

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

December 9, 2009

Convene Open Session

Board President Wagman called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. in the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Board Room., 400 Encinal, Santa Cruz, CA.

Attendance at Meeting

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

Student Representative Morris Student Representative Medeiros

Gary Bloom, Superintendent
Tanya Krause, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Diane Morgenstern, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Alvaro Meza, 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 Board of Education approved the addition of a signature page for Resolution #14-09-10 ARRA Cooperative Contract (Item 1.6 Consent Agenda).

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Wesley Koenig and Michael Colson of the Santa Cruz County Lacrosse League asked the Trustees to consider granting the league a reduced fee for use of the Monarch Elementary School field as a practice facility. Retired teacher Marilyn Garrett asked the trustees to include a discussion of the health concerns associated with wireless technology as an item on an upcoming meeting agenda. Mr. Bloom asked Ms. Garrett to contact his office regarding submitting an agenda item. Three Adult School students spoke to the Board Members regarding the importance of maintaining services for adults pursuing GED, High School Diploma, or English Language acquisition skills. Santa Cruz City Council member Tony Madrigal acknowledged Superintendent Bloom and Student Services Director Brown for joining him in a frank discussion of the gang activity in the Santa Cruz area. Mr. Madrigal intends to meet with each of the SCCS Board Members, and would also like to pursue a joint City Council/SCCS School Board meeting.

ANNUAL BOARD REORGANIZATION

Election Board President

MSP 7-0 (Strimling/Collins) the Board elected Ms. Dewey Thorsett as Board President for the term of one year.

Election Board Vice President

MSP 4-3 (Vestal/Wagman) the Board elected Ms. Hawthorne as Board Vice President for the term of one year. Mr. Collins, Mr. Maxwell, and Ms. Strimling voted for Mr. Maxwell.

Approval of Board Clerk

MSP 7-0 (Wagman/Collins) the Board of Education approved Superintendent Bloom as the Board Clerk for the term of one year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Bloom reported on the success of the Youth Safety Meetings, and acknowledged Student Services Director Brown, Council Member Madrigal, and the Santa Cruz Police Department for the energy each contributed to these dialogues. The Superintendent expressed interest on behalf of the Board of Education in scheduling a joint meeting with the Santa Cruz City Council to discuss youth issues. Superintendent Bloom attended the DeLaveaga Elementary Dos Alas and the ELAC meetings, and looks forward to developing a more complete Dual Immersion Program in Santa Cruz City Schools. Mr. Bloom visited some of the Professional Development site meetings. Santa Cruz City Schools teacher Christie Latham has been recognized by the Jazz Society of Santa Cruz for her wonderful work with middle and high school students. Tonight marks the final meeting prepared for by the Superintendent's Administrative Assistant Gail Cothes. Ms. Cothes is retiring at the end of December, and has provided a tremendous service to this community with 35 years of service through 9 Superintendents. The Superintendent welcomes Nancy Lentz to this position beginning January 2010.

BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS AND REFERRALS

Board President's Report

President Dewey Thorsett attended the Youth Safety Meeting at the Small Schools and the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) at the District Office. Ms. Dewey Thorsett is pleased to serve as the Board President for the next year, and thanked Mr. Maxwell for his interest in serving as Vice President. President Dewey Thorsett reported that Mr. Wagman will withdraw as the BAC Alternate, and Ms. Vestal will fill this position.

Board Members' Reports and Referrals

Board Member Vestal attended a community dialogue regarding student safety at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. SCCS was well represented at this meeting. The Rotary Club has presented a Student of the Month Award at Delta Charter School at Cabrillo College - and the students are very excited by the recognition. The school is currently operating at full capacity with 120 students, and Ms. Neustadter has been nominated for the honor of Teacher of the Year.

Board Member Collins reported the California Forward website is full of information regarding current governance of the State. Trustee Collins will meet with Council Member Madrigal on Thursday, December 10 and is also interested in a joint City Council/SCCS School Board meeting. Board Member Collins encouraged a two-way discussion about the issue of wireless technology in public schools. Mr. Collins is hopeful that the Youth Safety meetings can intervene in local gang violence. Trustee Collins thanked Superintendent Bloom for speaking to the Scotts Valley USD Superintendent regarding the inappropriate banner displayed at the recent football game.

Vice President Hawthorne offered congratulation to President Dewey Thorsett and thanks to outgoing President Wagman. Ms. Hawthorne will work very hard on behalf of students for Santa Cruz City Schools.

Board Member Wagman attended the Youth Safety Meeting at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, and was privileged this past week to speak to Santa Cruz High School Leadership students in Ms. Latham's class.

