

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

Regular Board Meeting
March 21, 2013
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Board Room

APPROVED MINUTES

1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Board Present

Jane Barr
Jack Dilles
Aaron Hinde
Gina Locatelli (president)
Sandra Nichols
Dana Sales,
George "Bud" Winslow
Michael Watkins, Secretary

Staff Present

Brunella Deeds
Mary Hart
Mary Anne James
Bryan Wall

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Watkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

Action #949

4.0 REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Superintendent Watkins welcomed Rebecca Olker, who has replaced Kyle Rucker as the Manager of Internal Business Services.

Marilyn Garrett and Karen Nevis addressed the Board with their concerns on wireless radiation and the perceived threat to children.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Nichols requested item 5.0.1 be removed from the consent agenda and deferred to item 5.1, deferred consent items. It was M.S.C. (Dilles/Barr) to approve the consent agenda, deferring item 5.0.1.

- 5.0.1 Minutes of Board Meeting of February 21, 2013
- 5.0.2 Routine Budget Revisions
- 5.0.3 Donations

5.1 DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)

Trustee Nichols corrected the minutes of February 21, 2013 to correct spelling of Paul Ellerick's name under item 10.3; to note that under item 10.3 that the alternate, approved resolution 13-3, Measure to Support Student Safety, included the addition of language regarding bullying, school resource officers; and to correct the spelling of Dr. Zhao's name under item 12.0

It was M.S.C. (Sales/Dilles) to approve the minutes as amended.

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

Action #950

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to review.

7.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

8.0 PUBLIC HEARING/NEW BUSINESS and ACTION ITEMS

8.1 PUBLIC HEARING: 2013-2014 Initial Negotiations Proposals

President Locatelli opened the public hearing at 2:20 p.m. to obtain public comment relative to the 2013-2014 negotiations proposals as “sunshined” at the public meeting of the Board on February 21, 2013. (E.C. 3547(b)).

There being no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

8.2 Approve Implementation of New Financial System and Request for Support

Mary Hart, Associate Superintendent of Business Services and CBO provided the Board with background information on research of a new financial system for all districts in the county. All districts felt it time to research new systems, and found systems that were more robust and would better serve the needs of districts and the COE. Ms. Hart stated that the SCCOE would like to assist districts with implementation costs, contributing \$500,000 to support districts.

Ms. Hart reported that there were many visits to districts currently using systems being considered and more than four days of intensive review, which included presentations from vendors to more than 70 personnel, with all districts represented.

In response to a question from Trustee Barr as to when implementation of a new financial system would take place, Ms. Hart stated that the implementation would begin this year if the contract is finalized by May 1st, and would be implemented in phases, likely four districts at first, and then adding a few at a time. Ms. Hart stated that ongoing costs would be absorbed by districts, probably by ADA.

Trustee Dilles requested Ms. Hart provide a general scope of costs. Ms. Hart responded that the maintenance costs of the new system are less than those of the current system, in part because maintenance costs are currently a JPA and as districts or counties leave cost to us increases. Ms. Hart stated cost of the current system is approximately \$3.9 million, and cost of new system would be approximately \$3.5 million, including implementation. Ms. Hart stated that if we were to continue with our current system it would be at a greater cost for a less robust system.

After further discussion, it was M.S.C. (Barr/Dilles) to approve implementation of a new financial system, that we notify current vendor by June 15th, that we send a letter to each district informing them of costs of implementation paid on their behalf by the County Office of Education, and approval of \$500,000 to support implementation costs on behalf of the districts.

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

Action #951

9.0 REPORTS/DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

9.1 Santa Cruz County Office of Education, 2012-13 Second Interim Financial Report

Mary Hart reviewed the Second Interim Financial report as previously provided to the Board for review.

Ms. Hart explained that the budgeting process built-in sequestration, step and column, an increase in health and welfare, as was adjusted for vacancies. Deficit spending as of this report is \$5.1 million.

The Governor's budget will build in a Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). Ms. Hart stated that the effects of that are unknown at this time, and we are waiting for more information.

