

Santa Barbara Elementary and High School Districts

Minutes
April 22, 2003

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. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Mr. David Ortiz, La Colina Junior High School principal, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Robert Noël, Vice President
Ruth E. Green, Member
Fred Rifkin, Member
Lynn Rodriguez, Member

Members Absent: Nancy Harter, President

Staff Present: Deborah 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 of Facilities and Operations
Julie Medina, Secretary to the Superintendent

■ Charges or Complaint Against an Employee (Government Code 54957)

Elizabeth Sorgman addressed the board regarding her complaint against Beatrice Cordeiro, Washington Elementary School principal, and the misuse of Washington PTA funds.

Beatrice Cordeiro responded to Ms. Sorgman's complaint.

Persons speaking in support of Ms. Sorgman were: MaryJane Headlee, Irma Mera, Deborah Pentland, Della Rosales, Spencer Wass, Brian Burd, Kathy Carmel, and Scott Barash.

Persons speaking in support of Ms. Cordeiro were: Rosa Cavaletto, Karin Eberhard, Gerrie Fausett, Carol Hawkes, Emmet Hawkes, Marsha Honnold, Nicole Levine.

Adjournment to Closed Session

At the conclusion of this item, the board adjourned to closed session.

Announcement of Closed Session Action

Upon reconvening in public session, board member Fred Rifkin announced that the board voted to extend the investigation by ordering another audit of the cash accounts at Washington School; the new audit will be performed by a different independent auditor; and after the new audit is completed, the board will review the audit findings and make a final decision.

Return to Closed Session

The board returned to closed session to discuss the following:

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

- Collective Bargaining (Government Code 3549.1 and 54957.6) *Conference with Labor Negotiator, Superintendent: Negotiations with the Santa Barbara Teachers Association.*
- Student Discipline (Education Code 48918) *Expulsion Cases: Numbers 02/03-48, 02/03-49, and 02/03-52 (High School District). The Board must consider matters of student discipline in Closed Session unless the parents or students request an Open Session.*

Return to Open Session

Announcement of Closed Session Action

Vice President Noël announced that no action was taken in closed session.

Approval of Minutes

■ Motion: To approve the Minutes of February 4, 2003; February 11, 2003; February 25, 2003; and March 4, 2003.

Moved: Ruth Green Seconded: Lynn Rodriguez Vote: Passed

Ayes: 4 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: Nancy Harter

Receipt of Gifts

■ Motion: To receive with appreciation the donations to the Santa Barbara Elementary School District and Santa Barbara High School District from Victor Maya, Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, Lisa Alvarez, Don & Suzanne Jack, Mary Marquez, Zodo's, Jon Thomas at Gentiva, Richard H. Ward, D.D.S., Julian Weisglass, Liz Frech, Mike AcAdams, Cutter Motors, Olegario Perez Murillo, Stan Duke, and Nexxus Products.

Moved: Fred Rifkin Seconded: Ruth Green Vote: Passed

Ayes: 4 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: Nancy Harter

Superintendent's Report

Michael Couch, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, introduced and recognized the following persons:

2003 Santa Barbara County Spelling Bee first-place winner Nicole Zok, 7th grader at Goleta Valley Junior High.

2003 MathCounts chapter level winners from Goleta Valley Junior High School. Team members included J.R. Riggs (7th grade), Michael Reveles (7th grade), Daniel Polchinski (8th grade), Henry Wu (8th grade) and their coach, teacher Wendy Pendergraft.

La Colina theater arts students performed two songs from their school play, *Guys and Dolls*. The play runs May 8, 9, and 10.

Association of California School Administrators Region XIII honorees: Julie Medina, selected as Confidential Employee of the Year; and Priscilla Diamond, selected as Business Services Administrator of the Year.

Student Board Member Report

Kelly O'Bar, Dos Pueblos High School student, reported on current activities at the three high schools.

Correspondence

None

Public Comments

Ken Loch spoke regarding Tennissance, a fulfillment of a standard through the fine arts.

Susan Adams, Franklin Elementary School teacher, requested that the Board direct the master planner to incorporate equity planning into the first stage of the master plan report.

B.1 Board Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Districts and the Santa Barbara Teachers Association (SBTA)

Dr. Flores stated that Form AB 1200 was included in the attachment to the agenda, as requested by the Board. She also stated that Board members had asked what affect the health and welfare increase and a 1.7 percent cost of living increase would have on the budget. She reviewed three charts which outlined the impacts for both the SBTA agreement and the CSEA agreement.

Board comments followed.

Pam Kinsley, SBTA negotiations team chair, stated that of the ballots returned to date, 80 percent had voted for ratification.

■ Motion: That the Board of Education approve the collective bargaining agreement between the Districts and the Santa Barbara Teachers Association.

