

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting
December 18, 2008
Approved Minutes

1.0 ROLL CALL and ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Roll Call

President Jack Dilles called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Board Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Barney Finlay
Rowland Baker
Theresa Rouse
Bill Sullivan
Brunella Deeds
Jean Gardner
Harley Robertson
Nancy Serigstad
John Rice
Heather Hutchison, CSEA
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. (Sales/Levine) to approve the agenda as submitted.

Ayes: Unanimous
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Action #683

4.0 REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Remarks from the Audience

There were no remarks from the audience.

5.0 ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE

Oaths of Office

Superintendent Michael C. Watkins administered the Oath of Office to elected trustees Aaron Hinde, Vic Marani, and George Winslow, as well as to Dana M. Sales and Arnold Levine both appointed-in-lieu of election.

RECESS

Recess

President Dilles called for a ten minute recess for employees and guests to meet and celebrate with the incoming trustees.

President Dilles reconvened the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

6.0 ANNUAL ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Annual Organization
of the Board

6.1 Nominations for President of the Board

It was M.S. C (Mann/Levine) to nominate Trustee
Dana M. Sales for president of the Board.

Nominations for
President of the Board

There were no further nominations nor discussion.

6.2 Election of Board President

The Board voted in respect to the nomination of
Mr. Sales to serve as Board president.

Election of Board
President
Action #684

Ayes: Unanimous
Abstain: None
Absent: None

6.3 Nominations for Vice President of the Board

It. was M.S.C. (Marani/Mann) to nominate Trustee
Aaron Hinde for vice-president of the Board.

Nominations for
Vice President of the
Board

There were no further nominations nor discussion.

6.4 Election of Board Vice President

The Board voted in respect to the nomination of
Trustee Hinde to serve as Board vice-president.

Election of Board
Vice President
Action #685

Ayes: Unanimous
Abstain: None
Absent: None

**6.5 Appointment of Chairperson, County Committee
On School District Organization**

It was M.S.C. (Sales/Marani) to appoint Trustee Jack
Dilles as chairperson of the County Committee on
School District Organization.

Appointment of
Chairperson, County
Committee on School
District Organization
Action #686

Ayes: Unanimous
Abstain: None
Absent: None

6.6 Establishment of Regular Meetings of the Board

President Dilles opened the matter for discussion. Trustee Winslow suggested meetings convene earlier than the current 2:00 p.m. Trustee Marani suggested meetings be conducted in the evenings to accommodate attendance by the public. Discussion centered on accommodating COE employees who at times are required to attend meetings, off-site personnel, and conflicts with district board meetings. The possibility of televising meetings was discussed and the board directed that be investigated and reported.

Establishment of Regular Meetings of the Board

It was M.S.C. (Sales/Levine) that the regular meetings of the County Board of Education be scheduled for 2009 at 2:00 p.m., on the third Thursday of each month with the exception of the September meeting which is mandated to be conducted following school hours.

Action #687

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

6.7 Seating of New Officers of the Board of Trustees

President Sales and Vice President Hinde assumed their offices.

Seating of Officers

6.8 Appointments to Board Committees

Trustee Dilles pointed out that, per board policy, all committees of the County Board are ad hoc committees. President Sales queried the Board as to individual interest in participating on the Board Policy Advisory Committee and the Board Budget Committee. Trustee Dilles expressed interest in appointment to the Budget Committee and Trustee Levine to the Policy Advisory Committee. Trustee Marani suggested that a Board Legislative Advocacy Committee be formed and that there be further discussion as to how the Board determine appointments to the committees. Trustee Marani's suggestion was met with concurrence. President Sales suggested that trustees contact Bill Sullivan expressing

Appointments to Board Committees

their individual interest in appointments and the item be placed on the January agenda for further discussion and possible action.

7.0 REGULAR OPEN SESSION

Regular Open Session

7.1 DISCLOSURE OF CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

President Sales disclosed that the Board would, in closed session, receive information, discuss and possibly advise the designated representative relative to one issue of potential litigation under Agenda Item 8.1.

Disclosure of Closed Session Agenda

8.0 CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

**8.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL
DESIGNEE RE ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
ONE POTENTIAL CASE**

Under the guidelines of Government Code Section 54956.9(c), the Board was apprised of one matter of potential litigation.

Conference with Legal Counsel
Designee re Anticipated Litigation, One Potential Case

9.0 OPEN SESSION

Open Session

9.1 REPORT OUT ON CLOSED SESSION

President Sales disclosed that the Board had taken no action in Closed Session.

