

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 20, 2011
Approved Minutes

- 1.0 ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM** Roll Call
President Marani called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.
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| <p><u>Board Present</u>
Jack Dilles
Aaron Hinde
Arnold Levine
Gina Locatelli
Vic Marani
Dana Sales
George Bud Winslow
Michael C. Watkins, Secretary</p> | <p><u>Staff Present</u>
Mary Hart
Cindy O'Conner
Bryan Wall
Brunella Deeds
Janna Lambert, Counsel</p> |
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- 2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Pledge of Allegiance
Superintendent Watkins led recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Approval of Agenda
It was M.S.C. (Levine/Sales) to approve the agenda as submitted.
- 4.0 REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE** Remarks from the Audience
Archie Douglas, Pacific Collegiate School (PCS) principal, informed the Board that on January 14, 2011, PCS welcomed Clarence B. Jones, an advisor and confidant to Martin Luther King. Mr. Douglas reported that Mr. Jones gave an amazing two hour presentation with a unique perspective on Dr. King's legacy. Mr. Douglas presented an autographed copy of Mr. Jones' book Behind the Dream to Superintendent Watkins, for which Mr. Watkins expressed his gratitude.
- Marilyn Garrett, a retired Pajaro Valley Unified School District teacher, addressed the Board regarding what she believes are the dangers of wireless technology. Ms. Garrett stated she had met with Superintendent Watkins and other Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE) personnel on the matter. Ms. Garrett read a statement which opined that wireless technology may be damaging and she urged schools to safeguard for children.
- Trustee Locatelli stated that she met with Ms. Garrett regarding her concerns for wireless technology and that Ms. Garrett provided information on the matter. Ms. Locatelli reported that she met with Associate Superintendent Theresa Rouse and Dave Barnett, Network Manager to discuss Ms. Garrett's concerns.
- 5.0 DISCLOSURE OF CLOSED SESSION AGENDA** Disclosure of Closed Session Agenda
President Marani disclosed that the Board will, in Closed Session, received information regarding existing litigation.

6.0 CLOSED SESSION

- 6.1 Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation**
The Board received information and conferred with legal counsel regarding existing litigation, Jada J. vs. Santa Cruz County Office of Education.

Conference With
Legal Counsel -
Existing Litigation

7.0 REPORT OUT ON CLOSED SESSION

President Marani reported that the Board rejected the claim of Jada J. vs. Santa Cruz County Office of Education.

Report Out On
Closed Session
Action# 823

8.0 REGULAR OPEN SESSION

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

It was M.S.C. (Dilles/Levine) to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.

- 9.0.1** Minutes of Board Meeting of December 16, 2010
9.0.2 Donations
9.0.3 Routine Budget Revisions

Ayes: Unanimous
Absent: None
Abstain: None

Action# 824

9.1 DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)

There were no deferred consent items.

Deferred Consent
Items

10.0 CORRESPONDENCE

President Marani reported that Trustees received E-mail correspondence, dated December 21, 2010, received from Kelly Salazar regarding her concerns as a parent in relation to diminishing resources and support of neighborhood schools.

Correspondence

President Marani reported that the Superintendent received an opinion letter from School and College Legal Services of California, dated January 11, 2011, regarding the timeframe for finalization of Pacific Collegiate School Memorandum of Understanding.

11.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to conduct.

Unfinished Business

12.0 NEW BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS

12.1 Determination of Continued Participation in the Santa Cruz County School Boards Association

As the SCCOE representative in the Santa Cruz County School Boards Association (SCCSBA) Trustee Dilles relayed that he believes the SCCSBA forum is a good place for elected school board members to meet and share information. Mr. Dilles stated that he would like to see SCCOE continue to attend SCCSBA meetings and participate in discussions, but not be a voting member, because of the unique role the SCCOE has with certain oversights of school districts.

Determination of
Participation in the
Santa Cruz County
School Boards
Association

Trustee Marani commended Trustee Dillies for his dedication to the SCCSBA.

Trustee Levine stated that he believes the SCCOE plays an important role in educating students in Santa Cruz County and that the SCCOE Board should continue to be a voting member of the SCCSBA. He continued that it is important that SCCOE maintain an active role in educational discussions, wherever they may be.