Moved: Fred Rifkin Seconded: Ruth Green Vote: Passed
Ayes: 3 Noes: 0 Abstain: Robert Noël Absent: Nancy Harter

Dr. Noel noted that the teachers had not asked for a raise. He also stated that the reason he abstained from voting was that he had objections to the negotiation process, not with the contract.

B.2 Board Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Districts and the California School Employees Association

Dr. Flores informed the Board that there was an error in the staff report regarding wages. She distributed corrected copies to the Board and indicated that copies were available on the table in the back of the Board room.

Ken Rivas, CSEA president, asked that the Board approve the tentative agreement. He stated that with the passage of SB18x, the District would receive a two percent COLA, which lead him to believe that there was money available for a salary increase.

Sarah Griffin asked that the Board not approve the agreement and go back to the bargaining table, as the District cannot afford a 1.7 percent raise.

Fred Rifkin questioned the Board's option to approve all or none of the agreement. Dr. Flores stated that the District's legal counsel had recommended that the Board not approve the agreement and go back to the negotiating table. She stated that the District did not have the money for a salary increase, there was indication that the May revise was going to be worse, not better, and that there will still have to be cuts made in 2004-2005.

■ Motion: That the Board of Education approve the collective bargaining agreement between the Districts and the California School Employees Association.

Moved: Fred Rifkin Seconded: Robert Noël Vote: Failed
Ayes: 0 Noes: 4 Abstain: 0 Absent: Nancy Harter

B.3 Santa Barbara Community Academy Expansion

Dr. Flores stated that this item had been discussed at previous meetings and that staff was recommending that the Board approve the expansion of the Santa Barbara Community Academy.

Sarah Griffin asked the Board to go forward with the plans to expand and that the maintenance and operations property be incorporated into the plans.

Board comments followed.

■ Motion: That the Board of Education approve the expansion of the Santa Barbara Community Academy and authorize staff to proceed with plans for the expansion.

Moved: Fred Rifkin Seconded: Ruth Green Vote: Passed

Ayes: 4 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: Nancy Harter

B.4 Resolution 02/03-30 Recognizing May 7, 2003 as Employee Appreciation Day

Dr. Flores stated that annually the District observes Employee Appreciation Day in honor of the Day of the Teacher and Classified School Employees Week. Again this year, a function will be held at Borders bookstore on May 7, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Board member Ruth Green read the resolution.

■ Motion: That the Board of Education adopt Resolution 02/03-30 recognizing District teachers and classified employees on May 7, 2003.

Moved: Lynn Rodriguez Seconded: Ruth Green Vote: Passed

Ayes: 4 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: Nancy Harter

B.5 Adoption of the School Calendars for the 2003-2004 School Year

Dr. Flores stated that annually, the school calendar is presented to the Board for approval. She indicated that there were four calendars attached (traditional, extended year, and year round calendars for Cleveland Elementary School and Santa Barbara Community Academy). Dr. Flores stated that she had asked Cleveland and the Academy to align their calendars more closely and distributed revised copies of these two calendars.

Sarah Griffin asked that the elementary and secondary calendars be aligned with a goal towards one calendar.

Pam Kinsley, SBTA, stated a student free workday had not been agreed upon to date (day before school starts or the day before the Thanksgiving holiday). She was concerned about adopting the calendar before this day was determined.

Board comments followed. It was agreed that the calendars would come back for approval after SBTA had chosen which date they preferred for the student free workday.

B.6 Resolution 02/03-31 and 02/03-32 Determining Competency Criteria and Tie-Breaking Criteria

Dr. Flores stated that adoption of these resolutions was required by Education Code 44955. She explained these resolutions establish competency and tie-breaking criteria to be used when reemploying teachers who received a termination letter.

■ Motion: That the Board of Education adopt Resolutions 02/03-31 and 02/03-32, Determining Competency Criteria and Tie-Breaking Criteria

Moved: Fred Rifkin Seconded: Ruth Green Vote: Passed

Ayes: 4 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: Nancy Harter

B.7 SMHS/Reno, Nevada International Jazz Festival

■ Motion: That the Board of Education approve the San Marcos High School Jazz Band field trip to the Nevada International Jazz Festival in Reno, Nevada.

Moved: Fred Rifkin Seconded: Ruth Green Vote: Passed

Ayes: 4 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: Nancy Harter

B.8 Out-of-State Travel

■ Motion: That the Board of Education approve out-of-state travel for Isabel Downs, Santa Barbara High School teacher.

Moved: Lynn Rodriguez Seconded: Fred Rifkin Vote: Passed

Ayes: 4 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: Nancy Harter

B.9 Student Expulsions

■ Motion: Case Number 2002/03-48 (High School District) – That the Board uphold the findings and recommendations of the Administrative Hearing Panel to expel for one school year, and uphold the recommended rehabilitation plan. The student may petition for readmission to the District for the semester beginning September 2004.

