

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SANTA BARBARA ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS
REGULAR MEETING
July 25, 2001**

CALL TO ORDER/CLOSED SESSION

The Santa Barbara Elementary and High School Districts' Board of Education met today in the Board Room of the Santa Barbara School Districts' Administration Center, 720 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara, California. Claire VanBlaricum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and adjourned to Closed Session. The public session was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Kerri Webb, Santa Barbara News-Press reporter, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Claire VanBlaricum, President
Present: Robert Noël, Vice-President
Ruth E. Green, Member
Nancy Harter, Member
Fred Rifkin, Member

Staff Deborah Flores, Ph.D., Superintendent
Present: Robert Gonzalez, Director of Facilities and Operations
Lori Parrish, Interim Controller
Julie Medina, Secretary to the Superintendent

CLOSED SESSION

The Board met on the following in Closed Session:

- **PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT (Government Code 54957) Personnel matters, to include: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release.**

President VanBlaricum reported that the following action had been taken in Closed Session:

■ **MOTION:** To approve employment of Mirna Ramos as the Truancy Outreach Coordinator.

Moved: Fred Rifkin **Seconded:** Nancy Harter **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

■ **MOTION:** To approve employment of Veronica Rogers as assistant principal at La Colina Junior High School.

Moved: Fred Rifkin **Seconded:** Nancy Harter **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Noël requested a correction to the June 12 minutes, the vote on item B.3, Santa Barbara Big Picture High School, to reflect a no vote for he and Ruth Green.

■ **MOTION:** To approve the Minutes of June 12, 2001 (Regular Meeting) as corrected, the June 27, 2001 (Regular Meeting) and the July 11, 2001 (Regular Meeting).

Moved: Nancy Harter **Seconded:** Ruth Green **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

RECEIPT OF GIFTS

■ **MOTION:** To receive with appreciation the donations to the Santa Barbara Elementary School District and Santa Barbara High School District from the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation.

Moved: Fred Rifkin **Seconded:** Ruth Green **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

In response to an inquiry by the News-Press and others, Deborah Flores reported that the Outdoor School issue was not on the agenda. At the last Board Meeting, it was agreed that action on this item would be delayed until the District's attorney was able to review and respond to the Learning for Life contract.

Dr. Flores introduced Dr. Brian Sarvis, the new Director of Research and Technology.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ruth Green reported receipt of an anonymous letter concerning the budget. She stated that it was her practice not to respond to such letters and requested that persons sign their correspondence in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bruce Rittenhouse reported on the nominating process for City elections and distributed information to the Board.

Ken Loch addressed the Board regarding the eternal age.

B.1 MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING – SANTA BARBARA BIG PICTURE HIGH SCHOOL

Deborah Flores stated that at the July 11 Board Meeting, Board Members expressed concerns about the Memo of Understanding (MOU) and directed the superintendent to forward the MOU to the District's attorney, Mary Dowell, for review. In addition, the Superintendent relayed the Board's concerns to Dennis Littkey, Co-President of the Big Picture Company. In Mary Dowell's response to the MOU, she raised issues beyond those raised by Board Members.

Dr. Flores reported that important information was missing from the agenda item and that information was distributed to the Board on Monday in a memo from her, copies of which were on the table in the back of the Board Room. In addition, after talking by phone to Mary Dowell on Tuesday, additional changes in language are recommended, which she distributed to the Board (i.e., deletion of the reference to the Statement of Principals and Responsibilities and addition of termination language).

President VanBlaricum reminded the Board that a motion needed to be on the floor before discussion could be held.

■ **MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve the MOU between the Santa Barbara High School District and the Big Picture Company for the time period 7/25/01 – 6/30/02.

Moved: Fred Rifkin **Seconded:** Nancy Harter

Dr. Noël requested a short break to allow Board Members time to review the additional changes to the MOU.

Upon reconvening, the following amendment to the motion was made:

■ **AMENDMENT TO MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve the MOU as presented by legal counsel.

