



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SARATOGA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
April 15, 2008**

M I N U T E S

Present: Michael Gipe, Pragati Grover, Jack Chang, Cindy Ruby, Shinku Sharma

1. Agenda Online Training

Board members and district staff participated in CSBA Agenda Online Training.

2. Call to Order/Public Comment

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board President Michael Gipe and the public was invited to address the board on issues on the Closed Session agenda.

There were no comments from the public.

3. Closed Session

Board members met in Closed Session for:

3.1 Personnel Report – Public Employment Teacher Appeal of Denial of Leave of Absence (Government Code 54954.5)

3.2 Conference with Labor Negotiator (Government Code section 54954.5)

Agency designated representative: Board President Michael Gipe

Unrepresented employee: Superintendent

4. Open Session

Board President Michael Gipe called the meeting into Open Session and announced action taken in Closed Session.

Personnel Report

Leave of Absence

Patience Fielding, Teacher currently on leave of absence for the 2007-08 school year wishes to appeal the Board's initial decision to deny her a leave of absence. Patience would like to request an extended leave of absence for the 2008-09 school year.

A motion was made by Cindy Ruby and seconded by Shinku Sharma to deny the appeal of a Denial of Leave of Absence.

AYES: Gipe, Grover, Chang, Ruby, Sharma

NOES: 0

5. Action/Consent Items

*Approval of Agenda

*Approval of Minutes for March 25, 2008

*Approval of Warrants for March 2008

*Approval of Gift: Three – 1000 Wireless Access Points and One – WS-C2950SX-24, donated by Richard Wong for District Infrastructure

A motion was made by Pragati Grover and seconded by Jack Chang to approve the Action/Consent Items modifying the agenda to hear Item 7.4, Redwood Middle School Math, as close to 7:20 p.m. as possible.

AYES: Gipe, Grover, Chang, Ruby, Sharma

NOES: 0

6. **Communications**

6.1 **Community Comments**

- There were no comments from community members.

6.2 **Comments from Employee Groups**

- There were no comments from employee groups.

6.3 **Comments from the Superintendent**

- Superintendent Weiss was pleased to announce Foothill Elementary School has received the California Distinguished School award. There will be an award ceremony on May 16 in Southern California. Congratulations to Foothill!
- STAR tests have arrived and materials are being prepared to send out to schools.
- Superintendent Weiss met with Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District Superintendent Cary Matsuoka to discuss common projects including sharing student data, ways to support our students, and Project Cornerstone with the City of Saratoga and West Valley College.
- Superintendent Weiss, Assistant Superintendent Polito and Math Coach Mardi Kambish will attend a meeting with the Noyce Consortium to review our work from this year and to plan for next year.
- The SEF Major Grant proposal will be presented tomorrow night. There will be a status quo approach to keep current programs in place.
- SUSD Registration for 2008-09 started April 1st. Superintendent Weiss commended District Information Coordinator Amy Schaumburg for the well designed and informative slideshow she created for new parents which included pictures, information, and our 3D Success logo. As of today we have had 173 packets picked up and 75 returned. Superintendent Weiss will keep the board updated on registration.
- The Kindergarten Tea will be held May 21st, 4:30 p.m., at Foothill School.

6.4 **Comments from the Board**

- Pragati Grover attended an Argonaut School assembly highlighting the Adopt-A-School program. The whole school has worked since January in this outreach program to provide Nimitz Elementary School in Sunnyvale, CA with books for their library and other supplies.
- Shinku Sharma received a copy of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District annual report. It contained concise information and she suggested SUSD do a similar report.

7. **Action/ Discussion**

7.1 **Close Public Hearing: Disclosure of District and SCA's Initial Proposals for the successor contract (2008-2011) contract**

**Saratoga Union School District and the Saratoga
Classified Association Initial Proposal for Negotiations**

The Saratoga Union School District and the Saratoga Classified Association have agreed to open contract negotiations to review and revise a successor contract for the July 2001-June 2004 contract.

The public was invited to send comments or suggestions in writing to the Superintendent or Board of Trustees, at the Saratoga Union School District Office, 20460 Forrest Hills Drive, Saratoga, CA 95070. After hearing comments from the community, the Public Hearing will be closed.

Article II	Recognition and Classification
Article III	Classification of Employees, Requirements of Employment and Status and Termination of Employment
Article IV	Rights of Classified Employees
Article VII	Negotiation Procedures
Article VIII	Term of Employment, Work Week and Overtime
Article IX	Evaluation
Article X	Assignment and Transfer
Article XI	Compensation and Benefits (Health and Welfare for the 2008-2009 school year)
Article XVI	Leaves of Absence
Article XVII	Safety

No comments were received and Board President Michael Gipe closed the Public Hearing at 7:07 p.m.

7.2 **Budget Update**

Superintendent Lane Weiss presented updated budget information to the board.

- The next meeting with the Santa Clara County Tax Assessor will be May 21st.
- The Governor's May Revise will be May 14th.
- This will be our opportunity to advocate with our legislators. Discussions will include categorical program flexibility.
- The SUSD Budget Advisory Committee will meet April 28th to review the first draft of next years' budget.

