

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Regular Meeting**

**October 16, 2008**

Approved Minutes

**1.0 ROLL CALL and ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Roll Call

President Jack Dilles called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Mary Bryant

Jack Dilles

Arnold Levine

Kathy Mann

James M. Maxwell

Dana M. Sales

Brian Sanford

Michael C. Watkins, Secretary

Staff Present:

Barney Finlay

Alice Talnack

Rowland Baker

Theresa Rouse

Mike James

Bill Sullivan

Brunella Deeds

Harley Robertson

Heather Hutchison, CSEA

**2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent Watkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Approval of Amended  
Agenda

It was M.S.C. (Sales/Levine) to approve the agenda amended to move Agenda Item 9.0 Superintendent's Report to follow Item 4.0 Public Remarks in consideration of audience participation in a superintendent's report item relative to Pacific Collegiate School.

Ayes: Unanimous

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Action #679

**4.0 REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Remarks from the  
Audience

President Dilles noted there were a number of individuals present known to wish to speak regarding facility negotiations between Santa Cruz City Schools and Pacific Collegiate Charter School. As there was no agenda item regarding the issue, Mr. Dilles suggested any individual who wished to address the Board regarding the matter do so under Remarks from the Audience.

Santa Cruz City Schools District Superintendent Alan Pagano, audience participants district teacher and union president Barry Kershin, District Board Trustees Rachel Dewey-Thorsett and Cynthia Hawthorne, district residents Janet Swann and Jim Logsdon,

all addressed the Board expressing their favor for the School District's position in negotiating a facilities lease with Pacific Collegiate Charter School, their opposition to the possibility of Pacific Collegiate Charter submitting a charter revision to the County Board of Education relative to the School's admission policy, and their encouragement to the County Board to exercise an increase monitoring the Charter School operations.

**9.0 (Out of Order by motion) SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** Superintendent's Report  
Superintendent Watkins reported on select items from  
The following full report:

**2008-2009 State and SCCOE Budgets Update**

Although both the 2007-08 unaudited, closing financial statement as well as a budget report are agenda items later in the meeting, the Superintendent reported to the Board the positive news that the COE closed the 2007-08 budget year with a positive cash balance as opposed to deficit spending and congratulated the Board in exercising wisdom in not slashing and closing programs based on the preliminary, interim reports. As a result, TICAL, DAIT and other programs have been funded, staffed and maintained.

**Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board Meeting**

Associate Superintendent Barney Finlay and Superintendent Watkins attended the October 8 meeting of the PVUSD Board to assist in the Board's discussion of the District's First Interim Financial Report. That Board was informed there is still the possibility of mid-year cuts imposed by the governor and that the 2009-10 and 2010-11 fiscal years will be lean.

**Pacific Collegiate School**

President Dilles and the Superintendent have met on a number of occasions with community members, Pacific Collegiate leadership representatives and the Superintendent and board president of Santa Cruz City Schools in an effort to better understand the facility issues between the two entities and to offer assistance in an effort to mediate a resolution that will mitigate any adverse impact on either entity. Superintendent Watkins disclosed that Santa Cruz City Schools District leadership articulated an opinion that the facilities and diversity compliance issues a

are intertwined. Trustee Bryant corrected statements made relative to the Board's review during the charter renewal process as well as that County Board trustees have sat on the PCS board in the past. The Board later determined to not have a trustee on the PCS board to avoid any conflict of interest, an opinion that was provided by an attorney. Both Trustee Bryant and President Dilles noted that the current issue under Discussion is limited to the facilities negotiations matter.

Ms. Bryant suggested that a committee be formed to attempt to Negotiate a resolution to the facilities issue, with Superintendent Watkins as a neutral facilitator but with no County Board Representation. It was suggested that it would be appropriate to involve a Neutral attorney who is knowledgeable about charter school law to Respond to questions from all parties represented on the committee.

Superintendent Alan Pagano, Santa Cruz City School District, stated the the District and PCS had attempted to negotiate a facilities lease without success and that the school has submitted a request for facilities under the Proposition 39 process. Mr. Pagano stated that he is not at liberty to negotiate outside of the Proposition 39 process until that process has ended. Trustee Bryant requested that the COE obtain a legal opinion as to whether or not a negotiations process can take place simultaneously with eh Prop 39 process.

Trustee Sanford made remnder that the Board is in discussion under the public's right to comment on agenda items and not under an item agendized for Board action. He suggested that the matter be put on the next Board agenda. Trustee Sanford suggested that as other districts could possibly be affected, those districts should have representation on a committee should one be formed.

Superintendent Watkins suggested a letter be drafted to propose the formation of a committee to establish a format for a review committee to follow in negotiating a resolution as a parallel process to the Proposition 39 process. Ms. Bryant suggested that to avoid conflict of interest and/or Violation of the Brown Act, that County Board members participate only as observers should they attend committee meetings.

