



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

Superintendent's  
Report

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of October 17, 2009

**Green Careers Open House**

The Green Careers Center open house at Natural Bridges High School was an informative introduction to the many programs offered under the Alternative Education/ROP collaborative venture. The full academic program is enhanced by green classes including Alternative Energy and Construction, Bay Watershed Education, Sustainable Agriculture, Cooking, and a bike repair program. Currently featured on the SCCOE home webpage are videos of the *Food - What?* and the *Watershed Education* classes both of which were filmed for sequences on the national TV program Eco Community.

**OASIS Open House**

The Alternative Education staff hosted an open house at the OASIS Independent Studies program last month to introduce their services and progress to parents, students and the community.

**ROP Rountree Open House**

Superintendent Watkins attended the open house rededicating the Rountree Detention Center ROP Auto Body Shop hosted by ROP and the Sheriff's Office.

**Inside Education/ Your Future is Our Business Education Luncheon**

Inside Education staff and participants visited several Regional Occupational Program class sites the morning of October 21<sup>st</sup>. They ended the Inside Education session as guests of Your Future is Our Business.

The November session introduced participants to the small school districts.

**COE Internal Grants Project**

The COE is launching an internal office grants program to be funded by ARRA SFSF funds. Staff who apply for a grant to fund an innovative project in the categories of academic improvement, teacher quality, effectiveness and retention, the arts, and other areas will be awarded a funding grant. Projects must be sustainable beyond the scope of the grant funds.

**Cabrillo Foster Youth Event / Career Night**

The superintendent attended an event at Cabrillo College conducted prior to and in conjunction with Cabrillo's College and Career Night. The event offered foster and disadvantaged youth an opportunity to speak with career representatives and assist them as they explored the opportunities of continuing their education.

**PVUSD Student Services Extended Learning Programs**

Superintendent Watkins visited the PVUSD Extended Learning Programs with Joe Trautwein, Director. The District provides a number of excellent supplemental programs to their students.

**Second Harvest Nutrition Summit**

Mr. Watkins attended the Nutrition Summit which addressed, among other nutrition and health issues, the child obesity and diabetes epidemic. Second Harvest is taking a leading role in the community to educate and involve individuals in combating malnutrition and associated illnesses.

**Community TV Appearance**

Superintendent Watkins participated in a panel discussion on the Teacher Speak Out program on the subject of administrator salaries and responsibilities at the County Office of Education.

**Tannery Arts Event**

The Superintendent attended the event celebrating Tannery Arts receipt of \$2 million funding support from the Hewlett Foundation.

**Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education Advisory Council Meeting**

I attended the PVUSD Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education (WAAE) Community Advisory Council meeting this month. Positive reports were given relative to programs provided by WAAE in Lifelong Learning Art classes, English as a Second Language and General Educational Development (GED). WAAE challenges center on the shrinking budget and WASC accreditation.

**Boys and Girls Club**

The Boys and Girls Club invited me to be keynote speaker on the topic of education at the Boys and Girls Club Business Partnership Luncheon.

**Leadership Santa Cruz**

The November session of Leadership Santa Cruz was conducted at Dominican Education Center. The focus was on home and health care. Participants had the opportunity to be educated on robotics surgery, Medivac, H1N1 prevention and emergency preparedness and healthcare reform.

**Morgan Autism Center**

The Superintendent attended a reception hosted by the Morgan Autism Center, our partner in establishing the Chrysalis Center. The reception at San Jose City Hall, showcased student art.

**Harlem Children's Zone Conference**

Superintendent Watkins attended the Harlem Children's Zone Conference in New York as part of a community team that was awarded an attendance scholarship. The Santa Cruz team consisted of Poki Namkun, County Public Health Officer, Leslie Goodfriend, County Public Health, Christina Cuevas, the Community Foundation, Madeline Noya, County Human Services, Nicole Lezin and Leslie Conner, HIP, and the Superintendent.

**Local Governments for Sustainability – STAR Community Index Program**

STAR Community Index is a new national framework for improving the livability and sustainability of U.S. communities. The STAR Community Index will provide a national, consensus-based system with indicators and metrics that will help local governments set priorities and maximize investments in strategic actions. Local governments will benefit through more robust local commerce and healthier communities. Superintendent Watkins was selected as a representative for education on one of eight Technical Advisory Committees. The advisory committee meets monthly at a minimum by conference call.

