



SCOTTS VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of Regular Meeting February 23, 2010

PUBLIC SESSION: 6:00pm
SCOTTS VALLEY CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
One Civic Center Drive
Scotts Valley, CA 95066

PUBLIC SESSION CALLED TO ORDER

Board President Michael Shulman called the Public Session to order at 6:05 p.m. **Board Members present:** Michael Shulman, Allison Niday, Larry Beaman, Sue Roth, Jondi Gumz and Student Advisory Member Lizzie Zweng.

Administration present: Superintendent Susan Silver, Chief Business Official Karen Jelcick, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Kathy Dunton, Scotts Valley High School Principal Gregg Gunkel, Brook Knoll Elementary School Principal Kathy Frandle, Vine Hill Elementary School Principal Michelle Stewart and Scotts Valley Middle School Assistant Principal Tracey Bosso.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SET THE AGENDA

Board Clerk Larry Beaman suggested that agenda item A1 was not worded properly since the continuing discussion would also encompass budget and revenue. Administration agreed that for the next Board Agenda the wording would be changed. Board member Jondi Gumz requested that agenda item C2 be discussed separately.

MSP Gumz/Beaman 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: Aye

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Silver reminded everyone that the Scotts Valley High School would be hosting their annual Open House Expo and BBQ this Wednesday, February 24th from 6:30-8:00pm Please let your friends and neighbors who may have students entering 9th grade next year or considering changing high school that this would be a great opportunity to speak with teachers and students and get to know SVHS.

STUDENT ADVISORY MEMBER'S REPORT

Student Advisory Member Lizzie Zweng said that there were two Haiti Relief fundraisers going on at the high school. Also Battle of the Bands is happening now. The bands play at lunch time and the winner will play at a concert on Friday. Art Night is scheduled for March 5th with lots of SVHS student talent on display. The high school has established the Falcon Forum, which is a dialogue between administration and students. The Forum is run by two teachers, Dayna Fisher and Jamie Tuckey, who put together student task forces to solve problems. Some of the items the students have been working on are the price of school lunches, more shade on campus, the problem of so many bees, the bathrooms, and the clocks are not synchronized. Things are getting done and students are gaining a better understanding of the problems and are participating in the solutions.

SCCSBA/CSBA REPORT

Board Vice President Allison Niday announced that Mountain School District has joined the SCCSBA. The association is continuing to answer questions and work with PVUSD and SLVUSD on their decisions. Ms. Niday passed out invitations to the Board from Vine Hill PTA for their Auction/Dinner scheduled for March 27th at the Scotts Valley Hilton. The next SCCSBA meeting is scheduled for March 11th at the Santa Cruz High School Library.

MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC – ORAL

Katie Bagley, representative of SVEF, addressed the Board to announce the Mt. Charlie Challenge Bike Ride scheduled for April 24th, which is a 100K or 50K ride with a BBQ at the end. SVEF raises funds for all four schools in the district and this event is SVEF's biggest fundraiser. Contact Katie at Brook Knoll Elementary for tickets or to sign up for the event.

Ann Codd, President of SVEA, addressed the Board to announce the Rally for Education scheduled for March 4th at the town clock in Santa Cruz from 4-5:00pm. The rally is being conducted state-wide by educators and supporters of education to bring attention to the fact that the state is not funding education adequately.

Wendy Brannan addressed the Board with various questions and comments regarding the terminology of the ongoing discussion of facility needs, procedures and communication.

Vic Marani Vice President of Santa Cruz County School Board and one of four Board Members representing Scotts Valley, announced the county-wide Spelling Bee on March 7, the County Science Fair to be held at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, a county-wide Scrabble Tournament in May and the Math Contest on May 1st.

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR CONSIDERATION

A. ADMINISTRATION

Silver

1. Continue Discussion of the Report Presented by the District's Facilities Committee

Board President Michael Shulman opened the continuing discussion by asking the Board Members to share what they have been doing since the last Board meeting regarding communication with the community.