Report Out on Closed Session

9.2 CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Dilles made a correction to the President's Report on the prior minutes of November 20, 2008. Trustee Mann requested that Consent Agenda Item 9.2.4, Approval to submit application for funding, Healthy Lifestyles Initiative Grant be discussed and considered as a separate item.

Consent Agenda Action #688

It was M.S.C. (Marani/Mann) that the Consent Agenda, be adopted with noted correction to the November 20, 2008 minutes, and amended to consider Item 9.2.4 Approval to submit application for funding, Healthy Lifestyles Initiative Grant as a separate item.

Aye: Unanimous
Abstain: None
Absent: None

9.2.4 Approval to submit application for funding, Pajaro Valley Community Health Trust, Healthy Lifestyles Initiative Grant

Trustee Mann noted the grant is intended as a “second” grant and inquired as to the history of the initial grant. Superintendent Watkins explained the continuation of the grant would allow the Physical Education for Body, Mind and Spirit Program to continue at Watsonville Community High School. Trustee Mann queried if there are measured results data relative to the martial arts component of the program. Mr. Watkins confirmed that the initial grant was a partnership and that measured data on resultant student focus is available. Mrs. Mann expressed concern that the martial arts and yoga components may have a religious context.. Mr. Watkins assured Trustee Mann that only the physical and focus of mind aspects are taught. Trustee Marani queried if the funding included the Healthy Lifestyles Program in Pajaro Valley Unified School District Schools. Alternative Education Program Manager, John Rice, replied that the subject grant funds the County Office of Education, Alternative Education Program schools in south county. A separate grant funds a Healthy Lifestyles program in the Santa Cruz City Schools District.

It was M.S.C. (Marani/Levine) to adopt Consent Agenda Item 9.2.4.

Action #689

Ayes: Unanimous
Abstain: None
Absent: None

9.3 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to nor from the Board to report.

Correspondence

9.4 **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent's
Report

Superintendent Watkins reported the following matters and events:

Pacific Collegiate School Facility

Santa Cruz City Schools District and Pacific Collegiate School appear to have reached a tentative agreement, contingent upon clarification of details, on the matter of the lease of the Natural Bridges School facility. Depika Shrestha-Ross, PCS Board President, has expressed her appreciation to President Dilles and myself for our efforts in mediating a settlement.

Pacific Collegiate School Recognition

U.S. News & World Report recently ranked PCS the number 3 high school in the country and the top public charter school. The ranking is based on Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests which measure academic achievement for placement in college or university.

Pacific Collegiate was also this month named California Honor Roll School for 2008 by the California Business for Education Excellence.

**Regional Occupational Program, Retail Merchandising Class
Fashion Show**

Nevenka Radich, ROP Instructor of the Retail Merchandising Class, once again inspired her Watsonville High School students to new relevancy in producing the 11th annual Fall Fashion Show. Students are responsible for all aspects of the production. Congratulations to the students, Ms. Radich and ROP management for their work in this highly successful student showcase.

United Way Community Assessment Project Report

I joined business and community leaders at a press conference at the Watsonville Civic Plaza in late November to unveil the 2008 Community Assessment Project Report and to recognize several contributors to the area's quality of life in the areas of economy, education, health, the environment, public safety and the social environment. Early childhood programs were acknowledged as making a positive impact on education in the County.

Youth Awareness Program – Hunger in Our Community

I met with Ron Slack, publisher of Good Times, Willie Elliott-McCrea,

Director of Second Harvest Food Bank, as well as Pancho Rodriguez, Principal, Pajaro Valley High School, and Murry Schekman, Principal of Watsonville High School, to discuss formation of a youth awareness program to educate and involve students in public schools to address hunger within the community. The matter became even more relevant last week when State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell warned that state funding for the free and reduced-price lunches program for students could run out of money before the end of the current school year.

Homeless Project Phone Bank

The County Office of Education facility was made available to the Santa Cruz Homeless Project for their annual by-phone fundraiser. About forty volunteers utilized our facility and phone system between the hours of 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on December 8, to make local calls to potential donors. The Homeless Project reports the fundraiser was a success.

Project Impact

Nancy Serigstad, Project Coordinator, Traci Hart, Director of Human Resources, and I met to finalize the curriculum for the first full schedule Project Impact, teachers' intern program which begins in January.

Teacher Pipeline

I continue to meet with Ron Glass, UCSC, and grant writers to apply for funding to support the Teacher Pipeline project. Teacher Pipeline will support local university students in their career path based upon their commitment to entering the teaching profession in Santa Cruz County public schools.

