

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

September 3, 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 7:01 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 Karla Ortiz, Language Arts Specialist at Sycamore Canyon, to lead the members, staff, and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of Agenda

President El-Hajj announced the meeting would be adjourned in memory of John Fleming, retired teacher and principal who passed away on August 19, 2013. John was hired by Santee School District in September 1967 and worked as a teacher, vice principal, and principal over his 28 years with the District. John had a great sense of humor and an infectious laugh. He was known as a very kind and caring man and everyone knew how important his family was to him. President El-Hajj and Member Burns shared stories about John Fleming as an administrator at the schools. He will be fondly remembered as the "gentle giant." The Board expressed their sympathy to the family who were in attendance. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda.

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

B. 1. 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

Dr. Cathy Pierce reported a wonderful first day of the school year. Cabinet visited all of the schools and principals reported an exceptionally smooth start.

2. Report on 2013 API and AYP Results

Bonner Montler presented Santee School District 2012-13 API and AYP reports. The report arrived last Wednesday. Mr. Montler said he had been quite optimistic on the initial estimates, due in part to being unaware of the new methods the State used to calculate scores using CALPADS data. He reported each school's API, sharing that PRIDE Academy and Sycamore Canyon Schools each showed a small increase. The District API declined by 11 points to 861. Mr. Montler reported the proficiency targets for this year of 89.2% in ELA and Math 89.5. Next year the target will be 100% proficient in Math and ELA.

Pepper Drive did not achieve all AYP criteria for 2 consecutive years, and as a Title 1 school, they will be a Program Improvement School-Year 1. Chet F. Harritt did not meet AYP and moved to Program Improvement-Year 2, due to missing 1 or more AYP targets. PRIDE Academy did not meet their achievement targets. Last year they maintained Program Improvement-Year 2, however they are now assigned Year 3. Carlton Hills did not meet all of their AYP targets. Next year they must meet all AYP targets to avoid Program Improvement-Year 1 assignment and are considered "on watch." The School District has been assigned Program Improvement-Year 1 due to missing one or more AYP targets in ELA for 2 consecutive years in both grade spans, (2-5) and (6-8).

Program Improvement-Year 1 means the District needs to provide technical assistance to the school. Parents must be notified and funds must be set aside for professional development, enrichment, and transportation. Parents may opt to transfer their children to another school in the District. Year 2 is a continuation of Year 1 and has the same requirements. Year 3 moves a district into corrective action stage where parents must be informed and the LEA must take certain actions. They also must continue the Year 1 and 2 requirements.

Newly identified Program Improvement districts must notify parents of their status, analyze achievement data, identify academic needs, and implement the LEA plan.

Mr. Montler presented a snapshot chart comparing Santee with other County districts. Thirty-three percent of the elementary schools experienced positive growth. As the achievement targets continue to increase, many districts are not experiencing growth in proficiency.

Member Levens-Craig believes the targets are not going to be achievable. She said an API of 861 is a great score. Member Burns asked the amount of the 10% of the Title 1 allocation that is being held for Program Improvement. Karl Christensen said it amounts to about \$45,000. Mr. Christensen believes the increase in Title 1 funding will offset the funds held for professional development. This should not affect school allocations much. Stephanie Pierce said the District will use some of those funds for professional development for all teachers in ELA and Math.

Member Ryan is not as concerned about the AYP, as everyone knew that there would be a time that all districts would be in Program Improvement because of the 100% achievement targets. However, she is concerned about the API and believes we should be among the 33% that had growth. She believes it is fair to have that expectation for our students.

Member Burns asked if a parent could select any school if they wanted to move their child to another school. Stephanie Pierce said it would have to be a school that has room. Board members asked to be kept informed of any parents requesting a change in school.

Member Fox asked if CCSS would be affected by Santee being a Program Improvement district. Dr. Cathy Pierce said at this time we have STAR testing for one more year and we are working to be part of the CCSS testing pilot.

