

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY DISTRICTS
August 25, 2010**

Convene Open Session

Board President Dewey Thorsett called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. in the Santa Cruz High School Theater, 415 Walnut Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Attendance at Meeting

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

Absent: Ken Wagman

Gary Bloom, Superintendent
Karen Hendricks, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Alvaro Meza, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Kris Munro, 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

Mr. Collins submitted a finding of fact that as school will be starting in seven days there is a need to include new employees to the Certificated Personnel Actions, General Business Consent Agenda, Item 1.1. Ms. Hawthorne seconded the motion, and the revised Certificated Personnel Actions were approved with a 5-0 vote. (Ms. Strimling did not arrive to this meeting until 6:50 p.m. and was not included in this vote.)

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Santa Cruz High School Principal Edmonds welcomed the Board of Education to this site, and asked everyone to join her in welcoming the new Santa Cruz High School Assistant Principal, Ed Williams. GSCFT Representative Helayne Ballaban expressed concern about including the Universal Breakfast program in the instructional day at elementary sites. SCEF President Suz Howells invited everyone to participate in the back-to-school carnival at Whole Foods on Saturday August 28 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. All proceeds from the event will go to SCEF to support Santa Cruz City Schools. An audience member expressed dismay regarding the recent news reports concerning abuse of funds and exorbitant salary for a CSBA Executive, and inquired what services CSBA provides Santa Cruz City Schools. Arnie Levine, CSBA delegate, explained that this CSBA executive has been replaced. Dr. Jim Logsdon asked parties interested in his letter to the COE regarding the PCS charter renewal to contact him for a copy.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Bloom reported that although he was surprised by recent revelations regarding salary and expenditures for the former Executive Director, the CSBA has been a vitally important organization for school boards in California. The student CAHSEE scores are up for every student population in the district. The Superintendent attended the Santa Cruz Instructional Leadership (SCIL) meetings at Harvey West Park on Monday and Tuesday, and reports this program has the potential to be a very important step for SCCS. The District is monitoring projected enrollment numbers very carefully at this time and will make adjustments as needed. Superintendent Bloom announced the Employee Breakfast/Reception in the Harbor High School Multi-Purpose room at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, August 30th, and hopes to see one or two Trustees at this event. The Santa Cruz Sentinel Newspaper will present a series of articles regarding the state of education in Santa Cruz County on Aug. 27-29. District Cabinet Members and Trustee Representatives will participate in two all-day Board Policy workshop sessions on Sept. 10 & 11. The Board retreat is scheduled for Sept. 26. Superintendent Bloom is pleased that PCS Board President Townsend is willing to work with the District to resolve the issues regarding the charter renewal for PCS.

BOARD REPORTS and REFERRALS

Board President's Report

Board President Dewey Thorsett has been following the PCS issues very closely, and attended the August 19 COE meeting regarding the charter renewal.

Board Members' Reports and Referrals

Board Member Collins reported the Central Fire Department did not receive the funds to build the new training station this year, but hopes to obtain the funds next year. Trustee Collins has heard many complaints about the cost of purchasing Senior Pictures, and would like to place a discussion of this item on a future agenda. Mr. Collins suggests that Board and Cabinet members sit through a high school class on the first day of the school year.

Board Member Maxwell was dismayed by the reports regarding the CSBA executive salary and expenditures, and worries that these reports will lead the public to distrust all pension programs. Trustee Maxwell would like the SCCS Board of Education to inquire of the CSBA how a similar situation will be prevented in the future.

Board Member Vestal has been on vacation. While she has not attended any meetings, Trustee Vestal did have the opportunity to visit Gault Elementary and admire the new mural.

Board Member Hawthorne attended the COE PCS meeting and appreciated PCS Board President Townsend's presence at the Closed Session meeting this evening. Trustee Hawthorne reported that the CSBA is an independent organization that is not affiliated directly with the CDE or any particular school district.

Board Member Strimling advocates putting a discussion of Senior Picture vendors on a future agenda. Trustee Strimling was not able to attend the COE PCS meeting, and appreciates the Board Members who did attend to support Santa Cruz City Schools.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. MSP (Collins/Maxwell) 5-0-1, the Board approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 11, 2010. Ms. Hawthorne abstained from the vote due to absence from the meeting.

GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

Mr. Maxwell asked to pull Item 1.1 CSA Professional Development from the agenda for a separate discussion and vote.

Ms. Hawthorne moved approval of the Consent Agenda, including the additions previously approved for Certificated Personnel Actions and minus Item 1.11 CSA Professional Development, consisting of: Personnel Actions – Certificated; Personnel Actions – Classified; Purchase Orders; Warrant Register; CSA Special Education; Special Education Non-Public Agency Contract; Master Teacher MOU w/CSUMB; Musco Sports Lighting Contract; Resolution 06-10-11 Designation of JPA Representatives; Soquel High School Shop Bid Award. Ms. Vestal 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

Item 1.1 CSA for Professional Development

Mr. Maxwell asked clarifying questions regarding this item of Ms. Munro and Ms. James. Following discussion, MSP (Hawthorne/Vestal) 5-1, the Board approved the CSA for Professional Development. Mr. Maxwell voted no.

Closed Session Action Report

1. The Board of Education approved the Certificated Leaves, Resignations, and Retirements as submitted with a vote of 5-0.
2. The anticipated litigation pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 54956.9 was discussed, and direction was provided to the Superintendent by the Trustees.
3. The Board of Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Laura Gladstone to the position of Program Manager, Special Education, with a vote of 5-0.
4. The Board of Education preliminarily approved the Superintendent's Goals.

ITEMS of BUSINESS to be TRANSACTED and/or DISCUSSED

Staff Report: California Standardized Testing Spring 2010

Ms. James reported to the Board Members regarding student data trends, including: Growth in Mathematics; Growth in Science; Growth in English Language Arts; and next steps for the district to promote increased student achievement in 2010-11. The Board Members asked clarifying questions and discussed the information. This item was presented for information only, and no action was taken by the Board of Education.

Staff Report: Santa Cruz Instructional Leadership Team Report

Superintendent Bloom introduced this item to the Trustees, and reported the highest endorsement of this project and the people involved, including Ms. Munro, Ms. James, Ms. Brown, the site principals, and participating site leaders and staff. Ms. Munro reported this project is an

extension of the work that Ms. James began last year with the principals, and gave her the highest commendations for her continued efforts. Gault Elementary School Principal Parks and Harbor High School Principal Davis reported on the two day workshop at Harvey West Park. This item was presented for information only, and no action was taken by the Board of Education.

Information

1. The Regular Meeting on September 15, 2010, will be held at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, 400 Encinal St., Santa Cruz, CA.
2. The Regular Meeting on September 29, 2010, will be held at the Santa Cruz High School Theater, 415 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz, CA.
3. The Regular Meeting on October 13, 2010, will be held at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, 400 Encinal St., Santa Cruz, CA.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Trustees, Board President Dewey Thorsett adjourned this Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Bloom, Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Rachel Dewey Thorsett, President
Board of Education