

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SARATOGA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
April 25, 2006**

M I N U T E S

Present: Cindy Ruby, Cathie Thermond, Michael Gipe
Absent: Shinku Sharma, John Poo

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board President Cindy Ruby.

2. Closed Session

Board members met in Closed Session for:

- 2.1 Personnel Report for April 25, 2006
- 2.2 Classified and Certificated Negotiations: Conference with Labor Negotiator Lane Weiss
- 2.3 Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release

3. Open Session

Board President Cindy Ruby called the meeting into Open Session and announced action taken in Closed Session.

A motion was made by Cathie Thermond and seconded by Michael Gipe to approve the Personnel Report.

AYES: Ruby, Thermond, Gipe

ABSENT: Sharma, Poo

NOES: 0

- 3.1 **Argonaut School Principal** – Board President Cindy Ruby announced action taken by the board on the Superintendent’s recommendation for filling the position of principal at Argonaut Elementary School, effective July 1, 2006.

Superintendent Lane Weiss thanked all who served on the interview panel for the Argonaut School Principal position and asked them to stand. He reported twenty-nine applications were received for this position and five candidates were interviewed by a team of Argonaut staff, administrators, SUSD staff, and representatives from the PTA and School Site Council. Candidates were interviewed through a four-part process: General Panel Interview, Technical Panel Interview, Oral Presentation, Writing Sample.

Superintendent Weiss said it was with pleasure, confidence, and enthusiasm that Alex Chapman was recommended to the board of trustees to be the principal at Argonaut School, effective July 1, 2006. Alex has demonstrated himself to have the qualities and characteristics that match what the Argonaut learning community considers essential and important.

4. **Action/Consent Items**

- 4.1 Approval of Agenda
- 4.2 Approval of Minutes for March 28, 2006 and April 4, 2006
- 4.3 Approval of Warrants for March 2006

A motion was made by Cathie Thermond and seconded by Michael Gipe to approve the Action Consent Items.

AYES: Ruby, Thermond, Gipe

ABSENT: Sharma, Poo

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 Superintendent Weiss:**

- announced the sad news of the passing of Steve Zankich, a dedicated Los Gatos-Saratoga Girl's Softball League volunteer who helped maintain the Foothill School softball field.
- reported a constituent brought up traffic concerns. Principals will participate in a problem solving protocol to discuss next steps and an action plan.
- attended School Services of California *Evaluating Special Education Expenditures Workshop* with CBO Ellen Tipton and will share with this information with staff.
- reported Webfeedback surveys are up and running and that a summary report will be presented to the board.
- attended articulation meetings between Redwood Middle School and Saratoga High School. Redwood Principal Beth Polito, Assistant Principal Alex Chapman and Dean Jason Robertson along with Saratoga High School Principal Jeff Anderson, Vice Principals Karen Hyde and Gail Wasserman talked about how to work together as partners and in collaboration.
- reported enrollment for 2006-07 is coming in approximately the same as last year.
- will meet with staff from the Noyce Foundation to complete a two-year review of math data and discuss the math focus for next year.
- attended the Saratoga School 2nd grade concert – it was a joy to watch!

5.4 **Comments from the Board**

- Cathie Thermond attended the Saratoga and Foothill PTA meetings where the discussion included SLCT Days and budget. It was suggested Budget Advisory Committee parent representatives team with staff to present talking points at PTA meetings.

6. **Spotlight: Redwood Middle School Musical *Seussical***

Redwood Middle School Principal Beth Polito introduced students Samantha Pack and Brandon Pierce who sang a duet from the spring musical *Seussical*. Board members and Superintendent Lane Weiss expressed their appreciation for the wonderful performance!

7. **Action/Discussion Items**

71. **Close Public Hearing: Disclosure of District and Saratoga Teachers' Association's Initial Proposals for the 2006-2007 contract, specifically for:**

-Article XVI – Health and Welfare Benefits – The district proposes to negotiate fair and equitable adjustments in compensation (Health and Welfare benefits), consistent with the District's ability to pay now and in the future, and the reality of state and local economies.

-Article VIII – Hours of Employment – The district proposes to negotiate the number of student contact minutes per day in relation to minimum day schedules and Staff Learning and Collaboration Time (SLCT Days).

Pursuant to Government Code section 3547, a public hearing was opened on March 28, 2006 to provide the public an opportunity for input into the negotiations process. After hearing input from the community the Board President will close the public hearing and the board will be asked to accept the district's and Saratoga Teachers' Association's Initial Proposals for the 2006-07 contract.

Superintendent Lane Weiss reported no comments have been received. Board President Cindy Ruby closed the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Negotiations are scheduled to begin tomorrow at Redwood Middle School at 3:45 p.m.

7.2 **Close Public Hearing: Disclosure of District and Saratoga Classified Association's Initial Proposals for the 2006-2007 contract, specifically for:**

-XV – Health and Welfare Benefits – The district proposes to negotiate fair and equitable adjustments in compensation (Health and Welfare benefits), consistent with the District's ability to pay now and in the future, and the reality of state and local economies.

