



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SARATOGA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
September 11, 2007**

M I N U T E S

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

1. Call to Order/Pubic Comment

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 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.

2. Closed Session

Board members met in Closed Session for:

2.1 Personnel Report

2.2 Negotiations – Conference with labor negotiator Lane Weiss

3. Open Session

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

A motion was made by Cindy Ruby and seconded by Shinku Sharma to approve the Personnel Report.

AYES: Gipe, Ruby, Grover, Chang, Sharma

NOES: 0

Personnel Report

New Hire

Natalie Call is being recommended for a Crossing Guard position effective September 4, 2007.

Catherine Matheson is being recommended for the Occupational Therapist position effective September 5, 2007.

Resignation

Karen Bierach, Library Technician at Argonaut Elementary School resigned effective August 31, 2007.

Personnel Report Addendum

New Hire

Melissa Dawson is being recommended for a Crossing Guard position effective September 12, 2007.

Resignation

Jeff Russell, 1 on 1 Aide at Redwood Middle School resigned effective August 24, 2007.

4. **Action/Consent Items**

- *Approval of Agenda
- *Approval of Minutes for August 28, 2007
- *Approval of Warrants, August 2007

A motion was made by Cindy Ruby and seconded by Pragati Grover 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 thanked Michael Gipe and Cindy Ruby for their participation in the CSBA Masters in Governance Program.
- He announced the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District board will vote on adoption of the 2008-2009 calendar tonight. A copy was shared with the board and those in attendance. No decisions have been made for 2009-10. A calendar committee for SUSD will be formed to move forward on the adoption of the school calendar for 2008-09.
- Superintendent Weiss will be teaching in a masters program with Santa Clara University. Nine SUSD teachers are participating. The first class will be Foundations in Leadership and begins next week.
- Foothill School 5th graders left today for Science Camp. This is a great opportunity for team building experiences for students.
- Superintendent Weiss met with representatives from the Los Gatos Recreation Department and constituents from Wisdom Culture Camp who are protesting fees. This will be agendaized for the full board to review in October.
- A meeting regarding K-5 musicals will take place this week to discuss guidelines and structures to serve the needs of students and parent groups. There will be a meeting regarding the Redwood Middle School musical to discuss parental involvement, cost, and contracts. The board will be kept informed on progress.

5.4 **Comments from the Board**

- Pragati Grover reported Back-to-School Night at Argonaut School was very successful. She thanked Superintendent Weiss and Assistant Superintendent Polito for attending Back to School Night at all three elementary schools.
- Cindy Ruby shared handouts on policy from the CSBA Masters in Governance Program on Policy/Judicial Review.

6. **Spotlight: Redwood Middle School WEB (Where Everybody Belongs)**

Redwood Middle School Dean Eric Witter and 8th grade students Courtney Brandt and Ali Kothari presented highlights from the Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) program. This year over 80 WEB leaders were trained to work with incoming 6th graders to help them in the transition to middle school. There are opportunities throughout the year for WEB leaders to interact with students. This program has made a wonderful difference in school climate.

The board thanked Eric, Courtney, and Ali for their informative presentation.

7. **Action/Discussion**

7.1 **Open Public Hearing: Textbooks or Instructional Materials**

Board President Michael Gipe opened a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. for 2007-08 Sufficiency or Insufficiency of Textbooks or Instructional Materials as required by Education Code 60119. The public was invited to send comments to the Saratoga Union School District Board of Trustees at 20460 Forrest Hills Drive, Saratoga, CA 95070 or to email comments to board@saratogausd.org. Comments may also be sent to Superintendent Lane Weiss at the above address or by email to lweiss@saratogausd.org. The public hearing will be closed on September 25, 2007. Notices of the hearing will be posted in the community.

7.2 **Approval of J200 – 2006-07 Unaudited Actuals and 2007-08 Budget**

Chief Business Official Ellen Tipton presented the J200, 2006-07 unaudited actuals and the 2007-08 budget for board approval.

A motion was made by Shinku Sharma and seconded by Cindy Ruby to approve the 2006-07 unaudited actuals and the 2007-08 budget.

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

Superintendent Lane Weiss reviewed progress and recommendations in the following areas:

- **Budget expenditures for the 2007-2008 school year.**
Areas of need include technology support, replacement furniture, and instructional supplies. The board will discuss support for these items at the next board meeting.
- **Budget Reserve Policy – Sub-committee, timelines, draft policy**
A draft budget reserve policy and background information from School Services of California was shared. A sub-committee of the board will meet with Superintendent Weiss, Chief Business Official Ellen Tipton, and association representatives to establish a timeline for discussion and implementation. A First and Second Reading will be scheduled.

