

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

Regular Board Meeting
July 18, 2013
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Board Room

APPROVED MINUTES

1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Board Present

Jane Barr (absent at roll call)
Aaron Hinde
Gina Locatelli (president)
Sandra Nichols
Dana Sales,
George "Bud" Winslow
Michael Watkins, Secretary

Staff Present

Mary Anne James
Jean Gardner
Brunella Deeds
Cindy O'Conner
Margaret Merchat, Legal Counsel

Absent

Jack Dilles

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Watkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Locatelli amended the agenda to hear items 14.0, 15.0 and 16.0 together, as the appellants are siblings. Margaret Merchat, legal counsel, stated the representative of the student in the expulsion appeal hearing, item 12.1, made a request that the expulsion hearing be held in open session, and she recommended conducting the hearing in open session as requested. It was M.S.C. (Hinde/Sales) to approve the agenda with these changes.

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

Action #974

Trustee Barr arrived following approval of the agenda.

4.0 REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

A member of the audience, who identified herself only as Julia, addressed the Board regarding her concern with hydraulic fracking, stating she believes known toxins in the community is counter productive to young people thriving. She encouraged the community to learn more about the process and its inherent risks, reiterating her concerns with toxins, genetically modified organisms (GMO) and fracking.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Barr made a grammatical correction to the minutes of June 20, 2013, item 9.1, changing the word to to took and in item 12.7 the addition of the direction to form an ad hoc committee on an immigration resolution.

- 5.0.1 Minutes of Board Meeting of June 20, 2013
- 5.0.2 Donations
- 5.0.3 Approval of Resolution to Authorize Designated Personnel to Sign Child Care Development Contract Documents for Fiscal Year 2013-14.

It was M.S.C. (Barr/Nichols) to approve the consent agenda with changes.

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

Action #975

5.1 DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)

There were no deferred consent items.

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to review.

7.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

8.0 APPEAL HEARING: DENIED INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER, SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT /APPELLANT COMBS

The Board conducted an appeal hearing as prescribed by E.C. 46601, et. seq. and Board Policy 5118.1 relative to the denied interdistrict transfer application filed by appellant.

8.1 Conduct Appeal Hearing

President Locatelli conducted the appeal hearing.

George Wylie, San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District Trustee, addressed the Board regarding Santa Cruz City School class sizes, stating that Santa Cruz voters passed Measure P, which promised smaller class sizes for students in the district.

Deborah Meacham, a parent of students attending Santa Cruz City Schools, stated she can speak to the fact that there is a capacity issue in the district. She invited county Board members to visit schools in Santa Cruz City Schools to witness capacity issues first hand, and urged the county Board to honor what voters voted for.

Cynthia Hawthorne, Santa Cruz City School Board Trustee invited county Board members to visit Santa Cruz City Schools to witness capacity issues in grades K-8.

8.2 Board Deliberation, Finding of Fact, and call for motion of final action

Following the hearing, deliberations and consideration of findings, it was moved by Trustee Barr to uphold the school district denial of the interdistrict transfer application, second by Trustee Sales.

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

Action #976

9.0 REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS and PRESENTATIONS

9.1 2012-2013 Santa Cruz County Grand Jury Report Final Report

The Board received a report from Superintendent Watkins on the 2012-2013 Santa Cruz County Grand Jury Report at it pertained to the Santa Cruz County Office of Education.

Superintendent Watkins explained that Grand Jury report requires a response from the Superintendent within 60 days, and a separate response from the County Board of Education within 90 days. The Superintendent reviewed the background of the inquiry being district superintendents and trustees questioning the SCCOE reserve balance.

Trustee Barr stated the SCCOE has been very generous in providing funds to districts and management of funding has been responsible, noting that given the times, the higher reserve does not seem a bad thing as the Grand Jury report indicates. Trustee Barr stated she had a concern with how funding decisions were made to distribute funds to districts and how districts were made aware of available funding.