Deepika Shrestha Ross, of Pacific Collegiate School (PCS) addressed the Board with her concerns that if SCCOE were to withdraw its membership from the SCCSBA, PCS would have no other voice in that organization and she hoped that arrangements would be made for PCS to have representation in that instance.

Trustee Locatelli mirrored Trustee Dilles' comments and Concerns. Ms. Locatelli stated that she would like to see SCCOE continue to attend meetings and voice opinions, but also create separation.

Trustee Winslow stated that if SCCOE were to withdraw membership it would limit ability to act and he believes SCCOE should continue its membership in the SCCSBA.

Trustee Sales stated that he sees the SCCOE role in the SCCSBA as participants, but not voting members. Mr. Sales continued that SCCOE intends to offer a lot to the organization, but SCCOE responsibilities are not the same as those of a school district.

President Marani stated that he feels it troubling that two local school districts, San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) Unified School District and Pajaro Valley Unified School District, are not Members of the SCCSBA. Mr. Marani stated that SLV would not join because of SCCOE's involvement. He agreed with Trustee Sales regarding the different role SCCOE plays and felt that SCCOE could continue to engage, but not be a voting member.

Superintendent Watkins offered his concern that if SCCOE were to withdraw membership it could be a disadvantage.

After further discussion, it was M.S.C. (Locatelli/Hinde) to withdraw as a voting member from the Santa Cruz County School Boards Association.

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

Action # 825

12.2 Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools, and Pacific Collegiate School

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

Superintendent Watkins reviewed the timeline for the Pacific Collegiate School (PCS) charter renewal for the period July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2016, which was approved by the Board at a special Board meeting on September 23, 2010. Superintendent Watkins relayed that the purpose of the MOU is intended to address matters not covered in the charter petition and to provide guidance for oversight.

Superintendent Watkins reported that since September 23, 2010 there have been informal contacts between Associate Superintendent Theresa Rouse and PCS representatives and the MOU has been reviewed by legal counsel. Mr. Watkins recommended the Board approve the MOU, noting that the MOU can be reviewed annually.

Dr. Jim Logston, addressed the Board stating that he has been an opponent of PCS for many years because he believes PCS does not offer opportunity for diversity. Dr. Logston also inquired whether or not SCCOE Board members with interest in PCS would recuse themselves from voting on the approval of the MOU.

Tom Brown of Ceiba College Preparatory Academy, a charter school, thanked the staff and Trustees for their work on the PCS charter renewal. Mr. Brown stated he felt compelled to speak to some concerns he had, specifically that he believes the MOU would hold PCS to a higher standard than other schools. He noted that the MOU states that PCS would post policies on their website, but that the SCCOE did not have their own policies online. Mr. Brown stated that if this standard of care is not required for SCCOE or other districts, it should not be required of PCS.

Archie Douglas, PCS Board President, reported that he had worked with Deputy Superintendent Bryan Wall and Associate Superintendent Theresa Rouse on the MOU. He stated that while there are critical legal requirements within the process, what is fundamentally at issue is adequate education of students. Mr. Douglas noted that PCS wants nothing more than to have the approval and support of the SCCOE Board and the community and stated that the MOU document is one that PCS can live with.

After further discussion, it was M.S.C. (Levine/Dilles) to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools and Pacific Collegiate School.

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

13.0 REPORTS/DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

13.1 Budget Update

Budget Update

Associate Superintendent, Mary Hart conducted a presentation to the Board with an overview of the Governor's 2011-12 State Budget proposal as it relates to education.

Following the budget presentation, Tom Brown addressed the Board, stating that he finds it odd that we are not having the discussion of return on investment. He stated that in the private sector the longer we do things the better we are supposed to be at those things. He noted that the loss of funding to education is very real, and believes there should be a conversation about pension plans.

Trustee Hinde responded that he is prepared to begin discussing difficult issues, and suggested the SCCOE begins leading those discussions.

13.2 Short-Term Cash Loans to Santa Cruz County School Districts

Short-Term Cash Loans to Santa Cruz

Mary Hart, Associate Superintendent, Business Services informed the Board that short-term cash loans to school districts from the County Superintendent of Schools is permissible pursuant to Education Code 42621 and 42622, with approval from the Board. Ms. Hart stated that the Business Department staff has done cash flow projections for the school districts and it appears that none will need a temporary loan, with the potential exception of the Sequel Union Elementary School District.

