

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

Elementary and Middle School Choir students read statements in support of teachers and programs, and finished their presentation with a lovely rendition of the song "Forever Young". A local Barbershop Harmony singing group who assist school programs through fundraising and community service entertained the gathering with a talented a cappella rendering of "Keep the Whole World Singing".

**CABINET REPORT TO THE PUBLIC**

Ms. Morgenstern reported that despite the preliminary notices and the difficulty of the current budget crisis, core music programs should remain largely intact next year. Santa Cruz City Schools will have an intermediate grade music program and a middle school music program. There will be some program reductions in the visual and performing arts, including music. The Board and District remain committed to music as part of a comprehensive curriculum. We all agree "life without music would be a mistake."

### **PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS (continued)**

Westlake Elementary reported the Spring Book Fair was a very successful fundraiser. A Soquel High School teacher read a statement protesting the layoff notices sent to secondary music and arts teachers. SCEF President Suz Howells reported the Young Performers Showcase at the Rio Theater on March 20 raised over \$10,000 for the music and arts programs at SCCS. Five adults and several preschool age children spoke in support of finding a way to collaborate with the District and maintain the very successful Adult School parent education classes and cooperative preschool programs. The five sites and nine employees are looking at all possibilities to reduce their expenses – including increasing class sizes, increasing participation rates, and alternative funding sources. SCCCE President Joan Lowe expressed concern over what she viewed as the misinformation/misinterpretation of district spending practices as presented in the recently aired KSBW interviews with PTOC Co-Chair Monica McGuire and Superintendent Bloom. Ms. Lowe advocates for Board Members, Cabinet Members, and PTOC Committee Members to present a unified message to the public.

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Superintendent Bloom expressed his delight at the student presentations and the ability to have music send a powerful message on behalf of teachers and programs. Mission Hill Middle School has received the distinction of being recognized as a historic landmark. Santa Cruz High School has just completed the WASC review, and the Superintendent acknowledged the hard work of the entire staff and the students and parents who participated. Superintendent Bloom attended a news conference at the Santa Cruz Police Department today announcing a new gang-prevention program that will focus on educating and mentoring a small group of at-risk middle school students. The Personally Responsible Individual Development in Ethics (PRIDE) program will enroll 10 Mission Hill and Branciforte Middle school students and their families. Thursday March 25th teachers and staff members will be at the COE scoring student Math assessment tests administered through the MARS program. In closing, the Superintendent reminded everyone that SCCS is experiencing change – and change involves conflict, collaboration, and compromise on the part of all involved.

### **BOARD REPORTS and REFERRALS**

#### **Board President’s Report**

Board President Dewey Thorsett attended the Young Performers Showcase on March 20, and spent a great deal of the weekend watching the health care legislation discussion.

#### **Board Members’ Reports and Referrals**

Board Member Collins enjoyed the music from students and adults this evening. Trustee Collins attended a national conference in Washington, D.C. focused on career and technical education, and visited some D.C. offices of local legislators to discuss the California schools budget crisis.

Board Member Maxwell attended the Young Performers Showcase, and thanked Rick Linzer for spearheading this \$10,000 fundraiser for the SCCS Arts and Music Programs. Trustee Maxwell assured the public that this district will continue to provide music and arts for students. Mr. Maxwell is proud to serve on this Board of Education and proud to be a member of this community.

Board Member Vestal reported the following activities: attended the Santa Cruz County School Boards Association Meeting; observed kindergarten classes at DeLaveaga Elementary; attended the Delta Charter School Board Meeting; attended the Young Performers Showcase. Trustee Vestal provided information to the Board regarding the 100 SCCS families she called to discuss the state of SCCS schools.

Board Member Hawthorne called for community members and staff members to work together to demand adequate funding for school programs from the state and federal governments. Ultimately, Trustee Hawthorne would like to see all 1,039 California school districts unite to present a joint resolution to the State of California. Ms. Hawthorne is meeting with Food Services Manager Jamie Smith to discuss increasing fruits, vegetables, and healthy choices in school lunches.

Board Member Wagman encouraged everyone to fill out and return the Census forms. Trustee Wagman will work to keep the agreements made with community members who have overwhelmingly supported parcel taxes to benefit SCCS students. Mr. Wagman visited Santa Cruz High School on Sunday March 21 to meet the WASC Review Team.

Board Member Strimling accompanied the Santa Cruz High School Mock Trial Team to a competition last weekend. Trustee Strimling acknowledged the Adult School Parent Education students who came to this meeting looking for ways to collaborate with the District to save programs, and hopes this can be accomplished. Ms. Strimling thanked Board Member Vestal for her project to call 100 families to discuss the state of Santa Cruz City Schools.

### **Student Representatives' Reports**

Student Morris reported the Santa Cruz High School and Cabrillo bands performed together on March 23, and the Santa Cruz High School Choir will perform at the school on March 25. Santa Cruz High School will host a Blood Drive the week of March 29 – April 2. The WASC review is completed, and Student Morris is proud to be part of the continuous improvement efforts at Santa Cruz High School.

Student Medeiros reported that the majority of the Harbor High School students supported the new national health care legislation that was signed into law on Monday March 22.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MSP (Hawthorne/Maxwell) 7-0, the Board of Education approved the Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 3, 2010. Students Morris and Medeiros votes yes.

MSP (Hawthorne/Maxwell) 6-0-1, the Board of Education approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2010. Trustee Collins abstained from the vote due to absence. Students Medeiros and Morris voted yes.

