



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SARATOGA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
November 13, 2007**

M I N U T E S

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

1. Call to Order/Public Comment

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Board President Michael Gipe. The public was invited to comment or address the board on issues on the Closed Session Agenda.

There were no comments from the public.

2. Closed Session

Board members met in Closed Session for:

- 2.1 Personnel Report
- 2.2 Certificated and Classified Negotiations – Conference with labor negotiator Lane Weiss
- 2.3 Conference with Labor Negotiator (Government Code section 54954.5)
Agency designated representative: Superintendent
Unrepresented employees: Administrators, Classified Manager, and Confidential Employees
- 2.4 Conference with Labor Negotiator (Government Code section 54954.5)
Agency designated representative: Board President Michael Gipe
Unrepresented employee: Superintendent

3. Open Session

Board President Michael Gipe called the meeting into Open Session and announced action taken in Closed Session and that the board would return to Closed Session at the end of the meeting to continue discussion of Items 2.3 and 2.4.

A motion was made by Cindy Ruby and seconded by Pragati Grover to approve the Personnel Report.

Personnel Report

New Hire

Guadalupe Alberico is being recommended for the Kinder Noon Duty Supervisor position at Argonaut Elementary School effective November 13, 2007.

Kirsten Anderson is being recommended for the Kinder Noon Duty Supervisor position at Argonaut Elementary School effective November 13, 2007.

Resignation

Dalia Michael, SDC Instructional Aide at Foothill Elementary School resigned effective November 7, 2007.

AYES: Gipe, Ruby, Grover, Chang, Sharma

NOES: 0

4. **Action/Consent Items**

- *Approval of Agenda
- *Approval of Minutes for October 23, 2007
- *Approval of Warrants for October 2007
- *Approval of Donations:
 - Laminating machine, donated by J. Barnes Construction, Saratoga School

A motion was made by Pragati Grover and seconded by Cindy Ruby to approve the Action/Consent Items.

AYES: Gipe, Ruby, Grover, Chang, Sharma

NOES: 0

5. **Communications**

5.1 **Community Comments**

- There were no comments from the community.

5.2 **Comments from Employee Groups**

- There were no comments from employee groups.

5.3 **Comments from the Superintendent**

Superintendent Weiss commented on the following:

- Superintendent Weiss attended the Saratoga School Book Fair and enjoyed being a celebrity reader for students.
- Superintendent Weiss complimented the Saratoga Education Foundation leadership for their work on *Savor Saratoga*. It was a positive joint venture between the village merchants and SEF. He thanked Jen Fraisl, Katherine Tseng, Terrie Creamer and Kelly Berryhill for the great relationship building event.
- Superintendent Weiss and Special Education Director Janice Yamamoto are working on service delivery and support for students, parents and educators and have begun a fact finding committee at Foothill School.
- He commended the work of Assistant Superintendent Beth Polito and principals to address the needs of English Language Learners. A report will be presented to the board at their next meeting on how we address needs of our English Language Learners.
- The Superintendent's Advisory Council met last week. Topics of discussion included MRSA, pandemic flu, district wellness policy, updates from schools, and a budget workshop for principals, PTA presidents and treasurers.
- Superintendent Weiss will keep board members informed on traffic issues at Saratoga School. Last Wednesday eight Saratoga School parents spoke about their concerns at the Saratoga City Council meeting. He is working with City Manager Dave Anderson, Public Works Director John Cherbone, Saratoga School Principal Diane Smalley, and Saratoga School PTA Traffic Coordinator Sarah Okuno.
- Superintendent Weiss attended the National Superintendent's Roundtable, October 26-28, 2007 in Phoenix, Arizona. Communication expert Kathleen Hall Jamieson spoke about communication in the following areas: framing, priming, targeting your audience (NCLB/Test Scores and MRSA), and email communication. The group also visited a field of dreams/school clinic and discussed social engineering and networking. The next meeting will be held on the east coast with Peter Senge.
- Superintendent Weiss reported the governor has asked for a 10% cut back in the state budget. He will attend the Santa Clara County Tax Assessor's meeting on November 20, 2007 and report back to the board.
- He thanked board member Pragati Grover for sharing the Argonaut 5th grade celebration of Diwali with District Office staff.

