

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY
SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY DISTRICTS
August 12, 2009**

Convene Open Session

Board President Wagman called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:34 p.m., in the County Office of Education Board Room, 400 Encinal St., Santa Cruz, CA.

Attendance at Meeting

Rachel Dewey Thorsett Don Maxwell Claudia Vestal

Wendy Strimling Ken Wagman

Absent: John Collins Cynthia Hawthorne

Student Representative Kai Medeiros - Present

Student Representative Nick Morris - Present

Gary Bloom, Superintendent

Tanya Krause, 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

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Assemblyman John Laird presented a Certificate of Appreciation/Recognition from the State of California's Integrated Waste Management Board to Santa Cruz City Schools for piloting curriculum regarding Ecology, Environment, and Sustainability. Mr. Laird gave particular recognition to Diane Morgenstern and Jean Mahoney. SCCCE President Joan Lowe reported attending the Town Hall discussion on National Health Insurance Reform hosted by Representative Sam Farr.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Bloom acknowledged Ms. Lowe for engaging in State/National level politics. The Superintendent reported a very productive initial 2009-10 Leadership Team Meeting on Monday August 10, and noted that the new district Nutritional Manager is already working with staff to ensure a successful start of the school Food Program.

Interviews for the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services were conducted on Tuesday August 11, and Superintendent Bloom hopes to bring a recommendation for this

position forward on August 26. The CDE will post the CST results on August 18, and SCCS staff members will be sharing summaries with the Trustees as soon as possible. In order to build stronger connections and educational partnerships with the Beach Flats community, Gault Elementary School and Branciforte Middle School will host meetings at the Beach Flats Community Center on October 6. SCCS will host an employee “Welcome Back” reception on August 24, 7:30 a.m. at Harbor High School.

BOARD MEMBERS’ REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Board President’s Report

Board President Wagman acknowledged Superintendent Bloom for the excellent job of keeping him apprised of budget information and personnel issues during the summer break.

Board Members’ Reports or Comments

Board Member Vestal attended an informative tour of the Live Oak community hosted by the Live Oak Resource Center. Trustee Vestal also attended a Delta School Board Trustee Retreat, and reported that goals this year are to increase Delta School outreach to parents and to encourage the Delta School Board Trustees to mentor students. Ms. Vestal acknowledged the impressive new Adult School catalog.

Board Member Maxwell thanked Superintendent Bloom for all the reading materials he has provided the Trustees, and noted that it would be great to schedule a discussion regarding these matters.

Board Member Strimling reported seeing several teachers back earlier than the negotiated schedule requires beginning preparations for the new school year. Trustee Strimling acknowledged Mr. Moss for the great service he has provided the district during his tenure in Business Services, and hopes to celebrate his retirement in the near future. Ms. Strimling hopes to have a class size discussion among the Board and Staff members soon.

Board Member Dewey Thorsett thanked Superintendent Bloom for the reading materials and recommendations during the summer break.

Student Representatives Reports

Student Medeiros appreciated the diligent efforts of Harbor High School Administrators to seek funds to retain Counselors for the students this year.

Student Morris visited the Santa Cruz High School campus over the break to learn more about the current construction projects under way at this site; including the Solar Panels installation and the Track and Field Project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSP (Dewey Thorsett/Maxwell) 4-0-1, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 29, 2009. As she was not present for this meeting, Ms. Strimling abstained from the vote.

MSP (Vestal/Strimling) 5-0, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 29, 2009. Students Medeiros and Morris voted yes.

GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

Mr. Maxwell asked to set aside Item 1.5 Special Education Contracts for Nonpublic Agency & Schools for a separate discussion and vote.

Ms. Dewey Thorsett moved approval of the Consent Agenda, minus Item 1.5, consisting of: Personnel Actions – Certificated (Ex. 10); Personnel Actions – Classified (Ex. 11); Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids (Ex. 12); Warrant Register; CSA – Special Education (Ex. 13); CSA – District Website (Ex. 14); Gifts; Change Order (Ex. 15); Notice of Completion (Ex. 16). The Board acknowledged, with gratitude, the generous and on-going support of Dr. Jim Logsdon for students in the SCCS community, and his donation of \$200 to the Adult School to be used for ESL students who cannot afford the class fees. Ms. Strimling seconded this motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote, as follows:

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

Student Medeiros – Yes

Student Morris – Yes

Consent Agenda Item 1.5 Special Education Contracts for Nonpublic Agency & Schools

Mr. Maxwell expressed great concern regarding: the amount of funds involved in these particular contracts; the rapidly increasing percentage of mandated programs for Special Education students that are not funded; and the inability to control these costs.

Superintendent Bloom reported that although Ms. Morgenstern and Ms. Torp have been making every effort to control these expenditures, SCCS does not receive adequate State and/or Federal support for these mandated programs. SCCS has just received a completed report from a consultant with recommendations to make services more efficient, and the Superintendent intends to have a Board Report and Study Session in the next two months providing goals to measure and monitor these expenditures.

