

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: February 18, 2009

Meeting Location: Board Rooms A and B
101 Twin Dolphin Drive
Redwood City, California

Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro, Jim Cannon, Rhonda Ceccato,
Beverly Gerard, Rod Hsiao, Ted Lempert,
Memo Morantes

Staff Officials Present: Jean Holbrook, Secretary
Marcia Serpa-Garcia, Staff Secretary

Other County Office of
Education Staff Present: Jeannie Bosley, Nirmala Dillman, Carol
Harriman, Jeanie McLoughlin, Theresa Parsons,
Porter Sexton, Glenn Siegel

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Cannon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and noted that the meeting was being taped.

Dr. Holbrook led the Board of Trustees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Ms. Gerard, seconded by Mr. Hsiao, and the Board unanimously approved the February 18, 2009, agenda as presented.

3. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

Mr. Cannon introduced the February 2009 Employee of the Month, Michael Rachal, Custodial/Maintenance Worker, Facilities Services. Mr. Cannon congratulated Mr. Rachal on behalf of the Board and the Superintendent, and presented him with a clock and a check.

4. **PUBLIC HEARING**

- a. Public Hearing on Initial Proposal from the San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA), CTA/NEA, to the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for 2008-2009 Collective Bargaining Agreement

PUBLIC HEARING (continued)

Mr. Cannon announced that the Board would hold a Public Hearing on the Initial Proposal from the San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA), CTA/NEA, to the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for 2008-2009. Hearing no public expression, Mr. Cannon declared the Public Hearing closed.

- b. Public Hearing on Initial Proposal from the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools to the San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA), CTA/NEA, for 2008-2009 Collective Bargaining Agreement

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5. PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD, DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS

There were no persons wishing to address the Board.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2009, REGULAR MEETING

A Board Member raised a question regarding the Expulsion Appeal heard at the February 4 Board meeting.

It was moved by Ms. Gerard, seconded by Ms. Alvaro, and the Board unanimously approved the February 4, 2009, regular meeting minutes.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Lempert, seconded by Mr. Morantes, and the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda taking the following action:

- a. Receive Staffing Reports
- b. Adopt Joint Resolution 09-4 Commending Ava Failla

8. INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

a. Receive Status Report on Preschool Activities

Dr. Holbrook introduced Jeanie McLoughlin, Director, Preschool For All, and Nirmala Dillman, Coordinator, Child Care Partnership Council. She said that she is a member of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association's State Pre-K Task Force, and knows that Ms. McLoughlin and Ms. Dillman are well respected in their fields throughout the State, and asked them to report on the status of preschool activities throughout the State.

Dr. Holbrook also congratulated Ms. McLoughlin for the recent announcement that the Preschool For All Program has been selected to receive a site visit for a possible Kent Award from the San Mateo County School Boards Association.

Ms. McLoughlin reported that approximately one year ago, the "Water Cooler" effort began as a way to bring together diverse groups with stakes in the success of California's youngest children in a "big tent" approach to help heal the divisions caused by Proposition 82, and more closely ally early childhood (0-5) with K-12, health, social services, and beyond. She said that the goal is to find a common ground to identify, align, and influence, future policy directions. In 2008, SB1629 was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger and establishes a state-level commission to recommend a State Early Learning Quality Improvement System, which will develop policy and an implementation plan for improving the quality of early education programs. She said that it includes a quality rating scale to help parents make informed decisions about programs for their children, and a funding model to help existing and future programs reach and maintain higher levels of quality. Ms. McLoughlin said that the 13-member commission will conduct an assessment and analysis of the existing early care and education infrastructure, and may consider issues ranging from teacher qualifications and compensation, parent involvement, English Learner support, children with special needs, and group size and ratios. The Committee will provide an interim report to the Legislature and Governor by the end of 2009, and a final report one year later. She also presented an overview of the California Preschool Instructional Network stating that its purpose is to provide professional development and technical assistance to preschool teachers and administrators to ensure preschool children are ready for school. Ms. McLoughlin then talked about Proposition 10 (tax on tobacco products) which funds the California Children and Families commissions, more widely known as First 5, that distributes funds to local communities through the state's 58 individual counties. She said that San Mateo County has recently completed a 5-year plan and has been asked by First 5 to submit a proposal for a new 3-year Early Childhood Program and Quality Enhancement Project. Ms. McLoughlin said that Proposition 10 is one of several ballot initiatives that has been proposed for a May special election and could redirect funding from First 5 at the state and local levels.

