

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
400 Encinal Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Regular Board Meeting
February 19, 2015
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Board Room

APPROVED MINUTES

1.0 ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Board Present

Jane Royer Barr
Jack Dilles
Sandra Nichols (president)
Dana Sales, Abel Sanchez
George Bud Winslow
Michael Watkins, Secretary

Staff Present

Jim Guss
Mary Hart
Mary Anne James
John Rice
John Armstrong
Sony Sanson
Rebecca Olker
Cindy O'Conner

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Watkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was M.S.C. (Barr/Winslow) to approve the agenda as submitted.

Ayes: Unanimous
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

President Nichols introduced Bruce Van Allen, provisionally appointed to the County Board of Education, Trustee Area II, on February 10, 2015, who was in the audience.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA

It was requested that items 5.0.2, 5.0.3, 5.0.4, and 5.0.5 be moved to the deferred consent items.

5.0.1 Minutes of Board Meeting of January 15, 2015

It was M.S.C. (Barr/Dilles) to approve the minutes of January 15, 2015.

Ayes: Unanimous
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

5.0.2 Minutes of Special Board Meeting of February 10, 2015

5.0.3 Routine Budget Revisions

5.0.4 Donations

5.0.5 Treasurer's Quarterly Investment Report, Quarter Ended December 31, 2014

5.1 DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)

5.0.2 Minutes of Special Board Meeting of February 10, 2015

Following a correction to the minutes, it was M.S.C. (Sales/Winslow) to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of February 10, 2015.

Ayes: Unanimous
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

5.0.3 Routine Budget Revisions

Trustee Nichols inquired about the “Extending the Impact” budget and whether or not it was related to special education. Rebecca Olker, Manager, Internal Business Services, stated that “Extending the Impact” funds are utilized to extend science camp education and are not part of special education funding.

It was M.S.C. (Sales/Winslow) to approve Routine Budget Revisions.

Ayes: Unanimous
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

5.0.4 Donations

Trustee Nichols read the name of each donor.

5.0.5 Treasurer’s Quarterly Investment Report, Quarter Ended December 31, 2014

Trustee Dilles inquired about the format of the Treasurer’s Quarterly Investment Report. Mary Hart, Associate Superintendent, Business Services, stated that the format remains the same and that she provided the Board with the highlights of the report. Ms. Hart offered to provide the entire report, to which Trustee Dilles replied that if the format remains the same, he is happy to receive the highlights.

It was M.S.C. (Sales/Winslow) to approve Donations and the Treasurer’s Quarterly Investment Report, Quarter Ended December 31, 2014.

Ayes: Unanimous
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

Trustee Nichols reported that she followed-up with Santa Cruz City Schools regarding a letter she received from a Mrs. Hoffman regarding heaters being left on at Gault School during school breaks.

7.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

8.0 LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

- 8.1 Information Item: Labor Negotiations – “Sunshine” the California School Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter #484, 2015-2016 Negotiations Proposal to the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools**
Heather Hutchison, co-president, California School Employees Association, Chapter #484, “sunshined” the 2015-2016 negotiations proposal to the County Superintendent of Schools. Copy of proposal included on file with these minutes.
- 8.2 Information Item: Labor Negotiations – “Sunshine” the County Superintendent of School’s 2015-2016 Negotiations Proposal to the California School Employees Association, Chapter #484**
Mary Hart, Associate Superintendent, “sunshined” the 2015-2016 County Superintendent of Schools negotiations proposal to the California School Employees association (CSEA), Chapter #484. Copy of proposal included on file with these minutes.
- 8.3 Information Item: Labor Negotiations – “Sunshine” the Santa Cruz Education Association’s 2015-2016 Negotiations Proposal to the County Superintendent of Schools**
Elizabeth Burnham-Grau, president, Santa Cruz Education Association, “sunshined” the 2015-2016 negotiations proposal to the County Superintendent of Schools. Copy included on file with these minutes.
- 8.4 Information Item: Labor Negotiations – “Sunshine” the County Superintendent of School’s 2015-2016 Negotiations Proposal to the Santa Cruz Education Association**
Mary Hart, Associate Superintendent, “sunshined” the 2015-2016 County Superintendent of Schools negotiations proposal to the Santa Cruz Education Association. Copy of proposal included on file with these minutes.