3. Report on 2013 Professional Leadership Team Retreat

Dr. Cathy Pierce shared a picture story of the Professional Leadership Team Back-to-School Retreat in August where Dr. Pierce presented the team with the theme for 2013-14: Santee School District is FIT. The day included a number of presentations on "change" and "innovation" and a SKYPE interview with a NASA scientist from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

President El-Hajj invited members of the audience to address the Board about any item not on the agenda. Several Request-to-Speak cards were received.

Sara Francis-Santee resident and parent with 4 children enrolled at Rio Seco. Over past 5 years her family has had excellent experiences with Santee School District. However, she is upset with the decision to change times at the schools. She said there was a lack of opportunity for parent input, parents were kept in the dark and deprived a chance to be part of the process. In 2010 the Kindergarten schedule was changed with no notice. In 2011 the school calendar was late. And today parents were given notice on the first day of school that time would change in October. This is a great inconvenience to her family and believes the school board showed disregard to parents. She said her trust in the school district has been broken. President El-Hajj thanked Ms. Francis for her comments and explained the times cannot be changed and the Board could take no action on this matter at this meeting.

Doug Hanson-Santee resident and parent. Mr. Hanson said as a parent he is curious if the Board has had any discussion about AB1266 and if so, any outcomes from discussions about how that will be implemented at the schools.

Alexis Jackson, Lakeside resident and Santee School District parent. Ms. Jackson asked the Board how parents will be informed of how the District will address AB 1266 and when changes will be implemented. President El-Hajj shared the Board had a discussion about AB1266 and they have their own concerns. Everything that the Board does is governed by Board Policy. The Board creates Board Policy and will have to follow the laws. They wish to be sensitive to all parties. When a Board Policy comes to the Board, it will come to a public meeting in a first and second reading. There is plenty of opportunity to make comments at that time. There are also opportunities to become involved through schools sites.

D. CONSENT ITEMS

President El-Hajj invited comments from the public on any item listed under Consent. There were no comments.

- 1.1. **Approval of Minutes**
- 1.2. **Approval of Management and Confidential Employee Salary Increase**
- 1.3. **Approval to Cancel December 3, 2013, Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education**
- 2.1. **Approval/Ratification of Travel Requests**
- 2.2. **Approval/Ratification of Revolving Cash Report**
- 2.3. **Acceptance of Donations**
- 2.4. **Approval/Ratification of Expenditure Transactions Charged to District Issued Purchasing Cards (P-Cards)**
- 2.5. **Adoption of Resolution #1314-06 to Certify 2012-13 Gann Limit Appropriations Recalculation and an Estimated Limit for 2013-14.**
- 2.6. **Approval of Agreement with Grossmont Union High School District Adult School for Conducting Adult School Programs at Pepper Drive School and PRIDE Academy**
- 3.1. **Approval of Change Order for Geotechnical Observation and Testing Services for Pepper Drive School Classroom Addition Construction Project**
- 3.2. **Approval to Award P.E. Lockers and Benches Purchase for the Pepper Drive School Addition through the CUPCCAC Process**
- 4.1. **Personnel, Regular**
- 4.2. **(Pulled for separate consideration.)**
- 4.3. **Adoption of Resolution Nos. 1314-04 and 1314-05 to Designate an Alternate Authorized Representative to San Diego County Schools Risk Management Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and Fringe Benefits Consortium (FBC) Programs**
- 4.4. **Approval of Readmission of Expelled Students**

It was moved and seconded to approve Consent Items.

Motion: Ryan **Second:** Levens-Craig **Vote:** 5-0

4.2. Approval of Resolution No. 1314-03 to Restore Work Hours of Identified Classified Non-Management Positions (Pulled by Member Ryan for separate consideration.)

Member Ryan stated that one of the positions' time impacts a family member, so she would be abstaining on this item. Member Burns moved approval of Item 4.2.