Ms. Dillman reported that the new California State Preschool Program would take effect in July 2009 and would take the five different funding streams that currently fund early childhood education for 3 and 4 year olds, and create one large program for California. She said that it will give new local flexibility to serve children in a part-day or full-day format depending on the changing needs of the particular community. Ms. Dillman then reported on the San Mateo Subsidy Pilot, which she said was in its fifth year of operation and was created by Assembly Bill

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES (continued)

1326 in response to problems that the one-size-fits-all subsidy system presented to high cost counties. She said that this pilot has allowed stabilization of the childcare infrastructure and added that 10 percent more children are now being served. Ms. Dillman reported that because of the San Mateo Subsidy Pilot's success, Senate Bill 1304 was created by Senator Joe Simitian to extend it for five years. She talked about the effects of the state budget on the early childcare infrastructure and the potential downsizing of First 5 funds, but added that the Federal Economic Stimulus plan has potential opportunities these programs. Ms. McLoughlin and Ms. Dillman then answered questions from the Board.

Mr. Lempert thanked Ms. McLoughlin and Ms. Dillman for the work that they do for early childhood education and said that they are well respected by their peers in the state. He said that it makes him proud to be a Member of the County Board of Education and live in the community of San Mateo County.

Mr. Hsiao mentioned that as a former Commissioner of First 5 he has seen amazing progress in San Mateo County regarding early childhood education, and said that it is a travesty that Ms. McLoughlin and Ms. Dillman now have to spend so much time trying to figure out how to backfill the state funding that is now being threatened. He thanked both of them for their efforts.

9. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

a. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Holbrook thanked Ms. McLoughlin and Ms. Dillman for their efforts and said that she has had the opportunity to work with each of them and is proud to be associated with the leadership that they bring to early childhood.

Dr. Holbrook provided the Board with an update on the Rollins Road Regional Occupational Program construction project. She reported that the physical work is virtually complete with only a few minor details to be corrected. She said what remains is primarily the submission of required certifications and other documentation to the State to receive final approvals. Dr. Holbrook said that the County Office of Education recently received notification from the architectural firm handling this project that it intends to file for bankruptcy, a decision the firm attributes to the current economic climate. She reported that County Office staff has met with the firm and developed a plan for completion of the work in as timely and cost effective manner as possible, with a goal of avoiding any need to file a claim under the bankruptcy proceedings. Dr. Holbrook said that she would keep the Board apprised of the status until it's fully completed.

Dr. Holbrook reported that she, along with Ms. Ceccato, Mr. Morantes, Mr. Hsiao and Mr. Cannon, attended the 17th District PTA Founders' Day Luncheon on Tuesday, February 17, and said that the PTA appreciated their support. She said that she was pleased to present an Honorary Service Award to Spark, and, along with Mr. Hsiao, to accept one for the Peninsula Partnership Leadership Council.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Dr. Holbrook thanked Mr. Hsiao for arranging a meeting with Margie Gustafson, Administrator, Internal Business Services, Jeanne Bencharsky, Manager, Facilities Services, Mr. Hsiao, herself and two representatives from School Energy Efficiency (SEE), a third party contractor for Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Company, who came and talked about an energy audit.

Dr. Holbrook reported that the Resource Area For Teaching office is almost complete and said that open houses will begin in March, and invited the Board Members to preview the area prior to the March 18 Board meeting.

Dr. Holbrook drew the Board's attention to handouts located at their places regarding the state budget. She highlighted items in the California Association of School Business Officials Newsbreak for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, and asked Theresa Parsons, Associate Superintendent, Fiscal and Operational Services, to give the Board an update on the fiscal report.

Ms. Parsons reported that the most of the school districts in the State of California use School Services of California to provide factors used in developing their budgets. She said that the districts will typically use that information until the state budget is passed or until new information is received. Ms. Parsons said that currently the districts are looking at two different budgets, the Governor's Budget that was presented in January 2009 and now a budget that is being considered by the Legislature. She reviewed the differences in the two budgets that are outlined in the fiscal report and then answered questions from the Board.

Dr. Holbrook drew the Board's attention to the Youth and Family Enrichment Services Starting Line Breakfast on Wednesday, March 25. She mentioned that it takes place on the same date as the next Board Budget Subcommittee meeting and asked the subcommittee members if they would be able to start at 9:30 a.m. rather than 9:00 a.m.

