

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: March 4, 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, Memo Morantes

Absent: Ted Lempert

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

Other County Office of
Education Staff Present: Jeannie Bosley, Deann Cavagnaro-Walsh,
Carol Harriman, Cheryl Hightower,
Theresa Parsons, Karen Philip, Porter Sexton,
Glenn Siegel, Gary Waddell

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.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. Gerard led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Mr. Morantes, seconded by Ms. Gerard, and the Board unanimously approved the March 4, 2009, agenda as presented.

4. **PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD, DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS**

There were no persons wishing to address the Board.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2009, REGULAR MEETING

It was moved by Ms. Gerard, seconded by Mr. Morantes, and the Board unanimously approved the February 18, 2009, regular meeting minutes.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Ms. Ceccato, seconded by Ms. Alvaro, and the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda taking the following action:

- a. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 09-5 Recognizing the Week of the School Administrator
- b. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 09-6 Commending Richard Dean Ruhl

7. INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Cheryl Hightower, Associate Superintendent, Instructional Services Division, introduced Gary Waddell, Administrator, Curriculum Services, who gave the Board an update on the recent Zap the Gap: 3rd Annual Conference to Close the Achievement Gap, and Deann Cavagnaro-Walsh, Educational Data Analyst, Curriculum Services, who along with Dr. Waddell provided an update on state and federal accountability data.

- a. Receive Report on Zap the Gap: 3rd Annual Mini-Conference to Close the Achievement Gap

Dr. Waddell reported that on January 26, the Curriculum Services staff hosted the 3rd Annual Zap the Gap conference for approximately 150 educators. He reviewed the goals of the conference which were:

- Initiate/deepen conversations on the achievement gap;
- Increase knowledge through research and models of best practice;
- Expand the will and skill of schools in creating systems that reduce/eliminate racial predictability in achievement.

Dr. Waddell said that educators must remain focused on knowing the students well and sharing a commitment to their success. He reviewed the California Standards Test Scores from 2008 for the different ethnic and economic groups, and said that talks given by Prudence L. Carter, Ph.D., Professor at Stanford University; Anthony Smith, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction Innovation and Social Justice, San Francisco Unified School District; and Dr. Kate Kinsella from San Francisco State University, addressed issues for future academic success. Dr. Waddell said that the feedback from conference participants was very positive, and thanked the Curriculum Services staff for their hard work putting the conference together. He answered questions from the Board.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES (continued)

b. Receive Report on San Mateo County Achievement Data

Dr. Waddell and Ms. Cavagnaro-Walsh provided the Board with an overview of achievement data for San Mateo County schools. Ms. Cavagnaro-Walsh reported on the state accountability model, which is known as Academic Performance Index (API), and Dr. Waddell reported on the federal accountability model, which is known as Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and can lead to Program Improvement (PI).

Ms. Cavagnaro-Walsh explained that API test scores yield a grade of 200-1000 with a statewide performance target of 800. A growth target identifies the minimum growth required of a school: 5% of the distance from the Base API to the statewide performance target of 800. Ms. Cavagnaro-Walsh reported that recent updates to the API scores in San Mateo County show the following:

- 20 districts showed an API increase;
- 11 districts had a Growth API at or above 800;
- 87 schools (55.4%) met school-wide and subgroup growth targets in 2008 versus 52.5% in 2007;
- 77 schools (50%) had API Growth above 800 versus 43.7% in 2007.

Dr. Waddell explained that the AYP test scores are part of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), and that this model is based on proficiency rather than growth. He said that the factors for the AYP scores are:

- 95% participation rate;
- Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math overall and for subgroups;
- Growth of 1 point on API or score of 620;
- Graduation Rate of 83% or satisfactory improvement of same.

