

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Regular Meeting
February 18, 2010
Approved Minutes**

1.0 ROLL CALL and ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Roll Call

President Aaron Hinde called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Board Present

Jack Dilles
Aaron Hinde
Arnold Levine
Kathy Mann
Vic Marani
Dana M. Sales
George Bud Winslow
Michael C. Watkins, Secretary

Staff Present

Mike James
Alice Talnack
Jean Gardner
Kyle Rucker
Bill Sullivan
Brunella Deeds
Heather Hutchison, CSEA

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent Watkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of Agenda

It was M.S.C (Mann/Levine) to approve the agenda as
as submitted.

Action # 762

Ayes: Unanimous
Abstain: None
Absent: None

4.0 REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Remarks from the
Audience

Peggy Miles, teacher, Santa Cruz City Schools District, Adult Education School, addressed the Board regarding cuts to the Adult Education program as a result of the state budget. Ms. Miles spoke to the benefits of maintaining Adult Education and requested consideration by the Board to fund the District program.

Deepika Shrestha-Ross, Board President, Pacific Collegiate Charter School, presented the Board with written comments from the School's board relative to County Board of Education policies #6420 through 6420-5 regarding Charter School Petitions. A copy of the written document is on file with these minutes.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approval of
Consent Agenda

Ayes: Unanimous
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Action #763

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to discuss.

Correspondence

7-0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The following matters and events occurred since the report of to the Board during the January meeting:

Superintendent's
Report

COE All-staff Meeting

The results of the recent all-staff workplace survey were presented to and discussed with staff. As is custom, recognition awards were presented to employees nominated for recognition in several categories by their peers

Charter School Petitioner

The Superintendent met with Theresa Robinson who presented a proposed charter to the Board a few months past at her request to further discuss the concerns of administration and the Board regarding the proposed charter. Ms. Robinson was seeking input on proposal areas that were recommended for improvement. She did not express thoughts of resubmitting the proposal to the Board.

Leadership Santa Cruz Education Day

Leadership Santa Cruz conducted their annual Education Day on February 5th. Following the Superintendent's briefing on public schools' current challenges and opportunities, participants visited Harbor High School to learn of COE Regional Occupational Program classes on campus, Pacific Collegiate Charter School, Watsonville Charter School of the Arts and Delta Charter High School on the Cabrillo campus. The afternoon session consisted of a panel discussion featuring the district superintendents from Mountain Elementary School District, Pajaro Valley Unified School District and Santa Cruz City Schools District. UCSC Chancellor Blumenthal and Brian King, President of Cabrillo College discussed the roles of their institutions with the group. A tour of the UCSC Arboretum closed the session.

Inside Education February Session

Inside Education introduced participants yesterday to education in the County's

middle schools. Following the introductory overview of the challenges and opportunities in educating middle school aged students, participants visited Aptos Junior High School and New Brighton Middle School for first-hand observation and comments by the principals of both schools.

Superintendents' Council

Superintendent Watkins reported in January that he and the district superintendents had met with representatives of local law enforcement and judicial officials and representatives to address the issue of student safety on campus and on the street's of our communities. Last week, the superintendents agreed to form a North County BASTA (Broad-based Apprehension, Suppression, Treatment Alternatives) modeled on the same program currently operated in south County communities. A presentation was made by a regional representative of the U.S. Census Bureau regarding the schools' role in promoting participation in the upcoming decennial census and the importance of the census results effect upon funding allocations and representation.

New Teacher Symposium

Cynthia Balthaser, Program Director, Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project, and Superintendent Watkins presented at the New Teacher Center's 12th National Symposium this month. Our presentation, titled Promoting Equity: Quality Mentoring in Hard-to-Staff Schools, focused on the fact that students in hard-to-staff schools are in most need of highly qualified teachers and how the successful collaborative partnership between the COE and the Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project tackled the issue of mentoring special education and alternative education teachers.

Mock Trial Competition

Santa Cruz High Schools, long a powerhouse in the event, emerged victorious from the recent Mock Trial competition. Mock Trial is an outstanding event in terms of student performance and a valuable civic lesson. The number of participating high school teams has grown in the past few years to now include south County schools which is very rewarding to the students involved, the schools, district and the COE. This was the first year Watsonville High entered a team and a number of team members won individual awards.

CCSESA Quarterly Meeting

In addition to various committee reports, a presentation was made by the executive director of California Forward regarding that organization's recommendations for improving the budget and state and local financing mechanisms in California. The director of the District/County Intervention Collaborative presented a plan for the dissemination of District Academic Support and Assistance (DAIT) findings.

ACSA Symposium

The ACSA Symposium conducted immediately following the CCSESA quarterly meeting centered on the necessity that education administrators focus on leadership to take the current environment from crisis to opportunity by examining the challenges, exploration of solutions and developing new prospects.

