

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

M I N U T E S

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Closed Session

Board members met in Closed Session for:

- 2.1 Review of recommendations for Teachers' Permanent Status
- 2.2 Personnel Report
- 2.3 Classified and Certificated Negotiations: Conference with Labor Negotiator Lane Weiss

3. Open Session

Board President Cindy Ruby called the meeting into Open Session and reported out from Closed Session. Board members met with district and site administrators to review recommendations for permanent status for teachers. She also announced the Board would adjourn to Closed Session to continue discussion of items 2.2 and 2.3 at the end of the meeting.

4. Action/Consent Items

- 4.1 Approval of Agenda
- 4.2 Approval of Minutes for February 14 and February 17, 2006
- 4.3 Approval of Personnel Report for February 28, 2006
- 4.4 Approval of Gift:
27" Panasonic Television with remote, donated by Mr. Charles Hu and Mrs. Jennifer Chang, to be housed at Argonaut School

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

AYES: Ruby, Sharma, Thermond, Gipe, 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 invited Board members to attend the 22nd Annual Hoffman Awards dinner sponsored by the Santa Clara County School Boards Association scheduled for April 26, 2006.
- Superintendent Weiss was pleased to announce Sue Brooks, Argonaut School Principal, has received the ACSA Region 8 Administrator Award for Elementary School Principal and will be honored at a recognition reception on May 24, 2006 at the Silver Creek Country Club.

- The K-5 Social Studies Instructional Materials Task Force met to review materials. Discussion included internet accessibility to textbooks and cultural sensitivity in textbooks. A recommendation for textbook adoption will be prepared for presentation to the board.

5.4 **Comments from the Board**

- Shinku Sharma announced the Junior Achievement Program will take place tomorrow at Redwood Middle School. Twenty-four parents will be teaching 6th grade students about the Global Marketplace.

6. **Spotlight: Argonaut**

Argonaut Principal Sue Brooks introduced Loryn Hatton from California Theatre Center and director of the upcoming musical performance of *The Adventures of Dr. Doolittle* for students in grades 3-5. Ashwin Mehta, 5th grade student, spoke about how working as a team helps support students and builds confidence. Fourth grade students Sarah Finley and Nina Jayashankar performed as a two-headed dancing antelope to the music of "Once I Saw a Giraffe Fly". The musical is scheduled for March 24-26, 2006.

7. **Action/Discussion Items**

7.1 **Public Hearing to Sunshine Tentative Agreement with Saratoga Classified Association**

We have tentatively reached agreement on compensation with the Saratoga Classified Association. Board President Cindy Ruby opened the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m. and the public was invited to comment. There were no comments. Copies of the Tentative Agreement may be reviewed at school sites or at the District Office. The Public Hearing will be closed and agreement will be presented to the Board of Trustees for ratification on March 14, 2006.

7.2 **Budget Update/Tax Assessor**

Superintendent Lane Weiss updated Board members on the following topics:

- Tax Assessor – Basic Aid Meeting Report
No significant changes were reported at the Tax Assessor meeting attended by Chief Business Official Ellen Tipton. Our estimates remain at \$30M in roll corrections and 9.8% projected net increase in property taxes.
- Budget Reserve Committee
The Superintendent and Chief Business Official will schedule a meeting with Budget Reserve Committee members Michael Gipe and Cathie Thermond to discuss the budget reserve.
- Reserve Percentages
Information from *The Fiscal Report*, February 3, 2006, about Statewide Average Budget Reserve Percentages was shared.
- Budget Advisory Committee
Topics discussed at the Budget Advisory Committee on February 27, 2006:
 - Reviewed template for collecting input
 - Updated information about board approved budget items
 - Discussed a timeline for reporting to the board in early May
 - Thoughtful discussion on school funding

7.3 **Attendance/Tardy Policy Report**

Superintendent Lane Weiss presented an overview of current policy, education code and practice related to tardies and absences in SUSD. The superintendent reported on the need for an updating of policy/practice, and asked for direction from the board on the timeline and process to be used in the development of new policy and practice in attendance and tardy procedures.

Discussion included:

- Lack of consistency district wide, between schools, between K-5 and middle school
- Need for uniform standards, staying within legal guidelines
- Reviewed handouts of SUSD policies, procedures, attendance information from school handbooks, as well as information from other school districts, California School Boards Association and the California Education Code.

The Board and administration will work through California School Boards Association in reviewing and updating our policies.

7.4 Approval of Saratoga Union School District 2006-07 Calendar

Superintendent Lane Weiss presented two proposed calendars for 2006-2007. The Board was asked to adopt the Saratoga Union School District calendar for the 2006-07 school year. Input regarding the calendar was mixed although both staff and parents leaned toward a starting date of August 24, 2006.

A motion was made by Cathie Thermond and seconded by Shinku Sharma to approve the Saratoga Union School District calendar for the 2006-07 school year with a start of school date of August 24, 200

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

7.5 Resolution 304.2/06 Authorizing Waiver Request - 2006-07 Calendar

Revisions in Education Code 37220 subdivision (e) allows the Board of Trustees to revise the date that schools close in observance of any holiday except for Veterans' Day identified in subdivision (a) through the adoption of a resolution. The Board was asked to approve the observation of Lincoln's Birthday to be observed on February 19 instead of February 12 and Washington's Birthday to be observed on February 23 instead of February 22, 2007.

A motion was made by Cathie Thermond and seconded by John Poo to approve Resolution 304.2/06 Authorizing Waiver Request - 2006-07 Calendar.

Roll Call Vote

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

7.6 CSBA Delegate Assembly

The Board was asked to vote for five candidates for the California School Boards Delegate Assembly as presented on the Official 2006 Delegate Assembly Ballot.

A motion was made by Cathie Thermond and seconded by Shinku Sharma to authorize Board President Cindy Ruby to submit the California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

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

7.7 Board Meeting Logistics

The Board discussed logistics and starting times of board meetings. Board members agreed by consensus that there will be no change in Board meeting times.

7.8 District Committees – Board Representatives

Board President Cindy Ruby reviewed current district committee assignments of board members. The board discussed which committees will have a board representative.

Board members are invited to attend any district committee meeting or activity. Committees with Board representatives will include:

Budget Advisory Committee	Michael Gipe
Budget Reserve Committee	Michael Gipe/Cathie Thermond
Health and Welfare Task Force	Cindy Ruby
Certificated Negotiations	Cindy Ruby/Cathie Thermond
Classified Negotiations	John Poo/Shinku Sharma
Policy (CSBA Policy Project – Estimated completion June 2006)	Michael Gipe/Cindy Ruby
Presidents’ Council	Michael Gipe
Saratoga Education Foundation	Shinku Sharma

8. Communications

8.1 Community Comments

- Mary Thomas, STA representative, thanked Board members for the time to get feedback from staff for the 2006-07 school year calendar.

9. Future Agenda Items

The Board discussed items for future agendas.

March 14, 2006 – District Office Conference Room
 Approval of J200 and Second Interim Report
 Approval of Recommendations for Permanent Status
 Presentation of School Plans
 Tentative Agreement with Saratoga Classified Association

March 28, 2006 – Redwood Middle School Library
 5:00-6:00 p.m. – Workshop on Gender Based Learning Differences
 6:00-6:30 p.m. – Closed Session
 6:30 p.m. – Open Session

10. Adjourn to Closed Session

Board members adjourned to Closed Session for:

- 2.2 Personnel Report
- 2.3 Classified and Certificated Negotiations: Conference with Labor Negotiator Lane Weiss

11. Return to Open Session

Board President Cindy Ruby reported out action taken in Closed Session.

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

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

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Clerk of the Board