



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

Regular Board Meeting
 January 19, 2012
 Time: 2:00 p.m.
 Board Room

APPROVED MINUTES

1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Board Present

Jack Dilles
 Aaron Hinde
 Arnold Levine (President)
 Gina Locatelli
 Vic Marani,
 Dana Sales
 George Bud Winslow
 Michael Watkins, Secretary

Staff Present

Mary Hart
 Bryan Wall
 Carole Mulford
 Brunella Deeds
 Cindy O'Conner
 Alison Gold
 Heather Hutchison

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Watkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

Action# 880

4.0 REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Gail Olsen, grandmother of a Harbor High School student, addressed the Board regarding school safety, explaining that her granddaughter had been stalked and harassed by a young man, which resulted in a restraining order. Ms. Olsen reported that, despite the restraining order, the young man was permitted on campus. She urged schools to have procedures in place to ensure student safety.

Terry Ryan, daughter of Gail Owen, and mother of the aforementioned Harbor High School student, added that the school office did not handle her daughter's case well, and it was important to her to keep awareness up.

Bryan Wall, Deputy Superintendent, advised that we have safety procedures in place for SCCOE student programs, though this case was a Santa Cruz City School District issue, for which the SCCOE has no oversight.

Ken Wagman, Santa Cruz City School (SCCS) Board President stated that this Issue was addressed at the SCCS Board meeting the night before, and he was appreciative of the manner in which the family raised the issue, as it was clear their intent was not to place blame, but to ensure student safety. Mr. Wagman reported that SCCS is addressing the issue as a district.

Ken Wagman, SCCS Board President addressed the Board regarding the Monterey Bay Regional Climate Action Compact 2.0, which is comprised of members from San Benito, Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, working to develop a regional response and actions to work on climate change initiatives. From an educational perspective, SCCS has joined, and various other districts throughout the tri-county area are considering joining. Mr. Wagman urged the Board to consider joining the compact at a future date.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA

It was M.S.C. (Locatelli/Dilles) to approve the consent agenda as submitted.

5.0.1 Minutes of Board Meeting of December 15, 2011

5.0.2 Donations

5.0.3 Routine Budget Revisions

Ayes: Unanimous

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Action# 881

5.1 DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)

There were no deferred consent items.

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

7.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS and ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Action to Approve Resolution 12-1 to Authorize the Purchase of and Accept the Deed to the Real Property at 399 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz

Mary Hart, Associate Superintendent, Business Services explained the necessity of the resolution to satisfy the title company and legal requirements.

George Wylie, San Lorenzo Valley School Board member, asked for clarification on the purchase price of the building, to which Ms. Hart responded \$1,450,000. He questioned the propriety of spending money on a facility, stating he believed these funds should go to kids.

Kathy Ritchie, San Lorenzo Valley School Board member addressed the Board, stating that she felt the need for SCCOE to purchase a building was unclear.

Cynthia Hawthorne, SCCS Board member stated she heard the new building was for additional meeting space. Ms. Hawthorne suggested the reserve funds could be used to support districts.

Superintendent Watkins responded to the public comment, stating that over the past two to three years the SCCOE has contributed at least a half million dollars to Santa Cruz City School District alone to support their programs, in addition to the support given to other school districts in the county, totaling more than two million dollars. Superintendent Watkins noted the SCCOE runs niche programs, including Migrant Head Start, Regional Occupational Program, New Teacher Project, and Educational Services, all of which have grown. Mr. Watkins further explained that the SCCOE is working with the Sheriff's Department on justice realignment and is considering a career center for adults and youth within our county, noting the purchase of the building is to accommodate growth in programs, in addition to professional development space. Superintendent Watkins noted that Santa Cruz City Schools holds their Board meetings at the SCCOE facility, free of charge, and reminded the Board and audience that the SCCOE offers its facilities to school districts and other community based organizations at no cost, which other COE's in the state do not do.

In response to a comment from Kathy Ritchie that districts need help, Superintendent Watkins noted that when the San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) School District asked the SCCOE to run its White Oak continuation school, it stepped in without hesitation and relieved SLV of that liability, adding that the SCCOE has helped districts every step of the way based on priorities brought forth by district superintendents.

Superintendent Watkins stated that the SCCOE has been a fiscally prudent organization, and that its intention is not to stagnate, but to grow to support students county wide, adding that the SCCOE has always partnered with school districts to support kids.

Following further discussion, it was M.S.C. (Sales/Marani) to approve Resolution 12-1.

Ayes:	Dilles, Hinde, Levine, Locatelli, Marani, Sales, Winslow
Nays:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

Action# 882

9.0 REPORTS/DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

9.1 Program Report – Transitional Kindergarten

Carole Mulford, Program Manager, Child Development Programs, provided an overview on Transitional Kindergarten (TK), which, based on Senate Bill 1381, changes California's entry-age for kindergarten from five years of age, and for first grade from six years of age, by December 2nd to September 1st. To allow local districts time to prepare for implementation, the new age requirement will be phased-in over three years beginning in the 2012-13 school year.

9.2 Report – Actuarial Study of Retiree Health Liabilities

Mary Hart, Associate Superintendent, Business Services, presented the Actuarial Study of Retiree Health Benefits, as required every two years in compliance with GASB43/45.