Dr. Waddell reviewed the results from the recent updates and said that the percentages for schools and districts meeting AYP targets have decreased from 2007, leading to an increased number at risk for Program Improvement. He said that the County Office of Education's Networks for Success Program has been offered to the at-risk schools and districts as a resource to help them avoid going in to Program Improvement. Dr. Waddell said that continued focus on closing the achievement gap while raising the achievement of all students remains a top focus of the Curriculum Services Program even during these fiscally challenging times. He then answered questions from the Board.

Dr. Holbrook asked Dr. Waddell to comment on the reauthorization of NCLB, and aligning the State and Federal Accountability programs.

Dr. Waddell said that the community is waiting to see about the reauthorization of NCLB, and said that one issue between the State and Federal Programs is growth versus proficiency. Students can be making progress year over year but their growth is not measured; only whether or not they met the standard. He said that the method of testing is also an issue, regarding whether to use multiple choice or a richer form of assessment.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES (continued)

Dr. Holbrook asked what it would look like if the County Office provided support to more schools and districts that fall into the Program Improvement category.

Dr. Waddell said that the process a school or district must use if they fall into Program Improvement is intensive. They must examine their instructional practices, look at instructional materials, teaching, learning, and professional development. He said that everyone wants to ensure that all children are successful, but many more schools and districts are entering the Program Improvement category.

8. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

a. Budget Update

Dr. Holbrook reported that the 17-month State budget was signed two days after the last Board meeting. She said that much of the information that she and Theresa Parsons, Associate Superintendent, Fiscal and Operational Services, shared with the Board at that meeting became part of the budget. Dr. Holbrook explained that Ms. Parsons and Margie Gustafson, Administrator, Internal Business Services, are currently working on the Second Interim Report, which will include detail about the effect on the current year's budget, and said that report will be presented at the second meeting in March.

She provided the Board with highlights of new information that affects the County Office of Education budget:

- 15% reduction this year and an additional 4.5% next year, with a net reduction over the next 17 months equaling 19.84%.
- Williams Audits – Tier 3 – allocation will be reduced the full 19.84% (with flexibility)
- AB 1200 Fiscal Oversight – Tier 2 – allocation will be reduced the full 19.84% (no flexibility)

Total reduction in 2008-2009 for State restricted revenues equals \$474,397.

Dr. Holbrook commented that the County Office of Education will probably not receive extra Federal Stimulus funds for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) special education, but that the County Office of Education will probably receive some additional Title I money. She also mentioned that the districts have been informed that they cannot include the Federal Stimulus dollars in their budgets until they receive an appropriations letter. In terms of the County Office budget, worksheets have been sent to each of the programs for their input as the next step in preparing the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. She then answered questions from the Board.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

b. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Holbrook reported that Dean Ruhl, retired Custodial/Maintenance Worker, sent his appreciation of the Board's Retirement Resolution, and said that he would come to a future meeting to say goodbye to the Board Members.

Dr. Holbrook reported that earlier in the day a Resource Area For Teaching (RAFT) Open House was held for the staff at 101 Twin Dolphin Drive. She said that Special Education K-12 teachers were here for a professional development day and were also able to attend the Open House event. Dr. Holbrook announced that because of the partnership with RAFT and the COE providing space in the building, RAFT has provided memberships to all San Mateo County Educators Association members and Outdoor Education staff. Dr. Holbrook announced that at 6:30 p.m., prior to the Board Meeting of March 18, arrangements have been made for the Board to take a tour of the RAFT facility.

Dr. Holbrook announced that Dr. Porter Sexton, Senior Administrator, Board and Superintendent Support, submitted a \$25,000 grant proposal for RAFT to Recycle Works, and reported that it was funded.

Dr. Holbrook reported that Jeanne Bencharsky, Manager, Facilities Services, has a meeting scheduled with David Casentini and Corey Grace from Resource Solutions Group, to plan for an energy audit for the County Office of Education building located at 101 Twin Dolphin Drive in Redwood City. She said that the meeting and energy audit were scheduled as a follow up to a request made by the Board Environment Subcommittee and a subsequent meeting with COE staff.