Trustee Dilles noted that of the \$5 million deficit, some of those expenses were one time investments, and that the ongoing deficit spending was closer to \$2 million. He asked Ms. Hart if SCCOE retains current funding should the governor's LCFF should go into effect. Ms. Hart replied that we would be held harmless and would decline after a few years. Funding for ROP, New Teacher Project, Foster Youth and TICAL is flat, and that we could be worse off in seven years. This would mean SCCOE would either need to cut-back programs over the years, or districts may have to buy services.

Trustee Barr asked about one time expenditures that were included in deficit spending. Superintendent Watkins responded those expenses included the purchase of the Encinal Annex building, the solar project and assistance to districts, noting districts have been informed that with the LCFF looming, the COE will no longer be able to subsidize their programs.

9.2 Trying Youth as Adults – A Santa Cruz County Perspective

Sarah Emmert, Prison Project Coordinator with Barrios Unidos, provided a report related to Santa Cruz County youth being tried as adults.

9.3 Young Writers Program

Julia Chiapella of Santa Cruz Writes provided a report to the Board on the Young Writers Program, an in-classroom writing project using volunteers to enhance student writing for publication. Ms. Chiapella reported that results have been wonderful, with mentors assisting both high achievers and students needing help. The program provides intensive one-on-one tutoring for students who love to write and encourages interest in writing.

9.4 Program Report: Child Development Programs

Carole Mulford provided an update on Child Development Programs. Ms. Mulford stated the importance of early childhood education. She noted it was so important that President Obama promoted preschool for all in the State of the Union Address. This issue is in the forefront again for three reasons: Economics, brain development and families.

Superintendent Watkins noted that this valuable program could have been cut because funding is in tier 3 flexibility funding and could be in jeopardy if the LCFF goes into effect. Childcare programs have lost \$1 billion dollars in devastating cuts. Last year Santa Cruz County lost \$1 million, and most of that was to subsidize childcare.

9.5 Superintendent/Board Retreat

A memo was distributed regarding potential dates and topics for a Board Retreat.

9.6 Board School Site Visits

A sign-up sheet was distributed for Board site visits.

9.7 Scheduling Off-Site Board Meetings

The Board discussed potentially scheduling some of its regular Board meetings at locations within the community. Trustee Dilles stated that he enjoyed meeting at locations within the community and that he would like some meetings to be scheduled off-site.

Trustee Barr said that Pajaro Valley Unified School District tried this at one time and people found it confusing.

Trustee Sales stated that he was not fully supportive of scheduling meetings elsewhere, but if off-site meetings were to be scheduled, he would like to see them only scheduled in Capitola and Watsonville.

10.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Watkins reported on matters and events that have occurred since the report of February 21, 2012:

Regional Occupational Programs WASC Review

Our Regional Occupational Program hosted a WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) review team during the first week of March. The visitation team arrived Sunday, March 3rd for a reception with staff members, the ROP Leadership Team and School District and Site representatives.

The visitation team toured programs Monday and Tuesday and reported their findings Wednesday, March 6th. Findings were positive with the improvement suggestions mirroring those outlined in the ROP self-study. They were impressed with the caliber of our programs and the personnel that we have brought together to teach our students. One WASC visiting member was quoted as saying "The way you operate your program should be a model for the state".

Grind Out Hunger

Danny Keith met with superintendents. They explored strategies for working with high schools to form clubs at the high schools that would bring an awareness of the needs that exist in the community.

Food What

Food What, is a non-profit that uses food, through sustainable agriculture and health, as the vehicle for growing strong, healthy, and inspired teens. The organization works with our Alternative Education programs and invited Superintendent Watkins to attend their winter celebration that took place in February.

FosterEd Initiative Launch Event

The FosterEd Initiative, an educational support system for foster youth, held its launch event at the Watsonville Courthouse with Judge Denine Guy and Judy Yokel, Family and Children's Services, joining me in addressing the attendees. Lisa O'Connor, Foster Youth education liaison, talked about her life experiences as a foster youth and how this initiative will make a difference in the lives of today's foster children.

