

SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 16, 2004
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 7:06 p.m.

Members present:

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

Staff present:

Dr. Lisbeth Johnson, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board
Carolyn Harness, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Dr. Patrick Shaw, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
John Tofflemire, Director, Human Resources
Linda Vail, Recording Secretary

2. President El-Hajj invited MIKI Sankary, 8th grade student and ASB Vice President at Cajon Park School, 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.

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>
<i>Second:</i>	<i>Abel</i>
<i>Vote:</i>	<i>5-0</i>

B. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Johnson introduced the guest she is hosting on behalf of Rotary. Dr. Bill Stumbaugh also introduced his guest from Ecuador. Both guests are educators and are here as part of a Rotarian Study Exchange Trip.

1. Superintendent's Report
 - 1.1. Requests for Use of Facilities
 - 1.2. Enrollment Report
 - 1.3. Developer Fees Collection Report
 - 1.4. Schedule of Upcoming Events
2. Academic Performance Index (API) Base for 2004

Dr. Pat Shaw reported on the Santee schools' API scores. Districtwide API scores were new this year with our district scoring at 783.

President El-Hajj asked if there was a way to aggregate at certain grade levels? Dr. Shaw replied that you could separate K-6 and 7-8 in order to do some comparisons.

Member Ryan did not see a comparison with other school districts and asked if there was a state or county comparison chart with other school districts. Member Ryan would like to aim for a high score next year.

3. **Spotlight on Learning: Children and Families Ready for School**
Dr. Johnson introduced Hope Baker, the coordinator of the program, who gave the presentation. Mrs. Baker shared how the program has grown from 40 families to over 200 families since its inception. HIPPY is a home visiting program that brings information to the parents about developmentally preparing children for school. The program includes parent classes taught by a credentialed teacher. "Bright Start," a part time parent participation program, was developed to fill the gap for students who are not quite old enough to qualify for EAK. A survey sent to kindergarten teachers of children who participated in the Prop. 10 and HIPPY programs before entering school reflects a 75% readiness for school. At this time no funding is available for next year but they are looking for grants and to the legislature to fund continuance of the program.

Member Ryan thanked Mrs. Baker for her work in the program and asked that the Board send a letter of support when needed to seek funding.

4. **Report on Annual Japanese Student Visit to Cajon Park School**

Dr. Johnson introduced Dave Chamberlin, teacher at Cajon Park School, and Cajon Park students to share a presentation on the visit from students from Kamaishi City, Japan on January 7, 2004.

Member Burns stated that he is very proud of the students from Cajon Park as they represented the City of Santee and acted as ambassadors of the Santee School District.

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

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

Gregg Guenther, "Citizens for Safe Santee," thanked the Board for their commitment to bring EMF information to a Board meeting in April. Mr. Guenther shared that he feels that a parent forum is needed at Hill Creek.

Karen Robinson, representing "La Petite Academy," shared that she does not want to see kindergarten teachers reduced or co-teaching eliminated from the kindergarten program..

Jeff Sallay, addressed school district policy on inter- and intra-district transfers and the impact if Sycamore Canyon were to be closed. He was concerned that the deadline for submission was before the date a decision would be made about closing a school.

Nanette Roessler, a Sycamore Canyon parent, asked the Board to try harder to save Sycamore Canyon School. She pointed out that Sycamore Canyon has the second highest API score in the District and mentioned that a former student is participating in the Olympics.

Sherry Wallace, a Sycamore Canyon parent, expressed concerns about what options parents would have if Sycamore Canyon were to close and the concerns of the impact of additional students moving to other schools.

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 listed below except Item E.2.13. which was held for separate consideration by Member Burns.

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

Superintendent

- 1.1. Approval of Minutes.

