

**SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

February 5, 2013

**MINUTES**

Douglas E. Giles  
Educational Resource Center  
9619 Cuyamaca Street  
Santee, California

**A. OPENING PROCEDURES**

1. Call to Order and Welcome

President El-Hajj called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and read the District Mission Statement.

Members present:

Dianne El-Hajj, President  
Ken Fox, Vice President  
Dustin Burns, Clerk  
Barbara Ryan, Member  
Elana Levens-Craig, Member

Administration present:

Dr. Cathy Pierce, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board  
Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services  
Minnie Malin, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources/Pupil Services  
Dr. Stephanie Pierce, Director, Educational Services  
Linda Vail, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary

President El-Hajj reported that employee Guadalupe Olivas and 3 members of her immediate family were killed over the weekend in a terrible bus accident. She asked the audience to join her in a moment of silence in their memory.

2. President El-Hajj invited the audience to recite the District Mission and then invited Rio Seco fourth grade students, Marissa Olmeda, Emma Neuman, and Olivia Webb, to lead the members, staff and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda.

**Motion: Ryan Second: Burns Vote: 5-0**

**B. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

1. Superintendent's Report

- 1.1. Developer Fees Collection Report
- 1.2. Use of Facilities Report
- 1.3. Enrollment Report
- 1.4. Schedule of Upcoming Events

Cathy Pierce shared a certificate of recognition the District received from the California Department of Education for being a tobacco free school district. The certificate will be proudly displayed.

2. Spotlight on Learning: Rio Seco School

Debra Simpson and a team of students shared about the learning that is happening at Rio Seco School. Rio Seco is celebrating their 28 point growth in API, now scoring at 895. All grades 2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> showed growth in math from the previous year.

Rio Seco's teachers are excited to share and learn together and are involved in the NASA science program, IDEAS, the San Diego Computer Using Educators Conference, the PEAK program, and a Cyber Quest program. Many teachers are excited to participate in the Common Core State Standards Trainings and staff is constantly sharing and discussing current educational research and articles. There is a strong foundation with immediate interventions and proactive behavior interventions. Mrs. Simpson shared several service projects underway at Rio Seco. They are also proud to have a lot of community collaboration including, Mission Federal Credit Union, the Hartford, and Chargers Play 60.

**C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

President El-Hajj invited members of the audience to address the Board about any item not on the agenda.

Community members, Bob Schultz and Steve Rolf, addressed the Board and introduced their new cabaret style live theater in Santee. They are eager to offer Santee School District employees a discount.

#### **D. CONSENT ITEMS**

Items listed under Consent are considered to be routine and are all acted on by the Board with one single motion. President El-Hajj invited comments from the public on any item listed under Consent.

- 1.1. **Approval of Minutes**
- 1.2. **Adoption of Resolution #1213-13 to Declare Membership in the School Project for Utility Rate Reduction (SPURR)**
- 1.3. **Approval of Agreement with Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo**
- 2.1. **Approval/Ratification of Travel Requests**
- 2.2. **Approval/Ratification of Revolving Cash Report**
- 2.3. **Acceptance of Donations**
- 2.4. ***(Pulled for Separate Consideration)***
- 2.5 **Approval of Monthly Financial Report**
- 3.1. **Approval of Nonpublic Agency Master Contract with Dependable Nursing, LLC for Nursing Services**
- 4.1. **Personnel, Regular**
- 4.2. **Approval of New Job Description for Specialized Academic Instructor for Students with Visual Impairments (Infants – Grade 8)**
- 4.3. **Approval of Revisions to the Certificated Non-Management Evaluation Procedures for Psychologists, School Counselors, and School Social Workers**

It was moved and seconded to approve Consent Items with the exception of item D.2.4., which was pulled by Member Burns for separate consideration.

**Motion:** Burns                      **Second:** Fox                      **Vote:** 5-0

**D.2.4. Approval of Consultants and General Service Providers (Pulled by Member Burns for separate consideration.)** Member Burns asked why the budget for the Bridges Consultant Agreement was being doubled from the original request. Stephanie Pierce shared that in an effort to support Hill Creek's special education classrooms, they used Bridges while waiting for Vista Hill to provide the appropriate assistance. Vista Hill had trouble acquiring the appropriate staff to fill our needs. Bridges support will cease once Vista Hill staffing is obtained. In the meantime, Bridges has done an exceptional job. Member Burns moved approval of item D.2.4.

**Motion:** Burns                      **Second:** Ryan                      **Vote:** 5-0

#### **G. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS**

President El-Hajj invited comments from the public on any item listed under Discussion and/or Action. There were no comments.

##### **1.1. Approval of the Strategic Plan Action Committees Priority Goals and Action Plans**

Dr. Cathy Pierce reported last year Santee School District developed a Strategic Plan. As we began the 2012-2013 school year, seven Action Planning Committees were established to research and prioritize areas of the Strategic Action Plans. Each committee has completed identification of two Priority Actions with deliverables for 2012-2014. The Strategic Action Leadership Team has reviewed the Priority Actions and has submitted them to the Board of Education for approval. Once approved by the Board of Education, sub-committees will begin to meet as needed to develop implementation plans for these Actions to meet the goals of the Strategic Plan approved by the Board in May 2012.

