

SANTA BARBARA SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of Special Board Meeting  
Friday, December 9, 2005

**Call to Order- Meeting convened at 1:40 p.m.**

The Santa Barbara Elementary and High School Districts' Board of Education special meeting was held in the Administration Center Board Room, 720 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara, California, and called to order by Board President Rodriguez.

**Members Present:**

Lynn Rodriguez, President  
Annette Cordero, Vice President  
Laura Malakoff, Member  
Nancy Harter, Member  
Robert Noël, Member

**Staff Present:**

Brian Sarvis, Ed.D. Superintendent  
Craig Price, District Counsel

**A.1 Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Board President Rodriguez

**A. 2 Pledge of Allegiance**

Led by Board Member Malakoff

**A.3 Spanish Translation**

Dr. Sarvis announced that Ms. Noemi Vasquez was available for translation, if required. None was required.

**A.4 Public Comments**

None

**B.1 Board Focus Goal Workshop**

Dr. Sarvis presented the item. There was earlier discussion a few meetings ago on the 2003-04 focus goals. He announced that some work had been done on some of the goals, and none on other goals. Dr. Sarvis reviewed the goals that the management group had discussed: closing the achievement gap, improving data driven instruction, ensuring that every school have well-built facilities, and closer collaboration between special education and general education. Board Member Harter requested the preamble, originally included in the focus goals, be located and reviewed. Board President Rodriguez clarified for those present that the purpose of focus goals was to use them through out the school year to guide the districts' activities. Dr. Sarvis further clarified that the districts' mission statement directs the focus goals, the goals direct the Local Education Academic Plan (LEAP) document, and the LEAP guides the Single Plans for Student Achievement. Board members discussed Dr. Sarvis' statement.

Board President Rodriguez suggested that the group review the focus goals and decide to either keep or revise them. Dr. Sarvis reviewed goal #1: Schools will meet the following accountability goals for student achievement. The board discussed the high school exit exam, AYPs and standards. Board Member Noël noted the importance of aligning instruction with standards, in both elementary and high school, and having a standards-based report card for the junior and high school grades. A number of questions were raised. Dr. Sarvis will forward them to Jan Zettel, assistant superintendent secondary education, and request that he reply at a future board meeting.

The board reviewed the preamble. Board Member Malakoff suggested adding language to it that refers to offering teacher support. The board discussed her suggestion and thought it would be best to add it as a separate goal. Board Vice President Cordero suggested taking out the subgroups language. The board decided to include the preamble in the revised board focus

goals and continued with their discussion of goals, adding some, eliminating others, adding sub goals, and changing/adding language to current goals.

**Public Comment:**

- Karolyn Renard- Board focus goals, high school exit exam, and performance based methods.

Dr. Sarvis responded to Ms. Renard's comment and stated the district has provided and will continue providing every opportunity to take the high school exit exam.

Board Member Noël spoke about budget goals and how they should translate to district LEAP and school plans. Board Vice President Cordero stated they should be making decisions based on programs, instead of programmatic decisions based on budget. The board continued with their discussion and drafted a list of ideas. The importance of outreach to Hispanic parents, the translation of items on the district webpage, and the possibility of having the televised meetings translated was discussed. The board questioned Dr. Sarvis regarding board compensation and health insurance premium. They suggested these topics be added to a future agenda. Board Member Malakoff requested he also add a discussion about preschool programs and the various school options available to elementary, junior and high schools students and parents, including schools of choice. The board proceeded to review the draft list of ideas, and requested Dr. Sarvis have his staff put something in writing regarding the high school exit exam and provide their input regarding the topics being discussed. Board Member Harter requested Dr. Sarvis provide them with information regarding the cost of translating items on the web page and televised board meetings and the latest research connected to parent involvement in schools. Board Vice President Cordero requested that Dr. Sarvis look into the possibility of having a presentation, in Spanish, in which the community would be walked through how the district functions. She used the presentation made by Mr. Marcelo Lopez regarding city government. Board President Rodriguez requested Dr. Sarvis have his staff write up language for goals and sub strategies and present it at the 1-24-06 board meeting. Dr. Sarvis shared information found under education code regarding board compensation. He read: "board members, that attend all meetings held, regular and special, may be compensated a sum not to exceed \$400 a month. On an annual basis the governing board may increase the compensation in an amount not to exceed 5%. Members can also be compensated if absence is due to providing services on behalf of the district, illness, jury duty, or hardship deemed acceptable by the board". Board members agreed with the language and Craig Price, district legal counsel, suggested putting a resolution in place.

**B.2 Discussion of Effective Board Meetings**

Board President Rodriguez reviewed the topics under the item. She pointed out that some items have been covered in previous meetings and that others need additional discussion.

**Public Comment:**

- Karolyn Renard- importance of audio-taping of board meetings, and district's violation of Roberts' rules of procedure and conducting special board meetings

Dr. Sarvis responded by stating that he disagreed with Ms. Renard's comment and that she was providing incorrect information; that there was nothing to preclude the district from having special meetings. Mr. Price added that the Brown Act recognizes the need to call special board meetings and does not restrict the content of these meetings. He explained that most special meetings are televised and that the information regarding these meetings is distributed at least 72 hours in advance. Board Member Noël noted he was troubled that the superintendent and district legal counsel responded to Ms. Renard's public comment. Dr. Sarvis explained he responded because the information provided by Ms. Renard was incorrect and he did not want to leave the board with a feeling that something was wrong. Board Vice President Cordero noted that it was district practice to respond when they were being accused of wrongdoing.

**Public Comment:**

- Karolyn Renard- believes that Mr. Price's research is incorrect and he should refer to the last edition of Robert's rules

The board continued with their discussion regarding items on the list, such as public comment, starting board meetings earlier, and the number of meetings. Board Member Harter suggested these last two items be added to the organizational meeting in December, after the board positions are filled.

Board adjourned for a five minute break.

Board Policy 9323.A- Meeting Conduct, was discussed. Board members shared their thoughts on public comment and continued with their discussion of other items affecting board meetings, suggesting language.

Board President Rodriguez concluded stating that overall the board meetings were open to the public and conducted effectively.

**C Adjourment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn Rodriguez, President  
Board of Education

Adopted by Board of Education  
on \_\_\_\_\_

Unadopted