

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**October 15, 2009**  
**Capitola City Chambers**  
**Capitola City Hall**  
**420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA**  
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 Present

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

Staff Present

Barney Finlay  
Alice Talnack  
Theresa Rouse  
Bill Sullivan  
Brunella Deeds  
Hal Ledbetter  
Devon Wood  
Brittany Fullerton  
Katie Fernandes  
Alanna Larriba

- 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/Hinde) to approve the agenda as submitted.    Action # 738

Ayes:                      Unanimous  
Abstain:                  None  
Absent:                   None

- 4.0**    **REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE**                                      Remarks from the Audience  
There were no remarks from the audience.

- 4.1**    **Remarks from Capitola Government Officials**                      Remarks from City Officials  
Capitola City Mayor Bob Begun welcomed and thanked the Board for conducting the meeting in Capitola. Mayor Begun encouraged TV broadcast of meetings as a tool to introduce the public to the functions of the Board and County Office of Education.

Councilman Kirby Nichols welcomed and applauded the Board for their work and leadership.

Councilman Graves was also present.

**5.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

Trustee Dilles made correction to the prior meeting minutes. It was M.S.C. (Marani/Winslow) to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

Approval of  
Consent Agenda

Ayes: Unanimous  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

Action #739

**5.1 Deferred Consent Items (if required)**

There were no deferred items for discussion.

**6.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board was provided copies of the two nomination applications forwarded to the California County Boards of Education Association as approved.

Correspondence

**7.-0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of September 15, 2009

Superintendent's  
Report

**Mexican American Educators New Teacher Reception**

Superintendent Watkins attended the welcome to teachers new this year to the Pajaro Valley Unified School District hosted by the Mexican American Educators Association.

**Leadership Santa Cruz**

The Superintendent met with Dave Vincent of Leadership Santa Cruz to formulate an agenda for that organization's Education Day, an annual event in their leadership series.

**Education at the Rountree Correctional Facility**

COE staff are in discussion with Len Lofano of the Sheriff's Office to determine ways to maintain and expand educational services to incarcerated adults at the Rountree facility. ROP currently provides Auto Body and Computer Skills classes, but, due to budget cutbacks other agencies are forced to cut their educational services.

The Sheriff's Office is conducting an open house at the facility at 10:00 a.m. on October 30 to showcase the ROP classes.

**Meetings with New District Superintendents**

The Superintendent continues to meet individually with the new district superintendents to assess their needs and how the County Office of Education can provide services to assist them.

**Community Indicators Conference**

Superintendent Watkins joined with other representatives from member agencies of the Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project (CAP) to present at the 2009 Community Indicator Consortium Conference in Seattle earlier this month. The CAP is a crucial assessment tool in the research and preparation of grant-funded opportunities. The COE will be working with the Casey Foundation to establish partnerships to address absenteeism issues.

**Intergovernmental Relations Committee**

The Committee addressed the City of Watsonville and PVUSD coordinated preparation and response to the H1N1 virus. The Committee also proposed a community Dropout Prevention Summit in a community-wide effort to address the dropout problem in general and in PVUSD schools in particular. A date has not yet been set for the Summit.

**National Read for the Record Day**

The National Reading Association sponsors an annual Reading Day. This year, the goal was to enlist the largest number of participants throughout the country. All participants, including schools, libraries, community organizations and individuals read the same book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The Superintendent joined with third, fourth and fifth grade students and staff at San Lorenzo Valley Elementary in the reading.

**Pajaro Valley Unified School District Receives Governor's Award**

The Pajaro Valley Unified School District's Fitness 4 Life student program, nominated by the Superintendent, was recognized as the Central Coast School District of the Year by Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. Joe Trautwein, Director of Student Services and Director of the Fitness 4 Life program informed the Board about the program and the award.

**KSBW Golden Apple Award**

Superintendent Watkins attended a recognition event honoring Kris Kennedy who recently received KSBW's Crystal Apple Award..