### **GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS**

#### **Consent Agenda**

Board Member Hawthorne asked that Item 1.7, Resolution 27-09-10 Statewide Initiative Approve Local Tax with 55% be removed from the Consent Agenda for a separate discussion.

Mr. Wagman moved approval of the Consent Agenda, less Item 1.7 Resolution 27-09-10, consisting of: Personnel Actions – Certificated; Personnel Actions – Classified; Purchase Orders, Quotes & Bids; Warrant Register Batch 162-171; Budget Transfers; Gifts; Equitable Distribution of Highly Qualified Secondary Teachers; and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and Adoption of Board Policies as submitted. The Board acknowledged, with gratitude, the following gifts to Santa Cruz City Schools: *Westlake Elementary School* – Ms. Ruth Rabinowitz donated a Macintosh computer to the school; Mr. Dean Silvers donated boxed and labeled Multi-Cultural Kits, including a catalogue that explains the items. Ms. Hawthorne seconded this motion. The motion was approved 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

**Item 1.7 Resolution 27-09-10 Statewide Initiative Approve Local Tax 55%**

Ms. Hawthorne reported that details of the initiative were still unknown and she did not support passing the resolution until all fiscal obligations are understood by the Board of Education. Mr. Collins moved that Resolution 27-09-10 be pulled from this agenda, and brought back at a later date when all financial details have been investigated. Ms. Hawthorne provided the second for this motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 7-0. Students Medeiros and Morris voted yes.

**Closed Session Action Report**

1. The Board received an update from and gave direction to Superintendent Bloom regarding negotiations with the GSCFT for 2010-11.
2. The Board received an update from and gave direction to Superintendent Bloom regarding negotiations with the SCCCE for 2009-10.
3. The Board approved as recommended Certificated Leaves, Resignations, and Retirements, including the retirement of Special Education Co-Director Marilyn Torp, who was first employed in the District in 1980.
4. The Superintendent’s evaluation process continues.

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

**New Business: Early Retirement Incentive Program Update**

Mr. Meza provided a report detailing a “Replacement” and a “No Replacement” scenario for the 41 teachers who have expressed interest in the Early Retirement Incentive. Although the PARS and the District figures are in agreement on the initial compensation differential of replacing senior teachers with less experienced teachers in the “Replacement” scenario, the District does not predict the required net savings once incentive and retirement costs are factored in to this equation. In the “No Replacement” scenario, certificated salary savings identified in the previously Board-adopted Fiscal Solvency Plan for 2010-11 cancel the projected savings per retired employee. Following a lengthy discussion among Board Members, District Staff, GSCFT Leadership, SCCS Teachers, and Members of the Audience, the Board of Education expressed interest in finding resolutions to the problems presented that may allow this incentive to move forward. District Administrators and Union Leaders will continue their efforts to identify an

outcome that benefits both students and teachers. As this was an informational item, no action was taken by the Board of Education regarding this matter.

**New Business: Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB): Status Report**

Mr. Meza reported the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) had a national allocation of \$11 billion for QSCBs. Through a lottery process, the California Department of Education awarded SCCS a principal amount of \$2,340,000. The District has earmarked these funds for a field improvement project at Branciforte Middle School. Due to a legal challenge, the CDE has halted all QSCB issuances. Assuming that this legal issue will be successfully resolved, the District is proceeding with plans for the field, and has received an extension from the CDE to avoid forfeiting the award. As this was an informational item, no action was taken by the Board of Education regarding this matter.

**New Business: College Ready Outcomes for Special Needs Students**

Special Education Co-Director Seibel reported to the Trustees regarding special education programs that focus on full inclusion for resource students. Inclusion brings support services to the child (rather than moving the child to the services) and requires only that the child benefit from being in the class. Special Education classroom aides provide support to all students in the classroom, and the inclusion model removes barriers and focuses on enabling students and celebrating diversity. Of the current grade 12 RSP students who are on the diploma track, 81% plan for either college or career technical training. Of that 81%, - 62% plan to attend a community college or four-year institution; 19% plan for career technical training; and the remaining 19% are undecided. As this was an informational item, no action was taken by the Board of Education regarding this matter.

**New Business: Transportation Relocation: Status Report**

Mr. Meza reported that as part of the Fiscal Solvency Plan for 2010-11, the District's Transportation Department would be moved to Harbor High School. The new footprint will include daily operation of 10 buses and 3 vans with a total of 13 employees (12 drivers and 1 supervisor). Improvements will include a modular building for the yard office, and parking space restriping. The Traffic Impact Report concluded that the project will not adversely impact on-site circulation or parking at Harbor High School, and use of the emergency road is not necessary. The preliminary drawings have been shared with the City planners, and there would not be a conditional use permit required to proceed with the project. As this was an informational item, no action was taken by the Board of Education regarding this matter.

**New Business: First Reading, Board Policies**

Superintendent Bloom reported these policies are brought forward in order to bring Santa Cruz City Schools into compliance, and input from the Board of Education is welcomed. MSP (Wagman/Hawthorne) 7-0, the Board approved the following policies for movement to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and adoption at a subsequent meeting.

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

Board Policy 6145 Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities

Administrative Regulation 6145a Athletic Academic Eligibility Standards

Board Policy 6158 Independent Study

Board Policy 6164.41 Children with Disabilities Enrolled by Their Parents in Private School

**Information**

The next Regular Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2010, 6:30 p.m., 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. The Regular Meeting scheduled for May 12, 2010, will be held in the COE 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 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Bloom, Superintendent  
Santa Cruz City Schools

Rachel Dewey Thorsett, President  
Board of Education