**Pacific Elementary School District**

Superintendent Watkins met with Sharon Smith, Administrator, Pacific Elementary School, to learn more about the discovery of Chromium 6 in the Davenport area and the effect of the discovery on students, the school and community, and to offer our support.

**Emergency and Crisis Services**

In the wake of the tragic accident at Natural Bridges State Park which resulted in the death of a Mountain Elementary School student, the COE coordinated resources and provided counseling support to students and staff at the school the following Monday. The COE stepped in as first responder to provide mental health counseling as County Mental Health was closed due to Columbus Day.

**Regional Occupational Program**

Cabrillo College and the Santa Cruz County ROP were recognized and commended in a WestEd report as a model community collaborative. The collaborative has been awarded seven SB 70 Chancellor Grants. The ROP portion over two years has exceeded \$300,000. ROP Director Bryan Wall, and Cabrillo Career Tech Consultant Laura Grinder spoke at a statewide conference in Orange County recently addressing successful models of collaboration.

**Second Harvest Food Bank Forum**

On Monday, October 13, the Superintendent addressed those attending a Second Harvest Food Bank Nutrition Summit. As part of the event, Watsonville Coast Produce was honored as Second Harvest's Donor of the Year.

**No Child Left Out Non-profit Organization**

Theresa Rouse, Director, Educational Services, and Superintendent Watkins met with representatives of No Child Left Out and Community Bridges, organizations that are working together to serve the children of Santa Cruz County, particularly under-privileged and at-risk children. No Child Left Out has focused on providing local Santa Cruz County kids with sports equipment and programs.

**UCSC Extension, Educational Services Program**

The Superintendent met with Susan Miller, Director, English Language and International Programs, UCSC Extension. The COE has hosted Humphrey Fellows through the Extension's international program for the past two years. We discussed ways the UCSC Extension might assist the

COE in teacher training and certification efforts.

**AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)**

A regional program under the lead of the Santa Clara COE, the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Program prepares under-achieving, under-served students for eligibility and success in four-year colleges and universities. Through AVID, high school and middle school students have equal access to college preparatory curriculum. Assistant Superintendent Rowland Baker and the Superintendent met with the Regional Coordinator to discuss ways to expand services in Santa Cruz County. A report on the AVID program is scheduled for the November Board meeting.

**Intergovernmental Relations Forum**

Superintendent Watkins was invited to join with other agencies countywide regarding intergovernmental relations at the Watsonville Civic Plaza earlier this month. The focus was on strategizing ways that other agencies and organizations can work together to support the Pajaro Valley Unified School District's goals and student achievement.

**County Office of Education Customer Service Week**

The week of October 6 through 10<sup>th</sup> was designated as Customer Service Week at the COE. HR Director Traci Hart-Outtrim scheduled a full week of activities that brought focus to COE employees' awareness of the importance of providing quality customer service. In addition to scheduled activities, daily reminders of how to deliver quality service to our customers were emailed to all employees. The week culminated in an all-staff meeting during which individual employees were recognized by the votes of their peers in a number of customer service categories such as phone etiquette, follow-through on tasks and assignments, and personality attributes.

**InSide Education**

The first of the nine-sessions to be presented to the first cohort of business and agency leaders is October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The group will be introduced to the ROP Career Tech Education programs at Aptos High and Watsonville High. Following the classroom visits, they will attend a Workforce Investment Board, Your Future is Our Business awards luncheon at Seascap.

**NextSpace - Innovation and Creativity in Government and Business**

Superintendent Watkins attended an evening event hosted by Santa Cruz

Mayor Ryan Coonerty to introduce NextSpace an inventive process designed to encourage innovation and creativity in the workplace.

**Employee Recognitions**

**Jo Ann Allen**, Manager, Student Support Services, has been appointed to the Judicial Council of California Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee. The committee makes recommendations for improving the processing of cases in drug courts, domestic violence courts, peer courts and other community-based treatment courts. The committee proposes rules and standards, reviews and recommends legislation, and acts on assignments referred to it by the Judicial Council.

We continue to receive notes of gratitude from teachers who participated in and intend to continue in the Project IMPACT intern credentialing program. Attached is a letter from one of those participants who is now fulfilling a personal goal in a teaching position in PVUSD. Acknowledgement again is paid to **Nancy Serigstad and Traci Hart-Outtrim**, Project Directors.

**Nancy Serigstad**, Science Programs Director, was also acknowledged by Bonny Doon Union Elementary District Superintendent Gail Levine, in the superintendent's message to the Bonny Doon community. Mrs. Serigstad's expertise was called upon by Ms. Levine to assist the school in creating a Science Lab and classroom.

**Harbor High School STAR Test Growth**

Harbor High ROP marketing students issued a press release reflecting the school's outstanding STAR test results. Harbor High's targeted growth in 2008 test results was an increase of 5 points over last year's score. The school, however, increased their score by an exceptional 35 points.

**California County Superintendents Education Services Association (CCSESA)**

Beginning Sunday, October 19, all 58 county superintendents of schools from throughout California will convene at Seascape for the three-day CCSESA quarterly meeting. Bruce McPherson will deliver the welcome address.