**Central Coast Early Care and Education Conference**

The Santa Cruz County Child Care Planning Council and collaborators, of which the County Office of Education is one, hosted a Central Coast Early Care and Education Conference at Cabrillo College.

Superintendent Watkins delivered the welcome address.

**Aptos Host Lions Club**

The Aptos Host Lions Club invited Mr. Watkins to speak at their October meeting. The audience appreciated hearing the positive aspects of education in Santa Cruz County.

**Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission**

Superintendent Watkins addressed the Commission to discuss partnerships with the Commission, Children's Network and local judges to ensure at-risk students receive necessary services.

**Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate**

Superintendent Watkins is a member of the committee to review submitted nominee applications for Santa Cruz County's first poet laureate.. Ten individuals have been nominated for the recognition . The committee will continue to meet through December to review the applications and make a selection of the county poet laureate.

**Community TV – Teacher, Speak Out**

The Superintendent recently taped a segment of Community TV's new weekly series, Teacher, Speak Out. The segment focused on efficiency of operations and consolidation.

**Chrysalis Open House**

Thank you to trustees who were available to attend the ceremonial opening of the new Special Education Chrysalis Center. The Center, located near the Green Acres Elementary School campus serves students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders.

**Oasis Open House**

The Alternative Education OASIS program will host an open house and showcase of student work Wednesday, October 21, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. at their 831 Bay Avenue facility. OASIS is designed to meet the needs of students in grades 9 - 12 who are self directed and can benefit

from an independent studies format. Independent studies implements an instructional strategy that responds to the needs and unique styles of students. The OASIS independent studies model allows students to learn at their own pace while challenging them to excel in their areas of special interest and ability.

**Inside Education**

The 2009 Inside Education cohort will meet Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. This month's focus is Career Technical Education.

**Management Accountability Meetings**

Deputy Superintendent Mike James and the Superintendent continue to meet both collectively and individually with County Office of Education management staff as part of the process to ensure their goals are aligned with the COE vision and priorities.

**Regularly Scheduled Meetings**

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Regional Migrant Head Start Board      | Tannery Arts Board         |
| Special Education Council              | Steinbeck Center Board     |
| Children's Network                     | Superintendents Council    |
| New Teacher Project Steering Committee | Workforce Investment Board |
| Youth Resources Bank                   |                            |

**8.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business to conduct.

Unfinished Business

**9/0 NEW BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS**

**9.1 Adopt Resolution #09-06 Gann Amendment Appropriations Limits**

Following an explanation of the Gann Amendment which limits growth in appropriations made by the state, school districts and local governments, it was M.S.C. (Marani/Dilles) to adopt Resolution #09-06.

New Business and  
Action Items  
Adopt Resolution  
#09-06 Gann  
Amendment  
Appropriations Limits

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

Action #740

**9.2 Third Reading or Waive Reading: Board Policy and Administrative Regulation #5118.1 Interdistrict Attendance Hearing Appeals**

Third reading was waived by the Board. Susan Weber, Board Trustee, San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District, suggested the Board incorporate procedures making it the County Board of Education's responsibility to annually track students granted transfers on appeal on the basis of a transfer to enter a program not offered by the district of residence, determine if the student continues to be enrolled in the program and notify the Board and relevant districts. The Board determined that a designee of the Board will track granted appeals under the discussed category but that is unnecessary to incorporate wording into policy.

Discussion ensued relative to hearing appeals when the condition exists that the district of desired attendance does not have available grade or program student space. Counsel advised that hearings must be conducted.

**9.3 Adopt Board Policy BP and AR 5118.1 Interdistrict Attendance/Hearing Appeals**

Adopt Board Policy  
5118.1 Interdistrict  
Attendance Hearing

Allison Niday, Board Trustee, Scotts Valley Unified School District, addressed the Board on two issues:  
a) the number of interdistrict transfers actually granted by district boards compared to the number of appeal hearings;  
b) a lack of understanding on the part of some districts for the difference in district policies and the County Board of Education's administrative regulation parameters. Ms. Weber addressed the issue of district boards input and participation in the County Board's policy adoptions. Superintendent Watkins, Trustee Marani and Trustee Dilles responded to these issues.

