

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

**Minutes of Special Meeting
June 17, 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:

Deborah A. Flores, Ph.D., Superintendent
Michael Couch, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
Michael Blatcher, Legal Counsel

Public Comments (relating to closed session items only)

None

Closed Session/Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to discuss the following matters in closed session:

- Student Discipline (Education Code section 48918) Expulsion Case: Numbers 03/04-57 and 03/04-65 (Santa Barbara High School District).

Pledge of Allegiance

Board President Nancy Harter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

Members of the public addressed the board as follows:

Grace Flores
Joan Esposito
Karolyn Renard
Kate Smith
Nestor Hernandez
David Was

Action Agenda

B.1 Appointment of Principal, Roosevelt Elementary School

Dr Flores and Dr. Sarvis recommended the appointment of Donna Ronzone as the new principal of Roosevelt Elementary School. Donna has been the principal of Briggs Elementary School in the Santa Paula Elementary School District for the past four years.

Motion: That the Board of Education approve the appointment of Donna Ronzone as principal of Roosevelt Elementary School.

Motion by Fred Rifkin
Second by Lynn Rodriguez
Vote: 5-0

B.2 Warrants

Motion: That the Board of Education approve the warrant listings, dated June 2, 2004 through June 10, 2004.

Motion by Robert Noel
Second by Lynn Rodriguez
Vote: 5-0

B.3 Student Expulsions (Case numbers 02/03-57 and 03/04-65: Santa Barbara High School District)

Case number 03/04-57: Fred Rifkin moved to uphold the recommendations and findings of the administrative hearing panel with the following exceptions; that the expulsion be suspended and that the students enroll at Las Alturas Continuation High School for the 2004-2005 school year.

Motion by Fred Rifkin
Second by Lynn Rodriguez
Vote: 5-0

Case number 03/04-65: Lynn Rodriguez moved to uphold the recommendations and findings of the administrative hearing panel.

Motion by Lynn Rodriguez
Second by Fred Rifkin
Vote: 5-0

Conference Agenda

C.1 Expulsion Workshop

Dr. Deborah Flores discussed the purpose of the workshop and reviewed the format. She explained that board members have stated concerns about the expulsion process both in closed session hearings about individual students and recently in open session.

Michael Couch gave a presentation regarding the expulsion process including a review of Education Code 48900, board policy and administrative regulations, and the steps in the expulsion process.

Fred Razo, Santa Barbara County Education Office, and Cecilia Molina, El Puente Community School, participated in the workshop and provided information relevant to the placement of expelled students at El Puente.

Additionally, secondary principals were present and offered input when asked by the board.

Board members asked questions regarding the above information and stated their desire to have more flexibility regarding the recommendations that are formulated and forwarded by the administrative hearing panel.

Board members asked that staff follow up on the following:

- Research what other districts are doing
- Ensure that translators are available when parents are first told about the infraction and to explain the process (including the availability of home instruction at the district's expense)

- Explain the process to parents both at the time of the infraction and at a later date to ensure that it is understood
- Consult with El Puente administrators about a way to allow students to return earlier if their academic achievement and behavior warrant such a move
- Develop written descriptions of alternative programs such as El Puente, Middle College, La Cuesta Continuation High School, Community Day School
- Eliminate the third option on the expulsion form and replace it with an option that would allow students to work their way back
- Form a committee to further study the issues raised and develop a proposal with recommendations. The members of the committee will include: Robert Noël, Kris Robertson, Kathy Abney, Cecelia Molina, Fred Razo, Jan Zettel

Public Comment:

Joan Esposito
 Karolyn Renard
 Kate Smith

C.2 Replacement of Superintendent

Board members discussed the replacement of Dr. Deborah Flores who has accepted the position of superintendent in the Lucia Mar Unified School District. Dr. Flores recommended and individual board members unanimously endorsed the appointment of Dr. Brian Sarvis as the Interim Superintendent. Board members indicated the desire to discuss a search process at a later date.

Motion: That the Board of Education approve the appointment of Dr. Brian Sarvis to the position of Interim Superintendent.

Motion by Robert Noël
 Second by Fred Rifkin
 Vote: 5-0

C. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Attest:

Nancy Harter, President
 Board of Education

Adopted by Board of Education
 on _____