

# SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting  
February 19, 2009  
Approved Minutes

## 1.0 ROLL CALL and ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM Roll Call

President Dana M. Sales called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

### Board Members Present:

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

### Staff Present:

Barney Finlay  
Alice Talnack  
Maria Castro  
Mark Hodges  
Harley Robertson  
Bill Sullivan  
Brunella Deeds  
Heather Hutchison, CSEA

## 2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Watkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Pledge of Allegiance

## 3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was M.S.C (Mann/Winslow) to approve the Agenda.  
Trustee Marani requested that the Agenda be corrected to include under Agenda Item 4.9.14: Additions to Future Board Agenda Items an item for District Average Daily Attendance discussion. The amended agenda was approved.

### Approval of Agenda Action # 698

Ayes: Unanimous  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Dilles

## 4.0 REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Mr. Bill Beecher requested that an agenda item be placed on the March 19, 2009, agenda in order that he may address the Board regarding Closing the Achievement Gap - Best Practices. President Sales so ordered.

### Remarks from the Audience

Annette Lanni, Arts teacher, San Lorenzo Valley School District, addressed the Board relative to impingement of Regional Occupational Program visual arts instruction classes into the districts and related Arts teacher credentialing requirements.. at Ms. Lanni's request, President Sales ordered that the matter be considered by committee for placement on the March meeting agenda.

Heather Hutchison, co-president, California School Employees Association, informed the Board that her daughter was a participant in the recent Mock Trial competition, and thanked the Board for sponsoring and keeping the program in operation.

**4.1 CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda

Trustee Marani questioned if the surplus equipment listed under item 4.1.3 would be made available for disposal to private schools and how award would be made should more than one request or bid be made on the same equipment. Associate Superintendent Finlay responded that private schools, being non-public schools, would fall within the category of non-public organizations and subject to bid as any business or non-public organization in the disposal process. Should more than one request be made for the same equipment, disposal will be made on a first-come basis.

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

Action #699

Ayes: Unanimous  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Dilles

**4.2 DEFERRED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Deferred Consent

None

**4.3 CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence

None

**4.5 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Watkins reported the following matters and events:

**Budget Related Meetings and Activities**

**Meetings with Senator Simitian, Assemblyman Monning and Glen Thomas, State Secretary of Education**

On Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, Superintendent Watkins met individually with Senator Simitian, Assemblyman Monning and Glen Thomas, State Secretary of Education, to discuss the consequences of the Governor's proposed budget upon education as well as the added burden placed upon the education system created by the Legislature's failure to adopt a State budget.

**CCSESA Webcast**

This live webcast, hosted by the County Office of Education, was well attended by district board trustees and superintendents as well as the County Board of Education trustees. The presentations by representatives of the California School Boards Association, School Services of California, The Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) and the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA), addressed education policy issues related to the impact of the state budget crisis were relevant, insightful and assistive.

**Staff Meetings**

Meetings have been held with each of the managers and department staffs of the County Office of Education (ROP, Alternative Education, Special Education, Educational Services and Business Services) to address budget related issues including cost-saving measures, possible implications to programs and services dependent upon the various scenarios a final state budget might create, and to seek management input on how the COE can most effectively and cost-efficiently continue to provide quality services to the districts and students.

**Teleconference with Sam Farr**

At the invitation of Congressman Farr, the Superintendent participated with other Central Coast County superintendents and district superintendents on a telephone conference with him just prior to the Senate vote upon the Federal Stimulus Bill. Congressman Farr clarified various components of the bill as well as both the process and limitations on allocation of funding directed to education.

**Non-Budget Related Items:**

**Alternative Education Graduations**

Two mid-year graduation exercises were conducted by the Alternative Education department on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Diplomas were bestowed upon thirty-two graduates in ceremonies conducted at the County Office of Education. Students, parents and families and the dedicated

Alternative Education teachers and aides are all to be congratulated for their accomplishments.

**Inside Education**

Several Board trustees were available to accompany the Inside Education participants on the January introduction to the charter school process and visits to Pacific Collegiate, Tierra Pacifica and Delta Charter Schools.

**Salude Para la Gente**

The Superintendent met with Sister Julie Hyer, President of Salud Para la Gente, to investigate means of collaboration to improve health care services to students and youth in the county.

**Dientes**

Will Hahn, Director, Dientes, and the Superintendent met to discuss collaborative efforts to provide dental services to the youth of low-income families.

**ACSA Superintendents' Symposium**

The annual Association of California School Administrators, Superintendents' Symposium was conducted for three days the last week in January in Monterey. The Symposium is an opportunity for district and county superintendents to engage in professional learning and share ideas. Workshops and interactive sessions addressed critical issues including fiscal planning, legislation, leadership, legal issues, accountability and, of course, the economic forecast for the state and education.