It was M.S.C. (Dilles/Marani) to adopt Board Policy BP 5118.1 and Administrative Regulation AR 5118.1.

Action #741

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

**9.4 Approve membership in the Santa Cruz County School boards Association, Select a Board Representative to the Association, Adopt Bylaws of the Association**

Membership in Santa Cruz County School Boards Association

**9.4.1 Approve Board membership in the Santa Cruz County Schools Boards Association**

Trustee Dilles, who attended the first meeting of the newly formed association reported to the Board. Trustee Dilles supported membership of the County Board of Education but expressed his opinion that the by-laws of the association not be adopted by the County Board at this time. Trustee Levine expressed support of membership as well as adopting the association's by-laws.

Judy McGooden, Soquel District Board Trustee and newly elected president of the County School Boards Association, addressed the Board and responded to comments and inquiries. Dr. Jim Logsden addressed the Board encouraging membership. Trustee Marani addressed the issues raised by the Board during the September meeting discussion relative to Board membership: 1) opportunity for the Board to have more time to discuss issues; 2) membership participation by district boards; 3) legal opinion as to the County Board's membership. Mr. Marani noted that the delay was justified as some of the issues, particularly relative to the proposed association by-laws, were resolved during the interim. Trustee Winslow called for the question.

It was M.S.C. (Winslow/Hinde) to approve County Board of Education membership in the Santa Cruz County School Boards Association.

Membership Action #742

Ayes: Unanimous  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**9.4.2 Appoint Board Representative to the Santa Cruz County School Boards Association** Appoint Board Representative

Trustee Marani noted that in the Association's revised by-laws, an alternate representative is allowed.

It was M.S.C. (Hinde/Winslow) to appoint Trustee Dilles as the Board's representative and Trustee Levine as the alternate representative to the Santa Cruz County School Boards Association. Action #743

Ayes: Unanimous  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**9.4.3 Adopt By-laws of the Santa Cruz County School Boards Association** Adopt By-laws of the Santa Cruz County School Boards Association

Trustee Marani expressed issue with the name of the Association and suggested that the word Association be changed to the word alliance to avoid confusion of the organization with the California School Boards Association. Trustee Dilles suggested the by-laws not be adopted until proposed revisions be brought before and discussed with the Board. Trustee Levine encouraged adoption of the existing by-laws. Association President McGooden informed the Board that the Association executive committee will report out on the by-laws and revisions during the November 12, meeting and a report will be made to the Board.

It was M.S.C. (Levine/Dilles) to adopt the by-laws of the Santa Cruz County School Boards Association. Adopt Association by-laws  
Action #744

Ayes: Unanimous  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None



**10.0 REPORTS/DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS**

Reports/Discussion/  
Information Items

**10.1 Program Report: Special Education Department  
Chrysalis Autism Center Program**

Program Report  
Special Education  
Chrysalis Autism  
Center

President Sales invited comments from the audience. Parent, Susie Christianson expressed concern about the lack of a written agreement between the County Office of Education and Live Oak School District relative to inclusion of Chrysalis students into Green Acres Elementary classrooms. Parent Peter McLean addressed the Board expressing concern about the relationship between the County Office of Education, SELPA and SARC and the alleged impact upon students and parents. Mary Mahir, Advocacy Area Board VII, addressed concerns regarding the Chrysalis Program, focusing on curriculum and instruction, inclusion and forward progression of student achievement into mainstream classrooms and parental inclusion into the planning of the facility as well as inclusion programs. Superintendent Watkins addressed the speakers' concerns relative to inclusion. Soquel Union Elementary School District Superintendent Kathleen Howard addressed speakers concerns relative to SELPA and appointment of a SELPA director. Special Education Director Hal Ledbetter introduced the presentation with a general overview of autism spectrum disorders and the number of students affected. Dr. Devon Wood, Psychologist, and Chrysalis teachers, Brittany Fullerton, Alanna Lorriba and Katie Fernandez provided details of the Chrysalis approach. Jennifer Sullivan, Executive Director, Morgan Center on Autism, provided background on the Morgan approach and the collaboration with the County Office of Education.

