

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SARATOGA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
April 4, 2006**

M I N U T E S

Present: Cindy Ruby, Shinku Sharma, Cathie Thermond, Michael Gipe
Absent: 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 4, 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 Shinku Sharma and seconded by Michael Gipe to approve the Personnel Report.

AYES: Ruby, Sharma, Thermond, Gipe

ABSENT: Poo

NOES: 0

Personnel Report

Brian Safine, teacher at Redwood Middle School, currently on leave of absence will be resigning effective June 15, 2006.

4. Action/Consent Items

- 4.1 Approval of Agenda
- 4.2 Approval of Personnel Report for April 4, 2006

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

AYES: Ruby, Sharma, Thermond, Gipe

ABSENT: 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 the Superintendent**

- Superintendent Weiss announced that Spring Break will be next week.
- STAR Testing is in early May and we are well prepared.
- SCCSBA 22nd Annual Hoffmann Awards dinner will be held April 26th. Superintendent Weiss will attend with board members Cindy Ruby, Cathie Thermond and Shinku Sharma.
- Happy birthday to Argonaut Principal Sue Brooks!

5.4 **Comments from the Board**

- There were no comments from the Board.

6. **Spotlight: Saratoga School Noon League Program**

Saratoga School Principal Diane Smalley introduced students and parents from the Noon League Program who shared their experiences. Rachel Young serves as Noon League Coordinator and reported that the goal of the program is to help students build confidence, become more responsible learn new skills and address conflict management issues. The program is on a volunteer basis, except for the coordinator who is paid out of SIP funds. Volunteers have learned conflict management skills and are trained to supervise the playground and to identify who needs help.

From the students' point of view, Gillian and Graham Grant and Lea and David Sparkman shared that the program is fun with a variety of activities including gymnastics, bingo, hula hoops, jump rope, ankle ball, knitting, crocheting, creative ropes, to name a few. This provides an opportunity to get to know new kids and something fun to do.

Rachel Young and parent volunteer Inken Sparkman added that this helps students build teamwork. Music creates atmosphere and coached activities free up the ball wall and playground equipment.

Diane Smalley thanked all for working toward a positive climate at Saratoga School in this exemplary program.

7. **Action/Discussion Items**

7.1 **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 is being held to provide the public an opportunity for input into the negotiations process.

Board President Cindy Ruby opened the public hearing at 6:45 p.m. and it will be kept open until April 25, 3006.

7.2 **Budget Update**

Superintendent Lane Weiss updated the Board on topics being discussed at the Budget Advisory Committee.

- SUSD Budget Advisory Committee Discussion Items, April 4, 2006.
 - Redwood Middle School Staffing Request
 - Furniture – standards and replacement
 - Technology (hardware, software, network, training, support, schedule for replacements and upgrades)
 - Elementary Science Instructional Materials – replenish kits
 - School Libraries
 - Elementary Visual Arts Program
 - Textbooks
 - Elementary Music Program
 - Staffing – Psychologists
 - Solar Power
 - Professional Development – training for teachers, New Principal Project
 - Identify capital outlay and construction items (bond funds, developer fees, etc.)
 - Task Force – Special Education: programs currently outsourced
 - Emergency Preparedness Supplies for School Sites

- Next steps: dollar estimates will be provided later this month.

7.3 **Progress on CSBA Board Policy Workshop**

Superintendent Lane Weiss, Board President Cindy Ruby and Board member Michael Gipe updated the Board on the progress of the District and Board sub-committee working on the updating and electronic conversion of Board policies.

CSBA consultant Mark Dyer met with the sub-committee and superintendent and provided updated policy and administrative regulation templates for their review. The policies will be concise, current, and legally compliant and retain local flavor of the community. The process will continue determining which local policies unique to SUSD will be kept, a review with bargaining groups and a Board Workshop for First Reading. The timeline for completion will be November 1, 2006. Policies will be available on line.

Board members added that the policies are driven by Ed Code and are more detailed, easier to keep track of and aligned with the law. It will serve as the ultimate reference for staff and community members. CSBA provides an invaluable service.

7.4 **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, 2006.

7.5 **Staff Learning and Collaboration Time (SLCT)**

Superintendent Lane Weiss presented one of several options for providing Staff Learning and Collaboration Time. Information will be gathered about SLCT Days from teachers and parents including from a web-based survey.

- Information from the Cambrian School District Wednesday schedule was shared. In this model each Wednesday is shortened. Two meetings per month are for professional development and two meetings are for site based business.

- A draft showing instructional minutes for early out Wednesdays was shared. Kindergarten students would be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. and students in grades 1-5 would be dismissed at 1:45 p.m.
- Principals discussed the early out Wednesday proposal and agreed that it would provide consistency in schedule, freedom for sites to work on goals and there would be time for a district wide focus. The scheduling of lunch requires more discussion to prevent loss of instructional minutes.

Board members felt that this schedule provides consistency for parents and staff.

Superintendent Weiss added that a consistent schedule may allow the Los Gatos Recreation Department to provide daycare. This middle ground makes the best possible use of time for teachers while hearing concerns from the community.

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: April 25, 2006

Budget Update

Public Hearings Close for STA and SCA

Staff Learning and Collaboration Time

Recommendation for Principal for Argonaut School

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Clerk of the Board