**CCSESA Quarterly Meeting**

The California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) three-day quarterly meeting immediately preceded the ACSA symposium in Monterey. Topics of discussion focused on the Governor's proposed state budget, state and federal legislation, integrated school district academic support and assistance with an emphasis on teacher quality initiatives, and the CCSESA Arts Initiative

**Teacher Pipeline Project**

Superintendent Watkins continues to meet with Rod Ogawa, UCSC, to advance implementation of the Teacher Pipeline Project. The Teacher Pipeline Project is a collaboration between UCSC and the public schools in Santa Cruz County to promote a “home-grown” teacher workforce.

**California Association of African-American Superintendents and Administrators Conference**

Superintendent Watkins participated as a panelist at the CAAASA state conference in Sacramento the first week in February. The theme of the conference was Education is a Civil Right an Agenda for Academic Success. Presentations and discussion focused on the low achievement of many African-American students, the achievement gap and the effects upon their quality of life in adulthood.

**Appearance on Community TV**

The Superintendent appeared last week on the What’s Happening in Education segment on Community TV to address various aspects of the state of education including, of course, the challenges exacerbated by the current budget crisis.

**Annual Lincoln Celebration**

Superintendent Watkins thanked Trustee Marani for the invitation to join him at the Lincoln Celebration and for the opportunity to promote public education. Among the guests was State Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner.

**Project IMPACT**

The first full cohort of teachers enrolled in the Project IMPACT credentialing program met for the first time in late January for their first class. Eighteen interns are enrolled in the Special Education intern program.

**Mock Trial**

The three-day Mock Trial competition was conducted last week and this past Monday at the Watsonville Court House. Seven high schools participated in the elimination rounds culminating Monday in the final between Santa

Cruz High and Harbor High. Santa Cruz High emerged the winner in a very close finish for the top spot.

**Superintendents' Council Meeting**

Collaboration among the districts and the County Office in meeting the many challenges imposed by the proposed budget and the absence of a budget at this time was the focus of the meeting. Pat Johns and John Kegebein addressed the superintendents relative to marketing, promotion and quality of presentations by the education community at the September County Fair.

**Regularly Scheduled Meetings Attended**

Pre-school Steering Committee      Migrant Head Start Board  
Steinbeck Executive Committee  
Children's Network Executive Committee  
Superintendents' Council  
SECA  
PVPSA

- 4.6    PUBLIC HEARING: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**      Public Hearing: Preliminary Environmental Assessment  
President Sales opened the public hearing for comment relative to the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) report regarding the property located at 229 Green Valley Road, Watsonville, CA. The property was purchased by The Santa Cruz County Office of Education as a n Alternative Education Program school site. The PEA report discloses all test results as within the allowable levels as defined by law. There being no public comment, President Sales closed the public hearing.
- 4.7    UNFINISHED BUSINESS**      Unfinished Business  
There was no unfinished business to conduct.
- 4.8    NEW BUSINESS and ACTION ITEMS:**      New Business and Action Items
- 4.8.1    2008-09 Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Aid Programs, Part II**      Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Aid Programs, Part II  
It was M.S.C. (Levine/Winslow) to approve the Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Aide Programs, Part II.      Action #670

Ayes: Unanimous  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Dilles

**4.8.2 Adoption of Resolution No. 09-01, Special Education Behavioral Intervention Plan Mandated Cost Claim Settlement**

Adoption of Resolution 09-01  
Special Education Behavioral  
Intervention Plan Mandated  
Cost Claim Settlement

Trustee Marani requested clarification of the amount of settlement that would be allocated to legal fees under the class action lawsuit. Mr. Finlay explained the matter is not a class action suit but rather ends a dispute with the state claiming reimbursement for costs associated with behavioral intervention plans required by the Hughes Bill under state law. The State had heretofore paid \$1.00 annually against past costs amounting to \$520 million in reimbursement to school districts. Legal fees are covered by member districts and county offices of education of the California School Boards Association Legal Alliance.

Action #671

It was M.S.C. (Levine/Mann) to adopt Resolution 09-01.

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

**4.8.3 Adoption of Resolution No. 09-02, Opposition to Governor's Proposed Budget and Legislature's Failure to Adopt a Budget**

Failure to Adopt Resolution 09-02  
Opposition to Governor's Proposed  
Budget and Legislature's Failure  
to Adopt a Budget

The Board discussed the relevance of the proposed resolution insofar as the Legislature adopted a state budget earlier in the day. Trustees Winslow and Levine argued for adoption in that the resolution covered two separate matters; i.e., the Governor's proposed budget as well as the Legislature's, now moot, failure to pass a budget. trustees Levine and Winslow noted, that although a budget had been passed, opposition to the Governor's proposal merited opposition and, therefore, adoption of the resolution. President Sales added that a special meeting was not called in order to consider the resolution in that such an action does not fall within the parameters of calling a special meeting of the Board.