Watsonville Adult Education Advisory Committee

Superintendent Watkins met with Brian King, President, Cabrillo College, and Nancy Bilicich, Director, PVUSD Adult Education Programs to discuss how collaborative efforts might strategize a plan to successfully maintain adult education services in the districts. Adult Education programs have been severely affected as a result of the state budget.

Workforce Investment Board Retreat

The focus of the WIB retreat was to profile the people that make up the current and future workforce, project growth industries, identify factors that impact economic vitality and develop policies that will support economic growth and workforce development. Key to education was promoting growth in business that provide jobs at all education levels, promote career ladder education and training programs, and improve the skills and education of job seekers.

Asilomar Conference

Superintendent Watkins introduced Michael Fullan, Special Advisor to the Premier and Minister of Education in Ontario, Canada, and author of several leadership and change books and articles, to the attendees at the annual Asilomar Conference. The conference is a statewide professional development opportunity for Curriculum and Instruction administrators. Fullan's book, Motion Leadership, the Skinny on Becoming Change Savvy was recent required reading for COE managers followed by discussion at our February monthly managers' meeting.

Legislative Advocacy

The Superintendent spoke with representatives of the California Legislative Education Project / Capitol Impact, a group composed of legislative staffers in both parties and houses who spend much of their time on education issues. The group of staffers are interested in visiting the COE and one school district to find out what the state should or shouldn't be doing to assist educators in doing our jobs best. A visit is scheduled for September 27.

United Way Strategic Planning Retreat

The United Way executive board spent a day addressing strategies to advance the common good in Santa Cruz County by creating opportunities for a good life for all. Focus was on preparing youth for success in school and life, family financial stability and good health.

Gail Rich Awards

It was a rewarding experience for Superintendent Watkins to have been a participant in the selection of the first Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate. This appointment will do much to advance the literary arts in the schools of Santa Cruz County and I look forward to working with both the Cultural Council and Poet Laureate Gary Young as we continue to integrate the arts into the curriculum. Gary is a lecturer in the UCSC Literature Department.

Survivor Healing Center

The Superintendent met with representatives of the Survivor Healing Center regarding issues of teen victims of abuse and how the schools, school counselors and the Center might collaborate to address the problem.

Addressing Student Asthma Issues

Superintendent Watkins met with Dr. Casey Schmirer of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation to discuss possible collaboration between the medical community and schools to shed light on adolescent asthma victims. Focus is on developing a unified message for students and school staffs in developing trainings to prevent the current regularity of incidents of student sufferers from requiring admittance to emergency rooms.

Community TV Black History Month Presentation

Superintendent Watkins recently appeared on a Community TV segment introducing Black History Month as it applies to Santa Cruz County. Throughout the month, a series of interviews and documentaries addressing the African-American culture in Santa Cruz County and the historical experiences of families who had origins elsewhere but have settled in Santa Cruz.

Together for Kindergarten Forum

Scheduled for February 24th is the Together for Kindergarten Forum, an event designed to bring early educators, kindergarten and other teachers and administrators to jointly develop activities to support kindergarten readiness. Featured speakers are former State Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin, and Lynne Mobilio of Applied Survey Research.

Start the Day for Students / Take Action Event

On March 4, 2010, school administrators throughout the state will unite by organizing local events in school communities to call attention to the devastating cuts to public schools. The goal of the event is to mobilize communities against further cuts to schools and to raise media awareness about the substantial cuts that schools and students have suffered.

In Santa Cruz County, an event is planned also for the preceding day, Wednesday, March 3. School district superintendents, board trustees, teacher union leaders and local community officials will lead a public protest on behalf of students against the governor's budget proposal. The event will be conducted at 3:00 p.m., on the steps of the County Government building.

Monthly Meetings

Children's Network
Assistance
Migrant Head Start

Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student

Acknowledgement of Santa Cruz Host Lions Club

Rebecca Bogdan, School Nurse, acknowledged Trustee Levine for his work as a member of the Host Lions Club in securing a donation in the amount of \$5,900, to purchase testing equipment to test non-verbal children or who are unable to respond to standardized vision screening.

8.0 BOARD REPORTS

Board Reports

8.1 Board Trustee Reports

Board Trustee Reports

Trustee Sales attended a Board Budget Committee meeting and commented on the dilemma facing districts. Mr. Sales referred to a letter to the editor in the Sentinel encouraging boards to not submit balanced budgets and noted that in so doing, local boards would be relinquishing their responsibility and local voice in submission to a higher agency. Trustee Sales voiced approval of the decision that a north county BASTA be formed under the guidance of Linda Perez as reflected in the Superintendent's report.

Trustee Dilles commented on the Superintendent's meeting with representatives of the Survivor Healing Center regarding issues of teen victims of abuse, noting his acknowledge of and admiration of the Center.