Inside Education

Participants of the Inside Education Program were welcomed last week to the fourth in the series of nine sessions introducing them to the educational process, opportunities and programs in our public schools in Santa Cruz County. The focus last week was on Special Education. In addition to an overview of special education, the group visited special education programs at Green Acres School, the Special Connections Family Resource Center and the autistic program at Chrysalis Center. Participants also visited the Special Day Preschool class and Special Day Kindergarten classes at Bay View Elementary School.

Teacher Housing Assistance

Susan Midori-Jones, California Teachers' Association representative, Larry Tousey, President, Santa Cruz County Office of Education teachers' bargaining unit and I met to begin discussion on how the SCCOE and the teachers' union might assist teachers in procuring housing in the County.

ROP Expansion in Watsonville

I conducted an initial meeting with Antonio Rivas, mayor of Watsonville, to discussion expansion of ROP classes in Watsonville schools. Mayor Rivas, Bryan Wall and I will meet shortly after the beginning of the new year to continue this discussion.

Drug and Alcohol Prevention

Julie Haff, Superintendent, San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District, Bill Manoff, County Drug and Alcohol Prevention, and I met relative to partnering to present a series of parent education workshops to address teen drug and alcohol abuse. We will incorporate the County Office of Education, Student Support Services, successful DUI Prevention Program. The kick-off event will be scheduled for a date in January.

Pacific Elementary School, Davenport

Both Associate Superintendent Barney Finlay and I continue to meet with school and county environmental representatives, Sharon Smith, Principal/Superintendent and the district board regarding the finding of Chromium 6 levels in the Davenport area. Recent tests indicate an abatement but the situation will continue to be monitored.

Superintendents' Council

District superintendents and I will meet sometime in January or early February for a one-day superintendents' retreat to focus on creating new and innovative collaborative efforts to assist all districts and the COE to achieve goals and successfully deliver services during the current fiscal climate.

Children's Health Insurance

Leslie Connor, Health Improvement Partnership of Santa Cruz County, representing that organization and the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) addressed the superintendents at our monthly meeting. MRMIB administers the Healthy Families program and, in collaboration with First 5 California, and First 5 of Santa Cruz County are dedicated to ensuring all students have health care. First 5 has pledged funding to

continue the program in light of an enrollment freeze imposed by the state economy.

High School Teachers Recognition Event

Several high school teachers from throughout the County were recognized for outstanding merit at a celebratory event at the Chaminade sponsored by the Region 5 California League of High Schools. Theresa Rouse, Rowland Banker and I attended.

Facility Activities Committee (FAC) Holiday Celebration

Thank you to members of FAC who provided employees with another annual holidays luncheon. FAC members sponsor monthly employee participation events, each of which are appreciated by participating employees, in order to fund the reduced price luncheon.

Bay Avenue Property Update

Associate Superintendent Barney Finlay and I met the last week in November with representatives of Redtree Properties relative to negotiations with a potential lessor of approximately 22,000 square feet of the Bay Avenue Property. Redtree will forward a proposal for our consideration.

CSBA Education Conference

Trustees Aaron Hinde, Vic Marani, Bud Winslow, Arnie Levine, and Jack Dilles as well as Theresa Rouse and myself attended the California School Boards Association's annual education conference earlier this month. Workshops and discussion groups were a beneficial resource for staying current on wide scope of matters of interest to the Board.

I personally found clinics on implementing environmentally friendly practices and policies, the resultant monetary savings, and improved learning outcomes of merit, as well as a critical issues workshop focused on 21st Century learning.

Retirement

Maria Bispo, Executive Assistant to Alice Talnack, Associate Superintendent of Student Services, is retiring the end of December. Maria was hired in that position in May, 2001.
Thank you and congratulations, Maria.

Monthly

Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education Advisory Council
County Intergovernmental Relations Committee
First 5 Commission
PVPSA
Steinbeck Board of Directors
United Way Board of Directors
New Teacher Project Steering Committee
Pre-school Steering Committee
Migrant Head Start Executive Board
Children's Network
Superintendents' Council

9.6 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Unfinished

There was no unfinished business to conduct.

9.7 NEW BUSINESS and ACTION ITEMS:

New Business

And Action Items

9.7.1 APPROVAL OF 2009-2010 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR

Approval of 2009-

2010 Budget Development

Action #690

Following discussion, relative to timelines, adjustments for extraordinary circumstances, and provision of narratives with any changes, it was M.S.C. (Levine/Dilles) to approve the 2009-2010 Budget Development Calendar as submitted.

Ayes: Unanimous

Abstain: None

Absent: None

9.7.2(A) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 08-10 TO TAX DEFER MEMBER PAID CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM AS EMPLOYER PICK-UP

Adoption of Resolution #08-10

Action #691

Following clarification and discussion, it was M.S.C. (Winslow/Dilles) to adopt Resolution No. 08-10.

