

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
March 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
Mary Hart
Kyle Rucker
Bill Sullivan
Brunella Deeds
Janna Lambert, Counsel
Cathy Potts-Sales, 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 (Winslow/Levine) to approve the agenda as submitted.

Action # 767

Ayes: Unanimous
Abstain: None
Absent: None

4.0 REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Remarks from the Audience

Bryan Wall, Director, Regional Occupational Program, informed the Board that the ROP had recently undergone a Western Association of Schools and Colleges review. The review was a mid-term under ROP's current six-year accreditation. The review team reported that ROP has at mid-term satisfactorily accomplished all goals established and done so three years in advance of the established timeline. ROP serves 4,800 students countywide at nineteen locations.

5.0 DISCLOSURE OF CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

President Hinde disclosed that the Board would, in closed session, under Agenda Item 6.1, receive information and confer with legal counsel regarding the potential of one litigation matter due to significant exposure pursuant to subdivision (b)(3)(C) of Government Section 54956.9

6.0 CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

**6.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL –
ANTICIPATED LITIGATION, ONE POTENTIAL
CASE**

Conference with Legal
Counsel - Anticipated
Litigation

The Board received information and conference with legal counsel.

7.0 REPORT OUT ON CLOSED SESSION

Report Out on
Closed Session

President Hinde reported that the Board had taken no action in closed session.

President Hinde reported that, with the exception of Trustee Winslow, all trustees were present going into open session.

8.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of
Consent Agenda

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

Ayes: Unanimous

Abstain: None

Absent: Trustee Winslow entered the room following the vote.

Action #768

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to discuss.

10-0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent's
Report

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

Support to Districts

In an effort to expand support to school districts throughout Santa Cruz County, which is our primary mission, Superintendent Watkins has been and will continue to meet with district superintendents, President King of Cabrillo College, and County Office of Education administrative staff to explore how the COE can increase support under current programs and branch out into areas that heretofore were delivered by each district directly to their students. President King and the Superintendent are spearheading a task force to study what programs are being cut at the district level, what capabilities there are to fill the gaps, prioritize, and determine how the County Office of Education can either backfill or expand educational opportunities in those areas. Adult education programs are being severely affected by budget cuts and focus at present is on General Educational

Development (GED) preparation, English as a Second Language, and parental programs and career opportunities in preschool education.

Pajaro Valley Unified School District Dropout Initiative

Superintendent Watkins met with district superintendent Dorma Baker, Watsonville Mayor Luis Alejo, and district board members to address solutions to the high dropout rate in PVUSD schools. In addition to the Alternative Education partnership with Second Opportunity School (SOS), we are investigating possible programs where the COE can provide additional support to at-risk youth as well as to those who have dropped out or are on the fringe.

Together for Kindergarten Forum

More than 200 early educators, kindergarten teachers and administrators from across the county gathered on Wednesday, February 24th, for the “Together for Kindergarten” community forum. Organized by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education with the assistance of a grant from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, the forum presented an opportunity for early educators to come together to exchange ideas and propose activities that support kindergarten readiness. Delaine Eastin, former California State Superintendent of Public Instruction delivered the keynote address.

Sp Ed Arts Show

The County Office of Education Special Education Department, for the second year, hosted an open house and art show for students, parents and the public to observe Special Education students’ artwork. The event, under the direction of teacher Wendy Harrison, is establishing a model arts-in-education tradition.

Regional Occupational Program WASC Review

The Santa Cruz COE ROP recently completed a mid-term Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) review. The WASC determination is that ROP has, in three years, successfully completed all goals established in the primary review for completion over a six year period.

Outdoor Science Education Program Marketing Innovation

Heather MacDougall, Director, Outdoor Science Education Program, and the Superintendent met with Kelly Wood, principal and partner of For Benefit, a marketing and fundraising consultant whom Heather, from funding awarded under a COE Innovation Grant, contracted with to launch an innovative corporate sponsorship campaign to close the funding gap, improve access for lower-income students, while offering corporate partners an alternative way to support public schools by sponsoring the Outdoor Science Program.

SLV Read Across America

The Superintendent was invited by the San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District to participate in Read Across America, a national day of reading. At schools nationwide, volunteers spent time reading to children. He read to second-graders at San Lorenzo Elementary.