Ms. Dewey Thorsett moved approval of the Special Education Contracts for Nonpublic Agency & Schools, and Ms. Vestal seconded the motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote, as follows: (Ex. 17)

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

Student Medeiros – Yes

Student Morris – Yes

Closed Session Action Report

The Board advised administration with regard to Meet and Confer with AMA.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED and/or DISCUSSED

Staff Report: State Budget Update

Mr. Moss reported on the State Budget. The 1st Revised Budget since the February 2009 adopted budget was approved this month, and there may be a 2nd revision at a later date. Mr. Moss reported on the impact to Santa Cruz City Schools, including, but not limited to: Revenue Limits; COLA; One-time ADA reduction; Federal Stimulus Funds; Basic Aid reductions; Home-to-School Transportation; Restricted Maintenance; Adopted Instructional Materials Purchases; Release of Apportionments; Next Steps for SCCS. The financial books for the SCCS 2008-09 fiscal year have not yet closed, and Mr. Moss will provide a final report on the 2008-09 year to the Board of Education in September. The Trustees asked clarifying questions.

Staff Report: Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women

Ms. Morgenstern introduced Student Services Director Eileen Brown to provide this update on the self-defense instruction provided to middle and high school students. Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women members Kathy Agnone and Daniel Stonebloom provided student data regarding how the class has impacted the ideas and behavior of students since the classes began. The partnership is very happy to announce anticipated grants to continue this valuable work. The grants would reduce SCCS expenditures for this program for the next two years.

Staff Report: Student Performance/Data Trends

Curriculum and Assessment Director James presented on trends in student achievement on both state and local assessments in Language Arts. Data presented included longitudinal results on the California Standards Tests (CST), California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), Local Reading Measures, and next steps for Santa Cruz City Schools. This information was shared with the Leadership Team on August 10. Ms. James anticipates several additional student performance reports for the Board Members later in the year.

New Business: Resolution #1-09-10 Qualified School Construction Bond

Application

Mr. Moss reported that the District has the opportunity to apply to the California Department of Education to be approved to issue Qualified School Construction Bonds to finance the Branciforte Middle School Field Improvement Project. The bonds would be interest-free to the District. The deadline to submit the application is 8/26/09. The approximate bond issue would be \$2,436,000, and the annual debt service payments of \$156,400 would occur for a period of 15 years. It is proposed that the debt be repaid out of Redevelopment Agency funds (RDA) – on third of the debt paid from the Elementary District, and two thirds of the debt paid from the High Schools District. Mr. Maxwell moved approval, and Ms. Dewey Thorsett seconded this motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote, as follows: (Ex. 18)

Roll Call Vote: Dewey Thorsett – Yes Maxwell – Yes Strimling – No
Vestal – Yes Wagman – Yes
Student Medeiros – Yes Student Morris – Yes

New Business: Appointment of Facilities Task Force Representatives

Superintendent Bloom reported that on June 17, 2009, the Board approved the creation of a Facilities Task Force to develop a long-term facilities plan for the District. The Board took action to create a task force comprised on 3-5 community representatives, and a management, certificated, and classified staff representative. The Superintendent would like the Trustees to approve the following members: Trustee Rachel Dewey Thorsett; Community Representative Michael Bethke; Community Representative John Fry; Community Representative Matt Guerrieri. The District is currently seeking a Classified and a Certificated Representative for this Task Force. MSP (Strimling/Maxwell) 5-0, the Board of Education approved the recommended individuals. Students Medeiros and Morris voted yes.

New Business: Authorize the Initiation of a Request for Proposals for Grant Writing Services and the Allocation of Funds for Such Services

Superintendent Bloom recommended the authorization from the Board of Education. The District would identify a consultant or consulting firm to work with the District to identify needs and opportunities, and to assist the District in preparing grant proposals on a short-term project-by-project basis. It is anticipated that these costs would be more than offset by the revenues produced through successful grant applications. MSP (Dewey Thorsett/Vestal) 5-0, the Board Members approved this request. Students Medeiros and Morris voted yes.

New Business: Job Description – Special Education Program Manager

Ms. Krause reported that in compliance with the regulations attached to the use of IDEA ‘ARRA’ Stimulus dollars earmarked for “new programs and services”, programmatic adjustments made in the Special Education Department ensure this job is in alignment with these regulations. Ms. Dewey Thorsett moved approval for the final reading of this job description and Ms. Strimling seconded the motion. This motion was approved by the Board Members without dissent. Student Medeiros voted yes, and Student Morris abstained from this vote. (Ex. 19)

New Business: Job Description – Special Education Compliance Coordinator

Ms. Krause reported that in compliance with the regulations attached to the use of IDEA ‘ARRA’ Stimulus dollars earmarked for “new programs and services”, programmatic adjustments made in the Special Education Department ensure this job is in alignment with these regulations. Mr. Maxwell pointed out that the stimulus dollars would only be available for two years, and SCCS will have to decide in two years if these positions can continue to be funded. Ms. Strimling moved approval for the final reading of this job description and Ms. Dewey Thorsett seconded the motion. This motion was approved by the Board Members without dissent. Student Medeiros voted yes, and Student Morris abstained from this vote. (Ex. 20)

Information

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for August 26, 2009, 6:30 p.m., District Office, Room 312, 405 Old San Jose Road, Soquel, CA. The Regular

Meeting scheduled for September 9, 2009, at 6:30 p.m., will be held in the County Office of Education Board Room, 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Trustees, Board President Wagman adjourned this Regular Meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Bloom, Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Ken S. Wagman, President
Board of Education