

Board of Education
Santa Barbara Elementary and High School Districts

Board Meeting
Special Focus: Charter Schools

Minutes
March 18, 2003

A. 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 5:45 p.m., on Tuesday, March 4, 2003, in the multipurpose room/auditorium of Franklin Elementary School, 1111 East Mason Street, Santa Barbara, California. Carole Cowan, Franklin Elementary School principal, 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
David Hetyonk, Interim Director, Facilities and Operations
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.*
- **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation** (Government code 54956.9[a]) *Goleta Union Elementary School District v. Andrew Ordway, et. al., Case No. CV99-7745-DDP*
- **Collective Bargaining** (Government Code 3549.1 and 54957.6) *Conference with Labor Negotiator, Superintendent: Negotiations with the Santa Barbara Teachers Association..*
- **Collective Bargaining** (Government Code 3549.1 and 54957.6) *Conference with Labor Negotiator, Superintendent: Negotiations with the Santa Barbara School Districts School Administrators Association.*

Announcement of Closed Session Action

Nancy Harter reported that no action was taken in closed session.

Public Comments

Bill Gourley, Todd Ruskauff, Cassy Ybarra, Paul Rooeny, Andrew Milbrecht addressed the Board in support of industrial technology.

Franklin Elementary students Jocelyn Morales, Lourdes Crispin, Michelle Crispin, and Lizbeth Gonzalez spoke in support of teacher aides.

Kate Smith reported that she had attended the Santa Barbara City Council meeting and asked their assistance in restructuring the Santa Barbara School District. She also asked their assistance in a grand jury investigation of the truancy program and the systematic misconduct and malfeasance of District administrators.

Sarah Griffin requested that the *Superintendent's Report* be made available at one or more alternative sites, other than the District Office, so that the public can have reasonable access to the material. With regard to agenda items A.1 and A.2, she asked how much the District expected to receive from the state bond for these school sites. She also asked if state funds were not received, how would the District pay for the site bid projects.

Tony Fischer asked why the campus modernization items were being pulled from the agenda. Deborah Flores stated that County Counsel recommended that these items be pulled as additional research is being done with regard to the bid protests.

Mr. Fischer also asked where the state matching funds are for the Goleta Valley project. Upon making contact with the Office of Public School Construction, he was told that the La Colina Junior High School matching funds item was on their March agenda, but not the Goleta Valley Junior High School project. He strongly recommended that the Board request a status report on all projects. Dr. Flores recommended that the architect for this project come to the next Board meeting to address these concerns, as the architect has assured the District that these two projects have been submitted and will be eligible for the additional funding. Mr. Fischer stated that his concerns also related to the La Colina Junior High School project.

A.1 Campus Modernization, Goleta Valley Junior High School
This item was continued to the next Board meeting.

A.2 Campus Modernization, La Colina Junior High School
This item was continued to the next Board meeting.

B.1 Presentation on Proposition 39

Dr. Flores introduced legal counsel Paul Minney who gave a power point presentation on Proposition 39, the Charter Schools Facilities statutes and regulations. He reported that the main provision of Proposition 39 states that "each school district shall make available, to each charter school operating in the school district, facilities sufficient for the charter school to accommodate all of the charter school's in-district students in conditions reasonably equivalent to those in which the students would be accommodated if they were attending other public schools of the district." He reviewed how this proposition relates to Cesar Chavez Charter School and Santa Barbara Charter School.

Board comments followed.

B.2 Location of Cesar Chavez Charter School and Budget Update

Deborah Flores explained the rationale for the recommendation to locate Cesar Chavez Charter School (CCCS) at Franklin Elementary School. She stated that 80% of the students enrolled at CCCS live in or near the Franklin School attendance area; CCCS has requested six classrooms, five for classrooms and one for an office and staff work area; that the field in front of Franklin is rarely used during the day and could be used for recess, lunch, and other activities; and there is a bank of portables next to the field which would allow for a self contained, separate school.

Brian Sarvis, Director of Research and Technology, reviewed CCCS' attendance boundaries, showing where the current CCCS population lives as well as for those students who have signed letters of commitment to attend CCCS.

Deborah Flores and Paul Minney responded to Board questions regarding the number of portables needed, enrollment expansion limits, the school's projected in-district enrollment, and financial liabilities if CCCS falls short of the projected enrollment.

In response to a question as to how many classrooms will be needed when the school expands to sixth grade, Pete Relis stated that they anticipate adding 20 students per year until they reach sixth grade, which would mean two to three additional classrooms.

Sarah Griffin asked the following questions: what is the penalty for not meeting the threshold all together; what may the District charge the charter school for housing out of district students; can the district collect from the home district for the cost of housing out of district students; can class size reduction funds be used for the portables; will the Franklin's bond allocation be charged; and will these portables be truly portables or will they end up being permanent portables and permanently increasing the capacity at Franklin.