Superintendent Watkins addressed Trustee Barr's concern, stating that the funding to districts began when Santa Cruz City Schools anticipated having to eliminate adult education, which provided the GED program to adults in Santa Cruz. He said when looking at needs, it was difficult to imagine a county where adults don't have a pathway for education. He noted that needs varied from district to district, which is why amounts varied. Superintendent Watkins stated that Superintendent Council meetings are confidential, but that possibilities and opportunities for funding were discussed in those meetings.

Trustee Hinde stated that the County Board of Education is dynamic, and that is demonstrated every election cycle. He noted that when he was initially elected that he insisted on a balanced budget and believes the staff did an excellent job of doing so. Trustee Hinde's recollection was that the Board used a three percent (3%) reserve as a minimum, not a maximum. and that a five percent (5%) reserve was the target. Mr. Hinde noted that he is the only Board member with children in schools, but said he would trust his own children's education with Superintendent Watkins.

Jean Gardner, Director of Fiscal Services, stated that a three percent (3%) is an absolute minimum, noting it would only cover six days of payroll and is inadequate. Ms. Gardner reported that the average reserve for elementary districts in California is twenty-four percent (24%). Districts are implementing spending freezes and doing what they can to survive the state budget crisis. She noted that SCCOE leadership created a situation that we began to accumulate reserves. Ms. Gardner stressed the importance of having cash on hand to meet expenses. She noted the purpose of a reserve is to be able to pay your bills, and fund balance does not equal cash.

Ms. Gardner shared that the lowest reserve in the county was a district with a twelve percent (12%) reserve, with the next lowest being thirteen percent (13%), and that district had to borrow \$600,000 to meet payroll expenses.

Cynthia Hawthorne, SCCS trustee, thanked Superintendent Watkins for his leadership, support and assistance during a difficult time, stating she appreciated that the COE had money at a time when nobody else did.

George Wylie, SLVUSD trustee, also applauded Superintendent Watkins for his leadership and noted that he understood that the SCCOE had no obligation to provide funding to districts and that he appreciated what the organization did for districts in a time of need. Mr. Wylie stated he believed the Grand Jury and public wanted a process, even if it is unlikely to ever happen again.

Caroline Irvine, who was a member of the 2013 Grand Jury, addressed the Board. She stated that they considered the primary issues were to have policy and procedures. Ms. Irvine noted that the Grand Jury considered this to be a positive report about SCCOE in its totality and that the report was not meant to be an evaluation of the entire COE, but looking at a focused area. Ms. Irvine noted that the Grand Jury was not suggesting the COE maintain a certain reserve, but should be more transparent. The Grand Jury considered its main commendations to be the Student Support Services Program and its accomplishments in the area of mental health, and the Regional Occupational Program.

9.2 Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)

Superintendent Watkins gave a presentation on LCFF as it relates to the SCCOE. He noted that he was a staunch critic of the Governor's proposal. Superintendent Watkins provided some history on the new funding formula, stating that the Governor put forward the same proposal two years ago and called it Weighted Student Formula. He shifted the name to LCFF and got buy-in.

Superintendent Watkins reviewed how the SCCOE is funded currently, and what funding will look like under LCFF. Under the new formula we will not receive additional funds (COLA or growth) until our LCFF target revenue equals current funding levels, which is estimated to be 10 years. The SCCOE must continue to run ROP through 2014-15 at the expense level equal to 2012-13 expenditures through COE funds or district funding with CTE monies. Additionally, there are new oversight responsibilities, with no funding to support the oversight responsibilities.

Superintendent Watkins reported that some of the measures being taken to prepare include requiring departments to reduce expenditures, only replacing critical personnel (i.e. teachers), evaluating services currently offered beyond state and federal requirements, reviewing a "fee for service" model, and cabinet review and approval of purchase orders, contracts, personnel request forms and temporary service agreements.

10.0 PUBLIC HEARING/NEW BUSINESS and ACTION ITEMS

Trustee Locatelli requested item 10.1 be moved to follow item 17.2, so as not to keep families and the translator waiting.

11.0 CLOSED SESSION DISCLOSURE

President Locatelli disclosed that, at the request of the appellant, the expulsion hearing would be conducted in open session.