- Student Advisory Lizzie Zweng said she had talked with the high school newspaper editor and the paper would like to run student friendly information. There was also discussion of starting a group of students who were old enough to vote and wanting to learn more about issues and the political system.
- Board Member Jondi Gumz said she called people who opposed the Bond Measure in 2008. She talked with approximately seven people and they all said they would still be opposed to a bond, but would support a parcel tax if there was a senior exemption and certain parameters such as amount, time, etc. Ms. Gumz also talked with a small business owner who did not want to see new taxes but admitted that if a certain member of the Senior Coalition would support a parcel tax then she would also. Ms. Gumz felt this showed that there are key members of the community that would be crucial to getting a parcel tax passed. In 2009 there were 31 parcel tax initiatives on the ballots statewide and 21 of those passed. The ones that failed were mostly new ones.
- Board Member Sue Roth also did some research and met with groups of people. The California PTA will fully support the 55% option to pass a parcel tax which would certainly help. Ms. Roth related that one million seconds equals 11.5 days and one billion seconds equals thirty-three years. She feels this helps her when thinking about money and numbers. Ms. Roth has reached out to the community through Facebook, attended coffees in people's homes and passed out her orange fliers containing important facts. She hears from older members of the community that they are concerned about new taxes because they are on a fixed income. She also commented that it was great to see so many people attending and wanting to be involved at the Board meeting even though it has taken such a crisis to

bring people out. Ms. Roth stated that she will continue to be available and she enjoys face to face conversations more than email because it gives her a better understanding of the questions people have. We have an excellent school district and we will get through this crisis.

- Board Clerk Larry Beaman reminded everyone that this is a school situation and many members of the community do not have children in the schools. To correct this situation it will take more than just the people in this room tonight. Mr. Beaman spoke with Scotts Valley Mayor Jim Reed and will meet with the Senior Coalition next week. He will also reach out to the business community and introduced the Chamber of Commerce President Josh Breeden who was in the audience.
- Board Vice President Allison Niday attended a number of coffees and along with Board President Michael Shulman attended the Vine Hill PTA meeting. She said the energy is fantastic, it is great to meet new people and the Board values community input. Ms. Niday and Mr. Shulman have been very active answering four to five questions from the community each day on a Facebook page that parents have set up. She said that she understands that some seniors can't afford to pay additional taxes but that there are also many grandparents that understand the value of education to the community and how it affects their home values. Ms. Niday will start to reach out to community members that do not have children in the school district. She expressed her pain to know that California doesn't put education as a priority and encouraged people to continue writing letters to their legislators (a list of legislators, addresses and a sample letter is available on the district web site at www.svusd.santacruz.k12.ca.us). The community can do fundraising if that is what they choose without direction from the Board. The district can not use donations that have not already become property of the district. If there are parents that have a special interest in something they would like to work on, they should put their name on the Facebook page and ask people to call them. Ms. Niday reiterated that she would like to hear from people and that she and Board President Shulman had published their phone numbers and email addresses in a February 19th article in the SV Banner. All Board Members' contact information can be found on the district web site at www.svusd.santacruz.k12.ca.us.
- Board President Michael Shulman attended a number of conversations and coffees, some of which were well attended and others not so well. Mr. Shulman expressed that besides answering questions, which he is happy to do, he also would like to know why people are asking this particular question. He feels that sometimes word of mouth begins to be taken as fact when often it may be only someone's idea. He hopes that answering questions on Facebook will help people to understand the situation. The Board is beginning to work on surveys for the parents in the district and one for the larger community that do not have children in the district. He would like to see the surveys ask not only would they support a parcel tax but at what level is the support strongest/weakest. Mr. Shulman mentioned that even though he and Board Vice President Niday published their contact information in the Banner they had not received any calls. Mr. Shulman concluded with expressing his belief that the Board can gain support by listening to the community.

Board President Shulman opened the agenda item for public comment reminding the audience that the Board wanted to hear their ideas, but this was not the time for dialogue. Please call a Board Member if you would like dialogue.

Danielle Winters, Jane Arcangeli, Carlos Arcangeli, Mark Fitzpatrick, Inger Arum, Derek Timm, Patricia Timm, Patty McNulty, Brian Ruf, Wendy Brannan, Gary Fish-Redenbacher, Steve Wright, Josh Breeden, Lena Paritskaya addressed the Board expressing their ideas and beliefs, quoting statistics and requesting information regarding this agenda item.

