

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

**Convene Open Session**

Board President Dewey Thorsett called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. in the Santa Cruz Office of Education Board Room, 400 Encinal, Santa Cruz, CA.

**Attendance at Meeting**

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

Absent: John Collins

Student Representative Medeiros  
Student Representative Morris

Gary Bloom, Superintendent  
Tanya Krause, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
Alvaro Meza, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services  
Diane Morgenstern, Assistant Superintendent, Educational 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**

SCCCE President Joan Lowe reported that the Classified Negotiations meeting scheduled for today was cancelled, but the Unit looks forward to the next meeting. Ana Garcia reported on a Santa Cruz High School Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee Dinner-Dance Fundraiser on April 30, 2010 at the Harvey West Club House. For tickets and information, call Betty DeLeon @ 426-4026. Santa Cruz City Council Member Tony Madrigal advised of a joint City of Santa Cruz/SCCS School Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 30, 2010. Mr. Madrigal asked for SCCS Board support for encouraging these two groups to meet more than one time per year to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Bloom acknowledged Mr. Madrigal for his diligent outreach to Santa Cruz City Schools in order to build open communication. The Superintendent reported visiting Santa Cruz High School to observe in the classroom; Branciforte Middle School to attend the "Decades Project" ; and dropping in on the joint meeting of the Home School Club/ELAC at Gault

Elementary School. SCCS has begun the process of gathering district wide data to contribute to the goal of completing a community survey regarding parent perceptions and student experiences at Santa Cruz City Schools.

## **BOARD REPORTS and REFERRALS**

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

Board President Dewey Thorsett reported attending the March 4<sup>th</sup> “Start the Day for Students” rally at the downtown Santa Cruz Clock Tower. There were a good number of supporters in attendance, and it is important to continue to make the public aware that the current budget problems are state wide in scope.

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

Board Member Maxwell attended the Visual and Performing Arts meeting on March 3; the “Decades Project” at Branciforte Middle School; met with Santa Cruz High School Principal Edmonds and Small Schools Principal Coleman to discuss high school student standardized test results and report cards. As he is not able to determine how State standardized tests directly affect high school students’ course outcomes and grades, Trustee Maxwell wondered if these students give full attention and effort to such tests.

Board Member Vestal attended the Santa Cruz Town Clock Rally and was impressed with the diversity of attendees – including community members, parents, teachers, students, and administrators. Trustee Vestal also attended a Wellness Committee Meeting and the “Decades Project” at Branciforte Middle School.

Board Member Hawthorne reported the Wellness Committee will follow the lead of First Lady Obama’s “Let’s Move” campaign to ensure kids stay healthy and active by combining nutrition with physical education and activity. Trustee Hawthorne reported there may be an opportunity for Santa Cruz City Schools to pilot a healthy food program through the “Fixing School Lunch” consortium. Ms. Hawthorne has been busy writing to legislators who serve on the Education Committee to ask for less underfunding in required federal programs such as IDEA (currently paying only 12% of the cost of the mandated services).

Board Member Wagman attended a March 4 “Start the Day for Students” rally at Gavilan College where he is President of the Teachers’ Union. Gavilan students will be marching to Sacramento beginning March 22 to protest school underfunding on the steps of the Capitol.

Board Member Strimling was impressed with the diversity and level of participation in the March 4 day of action by schools all through the state. Signatures are needed on the State wide initiative currently circulating which supports approval of local parcel tax measures with a 55% majority vote. The Santa Cruz Mock Trial Team is headed to a State level competition on March 19.

### **Student Representatives' Reports**

Student Representative Medeiros informed Board Member Maxwell of the Harbor High School Math Department policy of returning to the previous spring semester teacher for a grade adjustment of one letter grade higher if the student produces a standardized test score in the

subject area of the highest possible level of achievement from the spring testing in that discipline. Student Medeiros feels that this policy promotes full engagement from high school students in standardized test taking.

Student Morris has already sent his RSVP to Councilman Madrigal for the joint City of Santa Cruz/SCCS Board Meeting, and feels this is a natural connection that makes sense. Congratulations to the Santa Cruz High School Boys' Soccer Team, and the Girls' Soccer and Girls' Basketball teams – each team finished first in their CCS division. Santa Cruz High School will host a visiting WASC team the week of March 15 – 19.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MSP (Hawthorne/Vestal) 5-0-1, the Board of Education approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 24, 2010. Ms. Strimling abstained from the vote due to absence from the meeting on February 24. Student Medeiros voted yes, and Student Morris abstained from the vote.

