



SCOTTS VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of Regular Meeting September 14, 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 6:04 p.m. **Board members present:** Michael Shulman, Allison Niday, Sue Roth, Larry Beaman, Jondi Gumz and Student Advisory 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, Director of Business Services Vickie Clark, Vine Hill Principal Michelle Stewart and Brook Knoll Principal Phil Menchaca.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Vice President Allison Niday introduced and welcomed newly elected Student Advisory Blaire Ward. She also bestowed, on behalf of the Board, a small token of appreciation to Lizzie Zweng who served as Student Advisory for the 2009-10 school year. Ms. Niday thanked Miss Zweng for willingly sharing her opinions and those of the students she represented. Miss Zweng then took the podium to say a few words regarding Miss Ward's attitude and abilities. She also introduced the ASB President Alyson Bothman who was also attending the meeting.

ADJOURN TO PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES OF A PARCEL TAX – 6:08 p.m.

Board President Michael Shulman adjourned to the Public Hearing at 6:08 p.m. to receive information regarding the current state and district budget from Chief Business Official Karen Jelcick, receive information regarding donations to the district from SVEF President Charlotte Multer and open the meeting for discussion. Board members have been meeting with small informal groups since early last spring to gather input from the community.

- **Budget Update: Karen Jelcick, CBO** - Chief Business Official Karen Jelcick gave a detailed presentation of the current state and district budget showing possible options to reduce expenditures or increase revenue by \$950,000 for 2011-12. Board members discussion included the possibility of receiving additional federal funds, reduction of instructional days and non-instructional days, health benefits, legal fees and membership dues.
- **Scotts Valley Educational Foundation Plans: Charlotte Multer, President** – SVEF President Charlotte Multer explained that the SVEF is the fundraising umbrella for the entire district and has taken on the Dollar-A-Day campaign to help offset the budget shortages predicted in 2011-12 under the current state budget. To date the Dollar-A-Day campaign has received \$46,000 in donations from approximately 100 parents. Ms. Multer also reminded and encouraged everyone to attend and participate in the first annual SVEF Community Day this Saturday, September 18th. Board President Shulman inquired of Brook Knoll PTA Fundraiser Chair Brian Ruf if any of the fundraising efforts at the PTA level could be used to help with the upcoming budget shortage. Mr. Ruf and Vine Hill Principal Michelle Stewart explained that the fundraising efforts of the PTA's, Parent Clubs and Falcon Club are already allocated for programs such as Art, Music, Intervention, Reading Assistance, ELA, after school sports, etc.

- **Discussion of Potential Parcel Tax Efforts: Michael Shulman, Board President, and Members of the Public** – Board President Michael Shulman asked to poll the Board members as to whether they would support a parcel tax or if they had another viable solution.
 - Board Vice President Allison Niday said she would support a parcel tax because she did not see any other viable solution due to the fact that the legislation is at a complete stand still. She feels strongly that our children should not be on the block because the legislators can't come up with a budget and adequately fund education.
 - Board Clerk Larry Beaman declared that this is a discussion the Board has been having for eight months or more. Mr. Beaman said he could not answer the question of whether a parcel tax is the only way to go. He said he wanted to hear from the community and see what they suggest. With the low economic times and unemployment a parcel tax could be a hardship on some community members. Mr. Beaman also suggested that the Board get in touch with tax opposition groups since they will spend funds to stop a parcel tax.
 - Board Member Sue Roth said she had done a lot of thinking about the district's situation and possible options. She feels that Community Day will be a great event which will bring the community together. In her opinion the state may have to fail in order to restructure. Schools' responsibilities continue to grow with monitoring of dental check-ups, immunizations, vision and hearing screening, scoliosis screening, etc. with no additional funding from the state. Ms. Roth stated that she has to step away from her personal feelings regarding a parcel tax and hear from the community. The burden is on the shoulders of our staff and parents to take the message of the impending budget shortage out to the community. Ms. Roth attended a recent Santa Cruz County Schools Board meeting where the prediction of economic stabilization is at least three years out. She state that she is a senior citizen and would have the option to exempt herself from a parcel tax, but she would not do so. She said it makes her angry to hear opposition groups telling their members that they can't be exempt. The senior exemption must renewed each year.
 - Board Member Jondi Gumz said she felt the biggest problem is that SVUSD is at the lowest level for funding from the state and has been for decades. Ms. Gumz said she researched parcel taxes because she doesn't see any other option. However, this must be a shared solution for our community because it isn't something the parents can do by themselves. We also need to talk with the opposition groups. The California economy won't be back until 2014 so we don't want to overlook any important details. She is interested in hearing what people have to say.
 - Student Advisory Blaire Ward expressed her concern about the fiscal situation and the impact on students and their education. She also offered any help the students could provide in getting information out in the community or helping with fundraising activities.
 - Board President Michael Shulman said he also felt that SVEF Community Day will bring people together along with community organizations and businesses. The fact that SVUSD is a low wealth district in receiving funds from the state can't be immediately changed, but a parcel tax would stay in our district to be used as we designate on the ballot. Mr. Shulman said that the Board needs to decide what their next steps should be and make a more formal exploration into what kind of tax, the duration and precampaign steps the Board should take. Once the decision is made to move forward the Board can no longer be involved.