9.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS and ACTION ITEMS

- 9.1 Green Valley Community School – Scope/Change Orders**
Mary Hart, Associate Superintendent, Business Services, presented a chronological order of events on the Green Valley Community School project.
- March 2007 Proposal to purchase
 - July 2007 Initial study performed
 - Nov 2007 Neighbors notified of Environmental Investigation
 - June 2008 Property purchased
 - Jan 2009 Public Hearing
 - Feb 2010 Noise Impact Study
 - March 2010 Public Notice – Negative Declaration
 - April 2010 Article in Local Paper
 - April 2010 Public Notice of Compliance of Negative Declaration
 - 2011 Plans Approved by Division of the State Architect (DSA)
 - Aug 2014 Project Funded

Ms. Hart reported that at the start of construction neighbors expressed concerns with certain aspects of the project design. Following a meeting with neighbors, a window was changed to include obscured glass to let in light, but prevent students from looking into neighboring yards from the second story. Additionally, a play field was relocated on the property to alleviate potential noise and the architect is currently working on repositioning the basketball court to prevent balls from going into neighboring yards. Ms. Hart stated that plans currently include a 9 ft. tall cyclone fence with slats, which the neighbors feel is insufficient.

Trustee Sales inquired about the type of funding received. Ms. Hart explained that the SCCOE received hardship funding to complete this project, which means a finite amount of money is given and should that figure be exceeded there are penalties.

Ms. Hart reported that there is a request from neighbors to install a tall, solid, precast concrete wall in an effort to create privacy and minimize noise, with an estimated cost of \$65,000. There is currently \$9,000 in the budget for the approved fencing.

Wanting to understand the potential for noise, Trustee Dilles asked how many students could be expected to be outside at one time. John Rice, Sr. Director of Alternative Education, explained that there would be a couple of small programs with a split schedule housed on the campus, with no more than approximately 50 students outside at any given time. Mr. Rice described the programs as highly structured and supervised, with a great deal of routine. He noted that there will be no bells, as on a traditional high school campus, and no spectator events. Mr. Rice also stated that Watsonville Community School is currently located in a neighborhood, and has been for the past 25 years, and that there is a great commitment to being good neighbors and very responsive.

William Neighbors addressed the Board, stating a lot has happened since the original purchase, studies and public notices and now. Mr. Neighbors noted that there are seven homes on Hi Grade Lane.

Howard Walker, owner of Freedom Meat Locker and a neighboring residence, addressed the Board, stating he is concerned about the lack of privacy he will have in his backyard with a cyclone fence, noting his deck sits 2 ft. off the ground. Mr. Walker stated that he believes the school can be a good neighbor, and has never said he does not want the school built, but he is asking for an 8 ft. sound wall and safety barrier.

Stacy Walker, owner of a neighboring residence, addressed the Board, stating she recently purchased her home from her father. Ms. Walker stated her interest in addressing the Board was not to preserve her way of life, but she believes a cyclone fence to be unsightly. She noted her interest was to work with the COE, not against.

Steve Walker, brother of Howard Walker, addressed the Board, stating he has watched his brother build a successful business and homes. Mr. Walker remarked that his brother was perhaps the best neighbor one could ask for. He noted that his brother has improved the neighborhood greatly and has shown enormous generosity to the community. He stated concern for his brother's privacy and potential traffic impact.

Thomas Prudzynski, Property Manager for the adjacent Paloma Del Mar Senior Apartments, addressed the Board, stating he has had many of his tenants express concern regarding construction of the school. Mr. Prudzynski offered suggestions for alternative barriers between the school and adjacent properties, including a contained bamboo barrier.

