

**SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
March 18, 2003  
**MINUTES**

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

**A. OPENING PROCEDURES**

1. Call to Order and Welcome

President Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present:

Barbara Ryan, President  
Dianne El-Hajj, Vice President  
Cathy Abel, Clerk  
Dustin Burns, Member

Member absent:

Julie McIntosh, Member

Staff present:

Marcia Johnson, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board  
Carolyn Harness, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services  
Lisbeth Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services  
Bill Stumbaugh, Director, Pupil Services  
Sue Yakubik, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
Arletta Schaffer, Recording Secretary

2. President Ryan invited Theresa Carolan, Secretary II in the maintenance department, 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:** El-Hajj  
**Second :** Abel  
**Vote:** 4 -- 0

**B. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

1. Superintendent's Report

- 1.1. Requests for Use of Facilities
- 1.2. Enrollment Report
- 1.3. Developer Fees Collection Report
- 1.4. Claims Against the District
- 1.5. Schedule of Upcoming Events

2. San Diego Gas and Electric Electromagnetic Field Studies

At the request of the District, SDG&E conducted electromagnetic field (EMF) studies of the ten school sites. Mr. Jim Turman, SDG&E representative, presented the report on the EMF studies to the Board. He explained that a school creates a variety of measurements because there are many different sources of magnetic fields at the site. Samples were taken from a variety of locations inside and outside at each campus. The profile of the Santee School District campuses was very similar to schools tested across the state.

President Ryan invited members of the audience to address the Board. Ellen Hollaway, Santee resident and school volunteer, believes that health concerns could possibly be present in the Hill Creek area. The California Department of Education has mandated that districts avoid

construction in proximity to high power lines. She asked Board members to join efforts with Santee Citizens for Safe Power to protect the health and safety of students and to attend a planning meeting.

Desiree Guenther, a graduate of Hill Creek School four years ago, asked the Board to continue its leadership and represent the choice of health and safety for students.

Gregg Guenther, father of Desiree, believes there is enough evidence to suspect a health danger. He asked the Board to step up to the duty of safety by attending the summit being organized.

Board members asked questions of Mr. Turman. Member Burns asked if there were any significant findings in the outdoor measurements. Mr. Turman responded in the negative, saying that there is no standard for exposure. Member Abel asked about the differences in the readings at Pepper Drive School. Mr. Turman suspected the differences are related to the underground distribution system on the campus. Member El-Hajj asked if underground wires emit a magnetic field. Mr. Turman replied that they do.

The Board agreed to have a representative at the summit and asked to be informed about time and location. Member Burns and President Ryan suggested that the EMF report be sent the Department of Environmental Health for analysis. The community will be notified of any action on this item.

**C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

President Ryan invited members of the audience to address the Board about any item not on the agenda. There were no public comments.

**D. PUBLIC HEARINGS** (none)

**E. CONSENT ITEMS**

Items listed under Consent are considered to be routine and are all acted on by the Board with one single motion. It was moved and seconded to approve Consent Items, holding Items E.2.1. and E.3.1. for separate consideration.

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|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| <b>Motion:</b> | <b>El-Hajj</b> |             |
| <b>Second:</b> |                | <b>Abel</b> |
| <b>Vote:</b>   | <b>4 -- 0</b>  |             |

**Superintendent**

- 1.1. Approval of Minutes

**Business Services**

- 2.1. Held for separate consideration by Member Burns
- 2.2. Approval/Ratification of Expenditure Warrants
- 2.3. Approval/Ratification of Purchase Orders
- 2.4. Approval of Financial Reports
- 2.5. Approval/Ratification of Revolving Cash Reports
- 2.6. Acceptance of Donations

**Educational Services**

- 3.1. Held for separate consideration by Member Burns
- 3.2. Approval to Submit Drug Free Communities Grant Application

**Human Resources**

- 4.1. Personnel, Regular, with a copy to be made a part of the minutes. Consultants approved: Parent Institute for Quality Education, Zina Toma

For separate consideration

- E.2.1. Approval of Travel Requests

Member Burns asked Carolyn Harness to address the travel requests for Ted Doughty, director of maintenance/operations/facilities. She reported that the AHERA training sessions are legally required. It was moved and seconded to approve the travel report as submitted.

