

Motion: That the Board of Education approve Board Policy and Administrative Regulations 0420.4 with the addition of the following phrase on page 2, #2: “set forth by the California Content Standards.”

Motion: Fred Rifkin
Second: Lynn Rodriguez
Vote: 3-1 Dr. Noël Abstained

B.2 Revisions to the Charters - Peabody Charter School and Santa Barbara Charter School

Dr. Flores reiterated that for a number of months, the district and the three charter schools have been in negotiations regarding memos of understandings, special education and administrative services, and facilities use agreements. Changes in the original charters for Peabody Charter School and Santa Barbara Charter School resulted from these negotiations.

Dr. Flores asked Mr. Minney to review the major changes, which were highlighted in a memo (that was included in the agenda packet). Mr. Minney reviewed the major changes.

Dave Weisman, administrator, Santa Barbara Charter School, pointed out that the major change for them was the request to become one charter instead of two. Dr. Noël asked Mr. Minney to explain how this would impact the district from a Prop. 39 standpoint. Mr. Minney assured the board that the Prop. 39 obligation would not be effected by SBCS having one charter. Mr. Weisman explained that SBCS believes they will have 80 in-district students in K-8 for the fall 2004. Both Mr. Minney and Mr. Weisman pointed out that the Facilities Use Agreement includes language about SBCS continuing to be located at Goleta Valley Junior High.

Public Comments:

Sarah Griffin asked the board and staff to read her written comments, asked questions about the home-based program, and racial/ethnic balance at the charter schools.

Elaine Jones-Mykala, a parent at SBCS, expressed strong feelings about the testing requirements. She talked about the 2nd grade test scores, the number of students with learning disabilities at the school, and the small number of students at each grade level.

Dana Wallock, parent at SBCS, thanked the board for the charters and talked about how she chose to place one of the three children at SBCS because of his unique learning needs including non-traditional approaches to teaching, learning and assessment.

Eric Adler, parent at SBCS, discussed his strong feelings about the testing requirements and the impact these types of requirements had on him as a child. He stated that his son is much like him and learns in different ways and questioned the board's need to control.

Sandi Neustadt, SBCS parent, discussed her concerns with the standardized testing both as a parent at the school and as the administrative assistant. She talked about 5 families who had recently visited the school to enroll their children and how emotional and glad they were about having a school like SBCS. She urged the board to look at other ways to hold the school accountable.

Marilyn Zaunius, SBCS parent, submitted a letter to the board a month ago stating her concerns about the standardized testing. She visited SBCS when her daughter was only 3. She feels the API score does not matter and that there are better ways to measure what children know such as portfolio assessments.

Nancy Harter, Fred Rifkin, and Dr. Flores, explained to the parents that the requirements regarding state testing were from the state board of education and the legislature. Mr. Rifkin also emphasized the board's support over the years for the charter schools through numerous votes.

Motion: That the Board of Education approve the revisions to the charter for Peabody Charter School.

Motion: Lynn Rodriguez

Second: Fred Rifkin

Vote: 4-0

Motion: That the Board of Education approve the revisions to the charter for Santa Barbara Charter School.

Motion: Fred Rifkin

Second: Lynn Rodriguez

Vote: 3-1 Dr. Noël abstained stating that he could not vote to support the double standard.

B.3 Memos of Understandings and Appendixes for Special Education and Administrative Services – Cesar Chavez Charter School, Peabody Charter School, and Santa Barbara Charter School*

Dr. Flores asked Mr. Minney to review the major changes in the documents. Mr. Minney reviewed the changes and responded to board members questions and comments.

Mr. Rifkin asked questions about the charter schools acting as employers and about the district covering payroll for the charters. Dr. Flores explained that because of the way the apportionments work, it is necessary at times for the district to temporarily cover payroll for the charter schools.

Dr. Noël raised the issue of language about ethnic balance and said he could not support the MOU for SBCS because of the language about accountability. Mr. Minney explained that there could be no disparate impact on ethnicity due to enrollment practices at the charter schools.

Public Comments:

Sarah Griffin questioned the use of the word "ensure" in regards to racial balances.

Motion: That the Board of Education approve the revisions to the Memos of Understanding and Appendixes for Special Education and Administrative Services for Cesar Chavez Charter School.

Motion: Dr. Robert Noël

Second: Fred Rifkin

Vote: 4-0

Motion: That the Board of Education approve the revisions to the Memos of Understanding and Appendixes for Special Education and Administrative Services for Peabody Charter School.

Motion: Lynn Rodriguez

Second: Dr. Robert Noël

Vote: 4-0

Motion: That the Board of Education approve the revisions to the Memos of Understanding and Appendixes for Special Education and Administrative Services for Santa Barbara Charter School.

Motion: Fred Rifkin

Second: Lynn Rodriguez

Vote: 4-0

B.4 Facilities Use Agreements Cesar Chavez Charter School, Peabody Charter School, and Santa Barbara Charter School

Dr. Flores asked Mr. Minney to outline the major differences between the three charter schools and changes since the Facilities Use Agreements were presented to the board.

Public Comments:

Dave Weisman, made a statement about the funding for SBCS facilities.

Elaine Jones McKala asked about Prop. 39 and would it require the district to provide SBCS with better facilities.

Motion: That the Board of Education approve the revisions to the Facilities use agreements for Cesar Chavez Charter School.

Motion: Dr. Robert Noël

Second: Fred Rifkin

Vote: 4-0

Motion: That the Board of Education approve the revisions to the Facilities use agreements for Peabody Charter School.

Motion: Fred Rifkin

Second: Lynn Rodriguez

Vote: 4-0

Motion: That the Board of Education approve the revisions to the Facilities use agreements for Santa Barbara Charter School.

Motion: Lynn Rodriguez

Second: Fred Rifkin

Vote: 4-0

Board members expressed appreciation to everyone who had worked on these documents for so many months. Dr. Flores also thanked everyone for their hard work and for creating model documents.

C. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Attest:

Nancy Harter, President
Board of Education

Adopted by Board of Education on March 23, 2004