



SCOTTS VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SUPERINTENDENT
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EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of Regular Meeting January 11, 2011

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

PUBLIC SESSION CALLED TO ORDER

Board President Larry Beaman called the Public Session to order at 6:02 p.m. **Board Members present:** Larry Beaman, Art Bubb, Sue Roth, Michael Shulman and John Abel. **Absent:** Student Advisory Member Blaire Ward. **Administration present:** Superintendent Susan Silver, Chief Business Official Karen Jelcick, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Kathy Dunton, Director of Student Services Gerri Fippin, Human Resources Administrator Carolyn Lewis, Scotts Valley High School Principal Valerie Bariteau, Scotts Valley Middle School Principal Mary Lonhart, Vine Hill Elementary Principal Michelle Stewart and Brook Knoll Elementary Principal Phil Menchaca.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SET THE AGENDA

MSP Shulman/Bubb Vote: 5-0

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Superintendent Silver introduced Scotts Valley High School teacher Erik Wyner who was accompanied by students who worked on the SVHS Haunted House. Claudia Jacobsen explained that the proceeds from the Haunted House have been donated to the American Cancer Society for the past several years, but the group decided to donate to the Leukemia Society this year to honor fellow student Erick Murai, who was diagnosed earlier in the year, and was present to receive the check on behalf of the Leukemia Society.
- Superintendent Silver briefly explained the service hours required of high school students and the SVHS Interact Club which is associated with Scotts Valley Rotary. This group has done very nice service activities including planting shade trees at the high school. Rotary member Jill Hitchman and SVMS teacher Joanne Green are starting an Interact Club at the middle school.
- The state will be conducting a Special Education review of the district beginning the week of January 24th. Letters will be mailed to parents of special needs students inviting them to attend a parent night on Wednesday, January 26th at 6:00pm in the SVHS Student Union.
- Governor Brown has put out a new budget which seems not to hold mid-year cuts for education. Of course, this is just a proposal at this time, but the district is hoping this is true.
- The recent ACLU lawsuit regarding free public education was against a school district that was charging students for textbooks, uniforms, etc. The SVUSD's policy was reviewed a few years ago and seemed to be in compliance; however, the state will be providing guidance to all school districts to clarify the implications of the new ruling.
- All K-3 elementary teachers will be engaged in professional development regarding teaching mathematics. Students are required to do more abstract problem solving and the district's test scores are lowest in math. At Leadership Team Professional Development this morning Scotts Valley High School Principal Valerie Bariteau

presented math scores for analysis. The district will offer similar training to the middle and high school teachers at a later time.

- The preschool program located on the Brook Knoll campus began today with approximately six students. When a special needs child turns three years old, the child becomes the responsibility of the school district in which the child lives. The district has been working toward the ability to service these students within our district for several reasons including monitoring their development over the years before entering kindergarten and providing a community environment for the students and their families. Families were very appreciative to have their children attend local schools and there is also a savings by administering the program within the district.
- Board Member John Abel asked about the ACLU lawsuit referring to the letter from Governor Schwarzenegger and wondering if the Board should review the district's policy before receiving guidance from the state. He also requested an update on the parcel tax. Board President Beaman responded to Mr. Abel's comments regarding the parcel tax. Mr. Bubb added that when the Board receives results of the poll it will be reported out to the public.

MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC – ORAL

Wendy Brannan addressed the Board regarding the hazards on the playgrounds at Brook Knoll and Vine Hill Schools. Board President Larry Beaman and Chief Business Official Karen Jelcick responded to Ms. Brannan's comments. Board Member John Abel suggested further dialogue once the problems have been rectified.

Maryann Ransler, parent and Brook Knoll PTA President, addressed the Board requesting that the problems on the playgrounds be corrected but not closed to the students. She expressed the importance of daily exercise and play to the students and thanked Ms. Brannan for bringing safety issues to everyone's attention. Ms. Ransler solicited Ms. Brannan's help and expertise in obtaining funding to replace the ageing playground equipment that is being removed.

Carl Owens addressed the Board regarding the district's employment of relatives hiring policy. Board President Larry Beaman responded to Mr. Owens comments. A presentation on district hiring practices will be placed on a future agenda.

Peter McLean addressed the Board regarding the district's Special Education review and the parent night scheduled for Wednesday, January 26th.

Erik Wyner and SVHS Haunted House students presented the symbolic Leukemia Society check in the amount of \$16,710 to Erick Murai who had just arrived.

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR CONSIDERATION

A. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Dunton/Fippin

1. Receive for First Reading the Single Plan for Student Achievement from Scotts Valley Middle School

MSP Abel/Bubb Vote: 5-0

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Kathy Dunton gave a brief overview of the requirements and processes involved in developing the Single School Plan for Student Achievement. Scotts Valley Middle School Principal Mary Lonhart presented detailed information regarding the SVMS Single Plan for Student Achievement including student test scores, goals and strategies for improvement. Board members asked clarifying questions. *The presentation has been posted to the district website at*

<http://www.svusd.santacruz.k12.ca.us/>

2. Approve the Appointment of Bronwen Oglesby to North Santa Cruz County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

MSP Bubb/Abel Vote: 5-0

Director of Student Services Gerri Fippin gave a brief explanation of the role of the CAC and the importance of parent representatives to serve on the committee.

