

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

May 18, 2004
MINUTES

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

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order and Welcome

President El-Hajj called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Members present:

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

Staff present:

Dr. Lisbeth Johnson, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board
Dr. Patrick Shaw, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
John Tofflemire, Director, Human Resources
Linda Vail, Recording Secretary

2. President El-Hajj invited Nikki Tucker and Chelsea Peace, fifth grade students at Sycamore Canyon, to lead the members, staff and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

President El-Hajj suggested that the agenda be changed to have Discussion and/or Action Items F.2.1. and F.2.2. to follow the Consent Items. Following these items, the remainder of the Discussion and/or Action Items would be taken in the order presented on the agenda. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda with these changes.

Motion: Abel

Second: McIntosh

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

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

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

Catalina McKassen, a parent from Sycamore Canyon, thanked Maria Lenhoff for her outstanding efforts on behalf of Sycamore Canyon School.

Ellen Holaway, representing Santee Citizens for Safe Power, presented her concerns about Electro-magnetic fields near Hill Creek School.

Gregg Guenther, representing Santee Citizens for Safe Power, thanked the Board for their pursuit of information about EMFs and asked for their support in revealing the possible health risks near Hill Creek.

D. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. The Board's Intent to Adopt a Resolution in Compliance with Board Policy 4355 to Establish a PERS Early Retirement Benefit for Retiring Classified Management Employee(s) was presented.

President El-Hajj opened the public hearing to anyone in the audience. No comments were received and the hearing was closed.

E. CONSENT ITEMS

Items listed under Consent are considered to be routine and are all acted on by the Board with one single motion. Consent Items E.2.1. and E.2.13 were pulled for separate consideration. It was moved and seconded to approve the remaining Consent Items.

Motion: Abel

Second: Ryan

Vote: 5-0

Superintendent

- 1.1. Approval of Minutes

Business Services

- 2.1. Pulled for separate considerations for public comment
- 2.2. Approval/Ratification of Expenditure Warrants
- 2.3. Approval/Ratification of Purchase Orders
- 2.4. Approval of Financial Report
- 2.5. Approval/Ratification of Revolving Cash Reports
- 2.6. Acceptance of Donations
- 2.7. Approval of 2004-05 Student Accident Insurance
- 2.8. Adoption of Resolutions Authorizing Specific Designated Agents
- 2.9. Approval of Agreement for Student Transportation Services
- 2.10. Approval of Student Teaching Agreement with the University of California, San Diego
- 2.11. Adoption of Resolution to Designate Authorized Representative to San Diego County Schools Risk Management Joint Powers Authority
- 2.12. Adoption of Resolution to Designate Authorized Representative to San Diego County Schools Fringe Benefits Consortium
- 2.13. Pulled for separate consideration by Member McIntosh
- 2.14. Approval of Quarterly Financial Disclosure, SB 564
- 2.15. Approval of County Counsel Legal Services

Educational Services

- 3.1. Approval of Extended Field Trips for Cajon Park and Rio Seco Junior High Leadership Students, Carlton Oaks Fifth Grade GATE Students and Carlton Oaks Junior High Students to a Padres Game at Petco Park, Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, CA, San Diego Maritime Museum Overnight Trip on the *Californian*, and the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, CA

Human Resources

- 4.1. Personnel, Regular
- 4.2. Approval of Shared Classroom Teaching Assignments for 2004-2005

Item E. 2.1. Approval of Travel Requests (Pulled for separate consideration.) President El-Hajj opened the item for comments. There were no comments from the audience.

Motion: Ryan

Second: McIntosh

Vote: 5-0

2.13 Approval of Issuance of New Warrants- (Pulled by Member McIntosh for separate consideration.) One of the warrants for approval is for Member McIntosh therefore she will abstain.

Motion: Burns

Second: Ryan

Vote: 4-0 (McIntosh-Abstain)

- F.2.2. Approval of 2003-04 Budget Revisions for April (This item was moved to follow consent items.)