Inside Ed

Inside Education participants spent the morning of March 17, exploring education in local high schools. The session was titled *What Does it Mean to be Well Educated?*. Visits were made to both Watsonville and Aptos High Schools. The April session will focus on Special Education.

Costanoa Continuation School

Superintendent Watkins spent time with Curt Coleman, principal, Costanoa Schools, observing both their elementary and continuation programs. He recommended that trustees visit Costanoa.

Special Education San Andreas Regional Center (SARC)

The Superintendent met with Gina Fiollos, SARC Director, to discuss how collaborations might be formed to bridge the gap by better articulating the infant and toddler special needs children that are served by SARC into the COE preschool program. Currently, SARC educates two year old autistic infants.

March 3rd Press Conference and March 4th Day of Action

Superintendent Watkins thanked trustees who attended the March 3rd press conference on the steps of the county courthouse in support of school funding and as a prelude to the March 4th Day of Action which culminated with a rally at the Santa Cruz town clock. The March 3rd appearance, organized in collaboration with the Santa Cruz County School Boards Association, was an effective means of getting the K-12 message to the media and public separate from the March 4th rally which brought greater press attention to college and university students' challenges. The Superintendent attended the rally at the Town Clock which was well organized and attended by local teachers.

KSCO Radio Interview

The Superintendent was also interviewed by Rosemary Chalmers on KSCO Radio in relationship to the March 3rd and 4th Day of Action in support of education.

San Lorenzo Valley Rotary Club

Superintendent Watkins addressed the San Lorenzo Valley Rotary Club the morning of March 17, the focus being on the state of schools nationally, state, and locally in Santa Cruz County. The Superintendent expressed appreciation for the opportunity to raise awareness of the challenges facing public education.

SPIN Awards

Superintendent Watkins attended the tenth anniversary fundraiser for the Special Parents Information Network (SPIN) recently. SPIN is a volunteer organization that networks parents of special education students. The network provides parent support groups for English and Spanish speakers and offers educational materials, referrals, supports special education teachers and runs a mentor program with volunteer parents who help other parents navigate the challenges that accompany having special needs children. Supervisor Mark Stone, Assemblyman Monning, and representatives of Senator Simitian provided public acknowledgements.

FCMAT

At the request of the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), a Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) has been visiting Santa Cruz special education programs for the past four days. They have been meeting with district superintendents, special education directors, teachers and parents to analyze the delivery of services to students, the relationship between the County Office of Education and district programs, and to make recommendations to improve cost efficiency and quality of programs. The team provided an exit report just prior to the Board meeting, and will issue a formal report including recommendations in the near future.

California Distinguished Schools

Congratulations to Boulder Creek Elementary School and Mar Vista Elementary School both of which were recognized as California Distinguished Schools a validation of their efforts to close the achievement gap.

Santa Cruz County Youth Symphony

Superintendent Watkins attended the recent Youth Symphony presentation at the Civic Center. The Symphony youth program is well worth supporting. The education program is provided free to 4th and 5th grade students throughout the county and provides four concerts throughout the year that are affordable for family attendance. Students also have the opportunity to meet the symphony musicians and learn about their instruments.

DUI in Schools

The COE Law Related Education Programs presented another in the series of Real DUI Court in Schools on March 9th. The assembly was presented to students of Cypress High School, Live Oak School District. Thank you to our partners, the County Sheriff's Department, the County Defender's Office and the District Attorney's Office for making this contribution to this educational experience.

County Spelling Bee

Superintendent Watkins thanked Trustee Arnold Levine for again organizing the County Spelling Bee as well as to Trustees and staff who volunteered time to be judges, registrars, timekeepers and other duties that make the event successful. The Spelling Bee is a highlight of the school year for the many participating students and their parents and the COE will continue to support this event. Congratulations to all participating students.

County Science Fair

Congratulations were also extended to Nancy Serigstad, Program Coordinator, Educational Services, for her continuing success in expanding outreach to students countywide to participate in yearlong science programs which culminate at the Science Fair. Our outreach into south county schools has been highly successful. It would be extremely difficult to maintain this success without the sponsorship of Seagate Technology our partner and financial benefactor. The Science Fair awards ceremony will be conducted Monday evening, March 22, 7:00 p.m., at the County Fair Grounds.