Moved: Fred Rifkin **Seconded:** Nancy Harter **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

■ **AMENDMENT TO MOTION:** That the date June 14, 2002 be included in lieu of "by the end of the 2001/2002 school year as stated in the second to the last paragraph.

Moved: Nancy Harter **Seconded:** Fred Rifkin **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

Diana Zapata Kotowski thanked the Board for taking the process this far in consideration of an alternative high school.

Michelle Britton Bass stated that whatever works out as a consensus among the Board is fine with the group behind the Santa Barbara Big Picture High School. They would like to get the process started.

Bill Palmisano urged the Board to support the MOU.

Lowell Boardman expressed appreciation to the Board for entertaining consideration of an alternative high school.

Sarah Griffin stated that at a previous Board Meeting, it was suggested that the Dean be directed to explore alternative high schools in general and questioned whether or not the MOU precluded this. She also stated that an analysis done by Dr. Noël leads one to believe that the Big Picture High School is not in the best interest of our students and that the \$50,000 should not be spent if it is determined that another alternative high school is not possible.

Bruce Rittenhouse expressed the need to have an attorney present at Board Meetings, as is done by the City and County. He stated that the Board should not be considering amending a legal contract without an attorney present to answer questions.

Board discussion followed and additional concerns regarding liabilities, obligations, and the fact that there was no way to hold the Big Picture Company liable were expressed.

■ **SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** That the Board send the MOU back to Mary Dowell to develop a new contract and that she be invited to a Board Meeting to discuss the MOU.

Moved: Robert Noël **Seconded:** Ruth Green **Vote:** Passed, 3-2

Ayes: Ruth Green, Nancy Harter, Robert Noël **Noes:** Fred Rifkin, Claire VanBlaricum

■ **AMENDMENT TO MOTION:** That the substitute motion read in consultation with legal counsel, as opposed to the physical presence of counsel, with due notice.

Moved: Nancy Harter **Seconded:** Ruth Green **Vote:** Passed 4-1

Ayes: Ruth Green, Nancy Harter, Robert Noël, Claire VanBlaricum **Noes:** Fred Rifkin

■ **AMENDED MOTION:** That the Board send the MOU back to Mary Dowell to develop a new contract, and that the MOU be discussed at a meeting in consultation with legal counsel, with due notice.

Moved: Nancy Harter **Seconded:** Ruth Green **Vote:** Passed, 3-2

Ayes: Ruth Green, Nancy Harter, Robert Noël **Noes:** Fred Rifkin, Claire VanBlaricum

B.2 MULTI-YEAR BUDGET PROJECTIONS

Deborah Flores reported that this item was reviewed at the last Board Meeting and that it was on this agenda for action, as required by the County Superintendent of Schools Office.

■ **MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve the multi-year budget projections as submitted.

Moved: Robert Noël **Seconded:** Ruth Green **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

B.3 REQUEST TO EXTEND THE “READING FOR SUCCESS” CLASS TO THE 10TH GRADE

Deborah Flores reported the need to extend the 7th - 9th grade Reading for Success Program to the 10th grade as a number of the 9th grade students still need to reach grade level proficiency in reading.

Sarah Griffin asked the Board to continue support of these students, even if the program had to be extended to the twelfth grade.

■ **MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve the request to extend the “Reading for Success” class to the tenth grade.

Moved: Ruth Green **Seconded:** Nancy Harter **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

B.4 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A USER SUPPORT TECHNICIAN IN THE RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Deborah Flores reported that this position would handle incoming calls and do a lot of first level intervention on technical issues over the phone, which would eliminate having a highly trained technical person go out to individual sites. Dr. Flores stated that after analyzing the amount of calls for assistance, the majority of the calls are in the secondary district. Therefore, funding of the position will be a 20/80 split to the general fund.

Brian Sarvis, Director of Research and Technology, indicated that 50 percent of service calls can be handled by this person by phone or by email. Elaine Alvarado, Coordinator of Classified Personnel, emphasized the support this position provides by the clerical staff at the individual schools.

■ **MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve the User Support Technician position to the Research and Technology Department, the cost to be charged to the General Fund at a 20/80 ratio.