12.0 CLOSED SESSION

The expulsion hearing was conducted in open session at the request of the appellant.

12.1 EXPULSION APPEAL HEARING: PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CASE # 12-13-069 LMS

The Board conducted an expulsion appeal hearing regarding subject case as prescribed in Education Code Sections 48919 et seq., Board Policy #BP5115 and AR5114 relative to Pajaro Valley Unified School District Case Number 12-13-069.

13.0 OPEN SESSION

13.1 DETERMINATION: EXPULSION APPEAL HEARING PAJARO VALLEY USD CASE # 12-13-069 LMS

13.2.1 Finding of Facts: Recording and Approval

The Board met in open session for the purpose of deliberation, determination of Findings of Facts, and Order of the Board in the matter of subject expulsion appeal hearing.

13.2.2 Order of the Board

It was M.S.C. (Hinde/Barr) to affirm the decision by the Pajaro Valley Unified School District governing board is supported by the findings required to be made and to uphold the expulsion in case number 12-13-069.

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

Action #977

14.0 APPEAL HEARING: DENIED INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER, SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT /APPELLANT M. GONZALEZ

The agenda was amended to conduct items 14.0, 15.0 and 16.0 together, as all three appellants are siblings. There being no objection from the appellant's parent or the district, the Board conducted the appeal hearings as prescribed by E.C. 46601, et. seq. and Board Policy 5118.1 relative to the denied interdistrict transfer application filed by appellant.

14.1 Conduct Appeal Hearing

President Locatelli conducted the appeal hearing.

14.2 Board Deliberation, Finding of Fact, and call for motion of final action

Following the hearing, deliberations and consideration of findings, it was moved by Trustee Barr to uphold the school district denial of the interdistrict transfer application, second by Trustee Sales.

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

Action #978

15.0 APPEAL HEARING: DENIED INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER, SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT /APPELLANT M. GONZALEZ

The Board conducted the appeal hearing under item 14.0

15.1 Conduct Appeal Hearing

15.2 Board Deliberation, Finding of Fact, and call for motion of final action

16.0 APPEAL HEARING: DENIED INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER, SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT /APPELLANT K. CASTELLANOS

The Board conducted the appeal hearing under item 14.0

16.1 Conduct Appeal Hearing

16.2 Board Deliberation, Finding of Fact, and call for motion of final action

17.0 APPEAL HEARING: DENIED INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER, SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT /APPELLANT JACKSON-HARRIS

Appellant's mother, Ms. Nicole Jackson stated that she was withdrawing her appeal request, as she will be moving within the boundaries of the Santa Cruz City School District and would no longer require an interdistrict transfer.

17.1 Conduct Appeal Hearing

17.2 Board Deliberation, Finding of Fact, and call for motion of final action

Conducted Out of Order

10.1 Adopt Resolution 13-11: In Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform

It was M.S.C. (Hinde/Nichols) to adopt resolution 13-11 In Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

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

Action #979

18.0 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

County Superintendent of Schools, Michael C. Watkins, provided an update on activities and matters of interest since the report of June 20, 2013:

United State Coast Guard Academy

We received a letter of commendation for Alternative Education teacher Tracy Schultz who has given of his time as an Admissions Partner to the Coast Guard Academy. He has volunteered his time and energy to attend college fairs and congressionally sponsored service academy events; developed relationships with his local high school educators and coaches; provided guidance to prospects, appointees, and their parents; and conducted applicant interviews and screenings.

Regional Occupational Medical Assisting Program

The Regional Occupational Programs has been testing applicants for the Medical Assisting Program classes for next year. They have close to 100 students testing for 1-2 classes of 30 each that will be taught out of the 399 Encinal ROP building.

CREEC Grant Funding

For the second year in a row, the Region 5 CREEC (California Regional Environmental Education Committee) Program, is one of eleven regional programs to receive a grant from the Environmental Education Programs of the California Department of Education. They will be receiving \$31,890 to further the education of environmental education in the schools of Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Monterey and San Benito Counties.