7.3 **Third Quarter Report on Board Goals**

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Beth Polito presented a brief summary on the progress made on district goals during the months of January, February, and March 2008. Her presentation detailed each of the following goals: Organizational Culture, Curriculum and Instruction, Communication, Finance, Human Resources, and Technology. An electronic copy will be provided upon request.

7.4 **Redwood Middle School Math Proposal**

Superintendent Weiss reviewed the board request to bring this item for action tonight. This proposal was presented at the last board meeting on March 25, 2008. There have been opportunities for fine tuning, answering questions and concerns, and providing information through parent meetings, discussions at sites, development of a Q & A summary sheet and tonight is an opportunity for board and community discussion. The board was asked to give direction to staff for the 2008-2009 school year and to vote on the approval of the Redwood Middle School proposal.

Redwood Middle School principal Kelly Green reviewed the proposal to group students heterogeneously for math instruction at the sixth grade level as a pilot program for the 2008-2009 school year. This proposal removes skill based tracks, heterogeneously groups students in a differentiated style, and provides student access to Algebra I in 8th grade.

- The proposed shadow class will provide opportunities for both pre-teaching and re-teaching students who need help and will be offered in an "A" period or in a regular exploratory elective class. Students will be allowed to transfer in and out during the school year.
- The cost is estimated to be approximately \$28,000 for the shadow classes. Tutorial and Math Lab classes may be redesigned.
- Class sizes may range up to 40 students in two sections.

- There will be a formula for placement: 30% MARS, 30% CST, 40% teacher recommendation.
- Training in math differentiation for teachers will be made available through the SCCOE or other resources. Two of our teachers have already been trained.

Community discussion:

Parents had an opportunity to ask questions regarding the math program:

- How many sections of 6A & 6C math were there in the current year?
There were 4 classes of 6A and 4 classes of 6C.
- How will the pace compare to 6A?
We will follow State Standards to allow access to full course Algebra in 8th grade.
- How will teachers differentiate in the shadow class?
They will follow the curriculum and the school will make a recommendation for shadow class placement.
- Parents were invited to share their experiences in 7A and 7C.
- Is the material taught in 6A and 6C the same?
Yes, same text, curriculum, and content.
- Is the material taught in 7th grade the same?
Yes, content is the same, due to earlier textbook adoption process textbooks differ.
- Does staff feel accelerated students will be held back?
No.
- In 8th grade Pre-algebra used to be the standard and now this has shifted to Algebra.

Board discussion:

- It is a board goal to be able to offer a full year of Algebra in 8th grade.
- This is a pilot plan to heterogeneously group 6th grade math classes for one year.
- Report to the board on status of implementation and target goals in January 2009
- Provide support with a shadow class for students.
- Provide professional development support for teachers.
- Measures to determine success: student assessments, teacher input, test scores, surveys from parents, students, and teachers regarding challenges and successes and reports on target goals to the board.

A motion was made by Pragati Grover and seconded by Shinku Sharma to approve the Redwood Middle School math proposal to group students heterogeneously for math instruction at the sixth grade level as a pilot program for the 2008-09 school year.

AYES: Gipe, Grover, Chang, Ruby, Sharma

NOES: 0

Redwood Middle School Principal Kelly Green and Math Coach Mardi Kambish thanked the board for their support.

7.5 Approval of Contract for 2008-09 Audit Report

In accordance with Education Code 41020, the governing board of each school district shall provide for an audit of the books and accounts of the school district. Chief Business Official Ellen Tipton presented the Selection of Auditors for the Annual District Audit for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 at the last meeting.

A motion was made by Shinku Sharma and seconded by Cindy Ruby to approve the Contract for the 2008-09 Audit Report

AYES: Gipe, Grover, Chang, Ruby, Sharma

NOES: 0

7.6 Williams Quarterly Report

Superintendent Lane Weiss presented the quarterly complaint report as required by the Williams Settlement. No complaints were filed with any school in the district during the reporting period January 1– March 31, 2008.

A motion was made by Shinku Sharma and seconded by Cindy Ruby to approve the Williams Quarterly Report for the reporting period January 1-March 31, 2008.

AYES: Gipe, Grover, Chang, Ruby, Sharma
NOES: 0

7.7 2009-2010 School Year Calendar – Draft from the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District

Superintendent Lane Weiss and Executive Assistant Kathy Devich provided the board with a draft copy of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District’s 2009-2010 school year calendar. The board was asked to provide direction on the timeline and process for adopting the SUSD 2009-2010 school year calendar. The SUSD 2009-10 calendar will be presented to the board two to three weeks after the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District approves their 2009-10 calendar.

8. Communications

8.1 Community Comments

STA President Mary Thomas commended the board for their work and said she enjoyed the meeting discussion.

9. Future Agenda Items

The Board discussed items for future agendas. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 29, 2008 in the District Office Conference Room.

- Agenda Online will start with this meeting.
- Spotlight: Redwood Middle School Musical – *Honk*
- Budget Update
- Professional Learning Communities/ California League of Middle Schools
- Board Policies: 9000s - Board

10. Return to Closed Session

Board members returned to Closed Session to continue discussion of Item 3.2 - Conference with Labor Negotiator (Government Code section 54954.5)

Agency designated representative: Board President Michael Gipe

Unrepresented employee: Superintendent

11. Open Session – Report Out from Closed Session

Board President Michael Gipe reported no action was taken in Closed Session.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Clerk of the Board