**Monthly/Quarterly Meetings Attended**

First 5 Commission	Pre-school Steering Committee
VPVSA	Migrant Head Start Board
Steinbeck Board of Directors	Superintendents' Council

United Way Board of Directors  
New Teacher Project Steering Committee  
Steinbeck Board of Directors  
United Way Board of Directors  
New Teacher Project Steering Committee

Children's Network  
Superintendents' Council  
Children's Network

**5.0 DISCLOSURE OF CLOSED SESSION AGENDA**  
President Dilles disclosed that the Board, in closed session, would receive information, discuss and possibly advise the Board's designated legal liaison relative to one issue of potential litigation.

Disclosure of  
Closed Session

**6.0 CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session

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

Under Government Code 54956.9(c), the Board received information and discussed one matter of anticipated litigation.

Conference with  
Legal Counsel  
Anticipated  
Litigation

**7.0 OPEN SESSION**

Open Session

**7.1 REPORT OUT ON CLOSED SESSION**

President Dilles reported that the Board took no action in Closed Session.

Report Out on  
Closed Session

**7.2 CONSENT AGENDA**

It was M.S.C. (Bryant/Sales) to remove agenda item 7.2.3 Routine Budget Revisions for discussion and separate consideration and to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.2.1 and 7.2.2.

Consent Agenda  
Action #680

Aye: Unanimous  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**7.3 ROUTINE BUDGET REVISIONS**

Following discussion, it was M.S.C. (Bryant/Sales) to approve the Routine Budget Revisions.

Routine Budget  
Revisions  
Action #681

Aye: Unanimous  
No: None  
Abstain None  
Absent None

**8.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence

The Board was provided copies of emails received regarding matters relevant to Pacific Collegiate Charter school.

**9.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent's Report

Previously recorded out of order.

**10.0 NEW BUSINESS and ACTION ITEMS:**

New Business  
And Action Items

**10.1 ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION #08-09  
GANN AMENDMENT APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT**

Adoption of  
Resolution #08-09  
Gann Amendment  
Appropriations Limits  
Action #682

It was M.S.C. (Maxwell/Bryant) to adopt Resolution #08-09 establishing the 2008-09 Gann Appropriations Limits.

Aye: Bryant, Dilles, Levine, Mann, Maxwell,  
Sales, Sanford  
No: None  
Abstain None  
Absent: None

**10.2 APPOINTMENT OF BOARD'S REPRESENTATIVE  
TO PERSONNEL COMMISSION**

Appointment of  
Board's Appointee  
to Personnel  
Commission  
Action #683

It was M.S.C. (Levine/Bryant) to appoint Mr. Larry Lane, incumbent, to serve a three-year term as the Board's representative on the Personnel Commission.

Aye: Unanimous  
No: None  
Abstain None  
Absent None

**11.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

Reports and  
Information Items



**11.1 2007-2008 UNAUDITED CLOSING FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Associate Superintendent Barney Finlay reviewed information contained in the J-400 annual closing financial reporting document filed with the California Department of Education. President Dilles expressed pleasure that the County Office of Education closed in a positive operating position. Mr. Finlay responded to comments and questions from Trustees. Trustee Bryant expressed the need for a review process that enables trustees to understand the monthly effect of expenditures and income in relationship to the Board approved budget each June as the year progresses. Monthly budget revisions will be reviewed as a separate agenda item as opposed to being placed as an item under Consent Agenda approval. Additionally, the Associate Superintendent will present a full narrative summary at the time both the first and second interim reports are issued.

2007-08 Unaudited Closing Financial Statement

**11.2 BUDGET REPORT**

President Dilles report that the Budget Subcommittee had been unable to schedule a subcommittee meeting prior to the Board meeting. A Board Budget Subcommittee meeting is to be scheduled during the week of November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Budget Report

**11.3 Board President's Report**

President Dilles reported that he attended the most recent Santa Cruz City Schools District Board meeting as well as the Pacific Collegiate School Board meeting. Mr. Dilles and Superintendent Watkins have met with representatives of both the District and the School to discuss resolution of a facilities agreement. President Dilles attended a Scotts Valley School district forum the topic of which was district facilities. Additionally, he attended a Scotts Valley Board forum hosting Board candidates.

Board President's Report

**11.4 Board Trustees' Reports**

Trustee Sanford attended the Scotts Valley District Facilities forum.

Trustees' Reports

Trustee Levine attended the most recent Santa Cruz City Schools District Board meeting. Mr. Levine also attended the Branciforte Small Schools Celebration of the Bay.

**12.0 SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS**

Schedule

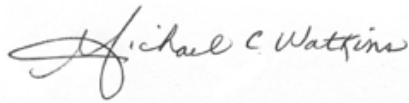
November 20, 2008, 2:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board
December 18, 2008, 2:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board
January 15, 2009, 2:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board
February 19, 2008, 2:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board

**13.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment

President Dilles adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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