Trustee Locatelli inquired as to why there was no parameter for dollar figures on the temporary borrowing agreement. Ms. Hart stated that the rationale for not have limits gives the discretion to determine if the SCCOE can afford to loan the money, and that if a limit were established that was less than what a district required, a loan would be of no help to the district.

Ms. Hart addressed additional questions from the Board noting that the SCCOE would have priority position for repayment of a loan by repaying the loan prior to disbursing the allocation to the district from the state.

Lynette Hamby, Soquel Union Elementary School District Board member, stated that while she does not believe Soquel will need to request a loan, she is appreciative of the SCCOE Board taking this step.

Trustee Sales reported that he and Trustee Dilles met with Mary Hart to discuss short-term loans to school districts, and felt all questions were answered to his satisfaction. He expressed his appreciation that this came to the full Board for discussion and requested this item be placed on the February agenda as an action item.

13.3 Superintendent's Report

County Superintendent of Schools Michael C. Watkins reported on activities and matters of interest since December 16, 2010.

Superintendent's Report

Mid-Year Alternative Education Graduations

Our Alternative Education Programs will be holding three mid-year graduations on January 26th, at 10:00, 1:00, and 4:00 p.m. Approximately 70 students will be graduating.

Children's Network

Superintendent Watkins was re-elected Chair of the Children's Network for 2011-2012. The feature presentation at the last meeting was the First 5 Santa Cruz County program.

AB3632 Taskforce

Meetings are continuing with people from across the county to respond to the loss of funding for mental health services to special needs students.

Looking at Recovery – Portraits by Mary Alice Copp

Superintendent Watkins attended the reception for exhibit, Looking at Recovery. Artist Mary Alice Copp painted portraits of students and staff from our YES School. The exhibit continues until February 13th at the Museum of Art & History in the Octagon Building at 118 Cooper Street.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Mr. Watkins met with Bob Lee, District Attorney, and Susan Mauriello, County Administrator, to discuss the re-establishment of a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in early January. The next week, they met with a group of about one dozen law enforcement, judges, and other elected officials to continue the discussion.

Administrative Credentialing Program

Superintendent Watkins met with Marty Krovetz and Noni Reis, representatives of the San Jose State Education Department to discuss future partnerships for educational opportunities for teachers considering advancement in the field of educational administration.

Outdoor Science Education

Heather MacDougall, is on medical leave from the Outdoor Science Education program. She is now the proud parent of a baby boy born this past weekend. In the meantime, Amity Sandige will be coordinating the program until Heather's return.

Youth Resource Bank - Annual Fundraiser

The Youth Resource Bank held its annual fundraiser at Kuumba Jazz Center. It was a sold out event that raised significant funds in support of local programs serving at-risk youth and their families.

Santa Cruz Community Ventures

Mr. Watkins met with Ellen Murtha who has asked him to consider serving on or suggesting others to serve on the Board of Santa Cruz Community Ventures. Community Ventures is a non-profit organization working collaboratively with Santa Cruz Community Credit Union to promote positive social and economic change, encourage community control of local economies, and to advance the empowerment of individuals in their control of their economic well-being. They currently serve some of our alternative education programs with a financial education program.

Inside Education

This month's Inside Education meeting covered charter schools. The cohort visited Pacific Collegiate Charter School and Delta Charter School. The participants were very pleased with the session and felt that it clarified many of the questions they had in regards to how charters fit into public education. They took advantage of being in the proximity of Natural Bridges Green Careers School and visited to observe the cooperative partnership between our Regional Occupational Programs and our Alternative Education Program to teach students about emerging careers in the field of ecology, alternative energy, construction, economics and other related subjects.

Connection-Schools/Escuelas-Conexiones

Mr. Watkins met with Mitch Barlas who, along with others from Watsonville, are considering a charter school petition for a new charter school located in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. It would be a K-8 with a theme of science and technology.

All COE Meeting

An All COE Meeting was held on January 12th. In February, we will be promoting health and wellness with a friendly competition where employees challenge themselves to improve some aspect of their personal routine whether it involves exercise, diet or other health related options. Employee Recognition Awards were handed out to the following:

HOME RUN AWARD – Bryan Wall presented the award to **Kirk Osborn** and **Tina Dinsmore** for their work on the Football Pool.