Moved: Fred Rifkin Seconded: Lynn Rodriguez Vote: Passed
Ayes: 3 Noes: Ruth Green Abstain: 0 Absent: Nancy Harter

■ Motion: Case Number 2002/03-49 (High School District) – That the Board uphold the Administrative Hearing Panel’s recommendation to expel for one school year, and uphold the recommended rehabilitation plan. The student may petition for readmission to the District for the semester beginning September 2004.

Moved: Fred Rifkin Seconded: Lynn Rodriguez
Ayes: 3 Noes: Ruth Green Abstain: 0 Absent: Nancy Harter

■ Motion: Case Number 2002/03-52 (High School District) – That the Board uphold the findings and recommendations of the Administrative Hearing Panel to expel for one school year, and uphold the recommended rehabilitation plan. The student may petition for readmission to the District for the semester beginning September 2004.

Moved: Ruth Green Seconded: Fred Rifkin
Ayes: 4 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: Nancy Harter

C.1 Parcel Tax

Dr. Alan Ebenstein (former Board member) and Mrs. Marilyn Gilbert (member of the Santa Barbara Public Education Foundation) addressed the Board regarding the possibility of a parcel tax to help address the Districts’ budget shortfall and fund specific programs in the Elementary School District.

Board comments followed.

Melitta Haslund, Collaborative Coalition chair, stated that this committee had been meeting for two months to come up with short- and long -term fundraising proposals.

Sarah Griffin strongly encouraged the Board to investigate the possibility of a parcel tax.

C.2 Academic Performance Index (API), Base 2002 Results

Dr. Sarvis, Director of Research and Technology, reported on the API results for spring 2002.

C.3 Progress Toward API Targets by Cleveland, Washington, La Cumbre and San Marcos

Dr. Flores stated that the Board had requested a progress report from those schools that had shown declines on the 2002 API growth results. Principals from Cleveland Elementary School, Washington Elementary School, La Cumbre Middle School and San Marcos High School updated the Board on their school’s efforts to ensure that API growth targets for 2003 would be met.

C.4 Report from the Gerald Anderson “Closing the Achievement Gap” Schools

Michael Couch reviewed the Gerald Anderson’s eight-step process for closing the achievement gap. The principals of the four schools participating in this program – Franklin Elementary School, Goleta Valley Junior High School, La Cumbre Middle School, and Santa Barbara Junior High School – gave brief reports on their school’s progress towards meeting their goals.

C.5 Review of New Secondary Courses (First Reading)

This item was continued to the next regular Board meeting.

D. Approval of Consent Agenda

David Hetyonk, Interim Director of Facilities and Operations, responded to Sarah Griffin’s concern regarding electrical work under items D.9 and D.10.

Michael Couch responded to Dr. Noël’s question regarding funding for the stipend of the engineering academy coordinator under item D.1.

■ Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda, as amended:

- D.1 Personnel Action Items
 - D.2 Purchase Orders
 - D.3 Warrants
 - D.4 Resolution 02/03-35, Capitalization Threshold Policy, Santa Barbara Elementary School District
 - D.5 Resolution 02/03-36, Capitalization Threshold Policy, Santa Barbara High School District
 - D.6 Resolution 02/03-38, 2003-2004 Tax Revenue Anticipation Note Participation, Santa Barbara Elementary School District
 - D.7 Resolution 02/03-39, 2003-04 Tax Revenue Anticipation Note Participation, Santa Barbara High School District
 - D.8 Agreement for Chemical Inventory/Cleanup at Dos Pueblos high School
 - D.9 Award of Bid – Goleta Valley Junior High School Campus Modernization Project, Portable Classroom Electrical Service
 - D.10 Award of Bid – La Colina Junior High School Campus Modernization Project, Portable Classroom Electrical Service
 - D.11 Acceptance of Completed Contract – Santa Barbara High School, Senior Parking Lot Improvements
 - D.12 Additional Fundraising Plans for the 2002-2003 School Year
 - D.13 Goleta Valley South Little League and San Marcos High School Use of Baseball & Softball Fields
- Moved: Fred Rifkin Seconded: Ruth Green Vote: Passed
Ayes: 4 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: Nancy Harter

E. Coming Events

April 24, 2003 – Santa Barbara Public Education Foundation’s annual fundraising event

F. Board Comments

Fred Rifkin acknowledged the second anniversary of the death of Don Gevirtz. Mr. Gevirtz along with his wife, Marilyn, were very devoted to public education.

G. Future Agenda Items

Dr. Noël stated that at the last Board meeting there was confusion on the amount that was voted on for the High School District budget cuts. He asked that this item be on the next agenda for reconsideration.

Lynn Rodriguez asked if the number of items on future agendas could be reduced so that Board meetings would have an earlier ending time. Dr. Flores indicated she would work with Board President Nancy Harter to adjust the schedule.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Meeting was adjourned at 12:03 a.m. The next Regular Meeting of the Board will be Tuesday, May 13, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Robert Noël, Vice President, Board of Education

Adopted by Board of Education on September 23, 2003