Mr. Dilles reported that progress has been made by the Law Library to sponsor a countywide Scrabble competition. A tournament is scheduled

for May 1. Mr. Dilles will coordinate the activity with County Office of Education staff.

Trustee Winslow attended the Mock Trial competition awards ceremony and noted the enthusiasm of student participants. Mr. Winslow also visited the Alternative Education class site at Loudon Nelson Center. He attended the Gail Rich Awards event at which the County Poet Laureate was honored.

Vice President Marani attended the small school districts monthly meeting and proposed that district administrators be invited to make a presentation during a County Board meeting.

Mr. Marani attended the County Board / Pacific Collegiate School Liaison Committee meeting and noted the school's annual admissions lottery was scheduled for this date.

Mr. Marani attended the most recent Inside Education session and commented on the value of the program in educating public participants to the realities of public education by placing them in context.

Vice President Marani, chair of the California County Boards of Education Nominating Committee and co-chair of the Legislative Committee, attended a committee meeting in Madera County.

Mr. Marani attended the February meeting of the Santa Clara County Board of Education.

Trustee Mann will attend the ROP/Cabrillo Career Technical Education workshop the following week.

Trustee Levine attended the most recent Santa Cruz City Schools Board meeting during which personnel cuts were the main topic.

Mr. Levine noted that the Santa Cruz County Spelling Bee is scheduled for Sunday, March 7, 1:00 p.m. at the UCSC campus.

Board President's Report

President Hinde attended the Santa Cruz NEXT awards dinner at which local business owners and entrepreneurs were honored.

Mr. Hinde met with Megha Satyanarayana education reporter, Santa Cruz County Sentinel.

He also attended the Budget Committee meeting, and met with a trustee of the governing board of Scotts Valley Unified School District to provide input relative to the district's interest in a parcel tax and school bond initiatives. Mr. Hinde attended a fundraising event in support of police officers and firefighters who have died on duty.

President Hinde was a judge for the Rotary Club high school student speech contest. He met with the Bonny Doon School District administrator, toured the campus and relayed staff's appreciation of services provided by the County Office of Education.

Board President's Report

9.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to conduct.

Unfinished Business

10.0 NEW BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS

10.1 Second Reading and Action to Adopt Board Policy 6420-5, Charter Renewal or Material Modification of an Approved Charter

Discussion by the Board followed written (copy included with these minutes as Exhibit A) and verbal comment relative to the proposed policy from Deepika Shrestha-Ross, Board President, Pacific Collegiate Charter School. Discussion focused on the latitude and legal limitations of the Board relative to particular provisions of the policy when considering a petition. The Board consulted with counsel.

New Business and Action Items
Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policy BP 6420-5

It was M.S.C. (Marani/Winslow) to adopt Board Policy 6420-5, Charter Renewal or Material Modification of an Approved Charter. Action #764

Ayes: Unanimous
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

10.2 Discussion and Action: Board Policy 6420, General Provisions Concerning Process for Charter Petition Review and Action

Section E, Miscellaneous, Item 1 of adopted Board Policy BP 6420 allows the Board to appoint a Board representative to the board of a 501(c)3 charter school chartered by the County Board of Education. The Board reviewed a proposed process for selecting and appointing a representative in those instances that the Board agrees to opt for such an appointment. Points discussed included consideration of appointment(s) of a non-County Board trustee in order to maintain an “arms-length” relationship. Ms. Shrestha-Ross, Pacific Collegiate Charter School board president, expressed approval of the transparency of the proposed process and procedure and, further, that any comment by Pacific Collegiate representatives would be appropriate when consideration of an appointment applied directly to PCS. The Board determined to form an ad hoc committee to define the process and bring a proposal back to the Board for consideration. President Hinde appointed trustees Marani, Dilles and Sales to the ad hoc committee.

Discussion and Action re Board Policy 6420, General Provisions Concerning Process for

Appointment of ad hoc committee

10.3 Approve Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Programs

Following discussion, it was M.S.C. (Winslow/Marani) to approve submittal of the Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Programs.

Approve Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Programs

Action # 765

Ayes: Unanimous
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

10.4 Adopt Resolutin #01-10 Supporting the Costanoan Ohlone Rumset Mutsen Indian Tribe and the Pajaro Valley Ohlone Indian Council, a 901(c)3 Non-profit Corporation, in their Effort by Pending Federal Petition 147 to Secure Federal Recognition as an Indian Tribe

Following testimony by Steve Hull, University of California Santa Cruz and Kevin Moon, and review and comment by the Board, it was M.S.C. (Sales/Marani) to adopt Resolution #01-10.

