

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SARATOGA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Regular Board Meeting  
October 11, 2005**

**M I N U T E S**

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

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Closed Session**

Board members met in Closed Session for:

- 2.1 Personnel Report
- 2.2 Conference with Labor Negotiator Lane Weiss

**3. Open Session**

Board President Cathie Thermond called the meeting into Open Session and announced action taken in Closed Session.

A motion was made by Cindy Ruby and seconded by Michael Gipe to approve the Personnel Report and Addendum as presented.

AYES: Thermond, Gipe, Poo, Ruby, Sharma

NOES: 0

Personnel Report

New Hires

Christopher Hoiberg has been hired as a Crossing Guard, effective October 20, 2005.

Tiffany Hoiberg has been hired as a Crossing Guard, effective October 20, 2005.

Allison Ireland has been hired as the 50% Occupational Therapist, effective October 13, 2005.

Vanha Nguyen has been hired for Noon Duty at Saratoga School, effective October 11, 2005.

Diana Overhouse has been hired as an RSP Aide at Argonaut School, effective September 28, 2005

Katina Woodman has been hired as a Crossing Guard, effective October 5, 2005

## Resignation

Jennifer Willhite, Crossing Guard, resigned effective September 28, 2005.

### Personnel Report Addendum

Joyce Rastatter has been hired as a temporary Speech and Language Pathologist, effective October 3, 2005 for up to 60 days.

Julie Tidd has been hired as a temporary Speech and Language Pathologist, effective October 4, 2005 for up to 60 days.

Tracy Soder has been hired as a contract Speech and Language Pathologist, effective October 10, 2005.

## 4. Action/Consent Items

- \*Approval of Agenda
- \*Approval of Minutes for September 27, 2005
- \*Approval of Personnel Report for October 11, 2005
- \*Approval of Warrants for September 2005

A motion was made by Shinku Sharma and seconded by Cindy Ruby to approve the Action/Consent Items.

AYES: Thermond, Gipe, Poo, Ruby, Sharma

NOES: 0

## 5. Communications

### 5.1 **Community Comments**

- There were no comments from the community.

### 5.2 **Comments from Employee Groups**

- Mary Thomas, Saratoga Teachers' Association, invited Board members to join teachers in opposing propositions 73, 74 and 75 at a phone bank on November 1<sup>st</sup> at Blossom Ridge.

### 5.3 **Comments from the Superintendent**

- Superintendent Weiss visited schools on Staff Learning and Collaboration Time (SLCT) days and thanked teachers for their thoughtful work in assessing student writing. He thanked Board member Shinku Sharma for joining the Redwood staff on Thursday.
- Superintendent Weiss announced Dr. Ruth Parker will speak on November 9<sup>th</sup> to parents, teachers and math coaches. The following morning she will work with principals and community members on math education. Additional information will be sent out in a flyer.

### 5.4 **Comments from the Board**

- Shinku Sharma visited the Redwood Middle School SLCT day on Thursday. She observed three different teams and heard a great dialogue.
- Shinku Sharma attended the Redwood Middle School PTA meeting and reported an application has been submitted to the *Schools to Watch* program.
- Cindy Ruby attended the Argonaut School PTA meeting where there was a discussion about the healthy kids programs and parent education components.
- Cathie Thermond attended the Saratoga School PTA meeting where they are making great progress on websites and technology.

**6. Spotlight: Introduction of New Teachers**

Superintendent Lane Weiss introduced teachers new to Saratoga Union School District for 2005-2006 and thanked those in attendance for taking time to come to the Board meeting.

Elizabeth Belles	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Core	Redwood Middle School
Beata Blaho	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math	Redwood Middle School
Laurie Brandt	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Saratoga School
Lynn Bruno	RSP	Redwood Middle School
Greg Giammona	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math	Redwood Middle School
Matt Grenier	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade PE	Redwood Middle School
Josh Henig	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Core	Redwood Middle School
Cadence Lazzarini	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Saratoga School
Stephanie Ling	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math	Redwood Middle School
Matt Owens	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science	Redwood Middle School
Diane Rabago	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Foothill School
David Roberts	Art	Redwood Middle School
Chad Svoboda	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade PE	Redwood Middle School
Cassandra Wakefield	SDC	Redwood Middle School
Kelly Wycke	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Argonaut School

**7. Action/Discussion Items**

**7.1 Silicon Valley New Teacher Project**

Assistant Superintendent Louise Levy introduced Rosalie Chako, Kristi Schweibert and Joe Christie and highlighted the Silicon Valley New Teacher Project.