**Motion:** El-Hajj  
**Second:** Abel  
**Vote:** 4 -- 0

- E.3.1. Approval of Two Memorandums of Understanding with the San Diego County Bilingual Teacher Training Program (BTTP)

Lis Johnson explained that the San Diego County Office of Education will provide a required bilingual teacher training program and the MOUs have no financial impact on the District. If teachers take advantage of the program under SB 395, completion of a Request for Travel would be necessary. It was moved and seconded to approve the MOUs.

**Motion:** El-Hajj  
**Second:** Abel  
**Vote:** 3 – 0 (Burns abstain)

**F. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS**

- 1.1. Approval of Proposal From San Diego County Office of Education for Superintendent Search

Member Burns stated that he supported the proposal with the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) to conduct a national search for a new superintendent. Of the options considered, this contract is the most reasonable. He will abstain from voting, however, because of potential conflict of interest as an employee of the SDCOE. Member El-Hajj is sensitive about the cost during difficult budget times, but believes the money is well spent. It was moved and seconded to approve the proposal.

**Motion:** El-Hajj  
**Second:** Abel  
**Vote:** 3 – 0 (Burns abstain)

**Business Services**

- 2.1. Approval of 2002-03 Budget Revisions for February

The budget report reflected all adjustments for income and expenses through February. Carolyn Harness pointed out that interest income has been reduced by \$100,000 due to lower cash in the County Treasury and low interest rates. The estimated ending balance is predicted to be \$162,000. It was moved and seconded to approve the February budget revision report.

**Motion:** Abel  
**Second:** Burns  
**Vote:** 4 -- 0

- 2.3. Approval of Summer School Program for 2003

In presenting this item, John Tofflemire gave an historical overview of the summer school program and offered program options for summer 2003. Summer school is planned to cover 19 days from June 30 through July 25. Five programs were offered last year: Core, Skills/intervention Academy for at-risk students, Skills Academy for retained students, Bilingual Skills Academy, Extended Year Special Education.

Mr. Tofflemire outlined the curriculum, target population, staffing needs, impact to the general fund and whether each program is a state mandate. Only Extended Year Special Education is required by the student's IEP. The Skills Academy for retained students must be offered if no other intervention has been offered during the school year.

The questions posed to the Board were: should some or all of the summer school programs be offered and with what priority. Administration suggested the following priority:

1. Extended Year Special Education
2. Skills Academy for retained students
3. Bilingual Skills Academy
4. Skills/intervention Academy for at-risk students
5. Core

Board members asked many questions about student:teacher ratio, transportation, loss of enrollment, and program mandates. Mr. Tofflemire explained that one site would be able to house the summer program if the core program was not offered. A drastically reduced office support staff could be hired. President Ryan suggested using Prospect Avenue School to house the summer program. Member Burns expressed concern that parents have not had an opportunity for input about the summer program.

It was moved and seconded to offer the four summer programs with the highest priority:

1. Extended Year Special Education
2. Bilingual Skills Academy with staffing at 30:1
3. Skills Academy for retained students with staffing at 25:1
4. Skills/intervention Academy for at-risk students with staffing at 30:1

No transportation will be provided except for special education as required by the student's IEP. All programs will be offered at one school site to be determined by administration.

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| <b>Motion:</b> | <b>El-Hajj</b> |
| <b>Second:</b> | <b>Abel</b>    |
| <b>Vote:</b>   | <b>4 -- 0</b>  |

Member El-Hajj asked if any options exist for offering a special education summer school program in future years.

#### 2.4. Discussion of 2003-04 Budget

Carolyn Harness provided a series of documents for Board information: Budget Reduction Suggestions 2003-04 (rev. March 18, 2003), the class size reduction plan from a neighboring district, the revenue enhancement plan from a neighboring district, parcel tax information requested by the Board, and a summary of reductions of current year funding contained in SBx1 18. A cash flow analysis is being prepared in fiscal services that is expected to show the District will break even in 2002-03 without borrowing from other funds. President Ryan believes the District should consider taking advantage of low interest bridge loans, if they are available.

President Ryan invited members of the audience to address the Board on this item. The following employees described the valuable services provided to students by classified employees: Alan Beretta, Grounds Maintenance Worker; Bob Jennings, Craftworker III/Electrical; Carole Perry, Library/Media Clerk; Dan Bubke, Computer Support Technician; Michael Krynski, Publications Technician; Joanne Walker, Instructional Assistant, Special

Education; Gerri Cangialosi, Secretary I; Karen Correia, Instructional Assistant; and Brad Hunt, Grounds Maintenance Worker. Stan Molina, CSEA President, asked the Board to take time in making decisions to eliminate positions.