With no discussion, Member Burns moved to approve the 2003-04 budget revisions for April resulting in an estimated uncommitted ending balance of \$119,296.

Motion: Burns

Second: Abel

Vote: 5-0

F.2.3. Decisions About the 2004-05 District Budget (This item was moved to follow consent items.)

Carlos Estrella, district fiscal analyst, gave a brief overview of the governor's May Revise budget and projection of income for 04-05.

Superintendent Lis Johnson presented Administrations' Recommendations in Priority Order for maintenance of programs. Her recommendations included retaining portions for vital programs to schools including vice principals, Reading Specialists, substitute caller position, Option I Kindergarten, and the Community Day School (with the encroachment reduced),

The list of recommended reductions by the Superintendent in priority order includes:

Two administrative secretary positions

Administrative work year reduction donation

Maximize class size

Not close Sycamore Canyon (but reduce services by ½ of total savings if closed)

Groundworker (1 FTE), warehouse services (1/2 FTE)

Technology position

Change bell schedules and charge a fee for transportation

Reduce services of ERC Clerk Typist II

Reduce vehicle and maintenance costs

Charge residents that live on sites

Leave vacant Business Services- Accounting Assistant plus 1.25 hours of additional Accounting Assistant

Music (save \$60,000) give administration \$30,00 to develop a program

Reduce library media clerks (16 hours total)

Reduce Psychologists by 1½ FTE or FTE

Eliminate general fund carryover

Reduction in Reading Specialists, but no more than 4 less

Special Education Instructional Assistants reductions in the amount of \$28,273

Eliminate 1 nurse position

Schools pay for site appliance operating costs

Reduce Campus supervisor (18 hours)

AB 1754 Recapture of funds

President El-Hajj asked the Board to share their feelings on the Superintendent's recommendations of keeping Sycamore Canyon School open. The majority of Board members were supportive of keeping Sycamore Canyon School open. President El-Hajj then invited those with speaker cards to speak if they desired.

Penny Sally, a Sycamore Canyon parent, planned to show a video of the fund raising activities for Sycamore Canyon. In the interest of time, the Board requested that the video be shown at a future Board meeting.

Deborah Pollom, a Sycamore Canyon parent, spoke in support of keeping Sycamore Canyon open and presented the Save Sycamore group a donation of \$250.

Van Collinworth, a Santee resident, spoke in support of keeping Sycamore Canyon open and urged parents to donate \$60 since Prop J did not pass.

Jeff Sallay, a Sycamore Canyon parent, shared that his church's school is closing and suggested that those students could be encouraged to enroll at Sycamore.

Nannette Roessler, a Sycamore Canyon parent, thanked Mrs. Lenhoff and asked the Board to consider keeping Sycamore Canyon open even though the \$400,000 goal was not met.

Suzanne Michel, a Santee resident and parent of a special needs student, spoke in support of establishing a class for high functioning Autistic or Asbergers special needs students at Sycamore Canyon in lieu of sending these students to non-public school. She supported working together to prevent the District from becoming responsible for all aspects of learning disabilities. She is also interested in reviewing landscaping and working together to find funding for grass fields.

Randy Stephenson, a second grade student at Sycamore Canyon, read a letter he wrote about Sycamore Canyon School. He presented the Board a donation of \$27.25 from the second grade.

Diane Turner, transportation employee, spoke on behalf of the transportation department and the safety concerns of students going to and from school if regular education transportation is eliminated.

Christine Blaylock, a Sycamore Canyon parent, shared several incidents about students collecting and donating money to save Sycamore Canyon School.

Chelsea Peace, a fifth grade student at Sycamore Canyon, spoke about wanting to keep Sycamore Canyon open.

Isabella Lenhoff, a Sycamore Canyon student, spoke about how much she loves Sycamore Canyon School and wants to keep it open.

Heather Gatavasky, Sycamore Canyon student, talked about wanting to keep Sycamore Canyon open.