Dr. Holbrook announced that the State Distinguished Schools program changed its focus this year to honor middle and high schools that have narrowed the achievement gap. She drew the Board's attention to a list of the San Mateo County schools that are being visited by review teams, including three high schools and four middle schools in five districts. Dr. Holbrook said that later in the spring, the State will announce the Distinguished Schools. She reported that April Cherrington, Math Coordinator, Curriculum Services, is coordinating the review process and that Mr. Cannon served on the review team for Fernando Rivera Middle School and thanked him for participating.

Dr. Holbrook reported that the three District Superintendents who have announced their retirements at the end of this year are: Dr. David Miller, San Mateo Union High School District; Barbara Olds, South San Francisco Unified School District; and, Marilyn Miller, Hillsborough School District.

Dr. Holbrook mentioned that last spring Karen Philip, Deputy Superintendent, shared with the Board the extensive classroom visits she made during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. She said that Ms. Philip has continued regular visits this year and asked her to share a recent visit she made to a Regional Occupational Program (ROP) class.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Ms. Philip said that on Tuesday, March 3, she visited the biotechnology class located at San Mateo High School, where the students were isolating DNA strands and cloning orchids. She said the students were engaged and inspired and she enjoyed watching them work. Ms. Philip said that the class is currently located in the former wood shop, and added that the district will soon break ground for a new biotechnology lab facility on the campus. Ms. Philip also mentioned that Ellyn Daugherty, Teacher, San Mateo Biotechnology Career Pathway, wrote the textbook and the lab manual for the program, and that these materials are also used at 400 high schools and 100 colleges throughout the country. Ms. Philip reported that this class is part of the ROP course sequencing with the community colleges, as well as with other high schools throughout San Mateo County. She then answered questions from the Board.

[NOTE: A letter of commendation was received for Mason Harris, Audiologist, Special Education, from Ms. Eileen Campbell, Parent, Cabrillo School.]

9. BOARD POLICY REVIEW

a. Second Reading and Action

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

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

It was moved by Ms. Gerard, seconded by Ms. Ceccato, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed revisions.

b. First Reading

The Board had a first reading of proposed policies:

- (1) BP 3440 Use of Facilities by Outside Groups
- (2) BP 4510 Equal Employment Opportunity
- (3) BP 4553 Employee Health and Safety

Mr. Cannon thanked Dr. Sexton for his efforts on the Board Policy Review project.

10. BOARD MEMBERS

a. Legislation

There was no report on Legislation.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

b. Board Member Comments

Mr. Morantes

Mr. Morantes reported that he attended the Redwood City Chamber of Commerce Education Committee earlier in the day where a presentation was made by Jan Christensen, Superintendent, Redwood City Elementary School District, on a parcel tax that is being proposed.

Ms. Ceccato

No items to report.

Ms. Gerard

No items to report.

Mr. Hsiao

Mr. Hsiao reported that he participated in a tour of the Court and Community Schools with Judith Tichy, Director, Educational Services, Court and Community Schools, and Susan Benz, Manager, Educational Services, Court and Community Schools, and said that he was impressed seeing the students so focused on their schoolwork. He said that he also met some of the Cleo Eulau Center counselors at the various locations and was impressed with the counseling services they provide to the students in the classroom. Mr. Hsiao thanked Ms. Tichy and Ms. Benz for taking the time to show him this program.

Ms. Alvaro

No items to report.

Mr. Cannon

Mr. Cannon reported that he participated in the Distinguished School visitation to Fernando Rivera Middle School in the Jefferson Elementary School District. He said that this has been a good school for many years and that it was gratifying to see it become even better. Mr. Cannon said that he enjoyed working with Lori Musso, Coordinator, Reading/Language Arts, Curriculum Services, on this visitation.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Jean Holbrook, Ed.D., Secretary

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