

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY DISTRICTS  
February 24, 2010**

**Convene Open Session**

Board President Dewey Thorsett called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. in the Santa Cruz High School Theater, 415 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz, CA.

**Attendance at Meeting**

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

Student Representative Medeiros

Absent: Wendy Strimling  
Student Representative Morris

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**

None

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Santa Cruz High School Principal Edmonds welcomed everyone to the school, and presented information regarding the upcoming WASC meetings and expected outcomes. Ms. Edmonds invited the Trustees to meet the visiting WASC team on March 21. The Santa Cruz High School Mock Trial Team took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Santa Cruz County competition, and hopes to advance to the State Finals - congratulations students! Elementary Life Lab Coordinators and elementary students distributed items made by the students to the Board and Cabinet Members, and thanked the Trustees for their continued support of this Science curriculum/program. PTOC Co-Chair Monica McGuire presented an update to the Trustees regarding the audit of expenditures of tax parcel revenues, and reported on a resolution approved by the Committee on February 16. The resolution directed her to give the Board Members the original ballot language and campaign literature from the parcel tax measures and ask the Trustees to stick to what the public perceives as the promised services through the collection of parcel taxes (e.g. – CSR in grades K through 3 = 20:1 and CSR in grades 4 & 5 means an average of 27:1). GSCFT President Kirschen shared flyers regarding the March 4<sup>th</sup> Day of Action and the March 5<sup>th</sup> March for California's future.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Bloom acknowledged support for the Rally to Support Education on March 4, and reported that Santa Cruz County School District Superintendents would hold a press conference on the Santa Cruz Courthouse steps on March 3 at 3:00 p.m. to discuss education funding. The Superintendent attended the Career and Technical Education Summit at Harbor High School on Monday February 22, and observed instruction at several sites over the past weeks. The Superintendent had a great time sharing his fossil collection with the Students at Monarch Alternative Elementary School.

## **BOARD REPORTS and REFERRALS**

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

Board President Dewey Thorsett reported the City of Santa Cruz is seeking Board Members to serve on a joint City/Schools Committee. The President attended the Santa Cruz High School Red and White Faire and the Budget Advisory Committee.

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

Board Member Wagman attended the Budget Advisory Committee, and visited classrooms at the various schools located on the Small Schools Campus. Administrators Coleman and Tabachnick do an amazing job.

Board Member Hawthorne thanked GSCFT President Kirschen for the invitation to stand together to support schools this month, and would count on mutual support to weather the tough fiscal times ahead. The Fix School Lunch Program is seeking federal dollars to help ensure that every school child enjoys the right to a healthy meal and snack each day at school, and Trustee Hawthorne would appreciate support from the Board and the County School Boards Association in this matter.

Board Member Vestal visited Branciforte Middle and Gault Elementary Schools. Trustee Vestal observed wonderful exchanges between the Library Media Teachers and the students at the sites. Ms. Vestal has completed her parent phone calls, and would be pleased to provide a report on this activity to the Trustees at a later date.

Board Member Maxwell acknowledged the Life Lab Project "Hearts for Haiti", which not only raises funds for the school programs and worthwhile causes, but introduces students to an excellent model business program. Trustee Maxwell attended the Career Technical Education Summit at Harbor High School and was encouraged by the brochures advertising the different academy programs and the posters advertising job skills and expected salaries.

Board Member Collins was also impressed by the Career Technical Education Summit, and the fact that three SCCS high school principals were in attendance. Trustee Collins may be out of town for the March 4<sup>th</sup> Education rally, but supports the cause. Mr. Collins thanked the Life Lab Coordinators and students for the handouts and Principal Edmonds for her endless hospitality to the Board of Education by hosting these meetings.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSP (Collins/Wagman) 6-0, the Board of Education approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2010. Student Medeiros voted yes.

## GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

### Consent Agenda

Ms. Hawthorne moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of: Personnel Actions – Certificated; Personnel Actions – Classified; Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids; Warrant Register; Out of State Field Trip for AFE; CSA for Gault Elementary; Board Policy 4136(a) Nonschool Employment; Investment Report; Budget Transfers. Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion. This motion was approved by Roll Call Vote, as follows:

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

Student Medeiros – Yes

### Closed Session Action Report

1. The Board of Education approved Expulsion 21-09-10 with a vote of 6-0.
2. The Board of Education approved Resolution 18-09-10 rejecting the Liability Claim against Santa Cruz City Schools with a vote of 6-0.
3. The Board received an update from and gave direction to the Superintendent regarding negotiations with the GSCFT for 2010-11.
4. The Board received an update from and gave direction to the Superintendent regarding negotiations with the GSCFT Adult Education for 2009-10.
5. The Board received an update on Certificated Non-Reelects for 2010-11.
6. The Board did not come to a resolution on this matter of certificated leaves, resignations, and retirements during the first Closed Session. The Board will return to Closed Session following the close of the Regular Meeting this evening.