Superintendent Silver addressed the audience thanking them for coming tonight and reminding them to have a get together in their neighborhoods and invite a Board Member to come answer questions. She also stated that the district would determine an appropriate vehicle to get research and statistical information out to the public.

The Board thanked the public for their attendance and interest. The Board discussed what they would each be doing before the next Board meeting including continued talks with members of the community in various forums, addressing the Scotts Valley Chamber of Commerce, and working on a public survey. Board Vice President Niday addressed the audience with a suggestion of an immediate action plan through SVEF which fundraises for all four schools. Ms. Niday encouraged everyone to contact SVEF to volunteer, donate and/or share their ideas for fundraising.

2. Approve the Brook Knoll, Vine Hill, Scotts Valley Middle School, and Scotts Valley High School Comprehensive School Safety Plans

MSP Niday/Gumz 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: Aye

Superintendent Susan Silver explained that the Comprehensive School Safety Plans have been developed by a committee of staff and parents at each site, and have been approved by the School Site Council or the School Advisory Council. All plans contain the required elements as spelled out in Senate Bill 187. In addition, the district continues to work with the County Office of Education and the City of Scotts Valley to develop a more comprehensive Emergency Preparedness Plan. The Board thanked the Principals for all the hard work in developing the safety plans. Board Member Jondi Gumz noticed that there was a reduction in suspensions at the middle and high schools and wondered what contributed to the reduction. Scotts Valley High School Principal Gregg Gunkel said he would attribute the reduction to consistency of enforcement of the rules and reviewing trends in student behavior to rededicate and refocus goals. Board Member Sue Roth asked if there was consistency between the plans so that students didn't have to learn a new set of procedures and rules when going from elementary to middle or middle to high school. Superintendent Silver said that there have been many discussions regarding this but each issue is looked at individually to best meet the needs of the student. Many procedures are county-wide including law enforcement.

B. BUSINESS

Jelcick

1. Accept Donations to Scotts Valley Unified School District

MSP Niday/Roth 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: Aye

C. CONSENT AGENDA Gumz/Niday 5-0

Silver

MSP Niday/Gumz 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: Aye

1. Approve Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of February 9, 2010

2. Approve for Adoption the Recommended K-5 Textbook for Math (moved to end of agenda for discussion)

3. Approve the Five Year Contract for Audit Services to be Provided by Chavan & Associates LLP, for the 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 Fiscal Years

4. Approve the Agreement with the County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works to Connect Brook Knoll Elementary School to County Service Area No. 10, Rolling Woods Sanitary Sewer

5. Approve the Certificated Personnel Action Report

6. Approve the Classified Personnel Action Report

7. Approve Warrants

C. 2. Approve for Adoption the Recommended K-5 Textbook for Math (moved to end of agenda for discussion)

MSP Niday/Roth 4-1 (Gumz opposed) Student Advisory Vote: Aye

Board Member Jondi Gumz expressed her feelings that this particular textbook was not worth spending the money on and that she didn't feel that it was really what the K-5 teachers wanted even though a committee of teachers piloted and chose it. Board Clerk Larry Beaman asked Chief Business Official Karen Jelcick if the money could be used elsewhere if textbooks were not purchased. Ms. Jelcick affirmed that the funds were flexible, but reminded the Board that in two years the state would require the adoption of new K-5 Math textbooks which would require funds at that time. Board Vice President Allison Niday said that she was not under the impression that the K-5 teachers had settled for a textbooks that did not meet their needs.

BOARD DISCUSSION

- Board Member Jondi Gumz attended a number of events. She attended the ELA Committee meeting and added that it was well attended. Ms. Gumz also attended a CTE meeting which included people from industry. The discussion included what companies are looking for in employees and that was soft skills such as showing up for work everyday. Teachers can job shadow in the companies so they can tell students what the job was like. Granite Construction is conducting a problem solving project to show students how math relates to everyday issues. Ms. Gumz attended basketball games and intends to attend the Brook Knoll PTA Auction/Dinner this Saturday.

ADJOURNMENT

Board President Michael Shulman adjourned the meeting at **8:25 p.m.**

Minutes Recorded By:

Minutes Approved By:

Brenda Spalding
Administrative Assistant to Superintendent

Larry Beaman
Clerk to the Board of Trustees