Board Member Strimling met with Council Member Madrigal and is very interested in coordinated efforts with the City of Santa Cruz regarding youth issues. Ms. Strimling reported a concert involving both the Santa Cruz High School Band and the Choir would take place next week. Trustee Strimling regrets that her work schedule has not allowed her to attend the recent local evening meetings for SCCS.

Student Representatives' Reports

At the December 2 Special Study Session, Student Medeiros proposed a Student Survey regarding budget issues. Student Medeiros worked with Superintendent Bloom to create the survey, and has received more than 400 responses to date.

Student Morris worked with Santa Cruz High School Administrators to send a hard copy of the Student Survey to all 1100 students in 2nd Period classes. Results should be collected and tallied by the end of the week. The recent SCHS Blood Drive was a huge success, and the Adopt-a-Family program continues at SCHS through December 17. Upcoming events include the Choir performance, the Band concert, and the Annual Dance Club Tournament.

Ms. Morgenstern noted that Soquel High School and the Small Schools are also participating in the Student Survey regarding SCCS Budget/Finances.

Ms. Strimling asked for the results of all student surveys to be sent to the Trustees via email.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSP 6-0-1 (Collins/Maxwell) the Board of Education approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 18, 2009 and the Santa Cruz City Schools Financing Authority Meeting of November 18, 2009. Ms. Hawthorne abstained from the vote, and Students Medeiros and Morris voted yes.

GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

Board Member Maxwell asked to have Item 1.10 Change Orders pulled from the Consent Agenda for a separate discussion and vote.

Ms. Collins moved approval of the Consent Agenda (minus Item 1.10 Change Orders) consisting of: Personnel Actions – Certificated (Ex. 84); Personnel Actions – Classified (Ex. 85); Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids (Ex. 86); Warrant Register; Bid Approval (Ex. 87); Adult Ed Relocation & Moving Services (Ex. 88); Resolution #14-09-10 American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Cooperative Contract with the added Signature Page (Ex. 89); Gifts; CSA – Special Education (Ex. 90); Notices of Completion (Ex. 91); Appointment of Treasury Oversight Commission Representative (Ex. 92). Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion. The Board acknowledged, with gratitude, the following gifts donated to the Santa Cruz City Schools District. *Branciforte Middle School* – Christopher Brose has donated a commercial refrigerator to the school in his mother’s memory. Margaret Brose was a Home Economics teacher at Branciforte for many years. Lysa Tabachnick has donated \$1,000. *Mission Hill Middle School* – Sunny Sheikh has donated a Macintosh G4 Computer. *Costanoa High School* – Dan Quigley of PG&E has processed the anonymous donation of \$500 to be posted to the Loma Prieta Endowment College Scholarship account. This donation was made as part of the Charitable Contributions Campaign for the Community program. Paul Bellina has donated \$250 to the Brett Gardner Scholarship. The motion was passed by roll call vote, as follows:

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

Student Medeiros – Yes

Student Morris – Yes

Consent Agenda Item 1.10 Change Orders

Mr. Maxwell noted that Change Orders are getting to be both common and expensive, and perhaps the SCCS Requests for Proposals need to be more specific to contain costs of projects. Superintendent Bloom reported that he and Mr. Meza share these expressed concerns, and have already met to re-examine the SCCS bidding processes. Mr. Collins moved approval of Item 1.10 Change Orders, and Mr. Maxwell seconded this motion.

The motion was passed by roll call vote, as follows:

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

Student Medeiros – Yes

Student Morris – Yes

Closed Session Action Report

1. The Board of Education voted 4-0 to expel Student 19-09-10.
2. The Board Members received an update and gave directions to the Superintendent regarding negotiations with the SCCCE for 2009-10.
3. The Board Members received an update and gave directions to the Superintendent regarding negotiations with the GSCFT for 2010-11.

4. The Board Members received an update and gave directions to the Superintendent regarding negotiations with the GSCFT Adult Education for 2009-10.
5. Meet & Confer: AMA – the Trustees approved the reinstatement of the 25 and the 30 year longevity for Classified Management, and also approved including previous service from out of the district when calculating employee longevity. 6-0 Vote.
6. The Board of Education approved the Special Education Settlement Agreement OAH Case Nos. 2009090083 & 2009110069. 6-0 Vote.

