

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 15, 2010
Approved Minutes**

OPEN SESSION

1.0 ROLL CALL and ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Roll Call

President 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

Mary Hart
Cindy O'Conner
Theresa Rouse
Bill Sullivan
Bryan Wall
Mark Hodges
Jim Howes
Jody Akimoto

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. (Marani/Dilles) to approve the agenda as submitted.

Approval of Agenda

Action # 781

Ayes: Unanimous
Abstain: None
Absent: None

4.0 REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Remarks from
the Audience

Robert White, a 30 year Santa Cruz County resident, addressed the Board regarding Pacific Collegiate School (PCS) and commended them for their achievements. Mr. White noted that US News magazine ranked PCS among the top 10 high schools in the nation, and encouraged the board to continue support for PCS.

Mr. White also stated that during election season he researches candidates and in doing so obtained Form 700's, Statement of Economic Interests, from the Santa Cruz County Elections department. He brought to the Board's attention that Santa Cruz County Treasurer, Fred Keeley disclosed that he receives payment from PCS. Mr. White did not know the nature of the relationship, but felt it important to bring to the Board's attention.

President Hinde thanked Mr. White for his comments and stated this issue would be forwarded to the Pacific Collegiate Liaison committee for review.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of
Consent Agenda

Following a correction to minutes of June 17, 2010, made by Trustee Levine, and President Hinde's clarification of his statement regarding Superintendent Watkins' candidate statement, it was M.S.C. (Sales/Levine) to approve the Consent Agenda.

Action # 782

5.0.1 Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 17, 2010

5.0.2 Donations

Ayes: Unanimous

Absent: None

Abstain: None

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

President Hinde reported that the opinion letter received from attorneys Lozano Smith regarding whether a conflict of interest exists if the children or grandchildren of a member of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education's (SCCOE) Board of Trustees attend a charter school that is chartered by SCCOE concluded that a conflict is generally unlikely in such circumstances.

7.0 REPORTS and PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Santa Cruz County Fair

Santa Cruz
County Fair

Brian Mathias, Director of the Santa Cruz County Fair Board began his report by inviting all to attend the fair this year, which takes place from September 14-19, 2010 at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in Watsonville. Mr. Mathias stated that the Santa Cruz County Fair is looking for a wide variety of ways for the community to participate. He reported that the fair and SCCOE share many common goals. There are many educational opportunities, including exhibits during Education Days, special curriculum for teachers, 4-H projects, and agriculture history, because it is important for children to share in this important piece of Santa Cruz County culture. Mr. Mathias also noted that on September 15th and 16th, until noon (and prior to the general public), teachers and their students can explore the fair for free.

Each year county students compete in a theme and poster contest. This year's fair is "Apple Pies and Family Ties".

President Hinde asked Mr. Mathias how he became a Fair Director and Mr. Mathias reported that he had an interest in this great community and wanted to participate. He, like SCCOE employee Jody Akimoto, was appointed by the Governor of California to the fair board.

President Hinde asked about safety at the fair and Mr. Mathias reported that they have partnered with multiple law enforcement agencies to make the fair safe. He stated that last year there were very few reported incidents.

Fair Manager, Michael Bethke presented the Trustees with personal invitations to the fair. He said this year they will visit local elected boards and SCCOE was the first.

Mr. Bethke reported that the fair is headed in new directions. They have hired an excellent economic consultant to create a master plan to lead them into the next 20-30 years. Mr. Bethke stated that the one of the key components will be educational and they are looking forward to partnering with SCCOE.

Mr. Bethke also acknowledged Jody Akimoto for being responsible for turning the fair around financially. He stated that she was an unsung hero and that there likely would not have been a fair without her. Superintendent Watkins echoed Mr. Bethke's praises and Jody's dedication and excellent work on the fair board.

Trustee Dilles inquired about the fair's current finances Mr. Bethke responded that the fair finances are in incredibly good shape currently.