GO THE DISTANCE AWARD – Brunella Deeds presented the award to **Melanie Martin** and **Pam Crowell** for stepping up to help out at a moment's notice.

TEAM SUPPORT – The **Payroll Department** presented the award to **Karen Darocy, Interim Payroll Supervisor**, for her outstanding support of the department during the absence of Linda Pappani.

SAVE THE DAY – Jean Gardner present **Christina Herrera** with this award in recognition of her outstanding service when Jean suddenly needed a new child care provider.

YOU DESERVE A PARADE – Megan Booth presented this award to her staff including Toni Alldredge, Scott Hill, Sherrill McNulty, and Sue Corso for their continued outstanding work while the department faced a shortage of staff.

Monthly and Regularly Scheduled Periodic Meetings

National Steinbeck Board Meeting	Children's Network
United Way Board	Superintendents Council
TAC 6 Board	

13.4 Board Trustee Report (3 minutes each)

Board Trustee Reports

Trustee Hinde reported that he met with the president of the Scotts Valley School Board to get a sense of the parcel tax discussion. He stated that Scotts Valley will likely delay placing a parcel tax on the ballot until November. Trustee Hinde also noted that the SCCOE Board needs to revisit trustee areas, as they are not very functional as they stand. Trustee Hinde also suggested this may be an opportunity to shrink the SCCOE Board from seven members to five.

Trustee Locatelli reported that she attended the ad hoc charter school committee meeting. She also met with Trustee Dilles regarding budget and other questions, for which she thanked him. Ms. Locatelli participated in Inside Education and said the program was very enlightening.

Trustee Sales reported that he met with the ad hoc budget committee to discuss short-term loans to districts. Mr. Sales also announced that the Watsonville Community band, which he has been a member of for a very long time, has committed to give private music instruction to kids who want it. He also announced that the Watsonville Community Band is selling advertising space in their Spring Concert Series program and proceeds will promote music in schools.

Trustee Dilles met with Judy McGooden from Soquel to discuss district/SCCOE relations. He also announced his son is currently a student teacher at Pajaro Valley High School and he is enjoying their discussions about education.

Trustee Winslow met with Ellen Pirie, Santa Cruz County Supervisor to discuss concerns about the governor's budget. Mr. Winslow also requested the minutes reflect recognition of Sargent Shriver's passing, noting his contributions. He also met with Community Restoration Program representatives, which provide alternatives to incarceration for youth at least 15 year olds. He stated that a positive result of this program is fewer youth on probation and they also provides employment services and job placement.

Trustee Levine reported that he participated in a CSBA webcast On January 13th forecasting budgetary problems. Trustee Levine also attended the agenda committee meeting, and the ad hoc charter school committee meeting.

President Marani reported that he was invited to Judge John Gallagher's swearing in. He also met with Superintendent Watkins to discuss communication and money saving strategies. President Marani announced he intends to meet with each Trustee to discuss ideas and commended Trustee Hinde for his innovative ideas, including potentially shrinking the SCCOE Board.

14.0 AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS (if any)

Ad Hoc Committees

The Budget Committee met to discuss the potential of short-term cash loans to school districts.

The Agenda Committee met to set the agenda for the January Board meeting.

The Charter Schools Committee met to discuss the PCS MOU.

George Wylie, SLV School Board member, addressed the Board stating that he believed the charter school committee should be viewed as a standing committee, not an ad hoc committee. Trustee Winslow concurred with Mr. Wylie's comments. Trustee Locatelli stated that she believes ad hoc is appropriate because the committee only addresses issues as they arise.

Janna Lambert, Legal Counsel, reported that the law states a standing committee addresses an ongoing issue, or if a committee is formed and formal meetings are scheduled. If a committee is addressing a temporary issue and not an ongoing issue, as Trustee Locatelli indicated, to the extent there are not ongoing meetings, then ad hoc is appropriate.

15.0 ADDITIONS, IF ANY, TO FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee Sales requested short-term cash loans to districts be placed on the February agenda as an action item.

16.0 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS and COMING EVENTS

Thursday, February 17, 2011 2:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education Santa Cruz County Office of Education
March 4, 2011 8:00-1:00	Board Retreat – Location TBD
Thursday, March 17, 2011 2:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education Santa Cruz County Office of Education
Thursday, April 21, 2011 2:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education Santa Cruz County Office of Education

17.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Marani adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.