Board President Shulman opened the discussion to the public.

- **Wendy Brannan** addressed the Board regarding the committee that put the School Community Parcel Tax Survey together, Board Bylaw 9012 regarding Facebook postings, trust issues, and contacting the opposition groups.
- **Brian Ruf** addressed the Board regarding the issue of public relations in a small town where community members look at situations in a "us and them" mindset. We do need trust; there is a lot of misinformation out in the community and we all need to understand that the fiscal crisis is not of our own doing.
- **Nick Vrolyk** addressed the Board regarding how a parcel tax would affect him as a property owner, the need for the state finance to be restructured and the lack of communication to the public.
- **John Abel** addressed the Board as a Board Candidate and declined to state his position on a possible parcel tax. He did state his assessment of the survey results, obtaining input regarding a parcel tax from the larger

community and tapping Silicon Valley businesses for donations.

- **Charlotte Multer** addressed the Board as SVEF President and stated she felt the district should go out for a parcel tax. In listening to community members and survey results she feels a fixed rate parcel tax would be more successful. Ms. Multer also reminded everyone that Community Day fliers are available on the back table.
- **Art Bubb** addressed the Board as a Board Candidate and declined to state his position on a possible parcel tax. Regarding a possible parcel tax Mr. Bubb stated that the Board should establish a needs assessment, which in his opinion seems obvious, the tax amount and duration and then get people to buy in. All groups need to support a parcel tax or it won't pass.
- **Rhonda McEntee** addressed the Board as SVEA Vice President stating that the teachers understand there is a real need, the importance of getting everyone involved so that all have a say and the fact that the teachers would want to help write the ballot language.

Board President Shulman asked if the Board was ready to go forward. Vice President Niday said she would prefer to reach out to the community again. Board Member Gumz reiterated Ms. Niday's comments adding that she would help organize a community drop-in at the SV Community Center and coordinate with other groups to bridge the communication gap

- **Wendy Brannan** addressed the Board regarding the Board's conduct, trust and discussing points not specifically stated in the Public Hearing.
- **Mike Smith** addressed the Board as a former Board Trustee of ten years and a current community member stating that in his experience small group get-togethers are the best, most productive means of communication including those community members without students in our district. He also commented that the SVUSD Board is the only Board in the county that does not receive any compensation for their work and he commended them for their tireless efforts on behalf of our students.
- **Lizzie Zweng** addressed the Board regarding having student involvement at community coffees and gatherings.
- **Kristina Renn** addressed the Board stating that she and probably many other parents do not know what is going on in the district financially thus the need for different types of communication such as texting.
- **Carlos Arcangeli** addressed the Board regarding using the SVEF Community Day to help get information out to the community.

Board President Shulman and Vice President Niday asked for volunteers to contact them regarding hosting a neighborhood get-together or help in other ways. Board member Roth asked for ideas for better communication. Student Advisory Blaire Ward said that the student body had designed a t-shirt that is a fundraiser to be donated to SVEF.

ADJOURNED PUBLIC HEARING at 8:12 p.m.

