

**SANTA BARBARA ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Minutes of Special Meeting
June 14, 2004**

Call to Order

The Santa Barbara Elementary and High School Districts' Board of Education special meeting was held in the Administration Center Board Room, 720 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara, California, and called to order by Board President, Nancy Harter.

Members Present:

Nancy Harter, President
Robert Noël, Vice President
Annette Cordero, Member
Lynn Rodriguez, Member
Fred Rifkin, Member

Staff Present

Craig Price, Legal Counsel

Pledge of Allegiance

Board President Nancy Harter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

The board permitted public comments on non-agendized matters: Kate Smith referred to Parliamentary protocol. Grace Florez objected to daytime meetings.

Action Items

B.1 Administrative Staffing

Board President Nancy Harter stated that the previous closed session relating to the superintendent's contract only included salary and benefits, and not possible additional staff support which is the subject of today's public agenda. She invited Dr. Noel to lead off the discussion.

Dr. Noel stated that he felt that the district was at risk of losing top administrators, in addition to possibly Dr. Flores, as well as Mike Couch through retirement. He stated that it was his belief that the heavy workload was due in part to there being limited administrative support. Dr. Noel stated that action is needed to correct the potential loss of top echelon administrative staff.

Dr. Noel suggested that creation of a special task force may be appropriate to review district staffing. Dr. Noel described four possible means for generating revenues to address staffing needs: (1) parcel tax, (2) close a school, (3) do not lease commercial space for district office, (4) adopt Single School District Resolution (Ed. Code § 35110). Although Dr. Noel has voiced reservations and/or opposition to each such measure, he expressed the opinion that action was needed and recommended (1) creation of a special task force to examine proper administrative staffing, and (2) moving ahead regarding the Single School District Resolution with input from the feeder districts.

Public Comments:

Sarah Griffin: consider partial or complete split of districts as part of consideration of single school district resolution; and consider replacement of Dr. Flores with two superintendents, one for each district.

Board President Harter commented that the process for splitting the districts was much more involved, compared to the single school district adoption, and involved review by other bodies.

Public Comments: Tony Fischer: no administrative staff present; need budget before making decisions; combining districts not a good idea; splitting them is probably a good idea.

Herb Simkins: Doesn't support current superintendent. Kate Smith: Re-raised purported Parliamentary considerations. George Glerum: Opposed effort to retain Dr. Flores.

B.2 Additional Revenue Sources

Consideration of possible additional revenue sources to support the districts' needs relative to staff.

Public Comment: Grace Flores against parcel tax. Elizabeth Sorgman opposed to parcel tax. Joe Armendariz, Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association, expressed concerns over parcel tax; offered organization's assistance in reviewing issues. Sarah Griffin suggested bringing in FCMAT. Tony Fischer: need budget before further discussion of options. Kate Smith: This is a committee of the whole; motion to refer to committee.

Board Comments: Fred Rifkin stated that he is present for the meeting at the request of Dr. Noel. Mr. Rifkin stated that he opposes a parcel tax, endorses the idea of a blue ribbon committee, agrees that there is a need for appointment of an interim superintendent, and prefers not to make decisions concerning a permanent superintendent during the remainder of his term. Mr. Rifkin stated that he agrees that the superintendent needs to be paid more. He acknowledged Dr. Noel for bringing the issues to the attention of the public, but thinks the timing is off.

Dr. Noel commented that the meeting was called by a majority of the board, including Mr. Rifkin. Dr. Noel added that the primary beneficiaries of strong administrative leadership are the disadvantaged population.

Lynn Rodriguez expressed appreciation for Dr. Flores' service to the districts. She stated that she does not believe that there is enough administrative staff presently and that she supports formation of the suggested review committee. She does not think a parcel tax is appropriate.

Annette Cordero: Hearing from people who disagreed with staff and board positions is part of the democratic process and is valuable. While she has previously advocated cutting administration, she recognizes that the district cannot be effectively run without competent administration and it is very different being a board member compared to the limited perspective as a member of the public.

Nancy Harter: Dr. Flores has made great progress in student achievement. Regarding additional revenue sources, she noted that the discussion was hindered by staff not being present. She stated that a parcel tax was unrealistic for the limited purpose of addressing a particular position. The Single School District Resolution will continue to be discussed.

Motion by Dr. Noel (on Item B.1) seconded by Fred Rifkin: That the board shall establish an ad hoc committee, the mandate of which is to identify the most promising staffing and administrative organization possibilities, and that the committee shall report its findings and recommendations at the July 27, 2004 board meeting. The committee shall solicit and incorporate input from outside experts, e.g., FCMAT. The committee shall be comprised of seven persons randomly selected from a pool of 16 candidates consisting of the following:

- Two individuals to be selected by each board member
- Two individuals to be selected by superintendent
- Two individuals to be selected by SBTA
- Two individuals to be selected by CSEA

Vote: Ayes 1 (Noel); Nays 4 (Harter, Cordero, Rodriguez, Rifkin). Motion fails.

Second Motion by Dr. Noel (Item B.2) Seconded by Fred Rifkin: That the board will set the adoption process in motion regarding the Education Code section 35110 Single District Resolution, and shall solicit expert testimony and hold a public hearing thereon in which the feeder districts shall be invited to participate.

Vote: Ayes 1 (Noel); Nays 4 (Harter, Cordero, Rodriguez, Rifkin). Motion fails.

C. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Attest:

Nancy Harter, President
Board of Education

Adopted by Board of Education
on _____