Motion: Burns **Second:** Fox **Vote:** 4-0 (Ryan, abstain)

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. Granting Tenure to Eligible Certificated Employees

Tim Larson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources said it is a milestone in these days to be adding teachers to our staff. Tonight, it was his pleasure to introduce 10 teachers who became eligible for tenure today, the first day of school. These teachers are:

Betty Stout	Krista Rosen	Tiffany Powell
Michelle Yother-Johnson	Mary Boutwell	Karla Ortiz
Naomi Daft	Christina Schipke	
Jeanie Low	Kimberly Schoff	

Member Burns moved to grant tenure to these certificated employees.

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

Board members congratulated these new permanent employees and Mr. Larson gave each a Santee School District mug.

2.1. Partnership with Chet F. Harritt School for a Field Trial and Approval of Agreement with the Lawrence Hall of Science (LHS) and Amplify

Stephanie Pierce reported Chet F. Harritt has been exploring the idea to create a STEM school. They have also added the arts, which would create a STEAM school. This partnership is a wonderful opportunity as part of their curriculum and the instruction is followed by an evaluation. The 6th grade and 7th grade teachers will be participating. Science units are aligned to the CCSS, calling it the “next generation science standards.” Part of the field study will be an online survey of the teachers and review of student work samples.

Member Levens-Craig asked if Mr. Mitchell was one of the teachers who would be participating. Mr. Johnston said yes, he is one of the teachers involved. She also asked where the funds would come from. Mr. Johnston said they have funds set aside dedicated to this project. With no further discussion, Member Levens-Craig moved to approve the agreement with the Lawrence Hall of Science (LHS) and Amplify.

Motion: Levens-Craig Second: Fox Vote: 5-0

3.1. Approval to Award RFP/Q for the Water Well Irrigation Project at Hill Creek School Using the CUPCCAC Process

With no discussion, Member Burns moved to authorize the selection and award of the Project to Tri-County Drilling, Inc., and proceed with the engineering/planning phase at a cost not to exceed \$48,635, and authorize staff to proceed with the construction phase at a cost \$67,977, if adequate water pressure is found.

Motion: Burns Second: Ryan Vote: 5-0

3.2. Approval of 2012-13 Unaudited Actuals Report

Karl Christensen reported the financial results for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013 are summarized in the District’s 2012-13 Unaudited Actuals Report. The books were closed on time. In summary, the District completed the 2012-13 fiscal year with an Unrestricted General Fund balance of \$9,850,256 and a combined unrestricted and restricted General Fund balance of \$10,233,355. The Unassigned/Unrestricted/Unappropriated amount available totals \$7,575,593. The general fund reports a change in fund balance of \$991,839, which is higher than projected. Some of the fund balance is from carry-overs, stores inventory, prepaid expenditures, and vacation carryovers. He highlighted a snapshot of all funds. He reported a \$40,000 contribution to the Child Development Fund, which is the State Preschool. He shared that although they have adjusted the program to be self-funded, due to negotiated salary increases, the State Preschool will have a small encroachment on the general fund in 2013-14.

Child Nutrition has an operating surplus and Cathy Abel is identifying about \$200,000 of one-time expenditures to reduce the surplus. Other expenditures may be added to the program to be include in the plan that will be submitted to the State as they do not want to see large operating surpluses. The fund reserve for the solar project at Hill Creek is higher than the projection.

The change is fund balance for YALE is \$27,402. Project SAFE has reduced expenditures by about \$400,000 but enrollment is down and estimated revenue has not been realized. There is a \$50,000 transfer from the general fund for 2012-13 that is budgeted to be repaid in 2013-14 and also budgeted funds in 2014-15 to repay the loan from YALE. The revenue projections are off and should not be off that much. The Business Department will be working with the Director to closely monthly monitor the revenue and expenditures. Member Ryan said the program needs to be looked at because if parents are not sending their kids to Project SAFE, it needs to be evaluated. YALE funds should not be used to subsidize Project SAFE. YALE enrollment has increased and there is no plan at this time to spend the surplus. The Board would like quarterly reports on the financial status of the Out of School Times Program.

He shared the comparison of estimated actuals to the unaudited actuals. The local revenue was up \$170,000. This fund is budgeted as revenue comes in and includes items like donations, camp funds, and field trip revenue. Other differences included books and supplies, services, and other operating expenditures. These are budgeted based on estimates and we have had some savings in these areas. These surplus dollars added about 2% to the reserves.

