

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY DISTRICTS  
February 10, 2010**

**Convene Open Session**

Board President Dewey Thorsett called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. in the Santa Cruz High School Theater, 415 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz, CA.

**Attendance at Meeting**

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

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

**Agenda Changes**

The Board approved moving the Superintendent's Report to precede the Public Communications.

The Board also acknowledged that many people in the audience this evening had small children, and approved comments from audience members with small children regarding Item 3.4 Fiscal Solvency Plan for 2010-11 during the Public Communications.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Bloom announced the Board Members unanimously accepted a voluntary nine day calendar reduction for 2010-11 from SCCS Administrators. The reduced calendar accompanies a 12% FTE reduction for administrators in 2010-11. In reaching this agreement, the Board of Education agrees that there will be no further reductions in administration for 2010-11 barring significant additional State cuts. This action means that \$176,000 fewer reductions are needed for the 2010-11 SCCS budget. The reduced work schedule is not tied to any other bargaining unit concessions or restoration agreements; although the Superintendent acknowledged the hope that this formidable expression of leading by example would bring a like response from the Certificated and Classified Bargaining Units. The Superintendent also provided updates and good news regarding students, programs, employees, and opportunities for community services.

## **PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Retired teacher Marilyn Garrett requested removal of wireless technology from SCCS school sites, and also encouraged real grass turf for the student and community recreation and sports fields. GSCFT Vice President George Martinez restated for the record his analysis of Administrator vs. Teacher staffing ratios for Santa Cruz City Schools: the ratios are within state guidelines, but this should not be interpreted to mean they are necessarily below state averages.

At this point, several speakers with small children who were not able to stay an extended length of time at the meeting were allowed to comment on Item 3.4 Fiscal Solvency Plan for 2010-11. Eight speakers came forward to discuss the Adult School classes, including the Parenting Classes associated with cooperative preschool programs. All speakers expressed great value and appreciation of these programs and services, and encouraged the Trustees to reduce cuts in these areas.

## **BOARD REPORTS and REFERRALS**

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

Board President Dewey Thorsett thanked the AMA for a much needed leap of faith to lead the budget process.

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

Board Member Collins appreciates the many emails he receives from the school community – but is finding it difficult to respond to all notes. Mr. Collins thanked the AMA for the calendar/salary reduction and for the demonstration of leadership by example.

Board Member Vestal attended the Delta School Open House and is happy to announce that Delta students will participate in the Student Art Show sponsored by the Santa Cruz Art League. The Wellness Committee meeting demonstrated lots of enthusiasm for the new focus on Physical Fitness. Ms. Vestal encouraged all stakeholders to become part of the solution to the budget crisis and follow the example of the AMA.

Board Member Hawthorne discussed her process for making tough decisions: 1) keep commitment to voters who have demonstrated priorities; 2) fight for programs that provide teachers for A-G courses; 3) partner with community to find innovative/creative ideas and solutions.

Board Member Wagman acknowledged the commitment from the AMA for their willingness to lead.

Board Member Strimling thanked the AMA for taking the lead in a positive step to a qualified budget and to the members of the audience tonight for taking the time to come and express concerns. On February 27, SCHS will host a Casino Night to raise funds for the Band Program. All three comprehensive high schools are sending teams to the Mock Trial competition.

### **Student Representatives' Reports**

Student Representative Medeiros wondered if now is the time to submit to the will of the budget process or stand for what we believe through civil disobedience. This strange process actually breeds contempt amongst those who are united in their concerns.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MSP (Hawthorne/Collins) 7-0, the Board of Education approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 27, 2010. Students Medeiros and Morris voted yes.

### **GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS**

#### **Consent Agenda**

Ms. Hawthorne asked to pull Item 1.7, Clearly Consultants Contract for Geophysical investigation of the site at 536 Palm St. for a separate discussion.

Ms. Hawthorne moved approval of the Consent Agenda, minus Item 1.7, consisting of: Personnel Actions – Certificated; Personnel Actions – Classified; Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids; Warrant Register; Lease Extension – Housing Authority; SSA Architects Contract for Demolition of the Santa Cruz HS Pool; SI&A Contract for Mandated Costs. Mr. Collins 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      Strimling – Yes      Vestal – Yes      Wagman – Yes

Student Morris – Yes      Student Medeiros – Yes

#### **Clearly Consultants Contract for Geophysical Investigation – 536 Palm St.**

Ms. Hawthorne asked some clarifying questions of Mr. Meza, and after receiving information, Ms. Hawthorne moved approval with the amendment that the Board will return to study this item again soon. Mr. Wagman seconded the motion, and the Board of Education approved the contract with a vote of 7-0. Students Medeiros and Morris voted yes.