It was the consensus of the Board Budget Subcommittee to start the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

10. BOARD POLICY REVIEW

a. Status Report on Board Policy Review

Dr. Holbrook asked Dr. Porter Sexton to provide the Board with a report on the progress of the Board Policy Review.

Dr. Sexton reviewed the numeric list of Board Policies and their status. He mentioned that staff is currently working on Board Regulations and Administrative Regulations, and said that he anticipates that all Board Policies, Regulations and Administrative Regulation will be completed within two to three months.

BOARD POLICY REVIEW (continued)

b. Second Reading and Action

The Board conducted a second reading of proposed revisions to policies:

- (1) BP 3510 Special Education Transportation
- (2) BP 3610 Security of Computerized Personal Information
- (3) BP 4562 Industrial Accident or Illness Leave
- (4) BP 5130 Alcohol and Other Drugs
- (5) BP 5241 Medical Assistance or Aid
- (6) BP 5243 Infectious Diseases
- (7) BP 5282 Academic Research Involving Students

It was moved by Mr. Morantes, seconded by Mr. Lempert, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed revisions.

c. First Reading

The Board had a first reading of proposed policies:

- (1) BP 4554 Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace
- (2) BP 4560.1 Personal Necessity Leave
- (3) BP 6510 Regional Occupational Program

11. BOARD MEMBERS

a. Legislation

There was no report on Legislation.

b. Discuss and/or Cast Ballot for Beverly J. Gerard as the 2009 California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly Representative From Region V

It was moved by Mr. Morantes, seconded by Ms. Ceccato, and Board voted unanimously to cast its ballot for Ms. Gerard as the 2009 California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly Representative from Region V.

c. Board Member Comments

Mr. Morantes

No items to report

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Ms. Ceccato

Ms. Ceccato reported that she attended the PTA Founders' Day Luncheon on Tuesday, February 17, and said that Dr. Holbrook did a wonderful job representing the County Office of Education. She said that Mr. Hsiao also did an excellent job accepting the PTA award on behalf of the Peninsula Partnership Leadership Council.

Mr. Lempert

No items to report.

Ms. Alvaro

Ms. Alvaro announced that she will attend the Half Moon Bay Coastside "Coastalwealth" event on Wednesday, March 11, with Karen Philip, Deputy Superintendent.

Ms. Alvaro reported that Beverly Johnson from the Human Services Agency, will chair the Juvenile Justice Committee recently formed regarding minority confinement. She mentioned that the committee had conversations regarding expulsions during their most recent meeting, and that she asked Aimee Armsby, Deputy County Counsel, to prepare a document explaining how expulsions are handled. Ms. Alvaro mentioned that Cheryl Hightower has also agreed to participate in this committee and represent the County Office of Education.

Mr. Hsiao

Mr. Hsiao reported that he attended the PTA Founders' Day Luncheon and said that it was touching to see how many people have participated and contributed to the PTA for many years.

Mr. Hsiao reported that the meeting with SEE was very constructive. He said that the wide array of items to be looked at could lead to immediate and future cost savings.

Mr. Hsiao reported that on Friday, February 13, he was the co-coordinator for the joint Leadership Program for San Mateo/Foster City/Hillsborough/Burlingame Chamber of Commerce Education Day. He thanked Dr. Gary Waddell, Administrator of Curriculum Services for speaking about No Child Left Behind.

Mr. Hsiao thanked Ms. Philip for providing him with a copy of the School Attendance Review Board Handbook. He said the information helped him while participating on a conference call with the Community Schools Association regarding absenteeism and how it contributes to drop outs and underperformance in school.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Ms. Gerard

Ms. Gerard thanked the Board for their vote of confidence in electing her as their representative to the CSBA Delegate Assembly. She announced that she will attend the Delegate Assembly Meeting in Sacramento, in May.

Ms. Gerard announced that she had received a letter from the Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School asking her to participate in Principal For a Day.

Mr. Cannon

Mr. Cannon thanked Dr. Holbrook for representing the County Board of Education at the PTA Founders' Day Luncheon, and commended the speech that she gave.

Mr. Cannon thanked Dr. Holbrook and the Cabinet Members for the balanced agendas that they prepare.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Jean Holbrook, Ed.D., Secretary

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