

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

August 20, 2013
MINUTES

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

A. OPEN SESSION – CALL TO ORDER - 6:00 p.m.

1. Public Communication on Closed Session Items

There were no request-to-speak cards submitted.

B. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

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

1. Conference with Labor Negotiator (Govt. Code § 54956.8)

Purpose: Negotiations

Agency Negotiators: Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent

Tim Larson, Assistant Superintendent

Employee Organizations: Santee Teachers Association

and Classified School Employees Association

2. Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Govt. Code § 54956.8)

Property Addresses:

▪ *Parcels 383-112-05 and 383-112-28 located on the north side of Prospect Avenue east of Marrokal Lane (known as the Renzulli Site)*

▪ *10335 Mission Gorge Road, Santee 92071 (formerly known as Santee School Site)*

Agency Negotiator: Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent

3. Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Govt. Code § 54957) - Superintendent

The Board did not complete the closed session agenda and returned to closed session at the end of the open session meeting.

C. OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order and Welcome

President El-Hajj called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

Tim Larson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources/Pupil Services

Dr. Stephanie Pierce, Director, Educational Services

Linda Vail, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary

2. President El-Hajj invited the audience to recite the District Mission and then invited Chloe and Olivia Johnston, daughters of Principal Andy Johnston, to lead the members, staff, and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

President El-Hajj announced the Board would adjourn the meeting in memory of Margaret "Peggy" Simpson. Peggy Simpson was hired by Santee School District on September 16, 1974 and worked as an Instructional Assistant, Nutrition Aide, Clerk Typist, and Secretary I. The most memorable years of her service were devoted to the Educational Services Department. Peggy retired in December of 2001 after 27 years of service. Member Fox moved to approve the agenda.

Motion: Fox 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. Schedule of Upcoming Events

2. Exploring Our Urban Forest at Chet F. Harritt School

Dr. Cathy Pierce reported through collaboration with the San Diego Children & Nature Collaborative Program, Chet F. Harritt students have experienced hands-on, standards-based science lessons in the natural preserve next to their school. Principal, Andy Johnston, shared information about the program, which is funded by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Calfire), San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative, and San Diego Audubon Society. The curriculum is designed for students to learn about their surroundings while developing a deeper responsibility for their environment. Teachers are provided the tools to continue this method of nature-based teaching well beyond the grant funding.

Mr. Johnston introduced the staff from the San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative, Judie Lincer, Program Coordinator, and Heather Gastil, Program Manager. Mr. Johnston also introduced teachers Jeanne Johnston and Richard Mitchell and recognized their participation in this program.

Ms. Gastil presented a video to the Board which was produced for the San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative. The video will be highlighted via a QR Code in the upcoming issue of the *Santee Magazine*. President El-Hajj presented the San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative a certificate of appreciation, with special thanks to Ms. Gastil and Ms. Lincer.

3. Report on 2013 STAR Data and Estimated API

Bonner Montler, Coordinator of Assessment, reported CST data is beginning to arrive from the State. He provided an estimated Growth API for each school and shared charts showing comparison data of student proficiency levels for the past three years. The official API and AYP marks will be released in early September. Although there is a small decrease in the estimated API, Santee School District has retained their ranking with our comparison districts. The next steps include a deeper analysis of STAR data and analysis of the official AYP and API results, reflection on performance, communication of test results to teachers and students, and establishing plans for increasing student achievement. Then, as we transition to Common Core and Smarter Balanced assessments, professional development will be provided that incorporates SBAC items. The Assessment Committee will focus on selecting a benchmark assessment system similar to SBAC and a data management system with a formative assessment test builder that is CCSS aligned. Administration will provide opportunities to experience practice tests and seek the possible opportunity to participate in SBAC scientific pilot test study.

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

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

Speaker Card: Lisa Sorce from Padre Dam Municipal Water District- Ms. Sorce spoke on behalf of the Padre Dam employee association. She shared there district mission is to reach out to the community. This year, 130 employees reached out for the first annual school supply drive and they presented five (5) bins of school supplies designated for Cajon Park School. The Board and Principal Ted Hooks graciously accepted the donation and heartily thanked the employees for thinking of our school children returning to school. Mr. Hooks will see the supplies go to deserving children.