Lowell Hurst addressed the Board, stating that public notices from many years ago is a long time, and suggested another public hearing may be a good idea. Mr. Hurst stated he was representing approximately 200 seniors that are concerned and surprised by the construction of the school, and that he doesn't believe they were adequately notified. Mr. Hurst also stated that the entrance to the school and parking on Green Valley Road would present a noise issue for seniors.

John Rice, Sr. Director of Alternative Education, John Armstrong, Director of Alternative Education, and Denise Sanson, Assistant Director of Alternative Education, reiterated how important they feel it is for the Green Valley Community School to be good neighbors.

John, John, and Denise provided some information about the student population, stating that it was largely a school of choice, with students being there voluntarily because they are looking for a smaller environment to find success they haven't found elsewhere. Students are being prepared to be college and career ready. They also noted the staff also elects to be there, and the atmosphere is very community/family oriented, because students and teachers have a connectedness and relationship with one another. Staff to student ratio is very low, usually one adult to every five or six students.

This is one of six Alternative Education sites in Watsonville, with a focus on academic. Ms. Sanson noted that she works with the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) and kids stop going to school for many reasons that have nothing to do with gang involvement, including anxiety, credit deficiency, being a teen parent.

After further discussion, it was recommended an ad hoc committee be formed to work with neighbors and explore options. President Nichols appointed Trustee Barr, Trustee Sales, and Trustee Sanchez to the Green Valley Community School ad hoc committee, as they each represent the Watsonville community.

9.2 Adopt Resolution # 15-2, Authorizing Temporary Cash Loans to Santa Cruz County School Districts

Mary Hart stated that there has been only one district to take advantage of a temporary loan in the past, which helped them meet payroll expenses. She reminded the Board that the SCCOE is in control of being repaid. Ms. Hart also noted that she has shared with district CBO's that as COE reserves decline, we may not be able to offer temporary loans in the future.

It was M.S.C. (Barr/Winslow) to adopt resolution 15-2, Authorizing Temporary Cash Loans to Santa Cruz County School Districts.

Ayes: Barr, Dilles, Nichols, Sales, Sanchez, Winslow
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

9.3 Adopt Resolution 15-3, In Support of Repealing Local Reserve Caps

It was M.S.C. (Sales/Dilles) to adopt resolution 15-3, In support of repealing local reserve caps.

Ayes: Barr, Dilles, Nichols, Sales, Sanchez, Winslow
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

9.4 Adopt Resolution 15-4, In Support of Amending Proposition 13

It was M.S.C. (Dilles/Winslow) to approve Resolution 15-4, In Support of Amending Proposition 13.

Ayes: Barr, Dilles, Nichols, Sales, Sanchez, Winslow
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

9.5 Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools, and Pacific Collegiate School

On October 16, 2014 the Board granted a charter renewal to Pacific Collegiate Charter School pending agreement of the Memorandum of Understanding, to be finalized by January 16, 2015. On December 18, 2015 the Board extended the deadline to finalize the MOU to February 19, 2015.

Mary Anne James, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services, highlighted the changes to the MOU.

Trustee Dilles inquired about a section that of the MOU that allows the SCCOE the right to appoint a member on the PCS Board, stating that he would like to have it removed. Mary Anne James indicated that she believed it was Education Code, and suggested that the Board could choose to not implement.

It was M.S.C. (Dilles/Sales) to approve the MOU with removal of section regarding appointing a member on the PCS Board, unless it is consistent with Ed Code, in which case it should remain.

Trustee Winslow expressed his discontent with a conditional motion.

Ayes: Barr, Dilles, Nichols, Sales, Sanchez
Nays: Winslow
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Note: Upon research following the meeting, the statement regarding appointing a member on the PCS Board is consistent with Education Code 47604(b).

9.6 Establishment of Regular Meetings of the Board

At the meeting on December 18, 2014, it was requested that a poll of the COE communities be conducted regarding the time of day the Board conducts its regular meetings. Mary Anne James, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services, reported that Alternative Education parents were polled and most did not respond. She reported that other meetings involving Special Education families were recently moved to days from evenings, as it was a hardship on parents to attend evening meetings.