- The State Board of Education has approved 42 mathematics textbooks for consideration by school districts for adoption. We have 24 months to approve and purchase the new math textbooks. Math Advisory Council meetings will be scheduled and there will be a report to the board.
- Superintendent Weiss met with the Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation Director Steve Rauwolf today. LGS Recreation will pay the full fee for last summer's facilities use and they will increase our funding to put us more in line with neighboring districts.

5.4 Comments from the Board

- Pragati Grover attended the Superintendent's Advisory Council and was appreciative of the information on health issues provided by district nurse Cristina Lee. She also attended a wonderful performance of the Redwood Middle School honor chorus on November 7th at the McAfee PAL.
- Shinku Sharma enjoyed the Saratoga Education Foundation's *Savor Saratoga* which brought business and education together. She hopes this becomes an annual activity.
- Cindy Ruby and Michael Gipe attended the CSBA Masters in Governance training on Curriculum and Instruction. There was lots of good conversation regarding the area of testing.
- Michael Gipe shared letters from the Santa Clara County Office of Education about the County Committee on School District Organization election and a letter from the Office of the State Controller regarding a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Interior.

6. Action/Discussion

6.1. Report on Project Cornerstone

Superintendent Lane Weiss introduced Cary Matsuoka, Superintendent in the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District, who presented information to the board about Project Cornerstone.

- Project Cornerstone - A Community Effort to Raise Healthy Teenagers
- Began in Santa Clara County in 1998 by a multi-agency effort including the YMCA and the United Way
- Core: Developmental Assets
External Assets – family, community, and organizations (school, church, youth)
Internal Assets – motivation, self-esteem, planning and decision-making
- Surveyed 150,000 teenagers in grades 6-12 on 40 Developmental Assets
- National % - kids feel they have 18.6 out of 40 assets
- Saratoga High School Survey
 - positive permission form required
 - students completed the survey in May 2007
- He recommended surveying SUSD students in grades 4-8 in spring 2008 at a cost of \$6,000.00 -7,000.00.

We often view life through a “deficit” model: what’s missing, what’s wrong, focus on bad news. Project Cornerstone and Developmental Assets is a framework of hope and health. Let’s create a healthy community environment for our kids.

Discussion:

How are high school staffs using this data?

- started faculty discussions
- still processing the data
- workshop was given by principal for parents and staff
- positive peer influence

- considering formal student focus groups for steps to improve the environment
- work through school newspapers
- listen to students – work with them not do it for them
- involve city council in discussions about youth/community
- propose longitudinal studies to follow-up with students

Superintendent Weiss and the board thanked Superintendent Matsuoka for coming and presenting this important information. Superintendent Weiss added that this partnership fits in with our values for students K-12.

6.2 Public Hearing to Sunshine Tentative Compensation Agreement with the Saratoga Teachers' Association

We have tentatively reached agreement on compensation with the Saratoga Teachers' Association. Board President Michael Gipe opened the Public Hearing at 7:43 p.m. and invited public comments.

Copies of the agreement are available at the District Office and on the district website at www.saratogausd.org. The Public Hearing will be closed November 27, 2007 and after hearing comments from the community the Board will be asked to vote on the agreement.

The process went very smoothly with a positive, professional and data driven approach. Superintendent Weiss and board members thanked all who participated on the negotiations team for their great collaboration, hard thoughtful work and mindfulness of students, staff and community.

6.3 Public Hearing to Sunshine Tentative Compensation Agreement with the Saratoga Classified Association

We have tentatively reached agreement on compensation with the Saratoga Classified Association. Board President Michael Gipe opened the Public Hearing at 7:46 p.m. and invited public comments.

Copies of the agreement are available for review at the District Office and on the district website at www.saratogausd.org. The Public Hearing will be closed November 27, 2007 and after hearing comments from the community the Board will be asked to vote on the agreement.

Superintendent Weiss thanked all who were involved in the positive discussion.

