

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SARATOGA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
March 28, 2006**

M I N U T E S

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

1. Call to Order/Board Workshop

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Board President Cindy Ruby.

2. Board Workshop: Gender Based Learning Differences – Discussion

Superintendent Lane Weiss thanked all for attending and facilitated a discussion with the board, staff and audience on the topic of gender based learning differences. The Minds of Boys by Michael Gurian and Kathy Stevens was used as a reference for this discussion.

Discussion Points:

- I. Protecting the Minds of Boys – Did you Know?
- II. Starting Boys Out in Boy-Friendly Learning Environments
- Ten Strategies to Promote Attachment – The Early Years
- III. Teaching School Curricula in Boy-Friendly Ways
- IV. Helping Boys Who Need Extra Help
- What Parents and Teachers Can Do to Motivate Boys to Learn

Discussion Questions:

1. What data from SUSD would help us understand “our boys” and how they are doing in SUSD?
2. After reviewing data about “our boys” are there areas where we can better support our boys’ educational experience in SUSD? What are we doing well?
3. How do we develop better understanding with all adults in SUSD, the importance of understanding gender differences in learning styles and intellectual development?

Discussion Summary:

- Importance of continuing differentiation
- Multi-tasking vs. focused learning
- Issue of 25 years ago was how to help girls succeed – now opposite
- Importance of preparing teachers for teaching boys/gender differences
- Behaviors, classroom management, conduct expectations: are they gender related?
- Consider cultural and economic issues of the whole community
- Developmental brain research including coordination and fine motor skills
- Provide choices, different ways to do reports/book reports
- Math – opportunity for hands on experiences, new ways of thinking about math (Ruth Parker)
- Difficult to deal with standards-based testing
- What are we doing well?
 - Rhythm and Moves
 - Music
 - Providing a balanced curriculum, extra curricular activities
 - Number of male teachers at Redwood Middle School is a strength

- Things to consider:
 - Intra-mural sports among schools
 - Noon Leagues (need coordinators, work with LG-S Rec. Dept.)
 - Increase number of male teachers at elementary schools
 - Scheduling - difficult for boys to have heavy academics at end of the day
 - How to encourage more fathers to volunteer?
 - Start a Dad's Club - make it easy to participate
 - Evening PTA meetings around a particular task
 - Junior Achievement, AYSO

Superintendent Weiss summarized next steps:

1. Local Data Collection – looking at whole community
 - Use Powerschool/report to the board
2. Invite an expert for an informational meeting
 - Schedule in the evening for community and the following day for staff and parents
3. Include in discussion of district goals in July

3. Closed Session

Board members met in Closed Session for:

- 3.1 Personnel Report
- 3.2 Classified and Certificated Negotiations: Conference with Labor Negotiator Lane Weiss
- 3.3 Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release
- 3.4 Conference Re: Pending Litigation [Government Code section 54956.9]

4. 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 and Personnel Report Addendum.

AYES: Ruby, Sharma, Thermond, Gipe

ABSENT: Poo

NOES: 0

Personnel Report

Request for Leave of Absence

James Conn, 8th grade Core/Yearbook Teacher at Redwood Middle School is requesting a paternity leave of absence effective, April 17, 2006 to May 5, 2006.

Amy Duren, 7th grade Core Teacher at Redwood Middle School is requesting a medical leave of absence effective May 15, 2006 through the remainder of the 2005-06 school year.

Christina Valvo-Hellner, Spanish Teacher at Redwood Middle School is requesting a maternity leave of absence effective May 1, 2006 through the remainder of the 2005-06 school year.

Melanie Knight, elementary school teacher (currently on leave of absence for the 2005-06 school year) is requesting to extend her leave for the 2006-07 school year.

Personnel Report Addendum

Request for Leave of Absence

Amy Bosinger, Spanish Teacher at Redwood Middle School is requesting a maternity leave of absence effective March 20, 2006 through the remainder of the 2005-2006 school year.

Josh Marks, 6th grade Core Teacher at Redwood Middle School is requesting a medical leave of absence effective May 22, 2006 through the remainder of the 2005-06 school year.

Returning from Leave of Absence

Marie Geers, Occupational Therapist (100%) will be returning from leave of absence effective beginning of the 2006-07 school year.

Resignation/Retirement

Bobbi Huebert, 4th grade Teacher (70%) at Saratoga Elementary School will be retiring effective June 15, 2006.

Jean Nelson, teacher currently on leave of absence is resigning effective June 15, 2006.

Brian Senior, Redwood Middle School teacher currently on leave of absence is resigning effective June 14, 2006.