ROP Retail Merchandising Fashion Show

The annual ROP Fashion Show event is scheduled for 8:40 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Friday March 26.

Mock Trial State Competition

Santa Cruz High School, winner of the recent County Mock Trial competition, will compete at the state level May 19-21. Competitions will be held at the Fairmont Hotel, San Jose.

Summer Youth Employment Program

The Student Support Services Department is preparing for the Summer Youth Employment Program. SYEP will be recruiting 450 employers. If trustees have recommendations of potential employers, please contact JoAnn Allen, Student Support Services. This year, SYEP has added a job fair to the services provided. The Job Fair will be held at the County Fair Grounds, Saturday, May 1, at 10:00 a.m.

Regularly scheduled monthly meetings attended:

United Way Executive Board PCS Liaison Meeting First Five Commission
TAC 6 Tannery Arts Board Children's Network

11.0 BOARD REPORTS

Board Reports

11.1 Board Trustee Reports

Board Trustee Reports

Trustee Sales attended a Board Budget Committee

meeting. Mr. Sales commented on the State's recently released list of low-performing schools. He noted that, although appearance on the list is not positive for the Pajaro Valley Unified School District schools listed, it puts attention on the fact that serious focus and positive action needs to be taken. Trustee Sales praised the leadership and gains made at Watsonville High School under principal Shekman.

Trustee Dilles attended a Board Budget Committee meeting, met with trustees of the Scotts Valley Unified School District regarding parcel tax measures, and attended the Preschool Forum. Mr. Dilles attended the recent Day of Action press conference and expressed appreciation of the eloquence of the student speakers. Mr. Dilles volunteered as a judge for the spelling bee. The first Scrabble tournament co-sponsored by the County Office of Education and the Santa Cruz Law Library will be conducted May 1, 2010. invitations have been sent to fill 54 contestant slots for three divisions, 7-9th grades, 10-12th grades, and adults. Proceeds will be donated to the Law Library and Teen Peer Court.

Trustee Winslow attended a Workers Investment Board meeting in support of the Youth Summer Employment Program. He also attended a special education Community Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Winslow attended the Preschool Together for Kindergarten forum, and the Science Fair. Trustee Winslow, a former Jackson County, Missouri schools superintendent, provided an overview of the history of that county's decline of student attendance leading to the recent announcement that the district would be closing half of their existing schools.

Trustee Marani attended the Board Budget Committee meeting, the Pacific Collegiate Charter School liaison Committee meeting, and the Board Agenda Committee meeting. Mr. Marani attended a Scotts Valley Unified School District board meeting and informed attendees of upcoming events sponsored by the County Office of Education. Trustee Marani attended the Stand Up for Students press conference and expressed appreciation of the speeches made by students. Mr. Marani attended a Pajaro Valley Unified School District bond oversight

Committee meeting, noting that there is still work to be completed at Hall Elementary School. Trustee Marani contacted the State Lottery Office to obtain information relative to Lottery sponsorship of California schools participation in the national Scripps Spelling Bee. Mr. Marani has provided information to appropriate staff for followup. Trustee Marani offered congratulatory remarks to Mr. Michael Bethke, recently appointed as manager of the Santa Cruz County Fair, and acknowledged County Office of Education staff member Jody Akimoto the current County Fair Board Director.

Trustee Mann volunteered as a judge for the Notre Dame Science Fair. She attended the Career Technical Education Summit. She congratulated both the ROP culinary and floral classes for their presentations. Mrs. Mann read a statement relative to her reason for casting a nay vote on the resolution recognizing the Costanoan Ohlone Rumset Indian tribe during the February meeting.

Trustee Levine modeled the t-shirts presented to all participants in the recent countywide spelling bee at which there were 201 participants. Trustee Levine expressed appreciation to board and staff members for their voluntary assistance in conducting the spelling bee. Mr. Levine attended the Mock Trial competition, the preschool Together for Kindergarten forum, the Stand Up for Students press conference and next-day rally.

11.2 Board President's Report

President Hinde reminded trustees that the Science Fair awards ceremony is scheduled for Monday, March 22, 7:00 p.m., County Fair Grounds.

