New Business: Resolution #2-08-09 Certificated Personnel Action

Ms. Krause recommended the certificated action be approved as submitted. Mr. Collins moved approval and Ms. Strimling seconded this motion. The Board of Education approved Resolution #2-08-09, considered a valid assignment by the CCTC, to allow a

teacher to continue to teach courses to our students despite a recent change in CA Credential requirements due to William's Compliance, with a roll call vote, as follows: (Ex. 23)

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

New Business: Resolution #3-08-09 Certificated Personnel Action

Ms. Krause recommended the certificated action be approved as submitted. Mr. Collins moved approval and Mr. Wagman seconded this motion. The Board of Education approved Resolution #3-08-09, considered a valid assignment by the CCTC, to allow a teacher to continue to teach courses to our students despite a recent change in CA Credential requirements due to William's Compliance, with a roll call vote, as follows: (Ex. 24)

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

Information: Update – Executive Search/Superintendent

Board President Hawthorne provided an update on the Executive Search for a new SCCS Superintendent. The Board of Education should be in possession of at least three proposals in October (from CSBA, Leadership Services, and a San Francisco search firm recommended by UC Berkeley), so President Hawthorne suggested postponing this discussion until the first Regular Meeting in October. Mr. Wagman reported the date currently scheduled for that meeting will conflict with some Board Members' religious holiday, and suggested the Regular Meetings for October be rescheduled. The Trustees directed District Staff to have the Regular Meetings in October on the 15th and the 29th of the month. Presentations regarding the search for a new SCCS Superintendent may take place on October 15.

Information

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for September 24, 2008, 6:30 p.m., Harbor High School Library, 300 La Fonda Ave., Santa Cruz, CA. The Regular Meeting of October 15, 2008, is scheduled at 6:30 p.m. at Mission Hill Middle School, 425 King St., Santa Cruz, CA.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Trustees, Board President Hawthorne adjourned this Regular Meeting at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Pagano, Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Cynthia Hawthorne, President
Board of Education