Member Burns said he appreciates the constant communication about the process and the community involvement. This process has provided a number of opportunities for the community to provide any input or comments about the Plan.

Member Ryan moved to approve the Strategic Plan Priority Goals and Action Plans for 2012-14 developed by Action Planning Committees.

**Motion:** Ryan                      **Second:** Burns                      **Vote:** 5-0

### **1.2. Adoption of Santee School District Governance Standards**

Dr. Cathy Pierce reported that the Board met in a workshop on January 24<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting Board Members reviewed and edited the Santee School District Governance Standards through a collaborative process. Board Members were provided a final version for consideration to adopt as the guidelines to help increase effectiveness and improve the quality of governance and leadership for the District.

Member Fox moved to adopt the Santee School District Governance Standards as provided.

**Motion:** Fox                              **Second:** Ryan                              **Vote:** 5-0

### **2.1. Solar Projects Update**

Karl Christensen provided an update on the status of pending solar projects. All of the projects have been suspended due to the uncertainty of the outcomes of the SDG& E rate case. There is still no resolve and other factors are also converging on solar at this time creating very great uncertainty. Mr. Christensen provided the Board with a summary chart of results of the solar implementation at Hill Creek School. Member Levens-Craig asked if Prop 39 would impact solar projects. Mr. Christensen said yes, if that money flowed to school districts it would fund one project. This was an information item. No action was taken.

### **2.2. Fencing Changes at Rio Seco, Carlton Oaks, PRIDE Academy Preschool, and Cajon Park Schools**

Mr. Christensen provided plans to address potential safety issues by initiating fencing changes at four sites: Carlton Oaks, Rio Seco, Hill Creek, and PRIDE Academy Preschool. A bid has also been requested to move the fencing at the Cajon Park Junior High building/parking lot. Member Levens-Craig asked if this will prohibit community use of the field. Mr. Christensen said it would not prohibit community use and would actually make it safer because balls from the field would no longer be able to roll into the parking lot. Member Ryan moved to authorize the purchase of fencing needs from the Chula Vista Elementary School bid for fencing changes at various schools and approve new doors at Rio Seco and Carlton Oaks to be constructed by Fordyce Construction.

**Motion:** Ryan                              **Second:** Burns                              **Vote:** 5-0

### **3.1. Chet F. Harritt Ball Field Snack Bar/Restroom Update**

In August, 2012, the Board approved a plan for conversion of two portables for storage, a snack bar, a meeting room, and restrooms for the Chet F. Harritt ball fields. As Administration moved forward on this project, we were notified that DSA would not allow needed structural changes for windows or the floor stiffening on one of the portables. In order to complete this project, Administration would like to relocate a portable from the old Cajon Park Junior High to Chet F. Harritt. The change would add some additional cost but even with the increase, it is the best option given the constraints we have. Member Ryan asked when they would be starting the project. Christina Becker said we are behind schedule so we would have to move quickly.

Member Burns said he strongly supports the little leagues but continues to feel it is inappropriate to spend schools district dollars on what he believes is the responsibility of the City. Member Levens-Craig said she has not been involved in this from the beginning and does not believe she has enough information to vote.

Member Ryan moved to expend the additional dollars needed to move forward with the snack bar, meeting room, and restrooms for the Chet F. Harritt ball fields, not to exceed a total of \$270,000.

**Motion:** Ryan                      **Second:** Fox                      **Vote:** 3-1 (Burns, no; Levens-Craig, abstain)

### **3.2. Update on Bidding Results and Value Engineering Endeavors for Potential Pepper Drive Building Projects**

Mr. Christensen provided an update on the bidding results for the Pepper Drive CIP projects. Numbers came in significantly higher than estimated. The bids for the Administration/LRC building are \$1M over estimates. This was primarily due to the design and an acceleration of labor to have the building up and

running when school starts in September. We can continue to qualify for the joint use grant money but the redesign must be DSA approved and a contract for construction would have to be in place within 18 months. Bids for the 10-classroom building were also significantly over estimates. High costs were from increases in concrete, electrical/data wiring, and cabinetry finishing.

The team has done a tremendous job of trying to figure out how to get these projects done within the financial constraints. He presented a revised plan to postpone the construction of the Administration/LRC for redesign, initiate construction of 10-classroom building for complete functionality, hold on the parking lot to use contingency funds if/when available. He presented the base bids with alternates and shared several renderings of the proposed new 10-classroom addition.

Member Burns said that although the Administration/LRC is important, it sends a powerful message about the importance of learning environments by doing the classroom building first. He likes this plan and thanked everyone for their efforts to make this happen within the financial constraints.

President El-Hajj congratulated the team for working so hard for the common goal. The Board and Administration need to educate the Pepper Drive community about the decisions and rationale, including staff, families, and students. Dr. Pierce will schedule a staff meeting and a community/parent forum (PTA) meeting.