ITEMS of BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED and/or DISCUSSED

New Business: 2009-10 First Interim Financial Report with a Qualified Certification

Mr. Meza presented the 2009-10 First Interim Financial Report for all funds, and asked the Board to approve the 2009-10 First Interim Report with a Qualified Certification. A qualified certification is assigned when the District may not meet its financial obligations for the current or two subsequent fiscal years. Following discussion among Board Members, Staff, and Members of the Audience, MSP 7-0 (Strimling/Collins), the Board of Education approved the 2009-10 First Interim Report with a Qualified Certification. Students Medeiros and Morris voted yes. (Ex. 93)

New Business: Fiscal Solvency Plan: Draft of 2010-11 Budget Reductions

Superintendent Bloom reported that tentative decisions are being made to assure the COE and the State that we will be responsible fiscal managers. A lot of thought has gone into these recommendations, and yet none of these suggestions are tasteful. As the new Superintendent, Mr. Bloom is impressed with the way this district has come together to recognize this state wide crisis and work through it together. It is important to remember that while we are hopeful for a successful resolution of negotiated items such as the 5-day calendar reduction and K-3 Class Size Reduction, the COE will not take these items into account during this preliminary budget process. The Superintendent acknowledged the actions tonight are not final budget actions; rather, a prioritized list. COE Financial Advisor Gardner reported the COE was concerned with the SCCS Budget process last year, and asked for more specificity and direction for Mr. Meza and his staff this year. Following discussion among Trustees, District Staff, and Members of the Audience, Mr. Wagman moved to approve the prioritized list as submitted by the BAC Items 1,2,3,4,6,7, & 8, and bring the other items back for discussion. This motion did not receive a second, and was withdrawn by Mr. Wagman. Ms. Hawthorne moved approval of the prioritized list items 1 through 7 as ranked by the Cabinet, and commit to the County Office of Education 2.1 million dollars in further reductions to be identified at a future date. Ms. Vestal seconded this motion. Mr. Wagman proposed an amendment that the balance of the 2.1 million dollars in reductions be distributed by an equal % through all salaries and benefits categories in the budget. The amendment was accepted as friendly by the motion maker and the second. The motion was approved without dissent, and the Student Representatives voted yes. (Ex. 94)

Recess: President Dewey Thorsett called for a short recess at 9:37 p.m.

Reconvene: President Dewey Thorsett reconvened this Regular Meeting at 9:51 p.m.
Note: Vice President Hawthorne and Student Representative Medeiros left this meeting during the recess.

Staff Report: Math Network

Director James reported on the District Math Network 2009-10. Network membership includes teachers from elementary, middle, and high schools, along with administrative representatives. At monthly meetings, district math leaders discuss elements from the Master Plan outline as well as current issues in teaching and learning in Mathematics. Priorities in the 2008-09 year included development of common benchmark assessments and curriculum maps in the elementary district, coordination of the Mathematical Reasoning Assessments Grades 2 through Algebra, and revised placement procedures for middle school students. Data from the 2009 MARS assessments and Trimester Benchmark Tests will be presented. Information presented also included: Network Member responsibilities; Accomplishments 08-09; Goals for 2009-10; and the ongoing work of the Network. This report was presented for information only, and no action was taken by the Board of Education in this matter.

Note: Student Morris left after the Math Network report.

New Business: Opening of the Sunshine Period for the GSCFT K-12 Unit, Contract Proposals for the 2010-11 School Year

Ms. Krause reported the GSCFT K-12 Unit, contract proposals for the 2010-11 school year are being submitted for “Sunshining” in accordance with the Employees Relations Act for public notice of contract proposals before official negotiations may begin. MSP 6-0 (Wagman/Maxwell) the Board approved the opening of the Sunshine period for the GSCFT K-12 Unit Contract Proposals for the 2010-11 School Year.

New Business: Resolution #15-09-10 Approving the Execution and Delivery of Certain Documents and Authorizing Certain Additional Actions Relating to the Issuance of Qualified School Construction Bond

Mr. Meza recommended the Board adopt Resolution #15-09-10 to authorize the delivery of certain documents relating to the \$2,345,000 Qualified School Construction Bonds. Mr. Andy Ach, Bond Counsel, reported that the CDE, through a lottery process, awarded the District a principal amount of \$2,340,000. The District has earmarked these funds for a field improvement project at Branciforte Middle School. A Bond Counsel from Sacramento has challenged that the CDE has inappropriately allocated these funds, noting that the Department cannot act on behalf of the State of California, essentially putting all QSCB issuances to a halt. The District is proceeding with the notion that progress can be made despite the recent developments surrounding this financial instrument. The market conditions will determine the interest rate premium on the principal amount once the sale of the QSCB bonds is executed. MSP 6-0 (Wagman/Collins), the Board of Education approved Resolution #15-09-10. (Ex. 95)

Information

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is January 13, 2010, 6:30 p.m., County Office of Education, 400 Encinal, Santa Cruz, CA. The Regular Board Meeting scheduled for January 27, 2010, will be held at 6:30 p.m., Santa Cruz High School Theater, 415 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz, CA.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Trustees, Board President Dewey Thorsett adjourned this Regular Meeting at 10:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Bloom, Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Rachel Dewey Thorsett, President
Board of Education