**Meeting with Senator Tom Torlakson**

Superintendent Watkins met with Senator Torlakson who has announced his 2010 candidacy for State Superintendent of Schools.

**Regularly Scheduled Meetings**

Steinbeck Board  
Tannery Arts Board  
First 5  
Workforce Investment Board

PVPSA  
CCSESA Quarterly Meeting  
Children's Network

**8.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to conduct.

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

New Business and  
Action Items

**9.1 Appointment to Special Education Community  
Advisory Committee**

Appointment to  
Special Education  
Community Advisory  
Committee

It was M.S.C. (Winslow/Marani) to appoint Amanda Owens as the County Office of Education's representative to the Special Education Community Advisory Committee

Ayes: Unanimous  
Abstain None  
Absent Levine

Action #747

**10.0 REPORTS/DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS**

Reports/Discussion  
Information items

**10.1 Receipt of Charter Petition**

Receipt of Charter  
Petition, Esquela  
Xochitl Tonatiuh

Deputy Superintendent Mike James reviewed the Education Codes, process and timelines for the Board's acceptance and review of a petition the charter.

Teresa Robinson, chief petitioner, presented a summary the proposed charter.

President Sales on behalf of the Board accepted the petition to charter and reported a public hearing will be conducted during the December 17, regular meeting of the Board, and an action item placed on the January 21<sup>st</sup> regular meeting for determination.

President Sales opened the discussion to the Board for clarifying questions, to be followed by comments from the public, and requested that should trustees have additional questions following the meeting, to forward them to Bill Sullivan for compilation and a consolidated response for presentation to the Board.

Ms. Robinson responded to a question posed by Trustee Hinde, that she had contacted the Pajaro Valley Unified School District about petitioning the District, and had

been advised by “the District” to petition the County Board of Education.

Ms. Robinson supported her submittal to the County Board of Education based upon 1) the proposed school would serve a population of students similar to those served by the County’s Alternative Education Program; 2) administration of Alternative Education programs is a forté of the COE; 3) her goal is to eventually locate a similar school within the Santa Cruz City Schools District area and prefers to be chartered by one agency instead of two.

In response to a question from Trustee Hinde relative to the proposed student/teacher ratio, Ms. Robinson reported potential school teachers support the 21:1 ratio as being manageable and, further,] should additional grant funding than projected become available, funds would be used to lower the teacher/student ratio.

Trustee Hinde noted the proposed financial statement relies heavily on receipt of grant funding. Ms. Robinson indicated the projected grant funding is a State funded charter ‘start-up’ grant.

Trustee Dilles questioned the financial success or failure of the proposed charter noting that Ms. Robinson had been the director of a charter school in San Jose that failed financially. Ms. Robinson offered that she had resigned following the first year of operation due to differences about the vision of the school and that the financial failure occurred following her resignation. Trustee noted that the cost to the Santa Clara County Office of Education to close the Pathfinder Charter School was \$150,000. Ms. Robinson indicated the Santa Clara County Office of Education mandated the school to attract influential community members in order to raise school funding. Ms. Robinson alleged that mandate created issues that led to her resignation and eventual financial failure of the school. Ms. Robinson also stated the make-up of the school’s board as well as the principal of the school, contributed to her resignation.

Trustee Dilles questioned the statement in the educational philosophy portion of the charter proposal which indicates that teachers will not teach to the test but it is believed students will score

well on standardized testing. Ms. Robinson responded that the targeted population of students learn best from experience as opposed to memorization.

Trustee Dilles referred to the section of the proposed charter titled Board of Directors. Mr. Dilles inquired if it were the intent of the charter to invite the County Board of Education to place a representative on the school's board. Ms. Robinson replied that Education Code does not require a member of the authorizing board to be placed as a representative school board member, but suggested that the representative be from the staff of the County Office of Education.

County Board Counsel Janna Lambert clarified that the Board has the right to appoint a representative to the board of a non-profit agency, but that consideration should be given to appointing a staff person to be a non-voting member in order to avoid the possibility of conflict of interest issues.

Trustee Dilles questioned how the petitioner planned to ensure the student population will reflect the racial, ethnic and socio-economic profile of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District student population. Ms. Robinson replied that a student population of "at-risk" students ensures a ratio equal to the District population and makes a reflective student population a non-issue.

Trustee Marani questioned Ms. Robinson as to potential members of the school board and the strength of their commitment. Ms. Robinson stated she needs to clarify the board structure. Mr. Marani asked petitioner if she has visited other chartered middle schools in Santa Cruz County to which she replied she has but that there are currently no similarly structured middle schools for at-risk students.