President Ryan acknowledged the valuable service offered by classified employees and indicated that the important decisions to be made do not reflect on the quality of service.

The Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) will meet next week to prioritize the Budget Reduction Suggestion 2003-04 list. Member Burns wishes to withhold any further Board action until the prioritized list is available.

Member El-Hajj understands the advantages and disadvantages of making early budget decisions, but prefers to wait until the last possible minute. Sue Yakubik stated that classified employees being laid off require a 45-day notice. Those positions funded by categorical funds must be noticed before the end of the school year.

Board members decided to hold a special meeting for further budget discussion on Monday, April 28 at 7 p.m.

Member Ryan asked for Board discussion of revenue enhancements. Ideas discussed included:

1. Member El-Hajj suggested investigating the purchasing of luxury coaches for leasing.
2. Consider contributions to an educational foundation, similar to Poway Unified School District.
3. Member Ryan supported pursuing a parcel tax. The cost is minimal on a regular election cycle, approximately \$5,000. November 2004 is the next general election. Member Burns is not ready to support a parcel tax yet. The Board asked for a timeline and costs for placing a parcel tax on the ballot. Member Burns believes it is important to communicate with parents about the budget situation, laying off employees and reducing programs. Member El-Hajj supported teaming with STA to write a letter. To make the best use of the communication, Member Ryan would want to include opportunities for parent help, like writing to legislators or exploring a parcel tax. The Superintendent will draft a letter to parents by April 3.
4. Obtain a waiver of use of funds from the sale of surplus property. Carolyn Harness is working with a legislative advisor in this area.
5. Member Abel asked for further explanation of Option II for kindergarten in the class size reduction program being proposed in a neighboring district. She understood the program saves a great deal of money. Lis Johnson described the staggered program with 300 minutes of instruction. If implemented in the District, an estimated 12 fewer kindergarten teachers would be needed with a potential savings of \$540,000. Member Abel stated that the idea was worthy of bringing forward. See suggestion #153 on the Budget Reduction Suggestion 2003-04 list.
6. Member El-Hajj investigated the use of vending machines on middle school campuses in La Mesa-Spring Valley District. Each machine earns approximately \$1200/year. Number of sites determines the percentage of return.

**G. BOARD POLICIES AND BYLAWS (none)**

**H. BOARD COMMUNICATION**

Member El-Hajj was impressed with the brochure made available to students who wish to appeal exclusion from the eighth grade promotion and activities.

Member Burns read to the Chet Harritt students in Lyndee Alton's class recently. He reported that the Superintendent visited sixth grade camp and the camp staff was appreciative of her visit.

President Ryan requests that staff arrange a meeting of the City/Board Joint Committee. She reported on a recent conversation with Senator Dede Alpert related to state budget issues. Senator Alpert does not believe that legislation will be approved to raise the primary student:teacher ratio to 22:1. She believes

that revenue projections do not look good and that the May Revise will be worse than predicted. She also agreed to carry suggestions for district budgeting flexibility.

Member Burns also visited the Lakeside court school and was extremely impressed with the program teacher. President Ryan agreed that the teacher was impressive, but that most students enrolled were of high school age. She was concerned with the atmosphere for junior high students.

**I. CLOSED SESSION**

President Ryan announced that the Board would meet in closed session for:

1. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release
2. Conference with Labor Negotiator  
*Agency Negotiator: Sue Yakubik, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources*  
*Employee Organizations: Santee Teachers Association (STA)*  
*California School Employees Association (CSEA)*
3. Student Discipline Matters
4. Public Employee Performance Evaluation  
*Title: Superintendent*
5. Conference with Real Property Negotiators  
*Location: Renzulli Site*  
*Agency Negotiator: Carolyn Harness, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services*
6. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation  
*Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54956.9*

The Board entered closed session at 10:15 p.m.

**J. RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION/ ADJOURNMENT**

The Board reconvened to public session at 12:10 a.m. President Ryan reported on a closed session motion and vote to approve the settlement agreement regarding the Recommendation for Expulsion for Student #67.

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| <b>Motion:</b> | <b>El-Hajj</b> |             |
| <b>Second:</b> |                | <b>Abel</b> |
| <b>Vote:</b>   | <b>4 -- 0</b>  |             |

The March 18, 2003, regular meeting adjourned at 12:15 a.m.

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Cathy Abel, Clerk

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Marcia J. Johnson, Secretary