Lorinda Root, a Sycamore Canyon parent, spoke on behalf of keeping Sycamore Canyon School open.

Mrs. Sallay, a Sycamore Canyon parent, spoke about the great principal and teachers at Sycamore Canyon School and asked the Board to keep the school open.

Anna Frankos, a Sycamore Canyon parent and her daughter presented the Board her piggy bank.

Maria Lenhoff, a Sycamore Canyon parent, shared the results of the fund raising efforts of the "Save Sycamore Canyon" group. They raised \$35,968, and in addition the jog-a-thon raised an additional \$17,000 and will make it available to Santee School District if they elect to keep Sycamore Canyon open. She shared pictures of some of the fund raising activities. Sony has also pledged \$500 if Sycamore Canyon stays open.

Following comments by the public, Member Burns made a motion to keep Sycamore Canyon open for 2004-05 with the reduced services presented by the Superintendent and donation of the funds raised, totaling a savings \$150,000.

Operating costs to be reduced included in this motion are:

1. No SRS
2. Library clerk part time (shared)
3. 2 campus supervisors
4. 2 hours of custodial time reduced
5. Acceptance of donations

Motion: Burns

Second: Ryan

Vote: 5-0

It was noted that continued fund raising may help to alleviate some of the reduced services at Sycamore Canyon.

Before inviting speakers, President El-Hajj asked the Board to share their feelings about Option II kindergarten. No Board members supported implementing Option II kindergarten. President El-Hajj then invited speakers.

Joanne Downing, a district parent, spoke on behalf of keeping the kindergarten reduced class size.

Lori Harris, a district teacher, spoke on behalf of keeping the 20:1 kindergarten ratio.

Thomas Higgins, a district teacher, spoke on the benefits of class size reduction.

Marybeth Atkinson, a district teacher, spoke on behalf of full day kindergarten.

At the conclusion of speakers, Member McIntosh made a motion to not adopt Option II kindergarten.

Motion: McIntosh

Second: Ryan

Vote: 5-0

Diana Danley, a district psychologist, spoke on behalf of Sondra Mehlhop, another district psychologist, and asked the Board to consider her personal needs and the needs of the District in assessing students when considering reducing her position.

Member Ryan recommended that we explore and pursue the option of step and class freezes. She said that other districts have asked their employees to forego step and class increases for one year and that would provide a \$690,955 savings for next year if all staff was included. Board Policy 4351 allows Board members to freeze management team salary and increases for step and classes without negotiations. Member Burns asked that consideration be given to employees who will retire so that they are able to go to the higher step in order to retire at the higher salary.

The Board went through the list of recommended budget reductions and by consensus compiled a list of budget reductions to be considered. The items included are as follows:

Reduce 1 FTE Psychologist	\$75,858
Eliminate 1 Groundworker Position	\$49,229
Reduce warehouse position to 1/2 FTE	\$27,938
Reduce departmental supply budgets	\$5,000
Reduce Custodian II positions (Total of 12 hours)	\$65,003
Reduce Business Services (1FTE Acct. Asst./vacant and 1.75 of 3.75 hr. position.	\$58,071
Reduce HR Adm. Secretary for 1/2 year.	\$35,742
Reduce ERC Adm. Secretary for 1/2 year.	\$35,742
Eliminate Clerk Typist receptionist at ERC	\$16,890
Reduce Library Media Clerks on formula (total of 16 hrs.	\$30,000
Reduce 1 Technology position	\$53,645
Eliminate music program/teachers	\$90,000
Reduce Services to Sycamore Canyon School	\$44,417
Share principal at Sycamore Canyon School	\$45,000
Reduce encroachment of Community Day School by using School Safety/Violence funds. AB 1754	\$26,000
Eliminate/Reduce carryover of general fund unexpended dollars.	\$35,000
AB 1754 Options (Public Library Funds/Science Lab materials/GATE	\$54,737
Change bell schedules	\$31,543
Charge a fee for transportation	\$18,049
Donations from Sycamore Canyon fundraising.	\$50,000
Reduce Reading Specialists to 2 hrs. at each school. Other hours may be funded by site categorical.	\$240,000
Eliminate 2nd District Nurse position	\$30,000
Reduce Campus Supervisors (total of 18 hrs.)	\$32,860
Reduce district vehicle operational expense and maintenance.	\$3,000
Maximize Class Size	\$90,000
MAA Medical donation	\$60,000
Reduce 1 5.5 hr. SPED Inst. Asst. by 1/2 hr.	\$1,399