#### **Closed Session Action Report**

1. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release – a Special Closed Session of the Board of Education is scheduled on Wednesday February 17, 2010 to conduct this hearing.
2. The Board of Education gave direction to Superintendent Bloom regarding negotiations with the GSCFT for 2010-11.
3. The Board of Education gave direction to Superintendent Bloom regarding negotiations with the GSCFT Adult Education for 2010-11.
4. The Board of Education accepted the proposal from the AMA for 2010-11 with a vote of 7-0.
5. The Certificated Personnel Actions for Leaves of Absence, Resignations, and Retirements was approved as recommended with a vote of 7-0.

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

#### **New Business: Legislative Advocacy Committee**

Superintendent Bloom reported the current fiscal crisis is not of our making, and recommended formation of this committee with two appointed trustees to orchestrate Santa Cruz City Schools participation in the March 4 Day of Action and other activities. MSP (Strimling/Collins) 7-0, the

Board approved the formation of the Legislative Advocacy Committee. Board President Dewey Thorsett appointed Ms. Strimling, Ms. Hawthorne, and Student Medeiros to the Committee.

**New Business: Early Retirement Incentive Resolution 16-09-10**

Mr. Meza reported that SCCS has worked with the Public Agency Retirement Service (PARS) to design a Supplementary Retirement Plan (SRP) that may encourage eligible senior Certificated Non-Management employees to retire early. The goal of the program is to generate savings and mitigate layoffs. Ms. Hawthorne moved approval, and Mr. Collins 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      Strimling – Yes      Vestal – Yes      Wagman – Yes

Student Morris – Yes      Student Medeiros – Yes

**New Business: Agreement for Administrative Services**

Mr. Meza reported that, with the approval of Resolution 16-09-10, a contract with PARS to design and administer a supplementary plan for eligible employees is needed. MSP (Hawthorne/Maxwell) 7-0, the Board of Education approved the Agreement for Administrative Services with Public Retirement Services (PARS). Students Morris and Medeiros voted yes.

**New Business: Fiscal Solvency Plan for 2010-11**

Superintendent Bloom reported that despite the fiscal state of California, largely through local parcel taxes and community support, at the end of the budget process Santa Cruz City Schools will continue to offer certificated librarians, arts and science programs, life lab, counseling services, and smaller class sizes than most other regional districts. The Superintendent noted that this is a preliminary budget as the state finances are not stable at this time, but SCCS needs to move forward. Some of the additional information provided included: 1) In addition to the 9 days calendar reduction for AMA in 2010-11, Administrators will be reduced by 12%; 2) No secondary counselors who are funded through Tier III funds are currently scheduled for reductions – but positions supported by General Funds will be reduced 1.5 FTE; 3) Staffing- to-contract would affect grades 6 through 12 only; 4) no parcel tax revenues will be transferred to non-parcel tax expenditures. Following Board questions and comments, and discussion and comments among Board Members, Staff Members, and Audience Members, Ms. Strimling made a motion to give direction to staff to make preliminary reductions to the budget in the amount of \$5,276,993, and restore \$200,000 (\$176,000 realized through the AMA calendar reduction and \$30,000 realized through budget adjustment based on most current information from the State of California) to the General Fund Services to Sites Programs. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a vote of 4-2-1. Ms. Hawthorne and Mr. Maxwell voted no. Ms. Vestal abstained from the vote. The Student Representatives left the meeting prior to this vote.

At this time – 11:18 p.m. – Board President Dewey Thorsett directed District Staff to take the last two items on the Agenda, Item 3.5 *New Business*: Charter School Policy and Item 3.6 *New Business*: 2010 CSBA Delegate Assembly Election, and reschedule these items for the Regular Meeting on February 24, 2010.

**Information**

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is February 24, 2010, 6:30 p.m., Santa Cruz High School Theater, 415 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz, CA. A Special Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled on March 3, 2010, 6:30 p.m. County Office of Education Board Room, 400 Encinal, Santa Cruz, CA. The Regular Meeting scheduled for March 10, 2010 will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the County Office of Education Board Room, 400 Encinal, Santa Cruz, CA.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Trustees, Board President Dewey Thorsett adjourned this Regular Meeting at 11:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Bloom, Superintendent  
Santa Cruz City Schools

Rachel Dewey Thorsett, President  
Board of Education