Mr. Christensen shared the projected budget summary for 2013-14 which includes STA salary increases. An increase in PERS is included and there is talk that it may increase from the current 11% as high as 18% in 2016. The District is still operating in deficit spending but projects to retain a 23.90% reserve. A 3% reserve is no longer a valid target due to the need to have cash reserves available. The budget summary shows conservative revenue projections using the Local Control Funding Formula. Signs point to positive things with the State budget.

Member Ryan moved to approve the 2012-13 Unaudited Actuals Report, including all required State forms.

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

H. BOARD COMMUNICATION

Member Ryan thanked them for their support in the changes to the Instructional Assistant position for her family member.

Member Levens-Craig attended the Santee retired teachers' luncheon and had a great time. She also visited a Hebrew immersion charter school, the first one on the west coast. She attended a STEM workshop with Andy Johnston where the State Superintendent was in attendance. She is excited to see all of the people trying to get STEM into schools. She mentioned the San Diego Festival of Science and Engineering will be in March.

Member Burns thanked Karl Christensen and the Business Department for going out to the schools on the first day. It is a great use of resources to have staff helping at schools and is greatly appreciated. He believes it would be good to provide the opportunity to others. He mentioned two new Kindergarten family members started school today in Santee.

Member Fox shared both of his grandkids are now students at Cajon Park.

Tim Larson provided a staffing update. Fewer students were in attendance than anticipated. Staffing is being adjusted and administration is working to reduce combinations classes wherever possible. This week will tell more exactly where our enrollment will be. There are subs in several classrooms that will allow staffing adjustments. Principals are providing numbers and we continue to monitor staffing closely. Enrollment is actually very near our spring projections. It appears that many of students left and we were not informed, causing higher enrollment expectations than projected.

Karl Christensen reported that construction at Pepper Drives hit another snag. Staff continues to meet with BBC and the architect where they are trying to reduce costs as much as possible. The latest projection for construction to begin is November 13. This pushed the completion schedule out to late April or early May. The FAA is checking to see if they can waive the public notice and we are waiting to see what their determination is.

Member Ryan asked how the height information was incorrect. Mr. Christensen said the Architect submitted an online application. The incorrect coordinates were submitted through the software that appeared to default to a lower base elevation. The Architect contacted the FAA to let them know and did not receive a response and no additional follow-up was done. Mr. Christensen will be providing the principal with talking points for staff and parents. Member Burns recommended Superintendent Pierce and Mr. Christensen attend a staff meeting to explain the delay and answer any questions.

The Board confirmed they would like to continue with the principal and student meetings for 2013-14.

Member Burns said he would like to have any policy that is developed regarding the AB1266 requirements passed through a committee such as the District Advisory Committee. Members Ryan and Fox will act as a subcommittee to draft a policy based on input from the other Board Members. The Board agreed that any policy should go to the DAC before it comes to the Board for consideration to allow for parent input. Member Ryan said it will be a sensitive issue to everyone. She suggested sending a school messenger when it is going to be considered at a board meeting. Member Burns believes the legal guidelines and other districts' policies are far too liberal. Member Ryan said there may be other ways to do this that will still safeguard everyone. Member Ryan said according to Senator Joel Anderson, there will be an initiative to modify the legislation on the November ballot. The District may wish to wait to see what other developments occur before acting.

I. 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 Negotiators:
 - *Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services*
 - *Tim Larson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources**Employee Organization: Classified School Employees Association*
3. **Conference with Labor Negotiator** (Govt. Code § 54956.8)
Agency Negotiators:
 - *Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services*
 - *Tim Larson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources**Employee Organizations: Santee Teachers Association*
4. **Public Employee Evaluation** (Govt. Code § 54957)
Superintendent

The Board entered closed session at 9:09 p.m.

J. RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened to public session at 10:35 p.m. No action was reported.

K. ADJOURNMENT

The September 3, 2013 regular meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.