7.2 Superintendent's Report

The following matters and events have occurred since the report to the Board presented during the June 17, 2010:

Superintendent's Report

Introductions of New Employees

Special Education/SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Agency)

Salli Price Welch comes to us from Sutter County Office of Education. This is the newly created position as recommended by the recent study of Special Education services by FCMAT (Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team.) She replaces Dan Cope and Alice Talnack thereby reducing the administrative positions at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education by .5 FTE. Salli is in Southern California attending a statewide meeting but will be at the August meeting.

Deputy Superintendent

Bryan Wall moved from Regional Occupational Programs to Deputy Superintendent. Bryan has a long history of serving education in Santa Cruz County including teacher and administrator in the Santa Cruz City Schools District.

Regional Occupational Programs(ROP)

Mark Hodges, who has been serving as the Assistant Director, will be taking over as Senior Director. He originally came to the County Office of Education from Santa Cruz City Schools.

Jim Howes has been promoted from ROP Public Safety Pathways Coordinator to Assistant Director, Regional Occupational Programs. He served in the Santa Cruz Police department while teaching an Administration of Justice class for our programs.

Human Resources

While we are in the process of filling the position of Human Resources Director, Susan Villa, formerly the Deputy Superintendent at the San Benito County Office of Education, is serving as the Interim Director. The process to hire a replacement has begun and we should have a person in place by the beginning of the school year.

New District Superintendents

Michelle McKinney, formerly principal at San Lorenzo Elementary, has replaced Chris McGriff at Happy Valley Elementary.

Diane Morgenstern, formerly the Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services at Santa Cruz City Schools, has replaced Ken Miller at Mountain Elementary.

CCSESA – Quarterly Meeting

The California County Superintendents Educational Services Agency met June 28-29th. We received updates on the budget, pending legislation affecting schools, and programs on the Federal level including Race to the Top. Discussion topics covered many areas including digital resources, professional learning communities, art initiatives, regional capacity building, and academic support and assistance.

Regional Conversation on Collaboration

Theresa Rouse represented our county office in a meeting with Region V county offices, including Santa Clara, San Benito, Monterey, and Santa Cruz County Offices of Education. Representatives discussed ways in which we can leverage resources and personnel in areas from technology to on-line learning and curricular areas.

Leadership Santa Cruz Dinner

I attended the concluding dinner meeting of Leadership Santa Cruz where I received my certificate of participation. I will be recommending Theresa Rouse for next year's session.

Communications Plan

The office is working on a comprehensive communications plan that includes ways in which to educate the public regarding our role. We are looking at a multi-faceted approach including electronic newsletters, brochures, and social networking, etc.

five years old on September 1st of the school year to enter kindergarten. Trustee Dilles stated that he is a strong proponent of this bill. He also reported that there was discussion about potential savings and where those savings may be directed.

Trustee Winslow reported that he attended a meeting with 56 senior citizens consisting of teachers, administrators, and trustees. The focus of the meeting was school finances and the current dire situation schools are in. Trustee Winslow reported that the group is looking to officials for reasonable solutions.

Trustee Marani reported that he attended standing SCCOE committee meetings. Mr. Marani also attended several 4th of July events as well as the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton to gain insight on their activities related to education, which he will share with the Santa Cruz County Fair directors. He has also spent considerable time with The California County Boards of Education (CCBE) organization, where he has been selected to chair the CCBE Legislative Committee.

Trustee Mann reported that she was honored to attend an Eagle Scout ceremony on the 4th of July where Matt Smith's project was the establishment of a very impressive flagpole at Santa Cruz County Fair Grounds in front of Rodgers House. Mrs. Mann stated that the flagpole was a beautiful addition to the fairgrounds.

Trustee Levine participated in a California School Boards Association (CSBA) webinar regarding online agendas. Mr. Levine believes this is something to consider in light of the paper required to create multiple board packets. He also donated materials to Debbi Puente in Curriculum and Instruction that will be useful to schools and he received a notice from the city of Scotts Valley Notice that they will have a ground breaking ceremony for the new library to be built there on August 14th.