Business Services

- 2.1. Approval of Travel Requests
- 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 Report
- 2.6. Acceptance of Donations
- 2.7. Approval of Response to Request for Agency Recommendation
- 2.8. Adoption of Resolution #0304-23 to Offer Early Retirement Incentive to Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
- 2.9. Approval of Revision of Santee Sports Council Field Assignments
- 2.10. Approval of Piggybacking to Participate in the Rio School District Bid #0304-01 Package #4 (Playground Equipment & Structure) Materials/Equipment
- 2.11. Approval of Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) Program Service Agreement Renewal with Paradigm HealthCare Services
- 2.12. Approval of Second Period Interim Report.
- 2.13. Held for separate consideration

Human Resources

- 4.1. Personnel, Regular, with a copy to be made a part of the minutes. Consultants approved: R&K Enterprises.
- 4.2. Approval of Participation in MyWellness360 Flexscan Optional Employee Benefit Program
- 4.3. Approval of 2004-2005 District Calendar

For separate consideration

- 2.13. Approval of Relocating Santee School Portable Buildings

Member Burns feels that we should wait to make a decision on the configuration of the District next year before moving buildings. Member McIntosh asked if the moves take into consideration the needs that may arise if a school were to be closed. Carolyn Harness responded that the relocation of the portable buildings would not be impacted by the closure of a school and several of the buildings were purchased by Project SAFE. President El-Hajj said that this issue has no bearing on Sycamore Canyon. Member McIntosh asked for, and was given, assurance that there would be no cost to the general fund.

Member Burns asked what the impact would be if the Board held off on moving buildings. Carolyn Harness said that it takes two to three months to completely relocate one of the buildings and if there was a delay they might not be ready by the time school started in September. With approval the moves would not begin until August. Board members felt that this would provide the opportunity to make changes if needed over the next few months.

Moved: **Ryan**
Seconded: **McIntosh**
Vote: **5 - 0**

F. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

Members of the audience wishing to address the Board about any of the following items should submit a request to speak card in advance.

Superintendent

1.1. Discussion About Expenditure Reductions at Sycamore Canyon School

President El-Hajj invited Maria Lenhoff to speak. Maria Lenhoff, a Sycamore Canyon parent, is seeking information to determine what funds could be saved to help save Sycamore Canyon School. Some suggestions her committee has are to turn off of air conditioners, utility bill averaging, and using parent volunteers in place of employees. Mrs. Lenhoff is also looking to corporations for assistance. The committee would like to see Sycamore Canyon reduce their expenditures and generate revenue to be able to remain open. Mrs. Lenhoff also would like to see if parents could seek out and write grants to obtain funds.

Dr. Johnson presented recommended potential reductions in personnel to try to save dollars at Sycamore Canyon. She noted that any proposals discussed must comply with existing contract language with the employee groups. Personnel account for \$378,000 of the costs of maintaining Sycamore Canyon School. The proposed staff reductions could include:

- No change in school secretary, remain at 8 hours
- Possible reduction or elimination of Student Records Secretary - \$21,000
- Eliminate the library personnel at Sycamore Canyon and -share in District library services - \$23,000
- Health Services-reduction of health clerk 1-2 hours - \$9,000
- Reduction of work hours of day custodian - \$9,000
- Campus aides reduction by 1 - \$9,000
- Use categorical dollars for a portion of principal salary- (required compliance duties) - \$40,000
- Total possible reduction of \$111,000

The objective of this list was to be creative but still maintain a viable and quality school. Supplies amount to an additional \$26,000. There are numerous opportunities for teachers to provide wish lists to local vendors for support but parents cannot be forced to purchase supplies.

Carolyn Harness reported on a serious study of savings that could be realized if the district office staff relocated. The cost of moving partitions and the library at the ERC is very expensive. Also, a new office complex is being built directly across the street and would be competition for leasing, as the vacancy rate is currently high. The interest the district has received has been from a private school seeking classrooms and an auditorium.

Relocation and disruption of staff and departments would have a future impact on long range plans for consolidation during declining enrollment. Based on the analysis to move existing staff out of the Skidmore Building and renting it out, it would not generate the amount of revenue needed to make it profitable.

Other districts experiencing declining enrollment are leasing their properties to private school and church schools, sometimes as a joint venture. We have had three potential groups express interest in leasing from the District.

Group A has a need for 10 rooms (This would cause minimal disruption.)

Group B is a performing arts private school that has a need for 15 rooms and exclusive use of the auditorium (The lease could generate up to \$200,000.) This group has been in San Diego City for 19 years and needs to know by June.

Group C is a new private school being established and needs 10 classrooms. The school is modeled after a school in Temecula with a preparatory school curriculum such as used on the East Coast. (A target date for making a decision would be helpful to them.)