Trustee Marani requested counsel's clarification as to whether the racial and ethnic balance required should be reflective the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, the intended site residence of the school, or of the county-wide demographics. Counsel Lambert responded that, in this particular situation, the demographics would be required to reflect a county-wide student population in that the petition is to serve students already receiving services from the County Office of Education.

Trustee Marani inquired as to petitioner's right to appeal a denial to the State Board of Education. Counselor Lambert affirmed the

petitioner's right to appeal to the State Board noting that the State Board then can exercise its privilege to name a managing agency.

Trustee Mann inquired if enrollment in the school would require referral from another agency. Ms. Robinson stated referral's would not be required. Mrs. Mann, noting the proposal states that students would be subject to an orientation period and asked if students determined by staff to not be meeting expectations would be expelled. Ms. Robinson stated that, should such a situation occur, she would meet with the student and parents to advise them that there wasn't a "fit" between the student and the school and make recommendation for alternatives.

Superintendent Watkins asked counsel to clarify which of the two SELPA's in the county, the charter would be required to become a member in. Counselor Lambert responded that the charter school would be responsible for that choice but would be held accountable by the County Board to do what the charter agrees to in a memorandum of understanding. Ms. Lambert noted that the El Dorado County Charter SELPA mentioned by petitioner is not, in fact, an operating agency at this time. Ms. Lambert noted that the County Office of Education's specialty is in serving special needs students who are severely handicapped while the staff in a district special education program would be more experienced in a wider variety of service levels.

Trustee Hinde, noting the proposed student/teacher ratio and that the at-risk student population could put teachers in a position to deal with violent situations, including arms, asked if the interested teachers and/or teachers that would be hired would be trained to handle violent situations. Ms. Robinson stated she would hire only teachers with a demonstrated ability to handle such a situation. Trustee Hinde stated he would like to see potential teachers' credentials.

Mr. Leonard Daughenbaugh, secretary of the non-profit corporation formed by petitioner, spoke in support of the petition and responded to questions regarding curriculum, teaching methodology and discipline..

Superintendent Watkins sought counselor's opinion relative to the proposed charter school's eligibility to apply for a facility under Proposition 39. Counselor Lambert opined that the charter is eligible to seek a facility directly from the district but within the required timeline. The charter would have to submit by November 1, 2009, to be eligible to proceed with the Proposition 39 facility request for the 2010-11 school year. The district within which a charter is situated is responsible to provide space for only those students who live in that district with a minimum number of eighty students enrolled in the school. The charter would be required to negotiate for space to accommodate out-of-district students.

President Sales opened the discussion for public comment.

Kathy Ritchie, President, San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District Board, questioned how the school would address API test scores; why the petitioners are not petitioning the Pajaro Valley Unified School District which stands to lose average daily attendance, and how the racial and ethnic balance issue would be addressed in that the student population of the district is different from the county.

**10.2 Program Report: Inside Education**

Program Report  
Inside Education

Cheryl Morris Brothers, Coordinator, Inside Education provided a summary of the program's mission, annual schedule and upcoming session agendas.

Trustee Marani spoke on the worthiness of the program and provided positive feedback he had received from a program participant. Mrs. Brothers encouraged trustees to nominate or recommend probable participants in the 2010-11 program year.

**10.3 Annual Report: Williams Legislation – Status of Decile 1-3 Schools**

Annual Williams  
Legislation Report

Superintendent Watkins reported on the findings relative to Williams Legislation requirements during site visits at designated decile 1-3 schools in Santa Cruz County. the findings were generally positive reflecting progress at all levels. Nancy Serigstad, Coordinator, Educational services provided details and responded to questions and comments from Trustees.

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

Associate Superintendent Barney Finlay reviewed the Country Treasurer's Investment Report for the quarter ended September 30, 2009. The Santa Cruz County Office of Education maintains all its investments in the County Treasurer's investment pool.

Santa Cruz County Treasurer's Quarterly Investment Report

**10.5 Report: Santa Cruz County School Boards Association**

Trustee Jack Dilles, County Board of Education representative to the County School Boards Association, reported that discussion at the last Association meeting centered on collaborations among the districts, the status of the Associations reach-out efforts to districts which have not yet joined, and an invitation to all trustees to attend meetings when possible. Trustee Dilles reported that Association by-laws are still under review and discussion. Issues discussed included an assessment of the value of CSBA, support to CSBA, charter and private school membership, defining a quorum, defining a majority vote, legislation advocacy, and possible conflict of County Board of Education membership. Other issues discussed were boards dinners and speakers. The January meeting is scheduled for Thurs, January 14, 6:00 p.m., Scotts Valley High School. Trustee Marani suggested a recommendation be made that the meetings be scheduled in different venues throughout the county. The Board requested a County Board posting be made for each meeting noticing a quorum of members may be in attendance.