9.3 Discussion – Presentation to Santa Cruz County School District Board Members and Superintendents by California School Boards Association Executive Director, Vernon M. Billy

The Board discussed hosting an event for Vernon Billy, Executive Director of CSBA, to address county school board members and superintendents. After some discussion regarding venue and cost, the Board agreed that President Levine and Trustee Dilles would meet to coordinate details.

9.4 Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Watkins reported on matters and events of interest that have occurred since the report of November 17, 2011.

399 Encinal Street

The purchase of the new office building at 399 Encinal is nearing completion as Arnie Levine and Superintendent Watkins signed escrow documents on Wednesday of this week.

Good Times Interview

Superintendent Watkins was interviewed by the Good Times on school funding and the effects of the State budget crisis on our local schools.

CCSESA Conference Calls

Superintendent Watkins participated in committee meetings for CCSESA Board of Directors and CCSESA Finance Committee by phone conference.

Education Coalition Meeting

On Tuesday, January 17th, Superintendent Watkins attended his first meeting of the State Education Coalition. It is comprised of top officials in education including the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Much of the discussion focused on the budget, as well, as pensions, legislation, and school facilities.

Inside Education – Charter Schools

The Inside Education cohort met on Wednesday, January 18th to discuss and visit charter schools. Superintendent Watkins welcomed the group with an overview and then they visited Tierra Pacifica and Cieba College Preparatory Academy. Participants were very impressed with both schools and the job they are doing with their students.

Caroline Calero - ACSA

Superintendent Watkins met with Caroline Calero to discuss a mentoring program supplied by ACSA, Association of California School Administrators. This program is by request of the administrator and is designed to assist both the new administrator and/or the seasoned veteran that has taken on new responsibilities. The mentors are administrators include both recently retired, up-to-date educational leaders and those who are successfully leading schools and/or districts and are willing to share their expertise.

Superintendents Training

In collaboration with the Monterey County Office of Education, the superintendents from both counties are participating in four part workshop series. The first training took place this morning and was entitled, Taking Stock: Focus, Resilience and Inspiration.

Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County

Superintendent Watkins met with Michelle Williams, Executive Director to discuss ways in which the County Office might partner to preserve arts education in the schools.

Santa Cruz Rotary

Superintendent Watkins will be addressing the Santa Cruz Rotary on Friday, January 20th on education, the effects of the State budget and challenges facing the schools of Santa Cruz County.

School Board Recognition Month

January is School Board Recognition Month and the County Office of Education wanted to take this opportunity to thank our Board members to their commitment to improving educational opportunities for all students in Santa Cruz County. As well, we extend our thanks to all Board members in the county. It is an enormous responsibility to serve on these boards and takes dedication, especially in these challenging times.

9.5 Trustee Reports (3 minutes each)

Trustee Marani reported that he had the opportunity to have lunch with Tricia Leonard, the new editor of the Register Pajaronian, noting she is a Watsonville High School graduate and the first woman to hold the position. Trustee Marani also reported that on January 28th Senator Simitian will present his annual report to the community, adding that Senator Simitian is a committed proponent for education, and the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual dinner where Rhea DeHart and Diane Severen will be honored with lifetime achievement awards.

Trustee Hinde reported that Avisia in Scotts Valley has gone out of business and is donating many supplies to schools. He also reported that his new beverage company is donating five percent of its proceeds to the American Junior Golf Association.

Trustee Sales reported that he would not be in attendance at the February meeting. Trustee Sales noted the nice article about Rebecca Garcia, retiring Cabrillo College trustee, noting she was the highest elected Latina in Santa Cruz County and congratulated her on the difference she made in local education, and south county.

Trustee Dilles attended the service for Barney Bricmont, noting his impressive contribution to education. At the service he learned about Schools Plus, which Mr. Bricmont started, an organization focused on schools that do not have their own foundations, and he attended one of their meetings.

Trustee Winslow met with community activists regarding upcoming initiatives.

Trustee Locatelli attended the agenda committee meeting. She also attended A foster care and family childcare presentation, mainly attended by childcare providers and those interested in becoming foster parents. Trustee Locatelli also reported that 4-H was having a GOAL (Go Out And Learn) day, and they asked Ms. Locatelli to speak at the event.

Trustee Levine attended the agenda committee meeting and the service for Barney Bricmont.

10.0 AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS (if any)

10.1 Establish Ad Hoc Constitution Day Committee

President Levine appointed Trustee Locatelli to chair the Constitution Day ad hoc committee. Also appointed to the committee were Trustees Hinde and Levine.

10.2 Establish Ad Hoc Board/Superintendent Retreat Planning Committee

Trustee Hinde was appointed to work with Superintendent Watkins to establish priorities.

11.0 ADDITIONS, IF ANY, TO FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

12.0 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS and COMING EVENTS

Thursday, February 16, 2012
2:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education
Santa Cruz County Office of Education

Thursday, March 15, 2012
2:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education
Santa Cruz County Office of Education

Thursday, April 12, 2012
2:00 p.m.
(Please note: Second Thursday)

Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education
Santa Cruz County Office of Education

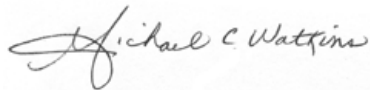
Thursday, May 17, 2011
2:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Levine adjourned the meeting at 3:52.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael C. Watkins