

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
January 16, 2007**

**PUBLIC SESSION CALLED TO ORDER:**

Board President Allison Niday called the Public Session to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Scotts Valley Unified School District, 4444 Scotts Valley Drive, 5B, Scotts Valley. **Board members present:** Allison Niday, Sue Roth Joseph Espinola, and Jondi Gumz. Board member Chuck Walker came at 5:40 p.m. **Administration present:** Superintendent Susan Silver.

**ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION at 5:30 p.m.**

**CLOSED SESSION ACTION REPORT:**

Board President Allison called the Closed Session to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Scotts Valley Unified School District, 4444 Scotts Valley Drive, 5B, Scotts Valley. **Board members** in attendance were Allison Niday, Sue Roth, Joseph Espinola, and Jondi Gumz. Also in attendance was Superintendent Susan Silver, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services Susan Walker, and Chief Business Official Pat Kelban. Board member Chuck Walker came at 5:40 p.m.

- A. **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SESSION (Government Code Section 3549.1(d))** Executive session between the public school employer and its designated representative, Susan Silver, for the purpose of giving direction regarding negotiations with Scotts Valley Education Association.
- B. **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SESSION (Government Code Section 3549.1(d))** Executive session between the public school employer and its designated representative, Susan Silver, for the purpose of giving direction regarding negotiations with Support Personnel Committee.

**PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:**

Board President Allison Niday at the Scotts Valley City Council Chambers, One Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley, reconvened the Public Session of the meeting at **7:05 p.m.** **Board Members present:** Allison Niday, Sue Roth, Joseph Espinola, Jondi Gumz, Chuck Walker, and Student Advisory Member Shelayne Hammack. **Administration present:** Superintendent Susan Silver; Assistant Superintendent Educational Services Susan Walker, Chief Business Official Pat Kelban, Human Resources Administrator Carolyn Lewis and Director of Business Services Liann Reyes. **Principals present:** Kathy Dunton, Vine Hill Elementary School; Mary Lonhart, SV Middle School, Gregg Gunkel, SV High School, and Tracey Bosso, Assistant Principal SV Middle School. Also present was Amy Hedrick, Food Service Supervisor.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CLOSED SESSION ACTION REPORT:**

- A. **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SESSION (Government Code Section 3549.1(d))** Executive session between the public school employer and its designated representative, Susan Silver, for the purpose of giving direction regarding negotiations with Scotts Valley Education Association. Board President Allison Niday reported no action was taken.

B. **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SESSION (Government Code Section 3549.1(d)** Executive session between the public school employer and its designated representative, Susan Silver, for the purpose of giving direction regarding negotiations with Support Personnel Committee. Board President Allison Niday reported no action was taken.

C. **SET THE AGENDA**

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

D. **Presentation by Counselor Barbara Cushing on Current ACARE Program and Celebration of ACARE's 30<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary**

Board President Allison Niday introduced SVUSD Elementary Counselor Barbara Cushing. Ms. Cushing gave an overview of the current elementary counseling program, ACARE (All Children Are Really Exceptional). She then introduced Tony LoBue, the first elementary counselor in the Scotts Valley District and creator of the ACARE Program. Mr. LoBue gave a brief review of the creation and implementation of the ACARE Program. Dr. McVay followed Mr. LoBue as the district's elementary counselor and brought us up-to-date on the growth of the ACARE Program since its inception. She stated that Scotts Valley School District was the first district in the state of California to implement a skills-based counseling program that supports state standards. Students from Mr. Andrews' second grade class and Ms. Abraham's fourth grade class, both from Vine Hill Elementary School, gave a musical demonstration of the ACARE Program themes they had been working on in their classes. Ms. Cushing encouraged the Board members to come observe an ACARE Program.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Susan Silver read a letter from the Scotts Valley High School Parent Club President, Kara Bowman, acknowledging and commending Principal Gregg Gunkel for all his hard work and time spent on the application for California Distinguished Schools. Superintendent Silver also acknowledged that SV Middle School Principal Mary Lonhart had also spent her winter break time as had Mr. Gunkel with the California Distinguished School application process. SV High School Principal Gregg Gunkel announced The California League of High Schools Educator of the Year Award had been awarded to our own Richard Salome. Mr. Gunkel gave a brief description of the meeting, speeches and the presentation of the award to Mr. Salome. The staff of the high school will host a celebration of Mr. Salome this Friday. Superintendent Silver congratulated Tracey Bosso on her position as Assistant Principal at Scotts Valley Middle School. Ms. Bosso had been serving as interim in that position. Scotts Valley Middle School Principal Mary Lonhart also extended congratulations and thanked Superintendent Silver and the Board for allowing the interim process as it was a great transition. Superintendent Silver announced the hiring of Mary Scopettone as the Business Technician, a part-time position in the Business Department. This position was a half-time position left unfilled after the re-organization of the Business Department last year. Bonds being used to refinance Certificates of Participation received an A3 rating. The Moody's Summary of the district's financial standing is available at the district office for viewing.

**MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC – ORAL**

Members of the audience are welcome to address the Board at this time during the meeting regarding items not listed on this agenda. The Trustees may ask questions for clarity but cannot take action on those matters until such matters are appropriately placed on a future agenda, according to law.

The Governing Board may prohibit members of the public, who speak during the time permitted on the agenda for public expression, from commenting on matters that are not within the subject matter jurisdiction of the governing body. The Governing Board retains the discretion to adopt regulations at its meetings, which may limit the time for public discussion of items within its subject matter jurisdiction. Open Public Discussion at the beginning of the meeting is limited to 15 minutes. **For the record, please state your name at the beginning of your statement.**

**Christine Smith** - Christine Smith, SVEA President and teacher at Vine Hill, expressed her wishes to the Board for a Happy New Year and confirmed that each Board member had received the copy of CTA Budget Analysis she had mailed to them.

**Wendy Brannan** - Wendy Brannan, parent and community member, requested the 2007-08 school year calendar to allow parents to schedule vacation plans now. She also expressed her opinion of the high school bell schedule. Board President Allison Niday explained that school calendars are a negotiated item



compliance with certification expirations. SV High School Principal Gregg Gunkel stated that the high school Booster Club is looking into purchasing an additional AED to be housed in the PE arena.

C. **ADMINISTRATION**

Silver

1. **Approve the Scotts Valley Unified School District Governance Handbook 2006/07**

Board President Allison Niday gave a brief explanation of the Board's training and development of the Governance Handbook in the winter of 2005-06. This document is to be reviewed and updated annually by the Board members and superintendent. Board member Jondi Gumz asked for clarification on protocol concerning individual Board members' requests for future agenda items.

MSP Roth/Walker 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: absent

2. **Approve a Contract with California School Boards Association to Update Scotts Valley Unified School District Board Policies**

Superintendent Susan Silver explained that the district lacks a process for ensuring that policies are kept up to date. A goal of the Board of Trustees for this school year is to make significant progress in updating district policies. CSBA provides Policy Services to assist districts in updating policies and maintaining their current status. CSBA will spend three days to bringing our district up to date in possibly February or March and policies will then be ready to post on our district website. Board member Joseph Espinola asked what funding would be used to pay for this service. Superintendent Silver said the service would be paid from the general fund.

MSP Roth/Espinola 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: absent

3. **Accept for First Reading Board Policy 1313 Civility**

Superintendent Susan Silver explained that the district had developed policies over the past two years to address the issue of civility, but that they did not effectively convey the intent of the Board of Trustees. This policy encourages open positive communication throughout the district, including electronic communications. Board member Jondi Gumz expressed her opinion that the language was somewhat vague. Board member Joseph Espinola acknowledged the evasiveness of language in dealing with behaviors, but felt that we can not anticipate every situation. He explained that the Board should set boundaries for behavior and the Board should be the role model. Allison Niday also felt the policy set a basis to work from for the future.