Member Burns suggested since the landscaping cannot be included at this time, maybe some trees and/or greenery could be donated until more landscaping can be done. This was an information item. No action was taken.

## **H. BOARD POLICIES AND BYLAYS**

### **1.1. Second Reading: Revisions to BP 5127 Promotion Ceremonies & Activities**

Revised Board Policy 5127 was presented to the Board in a second reading. Member Burns moved to approve revisions to BP 5127.

*Motion: Burns Second: Ryan Vote: 4-0 (Levens-Craig, absent)*

## **I. BOARD COMMUNICATION**

Member Burns attended a Safety Committee meeting and a Calendar Committee meeting. At the Calendar Committee meeting STA proposed consideration of moving the parent conference week to align with the 6-week progress report. STA will be surveying their teachers about moving parent conference week.

Safety concerns are immersing due to incidents that have currently happened across the nation. His concern is that information is not consistent about what to do in the event of an emergency. There was conversation at the Safety Committee meeting with questions such as, are we using a bell or fire alarm? Can we lock our doors? Can we keep them open? When the list is complete we need to present a consistent message about notifications and they should be included in their school safety plans. As Administration is already aware, the bell systems at the Phase I schools are not heard in all classrooms.

Member Levens-Craig reported the Educational Committee of the League of Woman Voters is doing a tour of Gompers on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Three Board Members went to the county school boards meeting. At that meeting they heard some very disturbing statistics about students being harassed and criminally sexually exploited. February 25<sup>th</sup> is a free training and she has shared the information with Meredith Riffel. Administration has received training regarding human trafficking presented by the Sheriff's Department.

Three Board members will be attending the SDCOE dual language tour tomorrow. Alpine is also doing a push for a language immersion program.

Member Ryan said Dan McAllister was at the County School Boards' meeting. She, Member Levens-Craig, and Dr. Cathy Pierce met with Joel Anderson. Member Ryan suggested the Board and Administration closely review the CABs legislation being submitted by Ben Hueso. She asked Mr. Christensen to review it and provide an opinion about the restrictions that may tie the hands of schools districts. She would like to let Senator Anderson know our Board's viewpoint on this legislation.

Dr. Cathy Pierce reported that she will be meeting with Principals and having a discussion about the Board's role in eighth grade promotions and protocols when a Board member or other dignitary visits their school or event. Dr. Pierce will put the expectations in writing.

Dr. Pierce presented for review the agenda for the Strategic Planning Annual Review meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Pierce reported the Santee Chamber of Commerce will be having their awards event on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Joey Sutera, our 2013 Teacher of the Year will be recognized. The Board asked to purchase two tables at the event and invite some of the Carlton Oaks Administration and/or staff as seats are available. Members Fox, Burns, and Ryan will attend.

Dr. Pierce provided a School Safety update. They are progressing in resolving issues and almost all concerns have been addressed. The Santee Sheriff's Department is working with school sites to observe lock down procedures. Safety plans are coming together. The Board asked Dr. Pierce to communicate to the schools when the concerns have all been addressed. It was noted that in the future, Project SAFE needs to be included as decisions are made.

Dr. Pierce shared that Tierra Del Sol Council PTA would like to have their annual Founder's Day Dinner before the Board meeting on March 19.

Dr. Pierce shared the thank you mugs and cards that were sent on behalf of the Board and Superintendent to the presenters on the January 7<sup>th</sup> professional development day.

Dr. Pierce reported that Administration is working to establish a fund to assist Guadalupe Olivas' family. Donations from the wonderful employees in Santee are already coming in. It was recommended that a Legacy Paver be placed at Carlton Hills in memory of Guadalupe.

#### **J. CLOSED SESSION**

President El-Hajj announced that the Board would meet in closed session for:

1. **Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release** (Govt. Code § 54957)
2. **Conference with Labor Negotiator** (Govt. Code § 54956.8)  
*Purpose: Negotiations*  
*Agency Negotiator: Karl Christensen, Asst. Superintendent*  
*Employee Organization: Classified School Employees Association*
3. **Conference with Labor Negotiator** (Govt. Code § 54956.8)  
*Purpose: Negotiations*  
*Agency Negotiator: Karl Christensen, Asst. Superintendent*  
*Employee Organizations: Santee Teachers Association*
4. **Conference with Real Property Negotiators** (Govt. Code § 54956.8)  
*Property Address: 10335 Mission Gorge Road (Property formerly known as the Santee School Site)*  
*Agency Negotiator: Karl Christensen, Asst. Superintendent, Business Services*

*The Board entered closed session at 9:08 p.m.*

#### **J. RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board reconvened to public session at 10:35 p.m. Board President El-Hajj reported the Board voted in closed session to approve PERB Settlement #LA-CE-5490-E, paragraphs 49-51, which finalized the PERB Settlement Agreement #LA-CE-5490-E. The remaining portions of the agreement were approved at the December 18, 2012 meeting.

#### **K. ADJOURNMENT**

The February 5, 2013 regular meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.