Board President's Report

Mr. Hinde, accompanied by Trustees Dilles and Marani, met with representative board members of the Scotts Valley Unified School District relative to school bonds and parcel tax measures. He attended a Brook Knoll Elementary School fundraiser. Citing newspaper articles relevant to teachers receiving pink slips on the March 15 deadline, President Hinde noted the fundamental flaw in the legal process and requirements associated with notices.

President Hinde provided copies of a New York Times article relative to the charter schools movement.

12.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Unfinished Business

12.1 Public Hearing: 2010-2011 Initial Negotiations Proposals

Public Hearing:
2010-2011 Initial
Negotiations Proposals

President Hinde opened a public hearing to obtain comment relative to the 2010-2011 negotiations proposals as sunshined February 18, 2010, by the County Superintendent of Schools to the California School Employees Association, (CSEA)Chapter #484 and the Santa Cruz County Teacher's Association/CTA, as well as the CSEA proposal to the County Superintendent of Schools. There was no comment.

13.0 NEW BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS

New Business and
Action Items

There was no new business to conduct.

14.0 REPORTS/DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

Reports/Discussion/
Information Items
District Parcel Taxes
and School Bonds

14.1 Information Item: District Parcel Taxes and School Bonds

President Hinde reported that members of the Board have been approached by community members who have inquired as to the role of the County Board of Education in proposing parcel tax and/or school bond measures. President Hinde requested that Janna Lambert, counsel, provide a legal opinion to the audience. Ms. Lambert reported that neither the County Board nor County Office of Education have authority to place parcel tax and/or school bonds on the ballot. Proposition 39 changed the state constitution to provide that authority but legislation has never been adopted.

President Hinde called for public comment on the agenda item.

Mr. John Mancini, representing the Senior Coalition, addressed the Board. Mr. Mancini, citing previous district school parcel tax and bond measures, requested

that the Board provide community outreach guidance to school districts that are successful in passing measures and, in particular, senior citizen exemption protocol. Mr. Mancini solicited Trustee Winslow, a member of the state senior citizen legislative group, to petition for state legislation that would provide uniformity for seniors relative to parcel tax and school bond language.

Mr. Joseph Moreno, member of the Senior Coalition, informed the Board that he had requested a copy of a survey performed by the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. The survey solicited information regarding community support for a parcel tax to support district schools. Mr. Moreno has not been provided the requested copy and solicited the Board's assistance in obtaining a copy.

Vice President Marani reported the results of the survey were not made public and that had contacted the firm that conducted the survey and requested a copy but has received no response.

Mr. Tom Walsh, Executive Director of the Senior Coalition, reviewed parcel tax measures placed on the ballot. Mr. Walsh requested assistance from the County Board to petition school districts to require that senior citizens submit one application that is valid for the lifespan of the tax as opposed to an annual application. Mr. Walsh suggested that a template be developed for use by all districts.

Mr. Gene Scothorn, Senior Coalition Executive Committee, stated he spoke not as a representative of the Coalition but as an individual. Mr. Scothorn reported that the failure of tax and bond measures within the Scotts Valley Unified School District were the result of a lack of community trust in district officials and administration. Mr. Scothorn suggested that polls and surveys be conducted under the auspices of the County Board of Education which has community trust and could be conducted with economy of scale.

Dr. Carlos Arcangeli, resident and parent, Scotts Valley Unified School

District, spoke in support of parcel tax measures in order to maintain public school education. Dr. Arcangeli opined that the Scotts Valley Unified School District missed an opportunity to obtain that support due to lack of leadership. Dr. Arcangeli spoke in favor of a community survey on the matter of a parcel tax to support school funding in specific categories.

Trustee Levine spoke in support of the speakers representing the senior citizens coalition and their goal to simplify the process to obtain senior exemptions. Vice President Marani informed the speakers that he will petition the California County Boards of Education legislative committee to address the issue as a statewide platform. Mr. Marani expressed appreciation to the speakers in support of a survey to gauge support for district parcel taxes and suggested that the matter be a discussion item by the Santa Cruz County School Boards Association. He spoke in favor of parcel tax measures that provide specificity of where proceeds are directed. Vice President Marani applauded the community energy exhibited by the speakers. He advised Mr. Marano that he would make inquiry into the results of the aforementioned Pajaro Valley Unified School District survey.