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

**9.7.2(b) Adoption of Resolution #08-11
to Tax Defer Employer Paid Contributions
to the Public Employees Retirement
System (non-management employees)**

Adoption of
Resolution No.08-11

Action #692

It was M.S.C. (Marani/Dilles) to adopt
Resolution #08-11.

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

9.8 REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Reports and
Information Items
First Interim

9.8.1 First Interim Financial Report

In accordance with Education Code Section 1240(1), Associate Superintendent Barney Finlay verbally presented a summary of the First Interim Financial Report. Mr. Finlay reported that the First Interim Report certifies that the County Office of Education budget is a positive certification that the agency will be financially positive through the current year and subsequent two years, and furthermore, that the budget is slightly in a better state than when initially adopted in June, 2008. Mr. Finlay reviewed and highlighted information contained in the full written report contained in the Board packet and responded to Board inquires and comments.

Associate Superintendent Finlay followed the report with a brief, current update on the status of Legislative deliberations relative to the State budget.

9.8.2 Board President's Report

Board President's

Past President Dilles reported that he had attended the California School Boards Association Annual education conference and found of particular interest a presentation relative to charter schools, and a session on statewide demographic projections.

9.8.3 Board Trustees' Reports

Trustees' Reports

President Sales thanked Trustee Levine for coordinating a social event in honor of board trustees who relinquished their seats November 30th.

Trustee Levine attended the California School Boards Association annual education conference and California County Boards of Education events conducted within the conference schedule. Mr. Levine gave a general report on CSBA membership dues. Mr. Levine announced the correct date of the annual county spelling be to be March 8, 2009. Trustee Levine extended a personal welcome to incoming Board Trustees.

Trustee Mann reported her granddaughter was a recent attendee of the County Office of Education Outdoor Science School and gave it the highest rating.

Trustee Marani invited trustees to attend the Aptos Junior High School production of Sleeping Beauty, his daughter being a performer in the production. Mr. Marani attended the California School Boards Association annual conference. He attended, among other presentations, a full-day seminar on the subject of charter schools, a session on the Brown Act, and found of particular interest a session titled *What to do when your district can't cut any more*. Trustee Marani accompanied Trustee Dilles to Scotts Valley School District meetings and administration of Oath ceremonies. Mr. Marani addressed the District Board relative to consideration of televising District

Board meetings in order to educate the public with a clear understanding of possible funding cuts to education. Mr. Marani recognized Associate Superintendent Finlay's cogent presentation and the need to give it public visibility. Mr. Marani attended the Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board meeting during which Superintendent Watkins provided the annual Williams Legislation Report to the District Board.

Trustee Winslow made no report.

Trustee Hinde attended the California School Boards Association annual conference. Sessions of particular personal interest to Mr. Hinde focused on autistic students and the effect of educating autistic students on local districts' finances.. Mr. Hinde reported that a session on student dietary issues revealed that districts meet minimal dietary requirements and the resultant effects on student learning, concentration and behavior. Mr. Hinde attended the most recent San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District Board meeting. Mr. Hinde met with that district's special education director and witnessed County Office of Education Special Education staff working with the director's daughter.

9.8.4 Future Board Agenda Items

Future Board

Trustee Marani suggested that an agenda item be included on each monthly board agenda under the heading Future Board Agenda Items in order to provide transparency to the public regarding upcoming items to be brought before the Board as well as to provide staff preparation time. Timelines and schedules will be established by the Board.

Trustee Dilles proposed the following items for future placement:

- a) Board Retreat and Agenda
- b) Discussion of Board's oversight role relative to Pacific Collegiate Charter School

Trustee Marani proposed the following items for future placement on the agenda:

- a) Televised board meetings
- b) Student Board Representative

Trustee Hinde proposed the following items for future placement on the agenda:

- a) Student dietary issues, recommendations and making information available to districts

9.8.5 Future Agenda Items:

January 15, 2009	2007-2008 Fiscal Year Annual Audit Report Program Report: Regional Occupational Program
February 19, 2009	County Treasurer's Quarterly Investment Report Program Report: To be determined
March 19, 2009	2008-09 Second Interim Financial Report Program Report: To be determined
May 21, 2009	Board Review 2009-2010 SCCOE Preliminary Budget Program Report: To be determined
June 18, 2009	Adoption of 2009-2010 SCCOE Budget Program Report: To be determined

10.0 SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

Schedule

January 8, 2009, 6:00 p.m.	Board Trustees Training Workshop
January 15, 2009, 2:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board
February 19, 2009, 2:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board
March 19, 2009, 2:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting of the Board

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

President Sales adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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