Moved: Fred Rifkin **Seconded:** Nancy Harter **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

B.5 TRAIN SAFETY STUDY, SAN MARCOS PROPERTY

At the June 27 Board Meeting, the Board approved a contract with Dudek and Associates to perform a detailed train safety study of the San Marcos Property. At the July 11 Board Meeting, purchase order 12797 was pulled from the agenda (payment to Dudek). Deborah Flores reported that at the July 11 meeting, the Board asked for copies of previous legal opinions that related to this matter, which were forwarded to the Board.

Robert Gonzalez, Director of Facilities and Operations, reported that because this study is dealing with the feasibility of housing any school site (elementary or secondary) on the campus, staff is recommending that the funding source be changed to developer fees and capital facilities funds at a 50/50 split, instead of using bond funds.

■ **MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve Purchase Order 12797 to Dudek and Associates for a Train Traffic Study of the San Marcos Property as required by the Department of Education. The amount of the study is \$8,500 to be funded equally from developer fees and capital facilities funds.

Moved: Nancy Harter **Seconded:** Ruth Green

Fred Rifkin expressed concerns with using elementary funds on a secondary site. Board discussion followed.

Sarah Griffin supported the Train Safety Study as well as funding it through secondary funds.

■ **AMENDMENT TO MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve Purchase Order 12797 and that the funding be charged to the Measure V Bond funds.

Moved: Robert Noël **Seconded:** Fred Rifkin **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

B.6 DISTRICT OFFICE REORGANIZATION

Deborah Flores reported that this item was presented and discussed at the last Board Meeting. At that meeting, a question was asked regarding the funding formula. After consulting with the District's auditor and Don Bennett, former Director of Instructional Support Services and analyzing the job responsibilities proposed for the Elementary Assistant Superintendent, it was determined that 15% of the funding should be charged to the Elementary General Fund.

■ **MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve the District Office Reorganization with the recommended changes in the funding formula as proposed.

Moved: Robert Noël **Seconded:** Nancy Harter **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

B.7 REQUEST TO CREATE A SECONDARY MATHEMATICS PROGRAM, GRADES 7-9, FOR STUDENTS WHO SCORED AT AN NPR OF 20 OR BELOW ON THE STANFORD 9 EXAM

Deborah Flores stated that the initiative for this program came from a proposal presented by Robert Noël called Sums Up. This program, similar to the Reading for Success program, would provide additional assistance to students in grades 7-9 who scored at an NPR of 20 or below on the math portion of the Stanford 9 Exam. This item was on the agenda to approve the program and to approve instructional materials and the River Deep program for grades 7, 8, and 9. Teachers Jim Holmes, Jerry Chiu, and Kelly Choi were present to explain the textbook selection process and answer Board questions.

President VanBlaricum requested that a motion be on the floor before discussion began.

■ **MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve the creation of a secondary mathematics program, grades 7-9, for students who scored at an NPR of 20 or below on the Stanford 9 exam.

Moved: Fred Rifkin **Seconded:** Ruth Green **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

Jerry Chiu indicated that at the junior high/middle school level, there is a need for students to have two math classes, one that will address the standards and one that will address pre-algebra/algebra. Board discussion followed. Dr. Flores expressed concern that the District would not be able to fulfill the math teacher need as the District is having trouble filling the current vacancies.

■ **AMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve the creation of a secondary mathematics program, grades 7-9, for students who scored at an NPR of 20 or below on the Stanford 9 exam, with the details to be worked out and brought forward by the superintendent.

Moved: Fred Rifkin **Seconded:** Robert Noël **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

Deborah Flores asked the teachers to explain why they selected the materials they are recommending for approval in grades 7 and 8., as the textbook is not on the State approved list. Jim Holmes provided information on the Riverdeep Program.

In conclusion, Superintendent Flores recommended approval of the 9th grade textbook, as it is on the State approved list, and the Riverdeep Program. She expressed concerns about not using State approved materials for the 7th and 8th grades and asked the teachers to look at some of the materials again.