B. ADMINISTRATION

Silver

1. Share Information Received from Various Workshops Held at the California School Boards Association Annual Workshop Held in December, 2010

Superintendent Silver said this agenda item is to allow Board members time to share information from the workshops they attended at the CSBA Annual Conference in December as requested at the last Board meeting.

- Board Member John Abel was only able to attend the first day of the CSBA Conference which consisted of workshops for new trustees. He felt the Conference was worthwhile and he learned a lot about the Brown Act.
- Board Member Michael Shulman attended several sessions. He found the workshop pertaining to superintendent evaluations, contracts, etc. very informative with interesting forms. He attended Dashboard for School Government which dealt with a more strategic approach to gathering data. The workshop dealing with district policies looked at policies and how they were implemented in the classroom and Mr. Shulman would have preferred an approach of how do the policies help the classroom. The last session concerned developing critical thinking skills and adjusting the testing, but Mr. Shulman was not sure if any district could achieve this and still meet all the standards set by the state.
- Board Clerk Sue Roth attended about three sessions each day. The sessions she attended on PLC and RTI made her recognize that SVUSD is doing a good job and extended her thanks to Superintendent Silver for guiding the district on the right path. She attended a workshop regarding the new national level common core standards. Ms. Roth asked if Director of Curriculum and Instruction Kathy Dunton had any comments on this subject. Ms. Dunton said the district is monitoring any information from the state and/or national level but that legislative decisions will have to be made quickly in order for school districts to comply within timelines being discussed presently. Ms. Roth attended an historic school finance workshop and a crisis negotiations workshop which was a humorous role play on bargaining unit negotiations. She also attended a workshop on charter schools which was not very informative. She had hoped there would be more information regarding Charter Schools. Ms. Roth also attended the Association of Low Wealth Schools breakfast on the last day where Superintendent Susan Silver was installed as the new ALWS President.
- Board Vice President Art Bubb also attended the new trustee workshops and commented on the numerous rules regarding communication and the Brown Act. He attended workshops on superintendent evaluations which he found helpful and superintendent searches which he has been involved with in the past and so there wasn't new information for him. All in all the Conference was very well done.
- Board President Larry Beaman attended some of the sales expos and was impressed by a presentation regarding two very similar schools that produce very different test scores. The key ingredient seemed to be school culture. Mr. Beaman commended the teachers and staff of the district for the excellent culture they have developed in SVUSD.

C. BUSINESS

Jelcick

1. Accept Information Provided Within the Scotts Valley Unified School District Actuarial Study of Retiree Health Liabilities as Prepared by Total Compensation Systems, Inc.

MSP Abel/Bubb Vote: 5-0

Chief Business Official Karen Jelcick gave a detailed and understandable explanation of the actuarial study which is conducted every three years to incorporate changes in employee demographics, benefit plans, premium costs and negotiated benefit levels. Board members asked clarifying questions. *The presentation has been posted to the district website at <http://www.svUSD.santacruz.k12.ca.us/>*

2. Accept Information Regarding Budget Reductions for the Period Spanning Fiscal Year 2004-05 to 2010-11

MSP Abel/Shulman Vote: 5-0

Chief Business Official Karen Jelcick presented information to the Board showing the most significant budget reductions made over the past several years. Administration pointed out that the .5 Assistant Principal

position was cut but was not listed on the chart. Ms. Jelcick said she would make the correction and send the revised document to the Board. *The presentation has been posted to the district website at <http://www.svusd.santacruz.k12.ca.us/>*

D. CONSENT AGENDA

MSP Shulman/Roth Vote: 5-0 (with correction in A1 Minutes - change Board President's name to reflect Larry Beaman)

- 1. Approve Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of December 14, 2010**
- 2. Approve the Standard Bethany University Student Teacher Agreement for the 2010-2011 School Year**
- 3. Accept for Information the Quarterly Uniform Complaint Report Under Williams Legislation**
- 4. Approve the Certificated Personnel Action Report**
- 5. Approve the Classified Action Report**
- 6. Approve Warrants**

BOARD DISCUSSION

- Board Member John Abel requested a status update on the playgrounds at the next Board meeting. Board President Beaman suggested that the report could be done during the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Abel also requested discussion of televising the Board meetings at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Bubb and Mr. Beaman also expressed interest in discussing this item. Mr. Abel requested a review of the district's policy regarding Employment of Relatives in lieu of Mr. Owens' comments. Mr. Shulman added that the Board can review policies at any time. Superintendent Silver said that Mr. Owens has been provided with a copy of the district's policy and has received a verbal explanation; however, he is not happy with the outcome of our hiring policy. Mr. Abel said Mr. Owens is challenging the interpretation of the policy and the Board has an obligation to place the item on the agenda if the public requests. Mr. Shulman counseled that the general policy discussion should happen first. Mr. Beaman asked Mr. Abel to prioritize his requests in case there is a shortage of time. Mr. Abel said the priority is the order as mentioned.
- Board Vice President Art Bubb asked if a Board member is allowed to attend the Special Education review parent meeting. Director of Student Services Gerri Fippin responded that the information regarding the parent meeting was received in her office late today. She will clarify the requirements of attendance and forward information to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Board President Larry Beaman adjourned the meeting at **8.27 p.m.**

Minutes Recorded By:

Minutes Approved By:

Brenda Spalding
Administrative Assistant to Superintendent

Sue Roth
Clerk to the Board of Trustees