Report: Santa Cruz County School Boards Association

Mr. Tony Hoffman, Trustee, Bonny Doon Board of Education, introduced himself as a member of the County School Boards Association bylaws committee and was in attendance to respond to questions and obtain feedback. He advised the Board the SCCSBA's bylaws are malleable. A preference was expressed that the role of the SCCSBA be focused on education matters as opposed to taking a legislative advocacy role.

President Sales expressed his personal opinion that

it is important that all district boards participate as SCCSBA members and that, if as rumored, some districts were not participating because the COE is a member, he would support withdrawing.

**11.0 Committee and Board Reports**

Committee and  
Board Reports  
Agenda Committee

**11.1 Agenda Committee Report**

President Sales announced that the public hearing on the submitted petition to charter would be on the December agenda, as well as the annual organization of the Board.

**11.2 Community Outreach and Legislative Committee**

Community Outreach  
and Legislative Committee

Committee Chair Marani asked that feedback from staff be provided to the Board during board organization items in December, to provide the board with issues to consider when determining the viability of meetings being scheduled at venues other than the COE facility. Superintendent Watkins advised that “floating” venues are not an adverse issue for staff.

Mr. Marani suggested that a Legal Committee be established and that it be represented during Agenda Committee meetings for agenda building. He suggested that the matter be revisited for analysis in June, 2010.

Mr. Marani attended the most recent Watsonville City Council meeting and requested the council’s support of a petition for Federal recognition of the Ohlone Muwkema tribe which could have positive implications to local Native American students.

**11.3 Board President’s Report**

Board President’s Report

President Sales announced that the Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance organization is celebrating the agency’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a dinner, the proceeds of which benefit PVUSD, the following evening.

The ROP Retail Merchandising Class annual fashion show was scheduled for the day following the Board meeting;

Trustee Marani requested that the Schedule item on Board agendas include a monthly calendar of events that trustees might want to attend.

#### **11.4 Board Trustee Reports**

#### Board Trustee Reports

Trustee Hinde met with the owner/director of a tutoring service. Discussions are in the preliminary stage and will address district and COE involvement as well as student scholarships.

Trustee Mann attended the reopening event of the ROP autobody center at Rountree and a Pacific Collegiate parent meeting.

Trustee Winslow Met with Senator Simitian's office staff and discussed bond issues. He met with CSBA government relations staff to review current legislative bills. Trustee Winslow spent a week in Sacramento with the Senior Legislator.

Trustee Dilles attended the Scotts Valley High School IB Science Program open house. Mr. Dilles attended a conference at Berkley, titled After-school Matters at which Mr. Dilles wife was a presenter. Mrs. Dilles addressed the topic of after-school program teacher credentials or lack thereof, as well as teacher/volunteer relations.

Trustee Dilles reported that discussions continue relative to a Scrabble competition, but that a start date has been delayed.

Mr. Dilles attended a meeting sponsored by Pacific Collegiate Charter School to discuss the school's diversity policy. Mr. Dilles also addressed the matter of designating a County Office of Education liaison to the school which he will address in policy formulation discussions.

Mr. Dilles attended a public meeting to address possible solutions to save the Teen Center from being a victim of government budget cuts. He noted that the Alternative Education Department rents space at the Teen Center. The Center has received a Packard Grant which will enable it to operate for a limited period.

Trustee Dilles announced he will attend a public meeting the following Monday to address crime issues within Santa Cruz City.

Mr. Dilles encouraged the Board to provide input to the Scotts Valley Library Board which will build a new library. Trustee Dilles encouraged participation in the Second Harvest Holiday food drive.

Trustee Dilles informed the Board that the Scotts Valley Chamber of Commerce bestowed its Woman of the Year Award to Mary Etle and the Organization of the Year Award to the Scotts Valley PTA.

**11.5 Additions to Future Board Agenda Items**

Future Agenda Items

December Meeting: organization meeting, audit report  
Charter petition public hearing  
January Meeting: Managers Accountability Report

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, 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 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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