

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

August 26, 2009

Convene Open Session

Board President Wagman called this regular meeting to order at 6:40 p.m., in Room 312 of the District Office, 405 Old San Jose Road, Soquel, CA.

Attendance at Meeting

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

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 during this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education.

Agenda Changes

None

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Wireless Radiation Alert Network member Marilyn Garrett asked the Board Members to discontinue the use of wireless internet services for students until all health concerns regarding this technology have been thoroughly investigated. Ms. Garrett asked the Santa Cruz School Board to add this topic to a meeting agenda in the future. President Wagman asked that Ms. Garrett contact the Superintendent regarding this request.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Bloom reported a successful opening of the 2009-10 school term for Santa Cruz City Schools. The Superintendent congratulated the Classified, Certificated, and Administrative staff members for ensuring a smooth start to the year. Enrollment figures are not yet available, and will be reviewed to determine if additional FTE are needed to serve students. On Thursday morning, the Santa Cruz High School Track and Field Project will break ground. A letter of conditional budget approval for SCCS has been received from the County Office of Education. SCCS is doing an impressive job of balancing fiscal realities with the academic needs of students.

BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Board President's Report

Board President Wagman attended the employee breakfast at Harbor High School on Monday August 24, and it was a wonderful way to start the year for staff members. Board President Wagman encouraged community members to donate generously toward the Santa Cruz High School Swimming Pool project.

Board Members' Reports or Comments

Board Member Collins reported he is happy to be back in Santa Cruz, and also to have the opportunity to meet Student Representatives Medeiros and Morris. Trustee Collins visited Soquel High School today to observe the start of the 2009-10 school year. Board Member Collins encouraged SCCS staff members to include a variety of ways to reach out to parents and community members this year, as some families are discontinuing internet and phone services to reduce expenses during this economic period. SCCS may have more students eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch in 2009-10 than in past years.

Board Member Hawthorne reported the Wellness Committee reconvened on August 20 with a significant show of community support. Committee members include Certificated, Classified, and Leadership. New Senior Manager of Nutrition Services James Smith was welcomed, and expressed excitement about the new food programs for Santa Cruz City Schools students.

Board Member Vestal reported the Live Oak Community Resource Center and the Santa Cruz City Schools Adult School are working on gaining computer and internet access for families who are currently without resources. Trustee Vestal also reported attendance at the Wellness Committee meeting, and the Delta School student orientation.

Board Member Maxwell discussed decreasing the current 2/3 vote requirement for passing the State Budget.

Board Member Dewey Thorsett attended the County School Boards of Education Meeting on August 20. Trustee Dewey Thorsett helped assemble First Day Packets at Mission Hill Middle School. The Welcome Breakfast was appreciated.

Board Member Strimling enjoyed the Welcome Breakfast and the opportunity to honor teachers and other staff members. Trustee Strimling hopes to see the district website calendar spreading the news regarding community events and school celebrations.

Student Representatives Reports

Student Morris volunteered at Gault Elementary School to help stuff the First Day Packets, and expressed amazement at the amount of paper used in this project. Many district school sites had numerous volunteers to prepare for the opening of the 2009-10 school year.

Student Medeiros acknowledged the great success of the high school Link Crew and middle school WEB mentor programs. These student led programs provide avenues of success for incoming students.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSP (Dewey Thorsett/Vestal) 5-0-2, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 12, 2009 were approved. Ms. Hawthorne and Mr. Collins abstained from the vote due to absence from this meeting. Students Medeiros and Morris voted yes.

GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

Ms. Hawthorne moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of: Personnel Actions – Certificated (Ex. 21); Personnel Actions – Classified (Ex. 22); Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids (Ex. 23); Change Orders (Ex. 24); Budget Transfers; Adult Education Course Outlines; Disposition of Surplus Property (Ex. 25). Ms. Dewey Thorsett seconded the motion. This 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 Medeiros – Yes

Student Morris – Yes

Closed Session Action Report

Vice President Dewey Thorsett reported the following Closed Session actions:

1. MSP (Dewey Thorsett/Vestal) 5-0, the Board approved the appointment of Rod Martin for Assistant Principal at Soquel High School.
2. MSP (Dewey Thorsett/Collins) 7-0, the Board approved the appointment of Alvaro Meza to the position of Senior Assistant Superintendent, Business Services.
3. MSP (Hawthorne/Dewey Thorsett) 7-0, the Board approved the appointment of Lynette Seibel to the position of Program Manager for Special Education.
4. MSP (Dewey Thorsett/Strimling) 7-0, the Board approved the Superintendent's goals for 2009-10

ITEMS OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED and/or DISCUSSED

Staff Report: STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting) Results in 2009

Ms. Morgenstern presented a report on 2009 California Standards Test Results in the Elementary and High Schools Districts. District and school level results were reviewed. This report was presented for information only, and no action was taken by the Board of Education.

New Business: GAMUT Online Policy Service – CSBA

Superintendent Bloom reported that Santa Cruz City Schools' Board Policies are seriously out of date. These policies are often not consistent with current practices or education code, and are sometimes redundant or contradictory. The CSBA, through its GAMUT program, provides school districts with recommended policies and policy updates in an electronic format that can be modified to reflect local needs. The SCCS unique district policy book can be server based and easily accessed by staff and

community. The online policies include live links to resources such as the State Education Code. Former Superintendent Alan Pagano, who is working for the District 20 days per year as part of his retirement agreement, has agreed to assist the administration with policy revision. Targets for revisions to be submitted to the administration and Board for review and revision: all legally required policies by 1/10/10 and the Administrative, Personnel and Business series by 7/1/10. The Superintendent asked the Board of Education to approve initiation of a process to update SCCS Board Policies and to subscribe to CSBA's GAMUT online services; and to appoint two trustees to review draft policies before submission to the Board for first reading. MSP (Hawthorne/Dewey Thorsett) 6-1, the Board of Education approved the CSBA GAMUT Online Policy Service. Mr. Collins voted no. Students Medeiros and Morris voted yes.

Information

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for September 9, 2009, 6:30 p.m., County Office of Education, 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA. The Regular Meeting of September 23, 2009, will be held in the Santa Cruz High School Theater, 415 Walnut Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Trustees, Board President Wagman adjourned this Regular Meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Bloom, Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Ken S. Wagman, President
Board of Education