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

### Staff Report: Gang Prevention Activities

Student Services Director Brown provided a report to the Trustees regarding the SCCS response to the increased gang activities and community violence. While there have been no instances of gang violence on campuses, students have been affected. Grief counseling, Parent/Staff/Student Information meetings, and community meetings have taken place. Small group parent classes are being considered, and a pilot student focus group is being developed. SCCS is currently working on a federal Elementary Counseling Grant application that may help provide evening programs for families. Community partnerships have been established, and key strategies regarding discipline and safety are in place. Staff member are working diligently to establish connections to students that will allow them to make healthy and safe activity choices.

### New Business: Resolution 17-09-10

Superintendent Bloom introduced the resolution, which recognizes March 8-12 as Week of the School Administrator, Wednesday May 12 as Day of the Teacher, and May 17-21 as Week of the Classified Employee, and also recognizes and supports March 4 as a Day of Action for California Schools. Santa Cruz City Schools acknowledges the hard work of our staff in service

to students by recognizing these dates. Ms. Hawthorne moved approval, and Mr. Collins 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                      Vestal – Yes                      Wagman – Yes

Student Medeiros – Yes

In recognizing these dates, the board expressed its appreciation for all members of the SCCS team, and the shared common goal of building a collaborative and professional culture focused on supporting effective teaching and learning.

**Staff Report: General Fund Budget Restoration Plan**

Superintendent Bloom invited Trustees to discuss priorities and general guidelines that will assist staff in preparing more specific budget scenarios.

Board President Dewey Thorsett reported that any revision of the reductions approved on February 10 will be achieved through negotiations. It is difficult to ask the Bargaining Units to sacrifice is they do not know how the funds would be utilized.

A lengthy discussion among Board Members, District Staff, and members of the audience followed. No actions were taken by the Board of Education.

**New Business: Board Policy 5117 Interdistrict Attendance – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Ms. Morgenstern reported to the Trustees that our elementary schools are full, and we must carefully control any new admissions of elementary students who reside outside of our district. Students who live outside of our district and are currently enrolled are likely to be allowed to remain in attendance. Increased enrollment in grades 7-12 is still possible and encouraged. Following discussion, MSP (Hawthorne/Collins) 6-0, the Board approved Policy 5117 Interdistrict Attendance for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. This policy will return to the Board Members for final approval at a subsequent meeting. Student Medeiros voted yes.

**Staff Report: Maintenance and Operations Department Move to New Location**

Mr. Meza provided an update to the Board of Education regarding the move for this department. Superintendent Bloom and Mr. Meza acknowledged Trustee Hawthorne for some constructive ideas generated at the February 10 Board Meeting. Through this discussion and the hard work of SCCS employees Barry, Bramlett, and Braun, design revisions have been adopted that are anticipated to generate \$260,000 in savings (cutting costs by 46%) on this project. These anticipated savings will also expedite the move for the department. No action was taken by the Board of Education regarding this item.

**New Business: Charter School Policy 4136(a)**

Superintendent Bloom reported this policy is being updated based on CSBA recommendations. As Charter School regulations are highly prescribed by Education Code and SCCS will soon be asking for a renewal of the Delta Charter School agreement, it would be wise to have an updated policy in place. MSP (Hawthorne/Collins) 6-0, the Board of Education approved Charter School

Policy 4136(a) for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. This policy will return to the Board Members for final approval at a subsequent meeting. Student Medeiros voted yes.

**New Business: 2010 CSBA Delegate Assembly Election**

The ballot material for election of a representative to the CSBA Delegate Assembly in Subregion 9-A (San Benito, Santa Cruz Counties) has been provided. The Board, as a whole, may vote for up to the number of vacancies in the region or subregion as indicated on the ballot. The ballot also contains a provision for write-in candidates. MSP (Collins/Maxwell) 5-0-1 the Board of Education approved the nomination of Rachel Dewey Thorsett as the CSBA Delegate Assembly Representative for Subregion 9-A. President Dewey Thorsett abstained from this vote. Student Medeiros voted yes.

**Information**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education is March 3, 2010, 6:30 p.m., Santa Cruz 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 8:36 p.m.

At this time, the Board returned to Closed Session to finish discussion of Closed Session Item 6.

**Closed Session Action Report**

6. With a vote of 6-0, the Board approved six (6) Leave Requests, denied four (4) Leave Requests, held three (3) Leave Requests for future action, and approved five (5) Resignations.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Bloom, Superintendent  
Santa Cruz City Schools

Rachel Dewey Thorsett, President  
Board of Education