Action #672

It was M.S.C. (Levine/Winslow) to adopt Resolution No. 09-02.

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

**4.9 REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

Reports and Information  
Information Items

- 4.9.1 "Sunshine" Negotiations Proposal: County Superintendent of Schools to the Santa Cruz County Educational Association** Deputy Superintendent, Mike James, disclosed the Superintendent's negotiations proposal to the certificated staff bargaining unit. "Sunshine" Negotiations Proposal: Santa Cruz Superintendent of Schools to the Santa Cruz County Educational Association
- 4.9.2 "Sunshine" Negotiations Proposal: Santa Cruz Education Association to the County Superintendent of Schools** Deputy Superintendent Mike James, on behalf of and at the request of the Santa Cruz County Education Association, disclosed the Association's negotiations proposal to the County Superintendent of Schools. Sunshine Santa Cruz County Education Association Negotiations Proposal to the County Superintendent of Schools
- 4.9.3 "Sunshine" Negotiations Proposal: County Superintendent of Schools to the California School Employees Association, Chapter #484** Deputy Superintendent Mike James disclosed the Superintendent's negotiations proposal to the classified employees bargaining unit. Sunshine County Superintendent of Schools Negotiations Proposal to the California School Employees Association Chapter #484
- 4.9.4 "Sunshine" Negotiations Proposal: California School Employees Association Chapter #484 to the County Superintendent of Schools** Heather Hutchison, co-president, California School School Employees Association, Chapter #484, disclosed the bargaining unit's negotiations proposal to the County Superintendent of Schools. Sunshine California School School Employees Assn. Chapter #484 Negotiations Proposal to the County Superintendent of Schools
- 4.9.5 Program Report: Migrant Head Start** Maria Castro, Coordinator, Migrant Head Start Program, provided information relative to the goals and operation of the program within Santa Cruz County. Ms. Castro provided statistical data relative to program population and demographics, provider services, budget and funding. In response to questions from Trustee Marani, Ms. Castro explained the relationship with First Five Santa Cruz and Program Report: Migrant Head Start



other partnering organizations. She responded to Trustee Hinde's query regarding the program's procedure for combating obesity in the migrant student population

**4.9.6 Santa Cruz County Treasurer's Quarterly Investment Report**

County Treasurer's Quarterly Investment Report Quarter Ended December 31, 2008

Associate Superintendent Barney Finlay reviewed the County Treasurer's quarterly investment report, a hard copy of which was provided in the Board packet. Mr. Finlay responded to questions and comments relative to the makeup and method of appointment to the Treasurer's oversight committee.

**4.9.7 Report: County Office of Education District Fiscal Oversight**

County Office of Education District Fiscal Oversight

Associate Superintendent Barney Finlay provided a multi-year financial status of local Santa Cruz County school districts in oral and written forms. The data included semi-annual interim financial status determinations for the years 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and projected 2010-11 status. The format provides projection of financial status for a district budget year from three years out to the actual year. Mr. Finlay also provided copies of budget development guidance documents provided to district superintendents and finance officers. Regarding current budget development, Mr. Finlay explained that, until the budget was actually adopted, it was unknown what revenue area, general fund or categorical program, would be most effected and thus the relative and differing affect upon the COE and districts. Mr. Finlay emphasized that there yet remain unknowns in the 2008-09 and 2009-10 budgets. He also emphasized that the responsibility and authority of the county office is to assist districts in resolving budgetary issues in order to remain solvent but not to provide monetary assistance. The Board expressed it's intent to be involved and supportive to district board trustees.

**4.9.8 Santa Cruz County Office of Education Expenditures Against Budget Cost Saving Procedures**

County Office of Education Expenditures Against Budget Cost Saving Procedures

Superintendent Watkins and Associate Superintendent Finlay reviewed recent procedures undertaken to limit County Office of Education expenditures and cost-saving efficiencies. They explained the effects and procedural necessities created by the newly adopted state budget and federal stimulus act. Mr. Finlay, responding to a question from Trustee Marani, that

it is yet unknown how revenue limit cuts will affect charter schools.

