

**SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

March 4, 2003
MINUTES

Douglas E. Giles
Educational Resource Center
9619 Cuyamaca Street
Santee, California

SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION – 6:15 p.m.

1. Public Employee Appointment: Superintendent

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order and Welcome

President Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Members present:

Barbara Ryan, President
Dianne El-Hajj, Vice President
Cathy Abel, Clerk
Dustin Burns, Member
Julie McIntosh, Member

Staff present:

Marcia Johnson, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board
Carolyn Harness, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Lisbeth Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Bill Stumbaugh, Director, Pupil Services
Sue Yakubik, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Arletta Schaffer, Recording Secretary

2. President Ryan invited Boy Scouts Kyle Bies, Hill Creek seventh grader, and Daniel Price, Cajon Park seventh grader, to lead the members, staff and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of Agenda

President Ryan presented a request to add an agenda item of an urgent nature entitled "F.1.2. Approval of Suspension of Board Policy 6115, Observance of Patriotic Exercises." The need for this item did not come to light until after the posting of the meeting agenda. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of the emergency item.

Motion:	McIntosh
Second:	Abel
Vote:	5 – 0

B. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Superintendent's Report
 - 1.1. Requests for Use of Facilities
 - 1.2. Enrollment Report
 - 1.3. Developer Fees Collection Report
 - 1.4. Schedule of Upcoming Events

With the anniversary of the Santana shooting approaching, Member Burns asked that the Board adjourn in memory of the victims and families.

2. 2002 Base Academic Performance Index (API) Reports Including California English Language Development Test (CELDT) Results

Lis Johnson introduced the item by describing the two-part report: CELDT results and reconfigured API scores. Pat Shaw began with the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) assessment. A total of 527 students took the CELDT and 79 of those are classified as advanced (Level 5) and may be ready to promote out of the program. Many of our students are Level 3, 4 and 5. 369 students were taking the test for the second year and 76 percent showed scale score gains. Dr. Shaw reported that it takes about 3 hours to administer this test to students. About 45 minutes of that time is 1:1 time administering the speaking and hearing portion of the assessment. The majority of students take the test from September to mid-October. Overall, our ELL students are doing well. Some challenges are a high population of ELL students at Prospect Avenue School (25% of the population) with a great diversity of languages. We are fortunate to have well-trained bilingual aides to administer the test and support students.

Lis Johnson continued the report by addressing the reconfigured API scores. New weights for API are geared to California's high standards. Eighty percent of the next year's API score will rest on the California standards test. In the past the norm-referenced test was weighted at 100 percent. As we change the weights of the STAR test, it challenges school districts to change their emphasis to state standards. Our scores remain in the 700s and 800s. A focus on standards will encourage scores to move to the 800 level. Our similar schools ranking is variable while our statewide rank is respectable in the 7, 8, 9 level. We want to look closely to determine that the data being reported to determine the similar school rank is consistent.

We compare somewhat more favorably with K-8 schools in San Diego County and in Southern California. Should we continue to strengthen our focus on standards? Effective Schools research supports a clear mission towards standards based instruction and more consistency. Setting high expectations for students is also supported by Effective Schools research. Approximately 50 percent of our students are scoring at basic, below basic, or far below basic. We need to move those students up in order to help students and to improve outcomes.

We received notice from the state that the participation rate at Sycamore Canyon on last year's API will be reviewed. Our analysis shows that nine students were reported as not having taken the test (which is not accurate) causing a percent of participation below 85. Staff expects that the API score will be sent in April. Sycamore Canyon parents will be notified by letter.

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

President Ryan invited members of the audience to address the Board about any item not on the agenda.

Deborah Storton, a speech/language specialist at Rio Seco School, addressed the Board asking that Medi-Cal reimbursement funds be used to provide support for the special education program and mandates.

Marian Rashap, a speech/language specialist at Carlton Hills School, addressed the Board asking that Medi-Cal reimbursement funds to be used to provide the newest and latest equipment for our special needs students.

Elaine Melnick, district nurse, said she was speaking on behalf of district students and their diverse health needs. She believes that health services are at "bare bones" and no reductions should be made to the program.

D. PUBLIC HEARINGS (none)

E. CONSENT ITEMS

Items listed under Consent are considered to be routine and are all acted on by the Board with one single motion. It was moved and seconded to approve Consent Items, holding Items E.2.5 and E.2.7 for separate consideration.