Reduce 2 VI Itinerant Instructional Assistants by 1 hours	\$5,882
Reduce 5 RSP Instructional Assistants by 1.5 hours	\$20,992
Reduce 1 VH IA by 1 hours	\$2,941
Reduce 11 SPED non-SH Instructional Assistants by 1/2 hours each	\$15,395
Total	\$1,350,333

This list of reductions would leave a positive balance in the 04-05 budget of \$3,176.

Michele Grantham, a Santee resident, spoke about reducing vice principals instead of instructional programs.

Maria Lenhoff, asked the Board to consider using more electronic media in order to save money in publications and for paper.

Member McIntosh moved to approve the list of items as reductions for the 2004-05 school year.

Motion: McIntosh

Second: Abel

Vote: 5-0

F. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent

1.1. Board Selection of Eighth Grade Promotion Assignments

The Board selected the school sites for promotion ceremonies that each one would attend. The assignments will be as follows:

Cajon Park	Julie McIntosh	Pepper Drive	Cathy Abel
Carlton Hills	Lis Johnson	Prospect Avenue	Dianne El-Hajj
Carlton Oaks	Cathy Abel	Rio Seco	Barbara Ryan
Chet F. Harritt	Dustin Burns	Alternative School	Dustin Burns
Hill Creek	Dianne El-Hajj		

1.2. Option II Kindergarten Report and Description of Program Implementation Consideration

Option II Kindergarten was not discussed as the Board voted earlier in the meeting to not consider Option II Kindergarten for the 2004-05 school year.

Business Services

2.1. Discussion of Sycamore Canyon Boundary Changes

Boundary changes for Sycamore Canyon were not discussed as the Board voted earlier in the meeting to keep Sycamore Canyon open.

Educational Services

3.1. Evaluation Summary of 2003-2004 Modified Day Programs and Approval of Proposed Adjustments to 2004-2005 Regular School Year Instructional Schedule

Member Burns said that he would like to see a written detailed report from principals each trimester about what they are doing on modified days during the 2004-05 school year.

Motion: McIntosh

Second: Abel

Vote: 5-0

Human Resources

4.1. Consideration of Requests for Special Leaves

At the last Board meeting, Board members requested that two employees requesting leave be provided an opportunity to state a reason for the requests. John Tofflemire presented the results of the interviews. Employee #1 did not respond to three messages left. Employee #3 would like continued leave to be home with an adolescent child. Employee #2 is a new request for leave based on all of the employee's sick days that have been used.

Member Burns moved that these leave requests be denied.

Motion: Burns

Second: Abel

Vote: 4-0 (El-Hajj-No)

G. BOARD POLICIES AND BYLAWS (none)

H. BOARD COMMUNICATION (None)

I. CLOSED SESSION

President El-Hajj announced that the Board would meet in closed session for:

1. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release
2. Conference with Labor Negotiator
Agency Negotiator: John Tofflemire, Director, Human Resources
Employee Organizations: Santee Teachers Association (STA)
California School Employees Association (CSEA)
3. Student Discipline Matters
4. Conference with Real Property Negotiators
Location: Renzulli Site
Agency Negotiator: Lis Johnson, Superintendent,

The Board entered closed session at 11:10 p.m.

J. RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION/ ADJOURNMENT

The Board reconvened to public session at 12:00 p.m. No action was reported. The May 18, 2004, regular meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Dustin Burns, Clerk

Lisbeth A. Johnson, Ed.D, Secretary