D. CONSENT ITEMS

There were no comments from the public on any item listed under Consent. Member Ryan pulled Item 4.3. for separate consideration.

- 1.1. **Approval of Minutes**
- 2.1. **Approval/Ratification of Travel Requests**
- 2.2. **Approval/Ratification of Expenditure Warrants**
- 2.3. **Approval/Ratification of Purchase Orders**

- 2.4. **Approval/Ratification of Revolving Cash Report**
- 2.5. **Approval of Consultants and General Service Providers**
- 2.6. **Approval to Apply for an Environmental Grant Through the San Diego Women's Foundation**
- 2.7. **Approval to Award Contract for HVAC Replacement at Cajon Park Annex through the CUPCCAC Process**
- 2.8. **Approval to Apply for Mandated Cost Block Grant for 2013-14**
- 3.1. **Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Western Kentucky University for Student Teacher Placement**
- 3.2. **Approval of Nonpublic Agency Master Contract with LC Barnes Therapy for Occupational Therapy**
- 3.3. **Approval of Nonpublic Agency Master Contract with Kaliko Yandall Therapy for Occupational Therapy**
- 3.4. **Approval of Nonpublic Master Contract with Oak Grove Institute and Jack Weaver School for Residential Treatment Center Services and Nonpublic School Services**
- 3.5. **Approval of Nonpublic School Master Contract with Aseltine School for Nonpublic School Services**
- 4.1. **Personnel, Regular**
- 4.2. **Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between Mental Health Systems, Inc., Family Forces Program and Santee School District**
- 4.3. ***Pulled by Member Ryan Item 4.3. for separate consideration.***

It was moved and seconded to approve Consent Items with the exception of Item 4.3. which was pulled by Member Ryan for separate consideration.

Motion: Burns Second Ryan Vote: 5-0
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4.3. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Rady Children's Hospital and Health Center (RCHHC) for the Early, Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program

Member Ryan reported that she pulled this item in order to abstain from voting as she is employed by Rady Children's Hospital. Member Burns moved approval of Item 4.3.

Motion: Burns Second Fox Vote: 4-0 (Ryan, abstain)
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G. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

There were no comments from the public on any item listed under Discussion and/or Action.

1.1. Common Core State Standards Parent Campaign

Dr. Stephanie Pierce introduced Eileen Moreno, Director of Language Arts and Social Studies, who has worked to develop and implement a parent campaign for Common Core. Last year the idea of a campaign was mentioned and Administration loved the idea. This summer Eileen Moreno joined the administrative staff and began working on the campaign. The tag line of "Soar with Common Core" was developed. Ms. Moreno said she was excited about the common core campaign and to be sharing it with the Board.

Ms. Moreno presented drafts of the marketing tools, which included a trifold brochure, posters, back to school night presentation for parents, and parent guides from PTA. A screencast will be developed for parents who cannot attend. Parent invitations have been provided to the Principals for 5 parent workshop sessions at each school. Member Ryan would like to have videos available on the District website for parents who are unable to attend the workshops but could watch them from home. Stephanie Pierce said the workshop sessions could be videoed and placed on the District website. Parents may also attend the sessions at other schools if those dates fit better into their schedule. It was mentioned that staff may be able to connect with other districts to share translations of some of the parent materials.

Board members mentioned that it would be important to arm our presenters with possible rebuttals for those who do not support CCSS. Stephanie Pierce said they will have principals prepared for those who oppose CCSS. Superintendent Pierce said they can be provided with a "Myth versus Facts" worksheet.

Member Burns said this campaign is just what he envisioned and was very pleased to see the materials. He asked that the best presenters provide the web videos. He said it is great that Administration has provided the principals with a packet with most of the work done for them. Santee School District is out in front with this initiative. This campaign strategy should be used whenever there is a big change. Board members would like to see signage reflecting the Common Core campaign in the Board room.

Dr. Cathy Pierce shared with the principals that CCSS is not only an incredible change but a great opportunity to market our schools. Board members thanked Eileen Moreno for the great job. Ms. Moreno said it is exciting that everyone is speaking the same language and sharing the information.