6.4 Success Indicators for SUSD Board Goals for 2007-08

Superintendent Lane Weiss presented a draft of success indicators for the 2007-2008 board goals. Principals, District Leadership Team and site leadership have participated in the development of the success indicators. After approval, Superintendent Weiss will work with staff to develop work plans and to cascade the information throughout schools and community.

A motion was made by Shinku Sharma and seconded by Pragati Grover to approve the Success Indicators for SUSD Board Goals for 2007-08 as presented.

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

6.5 Resolution 324.11/07– Annual Accounting for Developers’ Fees for the 2006-07 Fiscal Year

Chief Business Official Ellen Tipton presented Resolution 324.11/07 – Annual Accounting of Developer Fees for 2006-07 Fiscal Year in the Following Fund: Fund 250- Developer’s Fees, the Developers’ Fee expenditure report for 2006-07. The June 30, 2007 ending balance was \$930,899.75.

A motion was made by Cindy Ruby and seconded by Shinku Sharma to approve Resolution 324.11/07 – Annual Accounting of Developer Fees for 2006-07 Fiscal Year in the Following Fund: Fund 250- Developer’s Fees, the Developers’ Fee expenditure report for 2006-07.

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Gipe, Ruby, Grover, Chang, Sharma

NOES: 0

Board President Michael Gipe called for a 10 minute recess.

6.6 Second Reading - Board Policy Draft – Series 6000 - Instruction

Superintendent Lane Weiss presented a summary of the Series 6000 board policies for a second reading to the board of trustees. The policy sub-committee including board members Michael Gipe, Cindy Ruby and Superintendent Weiss, as well as Assistant Superintendent Beth Polito and Special Education Director Janice Yamamoto, have reviewed these policies. CSBA has provided the board with this copy for review.

Superintendent Weiss recommended the following:

- Re-convene policy sub-committee
- Remove all language referring to high school students and programs
- Update language on Instructional Day
- Update sexual health/HIV/AIDS program and curriculum development
- Review Independent Study
- Review Title I
- Review Special Education – IDEA compliance/role of RTI (Response to Intervention)
- Review Special Education – extra curricular activities
- Review English Language Learners
- Review Summer School
- Retain Homework Policy
- GATE – develop updated policy

The sub-committee will work to summarize and highlight policy information to present to the board for approval in January, 2008. Superintendent Weiss will work with CSBA on an electronic version to view recommended changes.

6.7 Every Child Holds Opportunity (ECHO) – Resolution

Board members discussed a proposed resolution urging the governor, state legislature and federal governments to provide adequate, equitable and stable special education funding for our schools. Superintendent Weiss requested the board review the information and consider adoption at the next board meeting for approval.

6.8 Board Protocol Discussion

Board President Michael Gipe will facilitate a discussion on the formation of a draft protocol for board members in the area of email use and communication at the next board meeting.

6.9 Crossing Guards

Superintendent Lane Weiss made a request to provide funds to support the addition of two crossing guard positions in SUSD. This addition would provide one additional crossing guard for Saratoga Elementary School and one additional crossing guard for Argonaut Elementary School.

A motion was made by Shinku Sharma and seconded by Pragati Grover to approve funding for two additional crossing guards at Argonaut School (1) and Saratoga Elementary School (1).

AYES: Gipe, Ruby, Grover, Chang, Sharma

NOES: 0

6.10 Board Committee Assignments

Board President Michael Gipe led a discussion on board committee assignments. Board members will keep their current assignments through the rest of the school year. Superintendent Weiss will represent the board at Saratoga Education Foundation meetings.

6.11 Call for Nominations for California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly

Board members discussed CSBA Delegate Assembly nominations. At this time no board members expressed interest in being nominated for the CSBA Delegate Assembly.

7. Communication

7.1 Community Comments

- There were no comments from the community.

8. Future Agenda Items

The Board discussed items for future agendas.

Next meeting: November 27, 2007

9. Adjournment to Closed Session

Board members adjourned to Closed Session to continue discussion of Items 2.2 and 2.3.

10. Report from Closed Session

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

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Clerk of the Board