It was M.S.C. (Sales/Winslow) to conduct the regular meetings of the County Board of Education on the third Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m.

Following the motion, Trustee Dilles stated that he was fine with leaving the meetings as they have been, but wanted to have the flexibility to hold an evening meeting if necessary.

Trustee Sanchez stated that he would support an evening meeting if necessary.

Trustee Sales stated that he believes there are more staff present at afternoon meetings, and that would likely not be the case if meetings were moved to evenings.

Trustee Winslow stated he would like the meetings to remain as they've been.

Trustee Barr stated that she believes it's an accessibility issue and that it is difficult for people who work to attend the meetings.

Trustee Nichols stated that this may be a topic for the community outreach committee to discuss.

Ayes: Dilles, Nichols, Sales, Sanchez, Winslow
Nays: Barr
Abstain: None
Absent: None

10.0 REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS and PRESENTATIONS

10.1 Informational: Change in Architect Status – GreenValley Community School Project

Mary Hart presented the Board with information on the change in architectural firms for the Green Valley Community School project.

11.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

County Superintendent of Schools, Michael C. Watkins, provided an update on activities and matters of interest since his report of January 15, 2015.

Superintendent Watkins added to his report that he and Mary Hart have been working diligently to reach agreements with the Santa Cruz City and Pajaro Valley School Districts regarding ROP, noting that the San Lorenzo Valley and Scotts Valley Districts have signed an MOU.

Superintendent Watkins reported that the COE has offered to spend \$5 million over the next five years in a good faith effort to retain ROP. Though SCCS and PVUSD expressed interest in retaining ROP, they have been reluctant to sign the MOU. Superintendent Watkins stressed that Career Technical Education (CTE) dollars are going to the districts and not the COE.

12.0 TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)

Trustee Dilles reported that on January 7th he attended a community vigil on gun violence, particular to people who have been murdered in Santa Cruz County, and noted there will be an upcoming vigil on February 26th in memory of. He also attended the PCS Golden Shovel ceremony at their new building. Trustee Dilles attended a workshop on New Legislation Impacting Education in 2015, sponsored by the COE. Trustee Dilles reminded the Board that the Scrabble Tournament will be held on March 14th at 8:00 a.m. at the Law Library.

Trustee Sanchez reported that he has been attending Inside Education and has learned a so much about programs and schools in Santa Cruz County as a result. Trustee Sanchez encouraged others to register for the program, and thanked those who are responsible for coordinating it.

Trustee Sales reported that he thought the interview of candidates for the Board vacancy went very well.

Trustee Winslow reported that he attended Community Action Board meeting on the war on poverty and homelessness.

Trustee Barr reported that she attended a meeting of the Santa Cruz County School Boards Association. She also stated she is looking forward to the ROP Expo on March 5th and the Science Fair.

Trustee Nichols reported that she attended the Alternative Education graduation ceremonies, which were very worth attending, noting the wide variety of students we serve. Trustee Nichols also said she spoke to Cindy O'Conner regarding board policies that have been updated and adopted, and that the goal is to have updated policies online within approximately the next month.

13.0 AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS (if any)

Trustee Dilles requested the Board discuss goals. Trustee Nichols suggested a retreat.

14.0 ADDITIONS, IF ANY, TO FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee Nichols requested an update from administration regarding updated administration regulations.

15.0 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS and COMING EVENTS

April 16, 2015 Time TBD	Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education County Board of Education
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May 21, 2015 Time TBD	Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education County Board of Education
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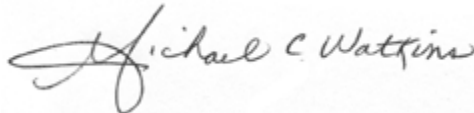
June 18, 2015 Time TBD	Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education County Board of Education
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July 16, 2015 Time TBD	Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education County Board of Education
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16.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Board President adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael C. Watkins
Secretary to the Board