President El-Hajj loves the poster. The District seal is a little distracting and needs to be much lighter. She asked if there would be a need to link Smarter Balance on the poster. Superintendent Pierce asked Board Members to provide any additional feedback by the end of the week.

2.1. Utility Conservation and Operational Cost Reduction Plan

Karl Christensen shared that 85% of the general fund is spent on salaries and benefits. Therefore, there is not much room to contain District expenses. Utility costs are one area where we can focus. Modernization has helped, and now we are working diligently on water conservation. The reality is that in the near future there will be substantial increases in the cost for electricity and water. The District has already reduced costs considerably for trash removal. SDG&E is predicting cost increases and we expect a 10% increase in costs in September. Another 5-8% increase will come when the PUC approves them. Other entities are also imposing costs onto SDG&E that will be passed along to the user.

Mr. Christensen presented some suggested specific things sites can do to help reduce utility usage. He reported that just today the District learned Lucid Technologies has chosen Santee School District to participate in a "kilowatt reduction challenge." This will be an incredible opportunity to show staff and students how different behaviors can reduce consumption.

Administration would like to be more formal in requesting consumption reduction to reduce costs. There is also a need to drastically reduce consumption on "peak demand days" designated by SDG&E, when electricity costs multiply as much as 10 times. There are also incentives that we can receive if we decrease usage during these peak demand days. Mr. Christensen would like to notify schools and departments during the peak demand hours or days, to enact some specific conservation measures. This would also impact air conditioning, by having the thermostats set up 2 degrees higher.

It was Board consensus to have schools receive a percentage of the savings as an incentive for decreasing usage. Mr. Christensen said Administration has discussed an award program and will continue to brainstorm incentive ideas. The Board did not have any objections to the conservation measures that will be enacted during the peak demand times.

H. BOARD COMMUNICATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

Superintendent Pierce reminded Board Members about the School Beautification Day on Saturday, August 24th. Board Members will stop in at schools as they can. Dr. Pierce shared volunteers will begin the installation of the Santee School bell at the entry of the District Office.

Tim Larson provided a staffing update and shared the class numbers that are causing the need to have 7/8 combination classes at several schools. He reported that student enrollment is being monitored very closely. The Board discussed their philosophy that combination classes in junior high grades are not good and they also believe that too many middle school students in a classroom reduces effectiveness. At this time there are five additional teachers budgeted and the Board agreed the Superintendent has the flexibility to place additional teachers strategically. The Board understands that although they do not want combination classes it is sometimes a necessity, however, they do not want to sacrifice academic programs to save dollars.

Superintendent Pierce reminded the Board of the Welcome Back at Trolley Center on Wednesday morning, August 28th. Every Board Member will attend and President El-Hajj will speak.

Administration is collecting dates for the staff LCFF presentations and school API celebrations. These meetings will begin by celebrating CST and API successes and follow with a presentation about LCFF. A Board member will be scheduled to attend each meeting.

Superintendent Pierce reported that the District is receiving information on AB 1266, a new law that goes into effect on January 1, 2014, and will amend California Education Code. Dr. Pierce said our first concern is always for the child and we must support all of our students. Guidance is needed from the CDE and discussions will be needed to begin to address the new law and its impacts at our schools. She believes there will be opportunities to offer alternative facilities as needed.

It was suggested that Administration look at Los Angeles Unified and San Francisco school districts to see how they have addressed the issue.

Superintendent Pierce asked the Board if there would be any implications if the December 3rd Board meeting was cancelled. This recommendation can be brought to the Board for action. If it is cancelled, a special meeting could be called if needed.

Member Levens-Craig congratulated Pepper Drive because their PTA is now official. She said it was great going to museum for the Professional Leadership Team meeting. Thursday she is attending a STEM meeting with Tom Torklason.

Member Fox would like to see any additional costs the District has incurred with providing campus aides sick leave and vacation days after becoming a part of the classified employee association.

I. CLOSED SESSION

President El-Hajj announced that the Board would return to closed session for the items listed.

J. RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened to public session at 11:20 p.m. No action was reported.

K. ADJOURNMENT

The August 20, 2013 regular meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m. The meeting was adjourned in memory of retired employee, Peggy Simpson.