United Way Annual Campaign Celebration

The County Office of Education earned the Silver Award for Education for their contributions to the United Way Annual Campaign. The campaign hit a new all-time high with over \$1 million dollars pledged to the many agencies supported by the United Way. Superintendent Watkins would like to thank those employees that give so generously to support those less fortunate in our county.

Honoring Mike Chavez

A reunion of former staff and students along with current staff and students gathered at Watsonville Community School to honor Mike Chavez, former counselor for Alternative Education. The event was held on a Saturday and drew a crowd of around 100 to honor Mike. Superintendent Watkins read the Board approved resolution to recognize his work with the at-risk youth of Watsonville.

John Hendrickson, Interim President, Cabrillo College

Superintendent Watkins met with Interim President John Hendrickson to bring him up to date on partnerships and collaborations between our office and Cabrillo College. We will continue to work with Cabrillo on projects such as S4C, the CAP Program, and School to Career Programs among others.

English and Math Collaborative

Superintendent Watkins was honored to stop by to welcome instructors in Math and English and other personnel from local high schools and Cabrillo College who met to discuss the gap between high school proficiency upon graduation and college level expectations. They also explored the Common Core Standards for K-12 and the Student Success Act of 2012 for community colleges and how they can work together for student success.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

At the invitation of UCSC Chancellor George Blumenthall, Superintendent Watkins attended a reception for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. She was in Santa Cruz to speak to promote ICIVICS, an online program to prepare young Americans to become knowledgeable, engaged 21st century citizens by creating free and innovative educational materials. She is concerned with the decline of civic knowledge in young people ages 18-25 who are eligible to vote but do not always have the understanding of the system of government to participate fully.

Downtown College Prep – San Jose, CA

Downtown College Prep in San Jose is dedicated to preparing students who will be the first in their families to attend college and graduate. Superintendent Watkins met with Mike O'Farrell, Community Foundation, and Jennifer Andluz, Santa Cruz County College Commitment, to discuss the strategies used by Downtown College Prep and how and where they might be implemented in Santa Cruz County.

Santa Cruz Symphony

The Santa Cruz Symphony held its annual concerts for fourth graders in February. One is held at the Mello Center and the other at the Santa Cruz Civic, where Superintendent Watkins attended the performance this year. The symphony plays for students, talk about the various instruments and then let the children come forward to see the instruments up close and ask questions of the musicians. The County Office of Education has been a co-sponsor of these performances for a number of years.

Together for Kindergarten Forum

The annual Together for Kindergarten Forum was once again a success with approximately 200 participants. This forum brings together preschool teachers with kindergarten teachers to provide articulation of program, thereby preparing preschool children both emotionally and academically for kindergarten. Janis Keyser, teacher and parent educator, and Linda Brault, WestEd's Senior Program Associate were the keynotes, leading the participants through a series of activities for mutual sharing of resources, knowledge and expertise.

Memorial for Slain Santa Cruz City Police Detectives

Along with Bryan Wall, Deputy Superintendent, Superintendent Watkins attended the memorial service in San Jose for the two Santa Cruz City Police detectives.

Rally Against Gun Violence

Superintendent Watkins joined Trustee Jack Dilles and others in a rally at the Town Clock against gun violence and was one of the featured speakers. The event was well-attended with representatives from many walks of the community.

California Law Regarding Storage of Firearms

Superintendent Watkins met with Trustee Nichols and Shari LaRoche to discuss the Brady Campaign's program to ensure safety at schools by reminding parents that by law they are required to safely store firearms in the home in a locked container or in a location that a reasonable person would believe to be secure; that a firearm is locked with a locking device that renders the firearm inoperable; or the person has no reasonable expectation based on objective facts and circumstances that a child was likely to be present on the premises. Most times when a student brings a gun to school, they have brought it from their own home. This memorandum was provided to district superintendents to sign and share with their parents.

First 5

Superintendent Watkins met with Angela Cline, Director for First 5, to discuss future plans for the organization and the role of the County Office of Education and its Child Development Programs in carrying out the organization's goals and objectives. We also spoke about the ways in which we will work together to carry out the Race to the Top program to provide quality preschools. Santa Cruz County is one of only sixteen counties in California to acquire these funds.