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

Adoption of Resolution #01-10 Supporting the Costanoan Ohlone Rumset Mutsen Indian Tribe to Secure Federal Petition 147 Recognition as an Indian Tribe

Action #766

11.0 REPORTS/DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

11.1 Information: Labor Negotiations – “Sunshine the California School Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter #484, 2010-11 Negotiations Proposal to the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools

Heather Hutchison, co-president, California School Employees Association, Chapter #484, ‘sunshined’ the 2010-2011 negotiations proposal to the County Superintendent of Schools. Copy of proposal included on file with these minutes.

11.2 Information: Labor Negotiations – “Sunshine the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools 2010-11 Negotiations Proposal to the California School Employees Association, Chapter #484

Mike James, Deputy Superintendent, ‘sunshined’ the 2010-2011 County Superintendent of Schools’ negotiations proposal to the California School Employees Association, Chapter #484. Copy included on file with these minutes.

Reports/Discussion Information Items “Sunshine” California School Employees (classified staff) 2010-2011 Negotiations Proposal

“Sunshine” County Superintendent of Schools 2010-2011 Negotiations Proposal to Classified Employees (CSEA)

- 11.3 Information: Labor Negotiations – “Sunshine the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools 2010-11 Negotiations Proposal to the Santa Cruz Proposal to the Santa Cruz County Education Association (certificated bargaining unit)**
Mike James, Deputy Superintendent, ‘sunshined’ the 2010-2011 County Superintendent of Schools’ negotiations proposal to the Santa Cruz County Education Association. Copy included on file with these minutes. Mr. James responded to questions from Trustee Dilles regarding projected cost of retirement benefits.
- 11.4 Program Report: COE Employee Survey**
Deputy Superintendent Mike James presented the results of a recent survey administered to the staff of the County Office of Education focusing on employee work environment satisfaction, job knowledge and commentary to improve services. Results reflected a high rate of satisfaction. Superintendent Watkins and Mr. James responded to questions and comments from the Board and explained the process for focused improvement in needed areas.
- 11.5 Santa Cruz County Treasurer’s Report**
Jean Gardner, Director of Fiscal Services, reviewed the Santa Cruz County Treasurer’s Quarterly Investment Report for the quarter ended December 31, 2009. County Office of Education investment funds are maintained in the County Treasurer’s investment pool. The current interest rate, although in decline from past quarters, is invested with a primary focus on security of funds.
- 11.6 Information Item: County Office of Education District Fiscal Oversight Report**
Jean Gardner, Director of Fiscal Services, reviewed the financial status of districts countywide based on past, current, and future year projected interim reports. Ms. Gardner noted that there is some improvement due to district boards committing to drastic cost reductions. She noted, however, that the COE business staff has concern about all districts in fiscal year 2012-2013. Trustee Marani suggested that the
- “Sunshine” County Superintendent of Schools 2010-2011 Negotiations Proposal to the Santa Cruz County Education Association (certificated staff)
- Program Report: COE Employee Survey
- Santa Cruz County Treasurer’s Quarterly Investment Report
- District Fiscal Oversight Report

County Office oversight representatives for Santa Cruz City Schools District and Pajaro Valley Unified School District be reversed to avoid any negative perceptions that might occur as the new County Office of Education Chief Business Officer was until recently the chief financial officer at the Pajaro District.

- 11.7 Report: Santa Cruz County School Boards Association** Report: Santa Cruz County School Boards Association
Trustee Dilles, Board appointed liaison to the Santa Cruz School Boards Association, reported that there had not been an Association meeting since the February report. The next Association meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2010 at a yet-to-be-announced location within the Santa Cruz City Schools District.

12.0 Committee and Reports

Committee Reports

12.1 Agenda Committee

Agenda Committee

President Hinde reported that an item regarding district parcel tax and school bond measures will be placed on the March agenda.

12.2 Community Outreach and Legislative Committee

Community Outreach and Legislative Committee

Vice President Marani reported that arrangements are confirmed to conduct the regular meeting of April 15, in the council chambers at Watsonville City Hall. Mr. Marani suggested that the opportunity might exist for trustees to tour CEIBA Charter School the same day. he suggested that a report to the Board be presented by representatives from the one-school districts in the near future. The Pacific Charter School report to the Board will be scheduled for the May regular meeting of the Board. Mr. Marani suggested that a program for regional spelling bees be investigated.

12.3 Policy Advisory Committee

Policy Advisory Committee

No report.

12.4 Additions to Future Board Agenda Items

Future Agenda Items

March meeting: District parcel tax and school Bond initiatives

May Meeting: Pacific Collegiate School Annual report to the Board

Community recognitions/proclamations
Parental Involvement Presentations
Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate
Programs
Pacific Collegiate School Program and Staff Presentations

14.0 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Schedule

Thursday, March 18, 2010
2:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education
City Chambers, Watsonville

Thursday, April 15, 2010
2:00 p.m.

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

15.0 ADJOURNMENT

Superintendent Watkins reviewed a calendar of events with the Board.

President Hinde adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael C. Watkins
Secretary to the Board
Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools