

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SANTA BARBARA ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS
REGULAR MEETING
September 19, 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 6:00 p.m., and adjourned to Closed Session. The public session was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Diana Rigby, Assistant Superintendent, led the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a moment of silence for reflection and remembrance of those persons affected by the September 11, 2001, New York tragedy.

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: Michael Couch, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Instruction
Diana Rigby, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Instruction
Robert Gonzalez, Director of Facilities and Operations
Lori Parrish, Director of Fiscal Services
Brian Sarvis, Director of Research and Technology
Julie Medina, Secretary to the Superintendent

BOARD COMMENTS

In light of the tragedy of events that occurred in New York, Board Members and the Superintendent expressed appreciation to teachers and staff for the way they helped students cope with what happened to our nation.

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.*
- **EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code 54956.9[a])** *Kate Smith v. Santa Barbara Elementary School District (SBSC Lead Case No. 224051 Consolidated with Case No. 227603). (An update will be provided, if available.)*
- **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING (Government Code 3549.1 and 54957.6)** *Conference with Labor Negotiator, Superintendent: Negotiations with the Santa Barbara Teachers Association.*

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTION

■ The Board gave direction to the District's negotiator, Dr. Flores, regarding negotiations with the Santa Barbara Teachers Association.

■ **MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve the settlement agreement as presented by legal counsel in Case No. 224051 and Case No. 227603.

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

In compliance with The Brown Act, President VanBlaricum proceeded to read the substantive portions of the settlement and stated that anyone wishing the full text of the settlement could request a copy from the Superintendent's Office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Claire VanBlaricum requested a correction to the August 22, 2001, minutes. The reporting of the votes needs to be reported as a 3-0 vote to reflect the absence of Ruth Green and Robert Noël.

■ **MOTION:** To approve the Minutes of July 25, 2001 (Regular Meeting).

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

■ **MOTION:** To approve the Minutes of August 22, 2001 (Regular Meeting), as corrected.

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

Ayes: 3 **Noes:** 0 **Abstain:** Ruth Green, Robert Noël **Absent:** 0

RECEIPT OF GIFTS

■ **MOTION:** To receive with appreciation the donations to the Santa Barbara Elementary School District and Santa Barbara High School District from Capello & McCann, LLP.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Deborah Flores and Michael Couch reported on the elementary and secondary opening of school enrollments, which were close to projected enrollments in the elementary district and slightly below in the high school district.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Danielle Kravitz, San Marcos High School student, reported on current events at the three high schools.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jerry Chiu, La Cumbre Middle School teacher, reported on La Cumbre Middle School's disaggregated test scores for last year's Algebra I spring 2001 test.

B.1 ADOPTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR THE MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH DEVELOPMENTAL MATHEMATICS PROGRAM

Deborah Flores stated that at a previous meeting the math teachers made a recommendation for materials to be used for the developmental math class. At that time, the Board and Superintendent expressed concern that the recommended materials were not on the State approved list and the teachers were asked to review the books on the 2519 supplemental list of materials. The teachers reviewed the materials and have recommended approval of the Skills Intervention Kit and Mathematics in Context. Mike Couch reviewed the costs for the two kits.

Elizabeth Hawkins (Santa Barbara Junior High teacher) and Jerry Chiu (La Cumbre Middle School teacher) explained how these skill kits are used in the classroom.

Board discussion followed. Dr. Noël requested that the motion include a program evaluation.

■ **MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve the adoption of the Skills Intervention Kit and Mathematics in Context for the Middle/Junior High Developmental Mathematics Program with the inclusion of a program evaluation up to a cost of \$15,000.

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

Ayes: 4 Noes: 0 Abstain: Ruth Green Absent: 0

B.2 OUTDOOR SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH THE LOS PADRES COUNCIL, BOYS SCOUTS OF AMERICAN

Deborah Flores stated that at the July 11 Board Meeting concerns were expressed regarding the relationship of the Boy Scouts and the Outdoor School. At the same meeting, information on an agreement with Learning for Life, was presented and the Board directed staff to have the District's legal counsel, Mary Dowell, review the agreement. It was the consensus of the Board to table action on this item until legal counsel reviewed the Learning for Life agreement. Legal counsel reviewed the agreement and has indicated that she feels there is still a link between Learning for Life and the Boy Scouts.

Dr. Flores stated that after reviewing the matter she wanted to do what was best for the students. With that in mind, she recommended that the agreement with the Outdoor School be approved for this year and that other options be looked at for subsequent years. Board comments followed.

Members of the public addressing the Board in support of the Outdoor School Program were Kay Hurley, Marni Davis, Carolyn Phillips, James Jordan, Carol Hawkes, and Christy Heitmiller.

■ **MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve the Outdoor School Agreement for the school year 2001-2002 and that sites be directed to investigate other outdoor school options for the 2002-2003 school year and subsequent years.