**10.2 2008-09 Unaudited Closing Financial Statement**

Associate Superintendent Barney Finlay reviewed the 2008-09 unaudited actuals as submitted to the California Department of Education. Mr. Finlay responded to questions from the Board relative to several line items.

2008-09 Unaudited  
Closing Financial  
Statement

**10.3 Legal Services Contract**

Associate Superintendent Barney Finlay provided a

Legal Services  
Contract

history of the current Monterey Bay Legal Consortium joint powers agreement between districts, the County Office of Education and Schools and Colleges Legal Services and the advantages of the current consortium. Mr. Finlay responded to trustees' comments and questions relative to cost, cost comparison to alternatives and interaction between counsel, district administration and the County Board of Education. Mr. Finlay discussed with the Board a process for issuing requests for proposals as well as the probable results. Mr. Finlay recommended that the Board consider staying with the current joint powers agreement for reasons of cost-effectiveness, collaboration with districts, preventative legal efficiency, and to work with Schools and Colleges Legal Services to make changes as necessary. President Sales appointed trustees Hinde and Marani to work with Superintendent Watkins as an ad hoc committee to meet with SCLS counsel.

**11.0 Committee and Board Reports**

Committee and  
Board Reports  
Agenda Committee

**11.1 Agenda Committee**

President Sales advised the Board that a special meeting of the Board would be required prior to November 4, in order to conduct a denied interdistrict attendance appeal hearing. The Board set the date and time for 3:00 p.m., Thursday, October 29.

**11.2 Community Outreach and Legislative Committee**

Community Outreach  
and Legislative Committee

Committee chair Marani requested that the Superintendent conduct a survey of pertinent staff on the pro's and con's to staff time in conducting Board meetings at locations other than the County Office of Education.

**11.3 Board President's Report**

Board President's Report

President Sales brought to the attention of the Board statistics contained in the Personnel Commission's annual report and the relativity of the data to the current economic climate. President Sales, Superintendent Watkins and Trustee Winslow all commented on an article in the Santa Cruz Sentinel concerning COE staff salaries.

**11.4 Board Trustee Reports**

Board Trustee Reports

Trustee Hinde met with representatives of Slow Foods a group advocating for the local organic foods industry.

Trustee Levine attended the California County Boards of Education board meeting conducted in Monterey the end of September. He attended the Chrysalis Center open house, a policy committee meeting, and informed the Board he will not be in attendance at the November regular meeting.

Trustee Mann attended the Chrysalis Center open house and chaired the policy committee meeting.

Trustee Marani attended the most recent Mountain Elementary School District board meeting. Mr. Marani attended the California County Boards of Education fall conference and expressed appreciation for the relevance of issues addressed to County Boards as opposed to district boards. Trustee Marani also attended the Chrysalis open house.

Trustee Winslow attended a recent Department of Housing and Urban Development national conference and discussed the effects of housing on low-income students. Mr. Winslow was present at the County Office of Education sponsored *The Art and Science of Teaching* workshop. Trustee Winslow summarized recent legislative bills signed or vetoed by the governor. He noted that the federal government cut funding to the Foster Grandparents Program.

Trustee Dilles attended the Chrysalis Center open house, the California County Boards of Education fall conference, the policy committee meeting and interactions with Pacific Collegiate School representatives.

**11.5 Additions to Future Board Agenda Items**

Future Agenda Items

United Way 211 Campaign  
Parental Involvement Presentation  
Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Programs  
Pacific Collegiate School Program and Staff Presentations  
District Presentations

**12.0 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND COMING EVENTS**

Schedule

Thursday, November 19, 2009  
2:00 p.m.

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

Thursday, December 17, 2009  
2:00 p.m.

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

Thursday, January 21, 2010  
2:00 p.m.

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

**13.0 ADJOURNMENT**

President Sales adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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