MSP Espinola/Roth 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: absent

4. **Accept for First Reading Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5113 Absences and Excuses and Accompanying Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5113.1 Truancy**

Superintendent Susan Silver explained that the current policy on truancy is imbedded in the absence policy. Making two separate policies calls attention to the policy on truancy. Also, in the district's attempt to increase student attendance, both for academic and fiscal purposes, a letter has been developed and sent to parents. The letter explains excused absences, voluntary absences and truancy and requests that parents keep their students in school, or provide a donation to the district for each day their student misses instruction due to a voluntary absence. Board member Joseph asked what the consequence for truancy was to the student. SV Middle School Principal Mary Lonhart pointed to the educational impact for students and the impact to teachers' time in bringing truant students up to the current course of study. Superintendent Silver said also there could be fines and jail for parents of students with excessive truancy. Mr. Espinola asked for clarification on the wording hours/days in regard to absences due to religious reasons.

MSP Roth/Walker 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: absent

**Wendy Brannan** - Wendy Brannan, parent and community member, expressed her opinion concerning absences due to college visits, tryouts for college sports, etc.

**D. BUSINESS**

**Kelban**

**1. Review the Draft Budget Calendar for Fiscal 2007-08**

Director of Business Services Liann Reyes explained that in order to prepare the budget for the upcoming year, a budget calendar is presented with critical deadlines and dates. This calendar helps the Business Services office present the Board with a timely, accurate budget.  
MSP Gumz/Espinola 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: absent

**2. Accept for Information the Fiscal Crisis and Management Team's Proposed Special Education and Transportation Study Agreement**

Superintendent Susan Silver commended Director of Business Services Liann Reyes for the analysis of the history of special education costs to our district as directed in our district's Strategic Plan. FCMAT will audit our special education program with a financial and academic focus and report back to the district. They are partially subsidized by the state and provide services to promote fiscal stability.

**3. Accept Donations to the Scotts Valley Unified School District**

MSP Espinola/Gumz 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: absent

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Board President Allison Niday stated there were no communications received.

**BOARD DISCUSSION**

Joe Espinola announced his application for the vacated seat on the Scotts Valley City Council. He also is continuing his involvement with basketball and baseball. Mr. Espinola is currently involved in an annual ethical training through his employment. Jondi Gumz purchased tickets for the high school fundraiser ComedySportz scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup> and encouraged everyone to do likewise. Sue Roth and Allison Niday are still participating in the WASC at the high school and have found it very enlightening. Ms. Niday also mentioned the various sports activities. The Board also expressed kudos to Amy Hedrick for the delicious cookies.

**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT**

- Jan. 26, 2007 - VH ACARE/Bear Hug Assembly 1:30 in amphitheater
- Jan. 27, 2007 - SVHS Parent Club ComedySportz Fundraiser 7:30pm SV Community Center
- Feb. 9, 2007 - SVMS Dance
- Feb. 10, 2007 - VH PTA Tahitian Twilight Auction/Dinner Fundraiser – Cocoanut Grove
- Feb. 21, 2007 - SVMS Honor Roll Ceremony 7pm (\*change in date)
- Feb. 22, 2007 - SVHS Open House

## FUTURE MEETING DATES

### The next regularly scheduled Public Board Meetings will be held on:

- January 30, 2007
- February 13, 2007
- February 27, 2007
- March 13, 2007
- March 27, 2007
- April 24, 2007
- May 8, 2007
- May 22, 2007
- June 12, 2007
- July 10, 2007
- August 14, 2007
- September 11, 2007
- September 25, 2007
- October 9, 2007
- October 23, 2007
- November 13, 2007
- December 11, 2007

## ADJOURNMENT

Board President Allison Niday adjourned the meeting at **9:00** p.m.

**Home Page** = <http://www.svusd.santacruz.k12.ca.us>

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Minutes Recorded By:

Minutes Approved By:

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Brenda Spalding  
Administrative Assistant to Superintendent

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Chuck Walker  
Clerk to the Board of Trustees