

Board of Education  
Santa Barbara Elementary and High School Districts

Board Meeting  
Special Focus: Budget Workshop

Minutes  
February 4, 2003

Call to Order

Notice thereof having been given in compliance with legal requirements, a meeting of the Board of Education of the Santa Barbara Elementary and High School Districts was called to order in public session at 6:00 p.m., on Tuesday, February 4, 2003, in the Santa Barbara High School cafeteria, 700 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, California. Priscilla Diamond, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, led the Pledge of Alliance.

**Members** Nancy Harter, President  
**Present:** Robert Noël, Vice President  
Ruth Green, Member  
Fred Rifkin, Member  
Lynn Rodriguez, Member

**Staff**  
**Present:** Deborah A. Flores, Ph.D., Superintendent  
Michael Couch, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education  
Diana Rigby, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education  
Priscilla Diamond, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services  
Brian Sarvis, Ed.D., Director of Research and Technology  
Robert Gonzalez, Director of Facilities and Operations

Closed Session

The Board met on the following in Closed Session:

- Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code 4956.9[a]) *Goleta Union Elementary School District v. Andrew Ordway, et. Al., Case No. CV99-7745-DDP.*
- Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code 54956.9[a]) *Emily Rose Smith V. Santa Barbara Elementary School District, Case No. CV 01-01994R(RZX) [consolidated with Case Nos. CV 01-823-R and CV 01-1994-R].*
- 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

President Harter announced that pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 and 54957.1, the Board took final action to approve a settlement agreement covering a federal court lawsuit based on terms that had previously been signed by the opposing party. The lawsuit and proceedings settlement are: Santa Barbara Elementary School District vs. Case #CV 01-01728 R (RZx). The substance of the agreement is as follows: The parties agree to dismiss all pending procedures with prejudice; the parties agree to release each other from all previous claims of liability and all existing claims known and unknown; the District agrees to pay the Smith party the sum of \$400,000, this amount covers attorney's fees; the District will ask the Santa Barbara Superior Court to seal any court files relating to any prior restraining orders against Kate Smith; the Smith's will comply with previously agreed upon dispute resolution procedures regarding any future disputes about their children's education; the parties agree to refrain from disparaging remarks about each other and retaliatory actions.

The settlement was approved by the Board on a vote of 5-0, unanimously approving it.

Superintendent Flores stated that only \$150,000 of the \$400,000 would be paid from the District. Other entities will pay the remaining amount. The \$150,000 would not come out of the general fund. The superintendent recommended to the Board that this amount be taken out of a fund that is set aside for claims and liability issues. This fund is required by law and at this point of the school year there is enough funds to cover this settlement.

#### Public Comments

Sarah Griffin posed several questions for the Board to consider regarding home-to-school transportation.

#### Budget Workshop

Deborah Flores stated that the purpose of this meeting was to provide the Board and public with information about the state education budget and how it impacts local school budgets.

Priscilla Diamond, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, reported on how funding for public schools was developed, and explained the following: restricted versus unrestricted funds, revenue limits, required reserve for economic uncertainty, and what encroachment means.

Deborah Flores provided information about mid-year cuts proposed by the Governor for the current year and discussed details from the governor's proposed budget for the 2003-2004 school year.

Beth Stoeckly asked for examples of "frictionless cuts."

Kent Madson inquired about the recently found stocks and if the funds could be applied to the proposed cuts in librarians. He also suggested an adopt-a-school program.

Isabel Downs suggested that the Board consider cutting back existing programs and to not implement the proposed international baccalaureate program, as the students being served are already being served by the advanced placement program.

Rich Tobin suggested that the Board look at ways to expand the budget rather than cut it through expansion of the current adopt-a-school program, ads on school buses, endowment for teaching positions, grants from the community.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, this meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

#### **Attest:**

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Robert Noël, Vice President, Board of Education

Adopted by Board of Education on April 22, 2003