7.4 Board President's Report

President Hinde reported that he attended a Scotts Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting, along with Trustee Dilles, and met with business people to discuss the positive things happening at SCCOE. He also met with Assemblyman Bill Moning prior to a talk on healthcare. Assemblyman Moning asked President Hinde to relay to Superintendent Watkins and the Board that his door is always open.

Board President's Report

Superintendent Watkins reminded the Board of the Board and Manager's retreat on August 11, 2010 at the Cabrillo Horticulture Center from 8:00 a.m until 12:00 p.m. Trustee Marani asked for clarification about the attendees and asked if a Board/Superintendent Retreat could be scheduled in February.

8.0 PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing

President Hinde opened the public hearing at 2:36 p.m. to receive comment from the public, parents, and teachers relative to the Pacific Collegiate School (PCS) petition for charter renewal.

Andrew Townsend, PCS Board President, addressed the Board and expressed appreciation for the support PCS receives from SCCOE. Mr. Townsend outlined the official criteria for renewing the PCS charter in terms of academic indicators. He stated that while only one of the criteria must be met for the renewal of a charter school, PCS comfortably meets all three. Mr. Townsend reported that the most recent PCS Academic Performance Score (API) is 931. He stressed that PCS meets the basic criteria to receive approval of the charter renewal and that at that the complete petition has supporting documentation. Mr. Townsend summarized the primary responsibilities of the PCS Board, which are ensure the financial viability of the school, secure a school site and to hire and supervise the school's educational leader. He reports success in all of these areas and that PCS has a balance budget with no staff lay-offs or mandated program cuts. Mr. Townsend also announced that they have signed an extension to their lease, which will allow them to remain at their current location until 2015. He publicly thanked the Santa Cruz City School District for their collaboration to extend the agreement. Since the last charter renewal Mr. Townsend stated that they have embarked on a pilot study which will offer admissions preferences to students who would be the first to attend college in their family. Mr. Townsend said that law prohibits a charter school from manipulating admissions criteria to achieve a specific ethnic mix of students. He stated that an open lottery must be held, which PCS does around February each year. He stated that preferences are legal and they view this as an important step in helping families who are traditionally underrepresented in college preparatory programs. Mr. Townsend also responded to Mr. White's comment made during audience remarks regarding Fred Keeley's relationship to PCS. He stated that Mr. Keeley teaches one class at PCS on the subject of state and local politics.

PCS Principal Archie Douglas read part of the PCS mission statement and cited program recognition of the school, which included reaccreditation, distinguished school awards, and being nationally recognized as one of the top 10 schools in the nation. Mr. Douglas also highlighted student achievement

and satisfaction. He stated that they PCS is a school of choice and they can only admit those that apply. Diversity and community outreach, special education and access to all continue to be a priority. Mr. Douglas stated that the only limitation imposed is capacity and that anyone can apply.

Santa Cruz County Treasurer Fred Keeley provided public comment stating that he teaches a course at San Jose State in the evenings, at California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) and at PCS. Mr. Keeley stated that he consulted with county counsel to determine if he taught at PCS a couple of days a week on his lunch hour, if that would be a conflict of interest, and the county attorneys said it would not be a conflict. Mr. Keeley stated he teaches primarily seniors, with approximately 15 students enrolled in his class. He stated that he was speaking to provide experiential and anecdotal testimony on his experience in as a legislature representing this area. Mr. Keeley believes that public education is grossly underfunded, and also believes within the public school setting there is considerable room for experimentation, creativity, initiative and thoughtful approaches for how to best education children. He stated that the breadth of opportunity provided at PCS, a public school setting, affords the opportunity to try and provide the best education possible. Mr. Keeley thanked the Board for chartering PCS.