Michael Gipe and Pragati Grover will serve as board representatives.

7.3 **Public Hearing for Saratoga Union School District and the Saratoga Teachers' Association Initial Proposals for Negotiations for 2007-08**

The initial proposal announcing areas of the contract open for negotiations with the Saratoga Teachers' Association was presented.

A hearing on the Initial Proposal for 2007-08 compensation (Health and Welfare Benefits only) was held March 13 – March 27, 2007. The tentative agreement on Health and Welfare Benefits was ratified by the Board of Trustees on May 8, 2007. The Initial Proposal for compensation (salary) was presented to the board and a public hearing was opened and will be held September 11, 2007 – September 25, 2007.

The public may send comments or suggestions in writing to Superintendent Lane Weiss or the Board of Trustees at the Saratoga Union School District Office, 20460 Forrest Hills Drive, Saratoga, CA 95070, or via email at lweiss@saratogausd.org or board@saratogausd.org. The public hearing will be closed at the board meeting on September 25, 2007. The board will then be asked to accept the proposal with any additions.

7.4 Public Hearing for Saratoga Union School District and the Saratoga Classified Association Initial Proposals for Negotiations for 2007-08

The initial proposal announcing areas of the contract open for negotiations with the Saratoga Classified Association will be presented. A public hearing was opened by the Board President and will provide an opportunity for community responses.

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7.5 Approval of Resolution 321.9/07 – Establishing GANN Appropriation Limit Appropriating Revenue

Chief Business Official Ellen Tipton reviewed the annual GANN Appropriations Limit and Appropriating Revenue and requested the board's approval of Resolution 321.9/07.

A motion was made by Cindy Ruby and seconded by Shinku Sharma to approve Resolution 321.9/07 - Establishing GANN Appropriation Limit Appropriating Revenue.

Roll Call Vote

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

7.6 Update on Status of Algebra Program at Redwood Middle School

Superintendent Lane Weiss and Assistant Superintendent Beth Polito reported to the board on the following topics related to math education:

- Mathematics textbook adoption will begin in November 2007. We will have 24 months to complete the adoption process.
- The Math Advisory Committee will be reconvened to continue their work.
- The work with the Noyce Foundation this year will use a consortium approach to work on common criteria and share data.
- Overarching work will be to increase access and increase student proficiency as measured in multiple ways.

Assistant Superintendent Beth Polito provided information about student enrollment and answered questions from the board.

- 2006-07 / 2007-08 Math Placement Data
- A new link on the district website www.saratogausd.org provides useful information about mathematics for parents and the community.
- Professional development plans for the year have been developed and tie into our goal of articulation K-5/ 6-8/ 9-12.

Superintendent Weiss provided a brief overview of STAR testing results and trends in math for grades 2-8. He also shared CST mathematics results by school for the years 2005-07 in the School Charts format by proficiency level. This data will be helpful for

teachers to use in supporting student success. Superintendent Weiss also shared information from Kelly Green, Redwood Middle School Principal, about 5th-8th grade performance trends for 2006 and 2007.

Board members thanked Superintendent Weiss and Assistant Superintendent Polito for their reports.

7.7 Update on Board Policy Review

Board President Michael Gipe, board member Cindy Ruby, and Superintendent Lane Weiss shared information from their attendance at the CSBA Policy and Judicial Review workshop they attended on Saturday, September 8, 2007. They reviewed responsibilities of the board in their legislative, executive and judicial roles.

Superintendent Lane Weiss shared a matrix which outlines the policy development schedule in SUSD. He will meet with Michael Gipe to develop a schedule for the year.

7.8 Update on Developer Fee Justification Study

Chief Business Official Ellen Tipton updated the board with information on the Developer Fee Justification Study. Board members received a copy of the report last June which was done in conjunction with the Los Gatos Union School District and the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District. A proposal for an increase in fees will be reviewed with the board in January 2008.

7.9 Board Protocol Workshop

Board President Michael Gipe facilitated a discussion about the proposed workshop to develop board protocols in SUSD. The board will meet at 5:00 p.m. on September 25, 2007, immediately preceding their regularly scheduled meeting. Topics will include communication, confidentiality, and policy development protocols. Board members will email suggestions to Michael Gipe.

8. Communications

8.1 Community Comments

There were no comments from the community.

9. Future Agenda Items

The Board discussed items for future agendas.

- Next meeting – September 25, 2007
5:00 p.m. – Workshop on Board Protocols
6:00 p.m. – Closed Session
6:30 p.m. – Regular Meeting

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Clerk of the Board