Motion: Abel
Second: El-Hajj
Vote: 5 – 0

Superintendent

- 1.1. Approval of Minutes

Business Services

- 2.1. Approval of Travel Requests
- 2.2. Approval/Ratification of Revolving Cash Report
- 2.3. Acceptance of Donations
- 2.4. Approval of Second Period Interim Report
- 2.5. Held for separate consideration by President Ryan
- 2.6. Approval of Tax Sheltered Annuity Vendor
- 2.7. Held for separate consideration by Member Burns

Educational Services

- 3.1. Approval of the Academic Performance Index (API) School Site Grant Award for Carlton Oaks School
- 3.2. Approval to Submit Application for Healthy Start Program Operations Grant
- 3.3. Adoption of Resolution of Commendation for Mr. William "Bill" Lynch

Human Resources

- 4.1. Personnel, Regular, with a copy to be made a part of the minutes. Consultants approved: Guadalupe Cordorva, T. Herman, Voc Snyder, Carolyn Wood, Abraham Zagana, Serwan Zangana

For separate consideration:

- E.2.7. Approval of Joint Powers Agreement between San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) and Participating School Districts for Compliance with State Water Resources Control Board General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activities

This item was removed from the Consent agenda because Member Burns is employed by the San Diego County Office of Education and wished to abstain from the vote.

Motion: Abel
Second: El-Hajj
Vote: 4 – 1 (Burns-abstain)

- E.2.5. Authorization to Bid Deferred Maintenance Projects

At the request of President Ryan, Carolyn Harness explained that the deferred maintenance projects have been reassessed for safety, environmental concerns, and possible postponement. President Ryan supported safety issues and delaying or deferring other projects until the budget picture is clearer. It was moved and seconded to obtain bids on roofing, HVAC and other safety items, and to consider the remaining projects later.

Motion: El-Hajj
Second: Abel
Vote: 5 – 0

F. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent

1.1. Adoption of Resolution for Reduction of Certificated Positions

Superintendent Johnson indicated that sufficient revenue will not be available to maintain current levels of programs during 2003-04. Administration believes that a reduction or elimination of particular kinds of services is needed no later than the beginning of the school year. A resolution and two exhibits were presented for Board consideration. Exhibit A contains a list of 37.083 FTE positions to be considered for reduction or elimination. Of the 25 K-6 teaching positions listed on Exhibit A, 14 are due to declining enrollment. Eleven other positions are listed based on hopes that the state will allow districts to staff at 1:22 instead of 1:20 in primary. After careful analysis of the proposed changes in legislation, the Superintendent modified her earlier recommendation to reduce 25 K-6 teaching positions. She instead can support the reduction of 14 (declining enrollment) K-6 teaching positions.

President Ryan read a letter received from the Santee Administrators Association. Members of the Management Team have offered to help the Board during the budget crisis by voluntarily working 1-5 days less per year and paying the District for days not worked. The potential savings could mean \$25,000 to the District and President Ryan thanked the association president.

Members of the audience were invited to address the Board on this agenda item.

Student John Rattan, a seventh grader from Carlton Oaks School, parents Jim George and Debbie van Ravesteyn, and music teachers Lisa Klopp, Deborah Hendrickson, and Anne Kibbee spoke in support of the music program.

Santee Teachers Association president Chris Stanley passionately emphasized that every position that deals with children is important. He thanked the Board and District administration for working with STA on an early retirement incentive. He reported that the PAR (Peer Assistance Review) panel has approved the funding of two District-level teacher positions to work in language arts adoption and state testing. President Ryan thanked Mr. Stanley for his work with the PAR panel.

DiAnn Albert, a Sycamore Canyon language arts specialist, believes that splitting language arts positions would be ineffective.

President Ryan stated that the Board would be making difficult decisions and advised that differing opinions may be evident. All Board members will be voting in the best interests of students and they asked for sensitivity from the audience.

Member El-Hajj believes that the Board's responsibility is to make this District fiscally solvent and she desires as many options as possible for an unknown future. She supports bringing back positions as soon as financially possible.

Member Burns believes that each position is very important and is willing to offer his support to music leaders on creative after-school alternatives.

Member McIntosh supports keeping all options open while we await state legislation on class size reduction in primary grades. Member Burns supports continued class size reduction. Members El-Hajj and Abel believe it is fiscally sound to keep all options open. President Ryan does not believe that a legislative change will be made and therefore, does not support any unnecessary turmoil this reduction of 11 class size reduction teachers would cause.