Concerns that would come with leasing property: Traffic and parking, handling older students, two schools on same campus, liability for adults that are not our employees, insurance coverage, and possible fencing.

President El-Hajj explained that the Board asked staff to look for some alternatives that could be feasible to be able to keep Sycamore Canyon School open and the reports provided met that objective.

Barbara Martin, a District teacher, asked if the District has a viable buyer for Santee School at this time.

Mrs. Lenhoff thanked staff for their efforts in thinking out of the box.

Member Burns asked if it was possible to accommodate portables if both Sycamore Canyon students and another group were at the site. Carolyn Harness replied that her recollection was that two additional buildings could be relocated near one of the playgrounds. Another option could be to move Sycamore Canyon sixth graders to allow more classroom space. Member Abel has concerns and questions with mixing two schools on a site especially those with high school students.

Member Ryan shared that she has met with the MAT team and they had some great suggestions. She is initially uncomfortable with mixing two schools on one site and sees there would be a need for a very good plan on how to handle things that may come up. She would like to continue to look at moving district personnel and pursue emptying the District office if it were marketable. She would like to continue to explore all of these options.

President El Hajj recognized that parking is an issue at the District Office and suggested thinking about relocating both ERC and the District Office staff to school sites and lease to a private school.

Member Burns suggested looking at the costs of moving staff to a school and continuing to look at the options of having a private school move onto one of our sites. The Board asked staff to:

- Check the marketability of Skidmore Building
- Check with the City of Santee
- Inquire about current rental rates
- Pursue one or more private schools leasing a building
- Check to see if one or more of the groups would be interested in DO or ERC
- Pursue looking at relocating District Office staff and leasing the building
- Check with other districts who may be experiencing the same issues

Member Ryan would like to visit a shared school, such as in Temecula. Staff will bring more information to the meeting on April 20, 2004 to respond to the questions and concerns of the Board.

1.2. Discussion to Set a Date for Decision Regarding Sycamore Canyon School

Dr. Johnson shared the recommendation from the Santee School Closure Committee on the importance of providing parents information in a timely manner.

Karen Rinehart, a Carlton Oaks parent, stated that the possible closure of Sycamore Canyon affects other schools. Mrs. Rinehart suggested the Board consider contacting Rudy Castruita who helped a struggling district as he did before he moved to the San Diego County Office of Education.

President El-Hajj shared that the County Office of Education has just done a study to provide the District information.

Mrs. Lenhoff, a Sycamore Canyon parent, shared that it is clear that everyone is trying to work together and thanked the Board members for worrying about the kids and that their involvement has made them feel like they are part of the process.

Member McIntosh shared that Board members have received voice mails and emails from parents with the message that parents want a decision sooner rather than later. Her preference is that the Board set a date for a decision having a plan in place for boundaries and transportation.

Member Burns asked staff to get all of the information about other options, boundaries, and transportation together to be provided by April 20th. He would not support waiting until one month before school before making the decision to allow students adequate time to adjust.

Member Abel would like to be able to look at all of the options and the May revise. Having more time may provide the opportunity to not close Sycamore Canyon.

Member McIntosh does not want to repeat last year and would like to have all of the information about boundaries, school visits, and transportation before May 18th. Member Ryan feels that because it is such an important decision, the Board would want to have all of the information possible. She knows parents want to know, but would hate to make a decision just because a date was scheduled instead of waiting to get all of the information.

President El-Hajj would not consider making a decision before May 18 because all of the budget information would not be available. She would like staff to begin to prepare for either decision.

The consensus was that the Board will make a final decision on Sycamore Canyon at the May 18, 2004 meeting. There is a budget workshop meeting on March 31, and the Governor's revision should be out close to May 11. During the interim, staff will continue to investigate all options.

Mrs. Lenhoff asked if leasing Santee School to a private school was an option. It was explained that it is currently being appraised and it would not be in the best interest of the District to limit it to leasing. Mrs. Lenhoff also asked if intra-district transfers could be submitted after the May 14 deadline date since a decision would not be made until May 18. Dr. Shaw said that approving intra-districts would be postponed until a decision was made about Sycamore Canyon.