- Focus this year: Habits of Mind
  1. use data
  2. be reflective practitioners
  3. focus on standards
  4. collaboration
- Heart of program -our mentors: Rosalie Chako, Kristi Schweibert and Joe Christie
- Two new documents were distributed:
  - The Continuum of Mentor Development
  - The NTC Induction Model Assessment Tool

Rosalie Chako shared that this is her 6<sup>th</sup> year as a mentor in the program. She thanked Human Resources Director Kym Plaing for her hard work in checking all new teacher credentials to determine their status and needs.

The District is working collaboratively with the new teacher project to provide three courses which are required of all new teachers. These include health and safety, technology, special populations (GATE & Sp. Ed.).

Kristi Schweibert, elementary mentor, supports six teachers who she meets with weekly and works with other mentors to develop and facilitate monthly seminars for first and second year teachers. These seminars are standard-based and divided into three parts: self-assessment, reflection and classroom implementation. The mentors establish a supportive, non-evaluative relationship with the new teachers through observations, coaching, modeling and offering emotional support.

Joe Christie, middle school mentor, supports middle school teachers in the areas of math, physical education, core and science. He shared his personal experience regarding the credentialing process which highlighted the importance and need for the Silicon Valley New Teacher Project.

Board members thanked all for their thoughtful presentation and look forward to the end of year new teacher colloquium and celebration.

**7.2 Public Hearing to Sunshine Tentative Agreement on Contract Language**

The Saratoga Teachers' Association and Saratoga Union School District have come to tentative agreement on a successor contract, 2005-2008. Copies of the proposed language have been available at the District Office for review. No comments have been received.

Board President Cathie Thermond closed the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m. and the tentative agreement was presented for ratification.

A motion was made by Cindy Ruby and seconded by Shinku Sharma to ratify the tentative agreement on successor contract language for 2005-2008 between the Saratoga Teachers' Association and Saratoga Union School District.

AYES: Thermond, Gipe, Poo, Ruby, Sharma

NOES: 0

**7.3 Interdistrict Transfer Appeal**

Superintendent Lane Weiss introduced Mr. Miha Ahronovitz and explained the process for the Interdistrict Attendance Appeal. The process will include time for Mr. Ahronovitz to present information, for board members to ask questions, to deliberate and to render a decision. Fifteen minutes has been allotted.

Superintendent Weiss began by stating that the applicant applied for an Allen Bill transfer in late August and was denied due to the lack of space availability in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Redwood Middle School. Board members have received copies of correspondence.

Mr. Ahronovitz presented information regarding his son's situation and academic experiences including his goal to be mainstreamed at Redwood Middle School and to continue relationships from previous county classes. With this information in mind, Mr. Ahronovitz asked the Board to consider approving the transfer to Saratoga Union School District from Campbell Union School District.

Board members thanked Mr. Ahronovitz for providing documentation and verified the basis for the transfer was due to employment within the district. Past information regarding county special education classes was shared. The home district has stated that an appropriate placement is available there.

Board members sympathize with the goals of the parent to do what is best for child and understand the importance of social relationships, compassion and understanding. They must also look at the fiscal impact and the availability of space and impact on class size.

With regret, a motion was made by Cindy Ruby and seconded by Michael Gipe to uphold the decision of the Superintendent to deny the Allen Bill request of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade student.

AYES: Thermond, Poo, Ruby, Sharma

NOES: Gipe

Mr. Ahronovitz thanked the Board and said he will continue his efforts.

**7.4 IRS Mileage Rate**

Chief Business Official Ellen Tipton shared current mileage rates from Saratoga Union School Districts and other districts for reimbursing employees for mileage. The board reviewed the information and discussed the possibility of increasing the mileage rate for which eligible SUSD employees are reimbursed for work related travel. This will be agendaized for action at the next board meeting.

**7.5 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 July 1 – September 30, 2005.

A motion was made by Michael Gipe and seconded by John Poo to approve the Williams Quarterly Report for the July 1 – September 30, 2005 reporting period.

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

**8. Communications**

**8.1 Community Comments**

There were no comments from the community.

**9. Future Agenda Items**

The Board discussed items for future agendas.

- Schedule Budget Workshops
- Schedule for Long Term Reserve Management Research Group
- Update on *PowerSchool*
- Quarterly Update on Board Goals
- CSBA Board Policy Workshop
- Procedures on IAA and Suspension/Expulsion
- School Plans
- School Accountability Report Card (SARC)
- IRS Mileage Rate
- STAR Report, Part I
- Facilities
- Report on Disaster Preparedness

Next meeting: October 25, 2005

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

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Clerk of the Board