5. Action/Consent Items

- 5.1 Approval of Agenda
- 5.2 Approval of Minutes for March 14, 2006
- 5.3 Approval of Personnel Report for March 28, 2006
- 5.4 Approval of Contract for 2005-06 Audit Report

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

AYES: Ruby, Sharma, Thermond, Gipe

ABSENT: Poo

NOES: 0

6. Communications

- 6.1 Community Comments
There were no comments from the community.
- 6.2 Comments from Employee Groups
There were no comments from employee groups.
- 6.3 Comments from the Superintendent
 - Superintendent Weiss unveiled the new 3-Dimensional Success logo.
- 6.4 Comments from the Board
 - Michael Gipe thanked Superintendent Lane Weiss for being visible in the schools, for supporting volunteers and for following the board goal to recognize good work.
 - Cathie Thermond and Shinku Sharma attended the Argonaut musical *The Adventures of Dr. Doolittle*. It was a great celebration!
 - Cathie Thermond attended the Presidents' Council meeting. A workshop will be scheduled to discuss PTA budgets.

7. **Spotlight: Redwood School Math Counts and Math Olympiad Programs**
Redwood Middle School Principal Beth Polito introduced parent volunteers Judy Ting, Prema Jayashankar and Jennifer Short who shared accomplishments of the Math Olympiad, American Math Contest and Math Counts after school programs at Redwood Middle School.

Math Olympiad, open to all students, 127 students participated with 35 parent volunteers.
Harker Invitational, annual competition, 10 middle schools with 190 contestants participated in team and individual contests
Math Counts, 70 students took qualifying test and top 25 students were chosen to represent Redwood Middle School
American Math Contest (AMC), sponsored by University of Nebraska, 40 students participated in AMC8 and 21 students participated in AMC10

Students receiving recognition in the Math Counts team competitions include Albert Gu, Alissa Zhang, Logan Short, Rolland Wu for the team championship. Individual competition participants were Albert Gu, Alissa Zhang, Angeline Lee, Logan Short, Brian Wai, Kavya Nagarajan Nikhil Jayashankar, and Rolland Wu. It has been a very successful year.

Superintendent Weiss and Board members thanked parent volunteers for their dedication and work with the after school math programs for students at Redwood Middle School and extended congratulations to all who participated for their wonderful accomplishments.

8. **Action/Discussion Items**

8.1 **Budget Update**

Chief Business Official Ellen Tipton reviewed the Budget Summary for 2005-06 and the Three-Year Budget Forecast through 2008.

Superintendent Weiss presented a Basic Aid Reserve Policy Proposal –Elements to Consider which included:

- Purpose and legal requirements
- Reasons to access the budget reserve
- How the reserve is created and maintained – timelines/method for making contributions
- Recommendations from School Services of California
- Overall budget considerations

This will be shared with stakeholders and brought back to the Board for approval.

Chief Business Official Ellen Tipton also shared cost information from the November 2004 Presidential General Election and preliminary cost estimates for the November 2006 Gubernatorial General Election.

8.2 **Wellness/Emergency Preparedness Committee Update**

Superintendent Lane Weiss updated the Board the Wellness/Emergency Preparedness Committee. A site comparison of emergency food and water supplies was shared. A 5-year life span of emergency supplies would cost approximately \$36,000. Additional storage space would also be required. Superintendent Weiss will work with staff to determine costs and communicate with the Budget Advisory Committee, principals and PTA presidents.

8.3 Health and Welfare Task Force Update

Human Resources Director Kym Plaing and Chief Business Official Ellen Tipton updated the board on information from the Health and Welfare Task Force.

- Employee Wellness Fair - May 4, 2006, 3:30 – 6:00 p.m., Redwood Middle School
- Shared rates for 2005-06 (10/26/05) and estimated rates for 2006-07 (3/21/06)
- Kaiser rates are pending
- Next meeting: April 20, 2006

8.4 Public Hearing: Disclosure of District and STA’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 is being held to provide the public an opportunity for input into the negotiations process.

Board President Cindy Ruby opened the public hearing at 7:51 p.m. There were no comments from the community. The public hearing will close on April 25, 2006.

8.5 Update on Request for Saratoga School Playground Equipment

Superintendent Lane Weiss introduced Saratoga School Principal Diane Smalley who updated the board on the school’s plan for purchasing and installing additional playground equipment. A needs assessment, including facilities improvements, is underway with teachers and parent leaders and results are expected by mid-April.

9. Communications

9.1 Community Comments

There were no comments from the community.

10. Future Agenda Items

The Board discussed items for the April 4, 2006 meeting.

- Budget Update
- Williams Quarterly Report
- Progress on CSBA Policies
- Staff Learning and Collaboration Time (SLCT)

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Clerk of the Board