Ann Hefferman, Franklin parent, expressed concern about: the loss of a playing field; undergoing construction next year; to accommodate the construction classrooms will be moved into portables and relocated onto existing playing fields used for daily physical activities; with the proposal to move CCCS onto the campus, two additional classrooms will have to be moved to accommodate them; and Franklin is also expected to experience declining enrollment, will CCCS experience declining enrollment as well,

Susan Pico asked if CCCS does not meet their enrollment, will they pull newcomers from Franklin. She also voiced concern on what the impact would be on Franklin's computer room and library.

Susan Adams stated that according to the proposal to redraw boundary lines between Franklin and Cleveland, Cleveland will house an additional 100 students. She asked why Cleveland could not house these additional students now, instead of housing them at Franklin. She also asked why Franklin staff was made aware of this proposal only three weeks ago, when District staff has been working on the proposal for months.

Pete Relis thanked the administration for the recommendation to house CCCS at Franklin. He also stated that CCCS knows the impact this move will have on Franklin but that they want to mitigate that impact. CCCS wants to be gracious guests and partners. CCCS wants to do what they can to give their program a quality learning environment, as they are currently in facilities that have to be changed every day, and that these classrooms are needed in order to conduct a quality program.

Kate Smith stated that the District needs to think outside the box. She suggested that CCCS be placed in the downtown offices.

Dr. Noël asked why the Parma site was not recommended. Deborah Flores reported that there are only four, under sized classrooms in the Parma building.

B.3 Santa Barbara Community Academy Expansion and Attendance Area

Deborah Flores stated that temporary expansion of the Academy has been discussed in the past. At this time, staff is recommending full expansion of the Academy into the District Office so that it will become a downtown school of choice. To date, however, a location for the District Office has not been determined and the master planners have been asked to assist with this solution. Dr. Flores requested that action on this project be taken in the near future in order to access any state funds that may be available.

Craig Price, attorney, stated that he was asked to look into certain issues having to do with the original construction in 2000 and the expansion in 2001. Mr. Price stated that his findings were outlined in a letter to Dr. Flores dated January 22, 2003, in which he has determined that the original construction project in 2000 was in full compliance and the expansion project in 2001 is in the process of being approved.

George Shaw, field representative for the California Department of Education School Facilities Planning Division, stated that Title V regulations require school districts to inventory site hazards in the area, if there are any. In that regard, in November, he accompanied the District's Director of Facilities and walked the site, wrote a report of his findings, and the District is fulfilling that inventory of potential hazards.

Joe Wilcox, architect, presented preliminary designs for expansion of the Academy into the District Offices, for a total of 21 classrooms. When, and if, the facilities department is moved, that property would be converted into a soccer field and additional classrooms.

Brian Sarvis, Director of Research and Technology, presented maps that showed existing school attendance boundaries for the Academy, a potential neighborhood attendance boundary, and attendance cell block counts for the surrounding area.

Deborah Flores stated that financing for this project would come from I-98 bond funds that were set aside for a downtown school site.

Board comments followed.

Sarah Griffin spoke regarding the need to determine how much land is available for any site in terms of gross acres and net usable acres before beginning any project. She stressed the need to not under utilize any site. She also asked that the Board move forward and approve an attendance boundary for this site, but defer implementation until construction is fully completed.

Rosanne Crawford expressed her support for neighborhood schools, and that providing a boundary not only supports helping children be educated in their neighborhood but it will reduce bus costs and overcrowding at other schools that these students would come from. She stated that the main consideration would be which of these plans would save the most in terms of transportation costs.

Kate Smith stated that a disproportionate amount of resources is going to the academy. She spoke in support of Open Alternative School and the need for all schools to have parent participation. She also asked that the boundary line that she lives in be looked at as she believes it should be in the Santa Barbara School District, not the Santa Ynez School District.

Laura Wilson stated that Santa Barbara has always been a city of neighborhoods. She asked that a downtown neighborhood school be established with the former Lincoln Elementary School attendance boundary.

Academy parents who spoke in support of the neighborhood school concept but stressed the need to keep it a school of choice were: Alissa Hummer, Judy Richter, and Kum Kum Bhavnani, Michael Azarobic, Steve Greg, Amy Alzina, and Karen Dutton.

Alice Post, Committee to Restore Santa Barbara Elementary School District, enthusiastically supported the expansion of the academy and the concept of a neighborhood school but stated that the school needed to draw more students from the immediate neighborhood. She also stated that the school needed a full playground.

Tony Fischer asked if this project would be eligible for modernization funding, as it is an expansion and he thought this would be considered new construction. He also stated that there is no mention in the budget regarding the cost associated with moving the administration offices.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, this meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Attest:

Nancy Harter, President

Adopted by Board of Education on May 27, 2003