Particular Kind of Service (PKS) or Program to be Reduced or Eliminated	Number of Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE) Reductions	Motion	Second	vote
Management Support				
	FTE			
Director II, Pupil Services	.083	Abel	McIntosh	5 - 0
Director I, Educational Projects	1.00	El-Hajj	McIntosh	5 - 0
Principal on Special Assignment	1.00	Burns	El-Hajj	5 - 0
Vice Principal	2.00	Abel	McIntosh	3 - 2 (Ryan, Burns)
Non-Management Support				
Miller Unruh Language Arts Specialist	2.00	El-Hajj	Burns	5 - 0
Music Teacher	2.00	McIntosh	Burns	3 - 2 (Ryan, Abel)
Program Specialist	1.00	El-Hajj	Abel	5 - 0
Library/Literature Resource Teacher *	1.00	McIntosh	El-Hajj	5 - 0
Curriculum Resource Teacher *	1.00	Abel	El-Hajj	5 - 0
Mobility Instructor	1.00	Abel	McIntosh	4 - 1 (Burns)
Classroom Teaching Positions				
K-6 teaching position	14 (declining enrollment)	El-Hajj	McIntosh	4 - 1 (Burns)
	11 (CSR)	El-Hajj	Abel	3 - 2 (Ryan, Burns)
TOTAL REDUCTIONS	37.083			

* Some duties may be assumed by PAR-financed positions.

Following consideration of all individual positions listed in Exhibit A, it was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 0203-17 including modified Exhibit A and Exhibit B. The Superintendent is directed to comply with Resolution #0203-17 and notice legally impacted employees in compliance with modified Exhibits A and B.

Motion: Burns

Second: McIntosh
Vote: 5 – 0

Emergency Item

F.1.2. Approval of Suspension of Board Policy 6115, Observance of Patriotic Exercises

Board Policy 6115 requires that the Pledge of Allegiance shall be recited at the beginning of each school day.

In February 2003, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected a request by the Elk Grove Unified School District to reconsider its decision that the district's policy of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, including the "Under God," by students is unconstitutional. The district sought a stay of the order pending a petition to the United States Supreme Court to hear the case, which was granted through March 10.

If the stay is not extended beyond March 10, the decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is binding in all California school districts. The District will need a plan should the stay not be extended before Monday, March 10. Board Policy 9314 authorizes the Superintendent to suspend a policy when it conflicts with state or federal law. Therefore, administration recommends the suspension of the daily Pledge of Allegiance in Santee School District, if an extension is not issued to the stay. Other patriotic activities would be recommended in the interim. Should this action become necessary, the Superintendent is prepared to communicate with parents and staff and to assist teachers in communicating with students.

Board members discussed other options, which were ultimately discarded. It was moved and seconded to authorize the Superintendent to suspend Board Policy 6115 should the stay not be extended.

Motion: McIntosh
Second: Abel
Vote: 4 – 1 (El-Hajj)

G. BOARD POLICIES AND BYLAWS (none)

H. BOARD COMMUNICATION

Member Abel asked to be notified as soon as the Peacebuilders visit is scheduled. When asked by Member Abel, Mr. Burns did not support PTA purchasing curriculum for the Peacebuilders program. Member McIntosh also had concerns with approaching PTA to pay for district-adopted curriculum. Lis Johnson reported that the Peacebuilders' director is writing a piloting grant that may resolve some of our funding concerns.

Member Abel was looking forward to an opportunity to read at Chet F. Harritt School and touring full-day kindergarten program. Member Burns will be dressed in a clown costume to as part of a fund-raising project at Cajon Park School.

I. CLOSED SESSION

President Ryan announced that the Board would meet in closed session for:

1. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release
2. Conference with Labor Negotiator
Agency Negotiator: Sue Yakubik, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Employee Organizations: Santee Teachers Association (STA)
California School Employees Association (CSEA)
3. Student Discipline Matters
4. Public Employee Performance Evaluation
Title: Superintendent
5. Conference with Real Property Negotiators
Location: Renzulli Site
Agency Negotiator: Carolyn Harness, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

6. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54956.9

The Board entered closed session at 9:20 p.m.

J. RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION/ ADJOURNMENT

The Board reconvened to public session at 10:35p.m. No action was reported. The March 4, 2003, regular meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m. in memory of the victims and families of the Santana shooting.

Cathy Abel, Clerk

Marcia J. Johnson, Secretary