Kelly Van den Berghe, parent of a PCS student, provided public comment and thanked the Board for the opportunity to provide input and for providing her family an option. Ms. Van den Berghe stated that she was told her son was autistic and would never graduate. She stated that her family had an amazing experience and her son graduated from PCS with awards. Ms. Van den Berghe believes that her son was successful because he was in a smaller school setting and received the attention he needed. She also stated that her family had a positive experience with the special education program at PCS and that, although her son is autistic and different, he is not less than and was never treated as less. Ms. Van den Berghe urged the Board to continue to support the PCS charter.

Gus Samlos, PCS Student Body President, provided public comment, speaking about his positive experience as a PCS student. He relayed that students are able to go as far as they are willing and that it is a supportive environment. He cited his desire as a freshman to start a Lacrosse team, and when he approached the school principal, it was as easy as asking. Mr. Samlos stated that although students are required to take at least five AP classes, most take many more and that PCS is an environment in which students thrive.

Liz Martine Garcia, a parent of upcoming 7th grader, and a current student, provided public comment stating that her older son started PCS as a ninth grade student and that it has been a great school for him. She commented that he was a driving force in the establishing the a diversity club, is involved in community service, and student government. Ms. Garcia thanked the Board for chartering PCS.

Ellen Madsen, an eleventh grade student at PCS, provided public comment stating that she will participate in student government this next school year as the Secretary. Ms. Madsen stated that PCS is an amazing school and commented on the teachers who are there for the students. She also talked about the fact that there are not barriers between grades, and that the students get along well. Ms. Madsen expressed how happy she was to be a PCS student.

Dana Hoffman, parent of a PCS students, provided public comment and stated that she does not believe that the renewal of the PCS charter should not be a referendum of the success or failure of charter

schools, but a review of this particular charter school and the benefit it has provided to this community. Ms. Hoffman stated that she is also a former PCS board member who is supportive of public education, including alternatives to traditional mainstream education. Ms. Hofmann stated that charter schools are more accountable than their counterparts and that no other school in this community has undergone the same scrutiny that PCS has undergone. Ms. Hoffman said that she is continually impressed by the people that work to advance PCS, including board members, teachers, parents, and students. Ms. Hoffman spoke to the fact that the teachers at PCS do not allow students to fall through the cracks and that both of her children have developed important critical thinking and communication skills as a result of attending PCS. She stated that her daughter, in her first month in college, volunteered in her new community because of the values she received while attending PCS.

Ben Flocks, a 2007 graduate of PCS, provided public comment on his experience as a PCS student. He credited PCS for helping him discover his passion for music and praised the high caliber of teachers. Mr. Flocks spoke about the opportunities he had to perform while still learning his instrument. He also spoke about the advantages of having taken several AP courses. Mr. Flocks said he is currently living in New York City and living his dream, which he credits to his education at PCS .

Pauline Seals, a PCS Physics and Environmental Science teacher, provided public comment regarding her being a teacher at PCS. Ms. Seals commented that teaching at PCS is a pleasure, and she is very proud of the fact that her AP Environmental Science students scored very high on their AP test and have done outstanding work at Natural Bridges. Ms. Seals said that students will expand to limits set, and one of the best things to see is an average student push themselves to grow. Ms. Seals asked the Board for their continued support of PCS.

Kristi Wolf, parent of former PCS students provided public comment on her children's experiences at PCS. Ms. Wolf stated that her children are very different learners. Ms. Wolf stated that her daughter elected to attend PCS because she is more socially sensitive and new that PCS provided a respectable environment, while her son does not learn easily and was a special education student. She reported PCS provided an environment where her son had great success.

Following further discussion, President Hinde closed the Public Hearing at 3:38 p.m.

A short recess was called.

The Board reconvened at 3:47 p.m.

9.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Unfinished Business

There is no unfinished business to conduct.

10.0 NEW BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS

10.1 Consider Adoption of Resolution No. 10-10: Senate Constitutional Amendment 6 Reduction of two-thirds vote requirement on parcel taxes

Adoption of Resolution No. 10-10: Senate Constitutional Amendment 6 Reduction of two-thirds vote requirement on parcel tax.