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

B.3 REVISIONS TO THE 2001/02 BUDGETS

Lori Parrish, Director of Fiscal Services, reported that by law, within 45 days after the State budget has been adopted, school districts are required to make changes to their budget based on the state adopted budget and to make the changes public. Due to the late hour, she gave a brief overview of the changes – COLA came in at 3.87 instead of 3.91, State equalization aide, and energy block grant. She also included the effect of adding the developmental reading and math classes for the junior high and high schools.

■ **MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve the revisions to the 2001/02 budgets.

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

B.4 REQUEST TO APPLY FOR A RENEWAL OF THE WAIVER TO LOCATE COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL ON THE CAMPUS OF LA COLINA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Mike Couch, Assistant Superintendent, reported that it is a State requirement to house the Community Day School on its own campus. This item is a request to apply for a renewal of the waiver so that the school can be housed on the La Colina Junior High School campus.

■ **MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve the request to renew the waiver to locate Community Day School on the campus of La Colina Junior High School.

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

B.5 BOARD POLICY 3511, ENERGY CONSERVATION

Robert Gonzalez, Director of Facilities and Operations, stated that this item is on the agenda for second reading and adoption. This policy is needed in order to qualify for the State energy program grant.

■ **MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve Board Policy 3511, Energy Conservation, for second reading and adoption.

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

B.6 FIELD TRIP: DPHS/SMHS/SBHS TO NEW YORK CITY, NY

Due to the recent tragedy in New York, Mike Couch withdrew this item from the agenda.

B.7 OUT-OF-STATE-TRAVEL AND EXPENSES IN EXCESS OF \$500

■ **MOTION:** That the Board of Education approve out-of-state travel for Sandra Robertson, SBJHS teacher, and Donald Bennett, consultant in the Instructional Support Services office.

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

C.1 PROPOSAL FOR A PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE CREATION OF THE SANTA BARBARA ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL

Deborah Flores reviewed the efforts of a group of individuals who had requested Board support for a planning process for the creation of an alternative high school, modeled after the Big Picture Company. This item was discussed at several meetings at which Board Members expressed concerns about the Big Picture Company and ultimately, this concept was withdrawn.

Staff has met with members of the original group and discussed a planning process for extending the principles and values of the Open Alternative School to the high school level, the Santa Barbara Alternative High School, which would be housed on an existing high school campus.

Dr. Michelle Britton Bass and Diana Kowtowski reviewed information sent home at the beginning of the school year which reviews the Education Code section which authorizes school districts to provide alternative schools. They urged the Board to support the planning process for the Santa Barbara Alternative High School.

Board discussion focused on the structure of the school and allocation of money for the planning process. Staff will come back with a proposal.

C.2 PRESENTATION BY THE TRADART FOUNDATION

Mike Couch introduced Dauri Kennedy, Pamela Flemming, and Leslie Meadowcroft of the Tradart Foundation. Leslie Meadowcroft gave a power point presentation on the Tradart High School, a comprehensive technical education alternative high school.

C.3 STUDY OF BEST PRACTICES AND PROGRAMS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL

Deborah Flores further explained what her intent was regarding a best practices/programs study -- a thorough study of all the ideas, concepts, and programs currently being implemented at the high school level that would be effective for all students in the high school district. This process could result in the recommendation to form one or more alternative high schools. Board discussion focused on: the structure of the study, cost, and timeline. Dr. Noel suggested that staff meet with Professor Lorraine McDonnell, of UCSB, who could assist in the design of the research. Dr. Flores will meet with Professor McDonnell and come back to the Board with a proposal.

C.4 ELEMENTARY RETENTIONS REPORT

This item was rescheduled for the September 25, 2001, Board Meeting.

D. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Robert Gonzalez reported that there was a typographical error in agenda item D.7. The amount of the total revised contract price in the body of the item is listed as \$95,413 and should be \$97,113.

Nancy Harter's questioned why Items D.7 and D.9, change orders, exceeded ten percent of the contract price. Mr. Gonzalez reported that once the roofs were exposed, more deterioration was found than expected.

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

- D.1 Personnel Action Items
- D.2 Purchase Orders
- D.3 Warrants
- D.4 Adoption of Resolution 01/02-7, Approval of Contract with the State Department of Education to Repair/Renovate General Child Care Playground Facilities
- D.5 Additional Fundraising Plans for the 2001-2002 School Year
- D.6 San Marcos Auditorium Renovation Main Campus Entry Access Ramp
- D.7 San Marcos High School Roofing, Change Order No. 1
- D.8 Acceptance of Completed Contracts
- D.9 La Colina Junior High School Roofing Change Order No. 2

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

E. COMING EVENTS

Claire VanBlaricum reminded the audience that the next Regular Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 25.

F. BOARD COMMENTS

Nancy Harter thanked Mr. Gonzalez and Ms. Parrish for their response to the FICMAT report and suggested that an update be given in six months.

G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Deborah Flores reported that the District's distribution of flyers policy is due to be discussed on an upcoming agenda. Being that there is a possibility of potential litigation on this matter, she suggested that a closed session be held with the District's attorney to discuss the legal ramifications of issues related to whatever policy decision the Board might adopt.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the Board will be Tuesday, September 25, at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Claire VanBlaricum, President, Board of Education

Adopted by Board of Education on _____.