■ **MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve the 9th grade text as presented and approve the Riverdeep Program for grades 7, 8, and 9.

Moved: Robert Noël **Seconded:** Nancy Harter

Board discussion followed. Ruth Green, referring to the District's Focus Goal – *Prepare all students to pass the 2004 High School Exit Exam by providing a standards-aligned curriculum . . .*, expressed concern about adopting non standards aligned material and materials that are not on the State approved list.

Vote: Passed, 4-1.

Ayes: Nancy Harter, Robert Noël, Fred Rifkin, Claire VanBlaricum **Noes:** 0 **Abstain:** Ruth Green

B.8 APPROVAL OF AN ADDITIONAL NEW SECONDARY COURSE (SECOND READING)

■ **MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve the new secondary high school course, "Health, Academic Foundations for Success and Technology."

Moved: Fred Rifkin **Seconded:** Ruth Green **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

B.9 OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL AND EXPENSES IN EXCESS OF \$500

■ **MOTION:** That the Board approve the out-of-state travel and/or expenses in excess of \$500 for Jennie Martinez and Ana Maya, Child Development Program head teacher and coordinator, respectively.

Moved: Nancy Harter **Seconded:** Ruth Green **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

A 10-minute break was taken at 9:20 p.m.

C.1 SANTA BARBARA HIGH SCHOOL POOL PROJECT

Deborah Flores introduced Lindsey Parton and Barry Snyder, Santa Barbara High School parents, who gave a presentation on plans to raise funds in order to expand the scope of work currently planned through Measure V funds.

C.2 CESAR CHAVEZ DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION CHARTER SCHOOL (CCCS) PROGRESS REPORT

At the request of the Board, Pete Relis gave a progress report on the school which included the status of facilities, enrollment, staffing, and finances. Lori Parrish, Interim Controller, reviewed the school's actuals for the 2000/01 fiscal year.

C.3 REQUIRED PUBLIC HEARING OF CALIFORNIA SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION'S INITIAL PROPOSAL FOR NEGOTIATIONS

A revised initial proposal to open negotiations with the California School Employees Association was received at the July 11 Board Meeting. A public hearing is on this agenda according to collective bargaining laws. There was no one present wishing to address the Board.

D. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Item D.2 was pulled for discussion.

■ **MOTION:** To approve the Consent Agenda, as amended:

- D.1 Recommended Personnel Actions
- D.3 Warrants
- D.4 Declaration of Miscellaneous Equipment as Surplus to the Needs of the Districts
- D.5 Revisions to the 2000/01 Budgets
- D.6 Award of Contract, Running Track Improvement, San Marcos High School
- D.7 Community Development Block Grant Award Santa Barbara Junior High School Lighting Project
- D.8 Acceptance of Completed Contract, Restroom Renovation, La Colina Junior High
- D.9 Approval of Contract Services for Penfield and Smith – Civil Engineering for Franklin Elementary Athletic Field

Moved: Ruth Green **Seconded:** Nancy Harter **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

D.2 PURCHASE ORDERS

Sarah Griffin reminded the Board and staff that Purchase Order No. 12797 needs to be revised to reflect the funding source as Measure V Bond funds.

■ **MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve the Purchase Order Report for the period June 21, 2001 through July 3, 2001, with the revision to P.O. No. 12797.

Moved: Fred Rifkin **Seconded:** Nancy Harter **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

E. COMING EVENTS

Nancy Harter reported on the Santa Barbara Youth Theatre's production of How to Succeed in Business Without Even Trying.

F. BOARD COMMENTS

Fred Rifkin apologized to Robert Noël regarding comments made towards him earlier in the meeting.

G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Deborah Flores reported that the September 26 Board Meeting falls on a Jewish Holiday and requested that the meeting be moved to Tuesday, September 25. The Board requested that notice be sent to the public.

The following future items were requested: update on master plan process, update on the Santa Barbara Community Academy facilities, Board Protocol, and researching alternative high schools.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the Board will be Wednesday, August 22, at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Claire VanBlaricum, President , Board of Education

Adopted by Board of Education on _____.