Board members discussed the proposed amendment and heard public comment from Bob Thomas, Chairman of the California Senior Alliance encouraging the Board to oppose this amendment absent a senior exemption.

Gene Schothorn provide public comment on behalf of the Senior Coalition also opposing this resolution until the issue regarding a senior exemption is resolved.

Joseph Panaro, a member of the Senior Coalition and a former member of the Bond Oversight Committee, emphasized that SBCA 6 would be an amendment to the California Constitution that would be permanent, not just another piece of legislation. Mr. Panaro also urged to board not to approve the proposed resolution.

After further discussion, it was M.S.C. (Sales/Mann) who moved to table this resolution until concerns can be resolved.

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

11.0 DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

11.1 Public Disclosure: Tentative Agreement between the Santa Cruz Superintendent of Schools and the Santa Cruz County Educational Association/CTA

Public Disclosure: Tentative Agreement between the Santa Cruz Superintendent of Schools and the Santa Cruz Educational Association/CTA

Associate Superintendent Mary Hart disclosed the particulars of the Tentative Agreement with the Santa Cruz Educational Association/CTA and the associated fiscal impact of the proposed agreement. The total compensation increase for 2010-2011 amounts to approximately \$206,000, which Ms. Hart noted has been fully budgeted.

11.2 Santa Cruz County Treasurer's Report

Associate Superintendent Mary Hart reviewed the Treasurer's Quarterly Investment Report for quarter ending March 31, 2010.

Santa Cruz County
Treasurer's Report

11.3 Discussion Regarding California Jobs Budget Legislation

Superintendent Watkins led the discussion in regard to a letter received from Assembly Member Bill Moning requesting the Boards support of The California Jobs Budget Legislation.

Discussion Regarding
California Jobs Budget
Legislation

12.0. COMMITTEE REPORTS

12.1 Agenda Committee

President Hinde reported that the Board is continuing to address agenda items and noted that the September Board Meeting will be held at Bonny Doon Elementary at 4:00 p.m.

Agenda Committee Report

Vice President Marani reiterated his desire to schedule a Board/Superintendent retreat in February, 2011.

12.2 Community Outreach and Legislative Committee

Vice President Marini reported that the Community Outreach Committee continues to reach out to the community and encourage organizations, such as the County Fair Board to attend our meetings and report how they are positively impacting students. Mr. Marani asked for any input or ideas for further outreach be directed to him.

Community Outreach and
Legislative Committee

Vice President Marani reported that he will attend a meeting on July 26th in Alameda with the California County Superintendents Educational Services Agency (CCSESA) and the California School Boards Association (CSBA) to determine how to better partner and be more effective in the future.

12.3 Policy Advisory Committee

Trustee Kathy Mann reported that the Policy Advisory Committee met on July 1, 2010 to determine how to approach updating policies. Bill Sullivan has agreed to work on policy updates and will review the necessity of certain policies.

Policy Advisory Committee

Trustee Levine reported that he participated in a CSBA webinar on Cyberbullying and would like the policy committee to address this issue, as it is a serious in this day and age.

12.4 Budget Committee

No report at this time

12.5 Report: Pacific Collegiate Charter School Liaison

Trustee Dilles reported that the PCS Committee will meet to discuss the charter implementation. Superintendent Watkins reported that SCCOE is currently conducting the internal review of the PCS charter petition and the petition is also undergoing an external review.

Trustee Dilles also reported on September 28, 2010, there will be a Forestry Challenge at Big Creek Lumber, which is a one day contest for high school students, and PCS will be participating.

13.0 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Thursday, August 19, 2010 2:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education Santa Cruz County Office of Education
Thursday, September 16, 2010 4:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education Bonny Doon Elementary School
Thursday, October 21, 2010 2:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education Santa Cruz County Office of Education
Thursday, November 18, 2010 4:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the County Board of Education Santa Cruz County Office of Education

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Hinde adjourned the meeting at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/cmo