Board President Michael Shulman adjourned the Public Hearing at 8:12 p.m. for a short break and reconvened the regular Public Session at 8:20 p.m.

RECONVENED TO PUBLIC SESSION at 8:20 p.m.

SET THE AGENDA

Board President Michael Shulman said there were requests to pull agenda items E1 and E5 for discussion.
MSP Niday/Gumz 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: Aye (with the above modification)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Superintendent Susan Silver commended the SVEF on the upcoming Community Day which she felt will be a very positive activity in the community. She also reminded that the Scotts Valley Rotary will be holding their Oktoberfest the next day on Sunday, September 19th. Proceeds from ticket sales will go toward the schools through SVEF.

- Superintendent Silver said that enrollment figures are not exact yet, but all indications point toward higher than expected numbers that are comparable to the enrollment from last year. Enrollment figures will be brought to the Board after the October 6th CBEDS census.
- Last week SVMS teacher Jeff Matlock was happily surprised by KSBW TV crew with the Crystal Apple Award. The episode will be aired on Monday, September 20th.
- Superintendent Silver and members of administration met with two of the Board Candidates, John Abel and Art Bubb, to bring them up-to-date on the state of the district and answer questions. They will meet with the third candidate, Steve Smith, at a later date since his schedule did not allow him to attend this orientation.

Superintendent Silver said the district is celebrating the recently published API scores in which all Scotts Valley USD schools increased their scores from last year. The scores indicate that what we are doing academically is working.

SCCSBA/CSBA REPORT

Board Vice President Allison Niday said the SCCSBA met last week and received a report from Bill Gillaspie, Ed.D. of FCMAT regarding the special education review conducted for the county. Assemblymember Bill Monning was also present to briefly report on what is happening in Sacramento. Ms. Niday also commented on the status of the executive director of CSBA and the steps the agency has taken to identify and safeguard against the problems. SLVUSD are looking at a resolution to withdraw from CSBA if the executive director's salary is not reduced. Ms. Niday reminded that CSBA has been in existence for seventy-seven years, performs many valuable services for school districts and this is the first internal problem they have had.

MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC – ORAL

Kristina Renn addressed the Board regarding homework concerns. Superintendent Susan Silver, Board Vice President Allison Niday, Brook Knoll Teacher Rhonda McEntee and Director of Curriculum and Instruction Kathy Dunton responded to Ms. Renn's comments.

Peter McLean addressed the Board to ask if the Board was aware of how the SCCOE was addressing a personnel issue in SELPA.

Rhonda McEntee addressed the Board as SVEA Vice President to commend the excellent teachers of the district, despite loss of resources, on the outstanding API scores recently published.

Wendy Brannan addressed the Board regarding rules of protocol, the Superintendent's performance review and contract, requests for information and enrollment numbers for interdistrict transfer students.

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR CONSIDERATION

Due to the late hour, Board President Michael Shulman suggested the following priority for addressing the remaining agenda items: C4, C5, D1, B1, B2, Consent Agenda (pulling E1 and E5 for discussion) and holding A1, C1, C2, and C3 over until the Sept. 28th Board meeting.

MSP Shulman/Beaman 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: Aye (with the above modifications)

A. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Dunton

1. **Receive Information About the August 23, 2010 K-12 Professional Development Day**
Board President Shulman pulled agenda item A1, due to shortage of time, to be placed on the September 28th Board Agenda.