Santa Cruz Writes

Santa Cruz Writes held a fund raiser at Chocolate Restaurant on February 26th with special guest Wallace Baine, journalist and writer. The organization has been doing wonderful work tutoring fourth and fifth graders through the use of volunteers in an afterschool setting. They are currently working on becoming a self-sustaining program.

Pacific Educational Group

The Pacific Educational Group was founded to support families in their transitions within and between K-12 and higher education. Glenn Singleton, President and CEO and Superintendent Watkins have been communicating about how they might collaborate to our mutual benefit. They provide consulting and training services to districts and schools. Mr. Singleton is the co-author of *Courageous Conversations About Race: A Field Guide for Achieving Equity in Schools*.

Conflict Resolution Center & Educational Support Systems

Shauna Mora, Conflict Resolution Center, met with me to discuss how to better serve the schools in addressing issues such as bullying to ensure a safe environment for students and build their self-esteem. The Conflict Resolution Center of Santa Cruz offers workshops, mediation services and conflict resolution services to many segments of our county's population.

Special Education Art Show

The annual Special Education Art Show was held on February 28th in the Tech Center. It was well attended by staff, students and families. Three winners were selected and their art will hang at the end of the hall beyond Human Resources for the next year. The pictures are still up for a few more days if you would like to see them.

Read Across America

Each year since I was elected I have been invited to participate in the Read Across America Program at San Lorenzo Valley Elementary School. This year, I read the book, *Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs* by Mo Willems to a group of Kindergarten and first graders. It is a treat to do this each year with a different group of children.

Advocacy for Categoryicals

When in Sacramento, I met with Senator Monning, Assembly Member Mark Stone, Assembly Member Luis Alejo and their staff to talk about the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and the possible effect on programs like the Regional Occupational Programs, our Alternative Education Programs, and technology support programs among others. I also met with Senator Carol Liu, chair, Senate Education Committee, to discuss the Local Control Funding Formula and its possible effect on County Offices.

In preparation for this advocacy trip, I spoke with the following people:

- Ellen Moir and I met to strategize about the BTSA/New Teacher Project and how to continue to meet the needs of first and second year teachers in order to support them and have them remain in education;
- Rowland Baker, TICAL; John and Ruthmary Cradler, Educational Support Systems met with me to discuss the various technology support programs that are threatened by LCFF;
- Mark Hodges and Jim Howes assisted in preparing an advocacy statement on Regional Occupational Programs to include in the packets delivered to our representatives.
- Judge Denine Guy wrote eloquently outlining the reasons to maintain funding to support our Foster Youth through their educational process.

(See attached packet presented to legislators)

CCSESA Board of Directors & CCSESA Videoconference

I attended the Board of Directors meeting for the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association meeting and a videoconference with superintendents throughout California to discuss the Local Control Funding Formula. The formula will redistribute funding with some of the funding that will be going to districts coming from funding for programs such as Regional Occupational Programs, Alternative Educational Programs, and staff development funding, among other programs run through our office.

Celebrating Arts Learning in California

CCSESA, in partnership with the California State PTA, hosted a luncheon and discussion with state, regional, and parent arts education leaders in Sacramento. This arts initiative supported by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation is taking a leadership role in providing support, technical assistance, and services for teachers, administrators, and parents in an effort to keep arts in the schools. As president of CCESEA, I was invited to welcome the attendees and participate in the meeting.

TipNow

Cyril Rayan of TipNow met with Bryan Wall and me to discuss the program that allows a person to send tips by text, email or voice. The tip is encrypted to ensure anonymity of the sender and routed to the proper authorities. It has been used effectively in other communities and I will be sharing it with local law enforcement and others at the next BASTA meeting in an effort to see if there is enough interest to try the program locally.

Statewide Integrated Learning Summer Institute

As president of CCSESA, I participated in a phone conference with Louise Music, Executive Director, Department of Integrated Learning, Alameda County Office of Education to discuss the possibility of having a Statewide Integrated Learning Institute this summer. The institute would be based on the Project Zero Classroom and the Region 4 Integrated Learning Summer Institute "Inventing Our Future." I have been asked to lead a team of assistant superintendents from county offices for a one week program at Harvard Graduate School this summer to learn more about Project Zero.