Board Policies

California School Boards Association recently returned to us copies of the policies we submitted for their review based on our Board and staff's recommendations. Our task now is to review those policies for relevancy and accuracy. We will be asking the Board and staff to review the policies that relate to their duties. Once they have been reviewed, they will come to the Board for approval and posting to our web site.

Superintendents Meeting with Michael Fullan, Ben Levin, and Tom Torlakson

Superintendent Watkins was honored to one of a select number of superintendents invited to attend a dinner and all day meeting with Michael Fullan, Professor Emeritus, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto and renowned authority on education reform, as well as, Ben Levin, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Education Leadership and Policy, along with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson. The discussion centered on essential partnerships between the CDE and local education agencies allowing for system wide improvement in education.

California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA)

Superintendent Watkins attended the quarterly meeting of CCSESA in Long Beach. Topics of discussion included Migrant Education, California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, Common Core Implementation, Preschool and Child Development, Special Education, Mental Health, Federal Advocacy, State Board of Education update, and the 3 R's Project among others.

Write Start Backpack Program

Our Write Start Back Pack Program has begun the annual campaign to collect school supplies for children whose parents are unable to afford the annual expense of preparing their students for school. All types of supplies from backpacks to binders, paper and pencils are welcome. Donations of cash are also accepted. The only requirement is that backpacks cannot be blue or red. The smiles on children's faces when they receive their school supplies are priceless. The United Way is assisting our program with their 'Stuff the Bus' promotion.

Budget Workshop

Capitol Advisors Group, LLC from Sacramento presented a follow up budget workshop as more details of the new LCFF funding are released and deciphered. The workshop is free and brought in around 40 attendees from local school districts and surrounding counties. They will return again in the fall to further update everyone on developments.

Santa Cruz Education Foundation

Superintendent Watkins participated in a Community Assessment Survey for Santa Cruz City Schools Education Foundation.

United Way CAP Steering Committee

Superintendent Watkins attended the annual review of goals and objectives for the United Way Community Assessment Project. We also reviewed the nominations for the 2013 Community Heroes and selected finalists.

Project Zero Classroom

This next week, Superintendent Watkins will be joining a team of educators at a weeklong Project Zero Classroom Program at Harvard Graduate School of Education in July. The purpose of the Institute is to infuse public education leaders across our state, with the inspiration, knowledge, tools, strategies and relationships to lead for a creative and responsive teaching and learning system that will support the success of each and every child in school, career and citizenship.

Monthly Meetings

Migrant Head Start Videoconference

School Employers Association of California Agriculture Board

CCSESA Quarterly Meeting Prep Call

School Employers of California Board Meeting (SEAC)

Upcoming Events

CCBE Fall Conference: September 27-29, Hyatt Regency, Monterey, CA (contact Cindy)

Orientation Day: Monday, August 26th, 8:30 a.m., County Office of Education

Annual CSBA Conference: December 5-7, San Diego Marriott, San Diego (contact Cindy)

19.0 TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)

Trustee Winslow reported that he attended a meeting of the Santa Cruz Immigration Project.

Trustee Sales had no report.

Trustee Nichols reported she enjoyed working with Trustee Winslow on the ad hoc committee related to the Immigration Reform resolution.

Trustee Locatelli reported that she continues to work on Santa Cruz County Fair renovations. Trustee Locatelli also reported that due to her very busy schedule this year, she will be unable to lead the Constitution Day Essay Contest. She asked other trustees if they would be willing to take the lead. Trustee Nichols expressed interested, but would like to know more about the responsibilities. Trustee Locatelli advised Trustee Nichols to contact her for more information.

20.0 AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS (if any)

There were no ad hoc committee reports.

21.0 ADDITIONS, IF ANY, TO FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

It was requested that Board Policies and Paperless Board meeting technology be placed on the August agenda.

22.0 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS and COMING EVENTS

August 15, 2013
2:00 p.m. Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education

September 19, 2013
4:00 p.m. Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education

October 17, 2013
2:00 p.m. Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education

23.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Board President adjourned the meeting. 6:45