Superintendent Watkins recommended that he and representative County Board members meet with the Scotts Valley Unified School District superintendent and board representatives to discuss the matter. Trustees Levine and Dilles volunteered.

President Hinde summarized the parcel tax issues presented for further action as 1) community outreach, 2) one-time senior exemption application process, 3) outreach to new residents within districts that have previously passed parcel tax measures, 4) develop a universal template, and 5) include within the template, sufficient timelines to file exemption applications.

14.2 Information Item: Santa Cruz County Community Service Line 2-1-1

Community Service
2-1-1 Phone Line

Mary Lou Goeke, Executive Director, United Way of Santa Cruz, presented information relative to the proposed 2-1-1 community service line and responded to comments and questions from Board trustees. United Way is seeking community partnerships to fund the service in the amount of \$4,000.00 annually.

14.3 Santa Cruz County Office of Education 2009-2010 Second Interim Financial Report

Second Interim
Financial Report

Mary Hart, Associate Superintendent, Business Services, reviewed the Second Interim Financial Report as previously provided the Board for review. highlighted items included a net increase in general fund revenues due to an increase in court and community schools average daily attendance; a surplus of \$7,000 plus in unrestricted programs, and a surplus of \$240,000 in restricted programs largely created by increased ADA as well as reduced expenses in the New Teacher Project. Ms. Hart responded to questions relative to projected health and welfare benefit costs as well as projected funding cuts to county offices of education.

14.4 Program Report: New Teacher Mentoring Program

Program Report:
New Teacher Project

Cynthia Balthasar, Director, New Teacher Project, provided information regarding the New Teacher Mentoring Project. Brian King, teacher, County Office of Education Alternative Education Program, provided the Board with the perspective of a participating teacher.

14.5 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 Santa Cruz City Schools will conduct a limited summer school program. Information was provided regarding candidates for the California School Boards Association Region 9 delegate election. The Association discussed possible training topics for board members. A report will be made in April by the Association By Laws Committee. Districts and the County Office of Education were encouraged to adopt resolutions calling for legislation to fully fund Proposition 98. The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, at Bonny Doon School.

President Hinde requested Trustee Dilles petition to Place an item relative to parcel taxes on the next Association agenda.

14.6 Report: Pacific Collegiate Charter School Liaison

Vice President Marani reported that the Pacific Collegiate School Board has revised their approach to the new-student entrance lottery. An allotment of 10% of the total unfilled slots to be awarded to applicants who will be the first in their family with the intent to enter college. Four new members, Lisa Palm, Greg Larson, Pete Rode and Bob Dixon were appointed to the school's governing board.

Report: Pacific Collegiate Charter School Liaison

15.0 Committee and Reports

Committee Reports

15.1 Agenda Committee

President Hinde reported that arrangements will be made for trustee visits to CEIBA Charter School and Watsonville High School prior to the April 15, regular meeting of the Board. President Hinde will coordinate a location within the San Lorenzo Valley for the June regular meeting of the Board.

Agenda Committee

15.2 Community Outreach and Legislative Committee

Vice President Marani provided trustees with copies of current bills before the California Legislature that affect education. Mr. Marani will attend the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) Legislative Committee meeting in Sacramento in April as well as an advocacy meeting in May.

Community Outreach and Legislative Committee

15.3 Policy Advisory Committee

No report. Committee meeting to be scheduled.

Policy Advisory Committee

15.4 Additions to Future Board Agenda Items

April Meeting: Resolution in Support of Proposition 98 funding
May Meeting: Pacific Collegiate School
Annual report to the Board
Preliminary Budget Review
June Meeting: Final Budget for Adoption
AP / IB Programs Presentation
Community recognitions/proclamations
Parental Involvement Presentations
Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Programs

Future Agenda Items

Pacific Collegiate School Program and Staff Presentations

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16.0 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Schedule

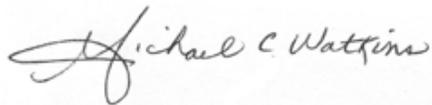
Thursday, April 15, 2010
2:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education
Watsonville City Chambers

15.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Hinde adjourned the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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