Science Fair Awards Ceremony

Fifty-five schools and 457 students comprised over 350 individual and team presentations that were presented at the 2013 Science Fair. The Awards Ceremony was held this past Tuesday at the Civic Auditorium with over 140 awards given out to students. The top forty winners of the fair will be advancing to the statewide Science Fair. The top two high school winners will be attending the International Science Fair where they will be competing against 1500 students from around the world and have the opportunity to win scholarship monies as well as other awards. For the first time ever, students from Watsonville High School participated in the county Science Fair.

Inside Education

The Inside Education meeting for March emphasized our Middle Schools. Participants began at the County Office getting an overview from Michael Watkins and Bryan Wall and then visited Branciforte Middle School and Mission Hill Middle School. They returned to the office to debrief and learn more about what is being done to curb youth and gang violence.

Ag Board Luncheon

As a member of the AgriCulture Board, I attended the annual luncheon at the fairgrounds where the Al Smith Friend of Agriculture Award and the Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship were presented.

Monthly Meetings

CCSESA Finance Committee
S4C Steering Committee
Board Legislative Outreach Committee
Agenda Committee
S4C Steering Committee Meeting
Migrant Headstart Videoconference

CCSESA Executive Committee
Children's Network Executive Committee
Children's Network
Superintendent's Council
Managers' Meeting

11.0 TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)

Trustee Hinde reported that he attended the ROP WASC review luncheon where there was much positive feedback. He also met with Superintendent Watkins, along with Danny Keith, regarding access to schools for Grind Out Hunger.

Trustee Nichols attended the Foster Education Initiative launch: an anti-gun rally at the town clock; a meeting of the ad hoc community and legislative outreach committee; ROP WASC luncheon; met with Kathy Goldenkrantz of COPA; appeared on Voices of the Village; met with Superintendent Watkins regarding gun safety.

Trustee Sales reported he attended a meeting of the budget committee regarding the proposed financial system and he attended the annual football pool luncheon.

Trustee Winslow reported that he attended a Community Restoration Project meeting; the Shelter Project; the Immigration Project; a meeting of the Housing Authority; and announced the Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 4th in Davenport.

Trustee Barr reported she attended the Sandra Day O'Connor event on ICIVICS; a meeting of the budget committee on the proposed financial System; a Santa Cruz County School Boards Association Meeting.

Trustee Dilles reported that he attended an anti-gun rally at the town clock; a community conversation on violence; the ROP WASC welcoming reception; the Together for Kindergarten meeting; a Redevelopment Oversight Board meeting in Scotts Valley; announced the upcoming Scrabble Tournament.

President Locatelli reported that she continues to meet with Supervisor Greg Caput in regard to a crosswalk near Lakeview Middle School and St. Francis High School. She also reported that the Santa Cruz County Fair education committee is working on interactive display this year. She is also preparing for two radio shows and received an art history award for her downtown property from the Museum of Art and History.

12.0 AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS (if any)

Trustee Nichols reported that the Legislative Outreach Committee met and came to some agreements about meeting with local legislators regarding violence in schools.

The Budget Committee met to review the second interim report and the proposed financial system.

Constitution Day Contest: The Board is in support of having an essay contest again in the fall.

13.0 ADDITIONS, IF ANY, TO FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests to place items on a future agenda.

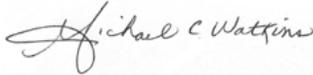
14.0 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS and COMING EVENTS

March 23, 2013 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Scrabble Tournament Santa Cruz Law Library
April 18, 2013 2:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education Santa Cruz County Office of Education
May 4, 2013 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Math Contest Aptos High School
May 16, 2013 2:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education Santa Cruz County Office of Education
June 20, 2013 2:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education Santa Cruz County Office of Education

15.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Locatelli adjourned the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael C. Watkins
Secretary to the Board