**Information
(10 minutes)**

B. ADMINISTRATION

Silver

1. **Adopt the 2010-11 Scotts Valley Unified School District Strategic Plan** Superintendent Silver explained that the changes recommended by the Board at the First Reading on August 10, 2010 have been added.
MSP Niday/Roth 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: Aye
2. **Accept for First Reading the CSBA Updates to the Following Board Policies and/or Administrative Regulation: 3320 – Claims and Actions Against the District, 3515.2 – Disruptions, 4030 Nondiscrimination in Employment, 4031 – Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment, 4154 – Health and Welfare Benefits, 4157 – Employee Safety, 4161.2 – Personal Leaves, 4161.8 – Family Care and Medical Leave, 5121 – Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement, 5127 – Graduation Ceremonies and Activities, 5131 – Conduct, 5131.7 – Weapons and Dangerous Instruments, 5141.26 – Tuberculosis Testing, 5141.4 – Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting, 5144.1 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process, 5144.2 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Student with Disabilities), 5145.11 – Questioning and Apprehension by Law Enforcement, 5145.3 – Nondiscrimination/Harassment, 6142.7 – Physical Education and Activity, 6146.1 – High School Graduation Requirements, 6153 – School-Sponsored Trips, 9250 – Remuneration, Reimbursement and Other Benefits, and 9270 – Conflict of Interest**
Board President Shulman requested additional information regarding BP/AR 3320 at the next Board meeting.
MSP Niday/Beaman 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: Aye

C. BUSINESS

Jelcick

1. **Accept Information Regarding the Review and Approval of the 2010-11 Budget by the County Office of Education** Board President Shulman pulled agenda item C1, due to shortage of time, to be placed on the September 28th Board Agenda. **Information (15 minutes)**
2. **Accept Information Regarding the Changes to the Health Insurance JPA** Board President Shulman pulled agenda item C2, due to shortage of time, to be placed on the September 28th Board Agenda. **Information (15 minutes)**
3. **Adopt Resolution Number 11-002, Stipulating that the First Use of Federal Child Nutrition Revenues Shall be for the Payment of Classified Salaries Subject to Public Employees Retirement System (PERS)** Board President Shulman pulled agenda item C3, due to shortage of time, to be placed on the September 28th Board Agenda. **Action (5 minutes)**
4. **Adopt Resolution #11-008 Approving the Actual 2009-10 and the Projected 2010-11 Gann Limit** Chief Business Official Karen Jelcick gave a brief overview of the Gann Limit and the calculations required by the State Constitution.
MSP Niday/Roth Roll Call Vote: 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: Aye
5. **Approve the 2009-10 Unaudited Actual Financial Report** Chief Business Official Karen Jelcick gave an overview of the Unaudited Actual Financial Report.
MSP Niday/Roth 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: Aye

Board Vice President Allison Niday made a motion to extend the meeting to 9:15 p.m.

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

D. PERSONNEL

Lewis

- 1. **Approve the Board Resolutions; 11-003, 11-004, 11-005, 11-006 and 11-007 Which Allow Teachers to Teach in a Subject Area According to Ed Code Sections 44258.2 and 44263** Human Resources Administrator Carolyn Lewis gave a brief overview of Ed Code Sections 44258.2 and 44263 and the subsequent resolutions.
MSP Niday/Gumz Roll Call Vote: 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: Aye

E. CONSENT AGENDA

Silver

- MSP Niday/Roth 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: Aye (agenda item E1)
- MSP Niday/Gumz 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: Aye (agenda item E5)
- MSP Niday/Beaman 5-0 Student Advisory Vote: Aye (E2, 3, 4, 6 & 7)
- 1. **Approve Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of August 10, 2010** Pulled for discussion at the request of Wendy Brannan.
Wendy Brannan addressed the Board regarding her opinion of the wording of the Closed Session Agenda items from the August 10, 2010 Board Agenda and reflection in the minutes of persons in attendance.
- 2. **Approve the 2010-2011 Salary Schedules**
- 3. **Approve an Agreement with Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center for Youth Services at Scotts Valley High School**
- 4. **Approve a Contract with the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Allowing Fifth Grade Students from Brook Knoll and Vine Hill Elementary Schools to Participate in the Outdoor Science School Program**
- 5. **Approve the Certificated Action Report** Pulled for discussion at the request of Peter McLean.
Peter McLean addressed the Board regarding the employment of a Program Specialist and the administration of personnel. Superintendent Silver responded to Mr. McLean’s comments.
- 6. **Approve the Classified Action Report**
- 7. **Approve Warrants**

BOARD DISCUSSION

The Board passed due to the late hour.

ADJOURNMENT

Board President Michael Shulman adjourned the meeting at **9:20 p.m.**

Minutes Recorded By:

Minutes Approved By:

Brenda Spalding
 Administrative Assistant to Superintendent

Larry Beaman
 Clerk to the Board of Trustees