### **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 Batch Number 152 through 161; Gifts; Board Policy 5117 Interdistrict Attendance; Board Policy 0420.4 Charter Schools; Disposition of Surplus Property. The Board acknowledged, with gratitude, the following gifts donated to Santa Cruz City Schools: *Mission Hill Middle School* – Ms. Diane Landy donated a computer and printer to this site. *Santa Cruz High School* – Belcher and Associates donated \$150 to the Student Theater Department; Allegri Electric donated \$100 to the Student Theater Department; Chris LeDesma donated 10 gallons of paint and 4 hours of labor to paint the Theater Stage. Ms. Strimling seconded the motion. The motion was passed by roll call vote, as follows:

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

Student Medeiros – Yes

Student Morris – Yes

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

1. Expulsion #22-09-10 approved 5-0.
2. The Board of Education received an update from and provided direction to Superintendent Bloom regarding negotiations for the GSCFT 2010-11.
3. The Board of Education received an update from and provided direction to Superintendent Bloom regarding negotiations for the SCCCE for 2009-10.
4. There were no items for Certificated Leaves, Resignations, or Retirements at this time.
5. The Board of Education approved 5-0 the signed agreement for a Classified Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release including one month without pay and with benefits.
6. The process for the Superintendent's Evaluation has begun.

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

**New Resolution: Resolution 27-09-10 In Support of the Local Control of Local Classrooms Funding Act**

Superintendent Bloom introduced this Resolution which supports a statewide initiative to allow the voters in each local community to determine, by a 55% vote, if and how they want to help their local school and community college districts with supplemental funding for education. Following discussion and public comments, MSP (Maxwell/Strimling) 6-0, this item was continued for two weeks to the March 24th Regular Meeting, in order to provide the Trustees the opportunity to carefully consider the details of the Resolution language. On March 24, this item will return to the Board Members on the Consent Agenda. Students Medeiros and Morris voted yes.

**New Business: Resolution 29-09-10 to Demand Adequate Funding for Public Education**

Board Member Wagman introduced this item to express concern with the current California budget crisis. The resolution lists the shortfalls in the state budget, and Mr. Wagman addressed the creative accounting practices used by the state to lower the funding of public schools through Proposition 98 revenues. The Resolution was moved for approval by Mr. Wagman, and Ms. Hawthorne seconded this motion. The motion was passed by roll call vote, as follows:

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

Student Medeiros – Yes

Student Morris – Yes

**New Business: 2nd Interim Report**

Mr. Meza provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Report to the Trustees. The presentation included Unrestricted Variance from 1<sup>st</sup> Interim, Unrestricted General Fund and Reserve calculations, Basic Aid revenue reductions, multi-year projections, and factors that will change the budget in the future. Mr. Meza acknowledged the presence of COE Chief Business Official, Mary Hart, and her helpful collaboration in the SCCS budget process. Mr. Meza asked the Trustees to approve the 2009-10 Second Interim Report with a Qualified Certification. MSP (Wagman/Maxwell) 6-0, the Board of Education approved the 2009-10 Second Interim Report with a Qualified Certification. Students Medeiros and Morris voted yes.

**New Business: Certificated Retirement Incentive**

Superintendent Bloom reported that although 41 individuals have expressed interest in the retirement incentive, the numbers will be examined very closely before making a recommendation to the Board of Education. Ms. Hawthorne noted that the purpose of the incentive was to help balance the \$5.4 million deficit SCCS is facing, and it appears at this time it would cost the District money to proceed with this course of action. President Dewey Thorsett reported that once all factors are considered the window for achieving savings becomes very small. This information was provided for information only, and no action was taken by the Trustees regarding this item.

**New Business: First Reading of Mandated Board Policies**

Superintendent Bloom reported these policies are the second group of state mandated policies being brought forward in order to bring Santa Cruz City Schools into compliance. Following

discussion, Mr. Maxwell moved approval of sending nine policies forward for second reading and pulling three policies for further discussion among the Board Members and policy subcommittee members. Ms. Strimling seconded this motion, and the motion was approved by the Trustees 6-0. Students Medeiros and Morris voted yes.

**Policies Moved Forward for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:**

- 6143 Courses of Study
- 6159.1 Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education
- 6159.2 Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School Agency Services for Special Education
- 6159.3 Appointment of Surrogate Parent for Special Education Students
- 6164.4 Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education
- 6173 Education for Homeless Children
- 6179 Supplemental Instruction
- 7150 Site Selection and Development
- 9320 Meetings and Notices

**Policies Held for Future Review:**

- 1112 Media/Community Relations
- 9322 Agenda/Meeting Materials
- 9323 Meeting Conduct

**Information**

The next Regular Board of Education Meeting is scheduled on March 24, 2010, 6:30 p.m., Santa Cruz High School Theater, 415 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz, CA. The Regular Board of Education Meeting scheduled for April 21, 2010, 6:30 p.m., will be held in the COE Board Room, 400 Encinal, Santa Cruz, CA. The Regular Board of Education Meeting, April 28, 2010, is scheduled at the 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 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Bloom, Superintendent  
Santa Cruz City Schools

Rachel Dewey Thorsett, President  
Board of Education