**4.9.9 County Board of Education, Budget Expenditures Policy**

County Board of Education  
Budget Expenditures and Policy

The Board discussed the need to review and update the Board's travel and reimbursement for expenses policy. The Board directed that staff, the Board Policy Committee and the Board Budget Committee investigate best practices and provide sample of like county office of educations' policies and procedures. President Sales suggested the matter be discussed at both a board retreat to be schedule and at a regular meeting of the board for recommendation and consideration. It was suggested that in the interim, the board should follow the same procedures as staff. President Sales noted that a current policy exists and must be followed until revised, and requested, that in order to allow flexibility, trustees submit an expenditure request that considers the current budget limitations, but, as suggested by Trustee Marani, that a paragraph of explanation and justification for the proposed expenditure be submitted with the request.

**4.9.10 Proposal to Televis Board Meetings**

Proposal to Televis Board  
Meetings

Trustee Marani reported that as chair of the Board Outreach and Legislative Committee, he will contact local businesses and potential users of the facility to form partnerships to fund the costs associated with making the Board Room technologically TV compatible. He suggested that perhaps the ROP Video Program could be utilized to videotape the meetings as a cost efficiency.

**4.9.11 Committee Reports**

Committee Reports

**4.9.11.1 Agenda Committee**

Agenda Committee

The Board discussed dates and possible venues to conduct a Board Retreat. Dates optional dates suggested were March 19 and April 16, during the morning and prior to the regular meeting of the Board. Suggested venues were the Next Space, Santa Cruz and the Watsonville Civic Center. Trustee Marani suggested the Board focus on the topic of understanding the structure of the COE, and protocols for Board interface with staff,

and districts. President Sales requested that trustees notify him of suggested discussion items.

**4.9.11.2 Community Outreach and Legislative Committee**

**Community Outreach and Legislative Committee**

Trustee Marani provided the board with the guidelines of the ad hoc Outreach and Legislative Action Committee. The Committee membership will consist of not more than three Board trustees, the County Superintendent of Schools and support staff as needed. The purpose of the Committee is to serve as a vital link the local, state and Federal governments, appointed and elected officials and other boards, commissions and community-based education organizations. the primary mission of the Committee is to foster strategic alliances that support schools and benefit students in Santa Cruz County. Mr. Marani suggested all legislative related resolutions be funneled through and recommended by the Committee.

**4.9.12 Board President's Report**

**Board President's Report**

President Sales reported his attendance at the Inside Education project's Charter Schools session and tour; the education webcast presentation; the February Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board Meeting; Mr. Sales spoke in memorial of Patricia Martinelli a long-time education advocate and past trustee of the Pajaro Valley School District Board.

**4.9.13 Board Trustees Reports**

**Board Trustees Reports**

Trustee Aaron Hinde reported on the Inside Education visits to local charter schools acknowledging the successes of each in attracting diverse student bodies and successfully filling specific education niches. Trustee Hinde accompanied Trustees Dilles and Marani in attending the Scotts Valley Unified School District Budget Review meeting as an example of community outreach and support as that district grapples with budget cuts.

Trustee Levine attended the Inside Education session focused on charter schools. He also attended the recent Alternative Education mid-year graduation.

Trustee Mann attended the Alternative Education Graduation, the Inside Education charter school session, Associate Superintendent Finlay's State Budget presentation, the COE's workshop for Board members presented by Robert Henry, and the state of education webcast.

Trustee Marani attended several district school boards meetings, the Inside Education charter schools session, met with Tom Brown of Beacon Associates, founding petitioners of CEIBA charter school; attended the most recent Teen Peer Court session of which he expressed interest in pursuing program funding; the Alternative Education graduation. Mr. Marani reported that the County Fair Board is reaching out to education to improve the curriculum of Education Day at the fair, that the Fair Board asked for two County Board of Education representatives to join the Fair Board to discuss funding Education Day and curriculum. Mr. Marani attended the Lincoln Day Celebration accompanied by Superintendent Watkins.

Trustee Winslow attended a stakeholders meeting in Sacramento. Topics addressed included preparing and teaching students for the current future job market. Mr. Winslow visited the CSBA offices while in Sacramento. He reported on a CSBA research group studying the relationship between CSBA and county offices of education as well as a May 17-19 CSBA legislative conference and the annual CSBA education conference December 3-5. Mr. Winslow visited and met with staff in the Capital offices of Assemblyman Monning, Senator Simitian, and attended an AFT rally. Mr. Winslow noted that Ken Cole, former director of the Santa Cruz Homeless Shelter is now director of the Housing Authority and focusing on homeless students.

**5.0 ADJOURNMENT**

President Sales reminded trustees to submit their completed Form 700 Financial Disclosure forms. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Santa Cruz County Board of Education  
Approved Minutes  
Regular Meeting, February 19, 2009

Page 13

Respectfully submitted,

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