1.3. Consideration of Fund Raising Plan by Sycamore Canyon Parents

This item was brought to the Board again for further discussion.

Mrs. Lenhoff shared that parents and students are actively pursuing fundraising. She is communicating with large organizations and is seeking mentorships and/or partnerships. However, the organizations are asking questions and seeking information that she does not have in order to secure their commitment.

Mr. Wallace-shared that this was the most positive Board meeting that he has attended. He appreciated Board and staff suggestions and their investigation as to how we can save Sycamore Canyon. He presented Maria Lenhoff with a check for \$1,000.

Member Ryan-said that the District would help as needed in providing information and completing forms etc. She suggested that the parent committee aim for \$400,00 in fundraising to keep everything you currently have, even though it may not all be needed.

Member McIntosh agreed because that is what is known and some of the potential reductions may not be in the best interest of the students. Any overage could be applied toward next year.

Member Burns said he would like to set the goal lower than the \$400,000. He also stated that it is overwhelming to see a parent write a \$1,000 check to save their school.

President El Hajj stated that in looking at the list of possible reductions it seems that \$260,000 may be a little more realistic of a goal. Member McIntosh felt that if you lower the target you are saying that the potential reductions provided by staff are acceptable by the Board. Member Ryan agreed that there are things on the potential reduction list that she would have difficulty supporting. She believes the committee needs to aim for \$400,000. Member Burns still feels that a lower number could be put forth and the District could figure out how to reduce.

Member Ryan said that the target date for fundraising would need to be May 18, 2004, as the decisions cannot be separated. The majority of the Board members feel that the entire amount needs to be the goal for fundraising and direction is that the Board will make a decision on May 18 and the cost would need to be \$400,000.

The Board indicated that a process was needed to return donations if not enough money were raised.

The parent committee would like to have anything over \$100 be returned to the donors. Donations under \$100 would go to the Santee School District Foundation.

Member Ryan suggested that District staff help Mrs. Lenhoff create a card to include with any contribution with options for designating specific programs or schools that the donor would like their donation to go to if not enough money is collected.

Business Services

2.1. Approval of 2003-04 Budget Revisions for February

The budget revisions for 2003-04 were presented to the Board. There was no discussion and the budget revisions were approved as presented.

Motion: *McIntosh*
Second: *Burns*
Vote: *4-0 (Abel: absent)*

Educational Services

3.1. Discussion and Approval of the 2004 Extended School Year for K-7 Students in Special Education

Dr. Pat Shaw shared the information on the mandated Extended School Year for special education students and requested approval of the program.

Motion: *Ryan*
Second: *McIntosh*
Vote: *4-0 (Abel: absent)*

G. BOARD POLICIES AND BYLAWS

1. First Reading: Review/Revision: BP 6141.3, Transitional Second Language Program

No action was taken and the revised policy will return to the Board for a second reading and possible action for approval at the next scheduled meeting.

H. BOARD COMMUNICATION

Member McIntosh-shared that the library committee grant application was one of 72 applications. The library committee meets tomorrow to establish a letter writing campaign and Member McIntosh cannot attend. President El Hajj will attend in her place.

Member Burns has had parents ask about Prop J returning in November and expressed that he would be supportive of another parcel tax on the ballot.

Member Ryan agrees that we should try to obtain a parcel tax again. This last time was very short and if we analyze the voting data the District could be successful. If it were done at the November general election, the cost would be minimal. The Board requested that this topic be placed on the agenda for the March 31, 2004 meeting for further discussion.

I. CLOSED SESSION

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

1. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release
2. Conference with Labor Negotiator
Agency Negotiator: John Tofflemire, Director, Human Resources
Employee Organizations: Santee Teachers Association (STA)
California School Employees Association (CSEA)
3. Student Discipline Matters
4. Conference with Real Property Negotiators
Location: Renzulli Site
Agency Negotiator: Carolyn Harness, Assistant Superintendent,
Business Services

The Board entered closed session at 10:40 p.m.

J. RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

The Board reconvened to public session at 12:30 a.m. No action was reported. The March 16, 2004, regular meeting adjourned at 12:30 a.m. in memory of Bobbie Nitz.

Dustin Burns, Clerk

Lisbeth A. Johnson, Ed.D, Secretary