Pursuant to Government Code section 3547, a public hearing was opened on April 4, 2006 to provide the public an opportunity for input into the negotiations process. After hearing input from the community the Board President will close the public hearing and the board will be asked to accept the district's and Saratoga Classified Association's Initial Proposals for the 2006-07 contract.

Superintendent Lane Weiss reported no comments have been received. Board President Cindy Ruby closed the public hearing at 7:08 p.m. Superintendent Lane Weiss will work with the Saratoga Classified Association to begin negotiations.

7.3 **Budget Update - Discussion**

Superintendent Lane Weiss and Chief Business Official Ellen Tipton updated the Board on topics being discussed at the Budget Advisory Committee:

- Special Education Early Intervention Proposal
- School site requests

Chief Business Official Ellen Tipton updated the board on the projected SUSD Estimated Health and Welfare Rates for 2006-07 and reported she is in the process of preparing three-year budget projections.

Superintendent Lane Weiss shared the Saratoga Education Foundation Major Grant Proposal for 2006-07 that was presented to the Saratoga Education Foundation Board at their April 19th meeting. He expressed appreciation to SEF for the program funding and volunteer hours they provide to the students of Saratoga Union School District. The proposal includes a request to continue the 2005-06 programs with the following modifications:

- K-5 Theatre/Visual Arts program continue contingent upon funding and coordination of scheduling and facility allocation at each school site by principals, teacher representatives and the Superintendent.
- Deletion of the Art Aide Position at Redwood Middle School
- Addition of 30 hours of Library Aide at Redwood Middle School
- Elementary School Counselor
- Technology Program (computer labs, computer lab instructors)

Other information presented was:

- SEF 05/06 Budget compared to SUSD 06/07 expense estimate for programs
- SEF 05/06 YTD as of 4/24/06

7.4 Third Quarter Board Goals Update

Superintendent Lane Weiss presented the third quarter progress update on Board Priority goals for 2005-06 in the areas of Organizational Culture, Curriculum and Instruction, Communication, Finance, Human Resources and Technology. Copies are available at the District Office. Board members thanked Superintendent Weiss for providing the quarterly report.

7.5 Staff Learning and Collaboration Time (SLCT) - Discussion

Superintendent Lane Weiss presented information about the use of Staff Learning and Collaboration Time at Redwood Middle School this year and goals for the use of Staff Learning and Collaboration Time for the 2006-2007 school year. SLCT time is subject to negotiations between the Saratoga Teachers' Association and the Saratoga Union School District.

Redwood Middle School Information:

1. SLCT time is used to give staff time to work on Board Priority goals, RMS Task Force goals, School Site Council goals
2. Math Focus for 2006/07 including a new State of California math framework, upcoming textbook adoption, MARS, NRT and CST results, connection to NOYCE Foundation work and national standards
3. Current Schedule: 7 sets of 2 days (mini-type block schedule)
4. Teams and Departments: writing is still critically important
5. Possibilities for smoothing out the schedule
6. What are pros and cons of the same time for next year?
7. Alignment with dismissal times and driving patterns for parents

Redwood Middle School Principal Beth Polito was asked what would we give up if we did fewer SLCT days. Impacts would be felt in learning and instruction, school connectedness, textbook adoption, writing focus, team concept, homeroom, special ed. support by general education, adult and student school climate. Two days gives teachers time for longer class times to do more hands on work with students, time to meet in teams and by departments.

Other Discussion:

- Timeline: let parent know schedule before school is out.
- Study master schedule change next year
- Pattern of first week in month was helpful for some in remembering
- Suggest looking at Thursday/Friday for RMS and Friday for K-5 schools
- Provide enrichment programs so students are occupied in large group activities while teachers are collaborating
- Coordinate times for dismissal, not necessarily match
- K-5 teachers feel 1:45 p.m. dismissal does not provide enough time

Cathie Thermond met with some K-5 parents. They discussed concerns about accountability, scheduling, and lack of information going home to parents.

A suggestion was made to use focus groups as opposed to forums. There could be one per K-5 school, 12-15 parents invited to participate and probe into the survey questions. This would be a way to bring people in that we do not usually hear from. Shareen Bell from Webfeedback, Inc. could facilitate. It may be best to decide the schedule and then start in the fall to do the focus group to help us make this work better for students and families.

7.6 Election Filing Fee Report

Superintendent Lane Weiss shared information from the district's legal counsel regarding election filing fees in Santa Clara County. The Superintendent requested direction on a timeline for further discussion and possible action by the board. The board expressed that they would like to proceed as they have in the past and split costs between the candidate and the district. This will be agendized when the Specifications of Election Order are received from the Registrar of Voters.

Board President Cindy Ruby urged board members to let the board and superintendent know if they will be running in the November 2006 election.

8. Communications

8.1 Community Comments

Mary Thomas, Redwood Middle School librarian reported the new computer lab has been installed and expressed appreciation to Harry Dill and Luis Martinez. The transition was very smooth and students are very happy.

9. Future Agenda Items

The Board discussed items for future agendas:
Budget Update
Board Meeting Calendar for 2006-07
SLCT Days

Next Meeting: May 9, 2006

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by Cathie Thermond and seconded by Michael Gipe to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

AYES: Ruby, Thermond, Gipe
ABSENT: Sharma, Poo
NOES: 0

Clerk of the Board