

**SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

February 6, 2007  
**MINUTES**

Douglas E. Giles  
Educational Resource Center  
9619 Cuyamaca Street  
Santee, California

**A. OPENING PROCEDURES**

1. Call to Order and Welcome  
President Carlisle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present:

Allen Carlisle, President  
Dan Bartholomew, Vice President  
Dianne El-Hajj, Clerk  
Dustin Burns, Member  
Barbara Ryan, Member (arrived at 7:37 p.m.)

Administration present:

Dr. Lisbeth Johnson, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board  
Bill Clark, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services  
Emily Andrade, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services  
John Tofflemire, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
Linda Vail, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary

President Carlisle opened the meeting by reading the District Mission Statement as a reminder that the Board focus is on the education of students as well as running the financial business of the District. The Mission Statement is: *Santee School District, supported by an involved community, an outstanding staff, and a shared vision, assures a quality education that supports students in achieving academic excellence and in developing life skills needed for success in a diverse and changing society.*

2. President Carlisle invited Mary Becker, the first grade daughter of Christina Becker, to lead the members, staff and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

President Carlisle asked to move Item F.4.1. to the beginning of Discussion and Action items.

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda with Item F.4.1. being moved as the first of the Discussion and Action items.

**Motion: El-Hajj**

**Second: Bartholomew**

**Vote: 4-0 (Ryan, absent)**

**B. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

1. Superintendent's Report
  - 1.1. Requests for Use of Facilities
  - 1.2. Developer Fees Collection Report
  - 1.3. Enrollment Report
  - 1.4. Schedule of Upcoming Events
  - 1.5. Science Fair Projects

Dr. Johnson reported that student science fair projects were placed around the room for Board members to review. She thanked Kristin Baranski and Lynne Shevinsky for coordinating the District science fair this year. Dr. Johnson said the level and depth of the projects this year is the best ever. She reported 37 student projects will be sent to the County for the Greater San Diego Science Fair. This is the most we have ever had competing at the County level. Dr. Johnson is hopeful that some of our student projects will go all the way to the State competition.

2. Presentation of the Board's Initial Proposal to Modify Articles of the Current Collective Bargaining Agreement Between Santee School District and California School Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter 557
3. Presentation of the Board's Initial Proposal to Re-negotiate Articles of the Current Collective Bargaining Agreement Between Santee School District and Santee Teachers Association (STA)

John Tofflemire shared the presentation of the Board's initial proposals to modify articles of the current collective bargaining agreements between the Santee School District and CSEA and STA.

4. Spotlight on Learning-Cajon Park School Sixth Grade Class Places First Place in National Math Online Program

Dr. Johnson reported that she is pleased to honor Rebecca Cress, the sixth grade GATE teacher at Cajon Park School, whose class placed first in California in the First in Math Online Program. Mrs. Cress introduced Teo Dinescu, a student from her class, who is the top scoring student in all of California.

President Carlisle presented a certificate of appreciation to Mrs. Cress for providing the learning activity for her students and a certificate of recognition to the sixth grade class "team" for placing first in the program in California. Member El-Hajj asked Mrs. Cress about the program and how she became aware of the program. Mrs. Cress said she heard about this program from a friend who is a fourth grade teacher. She explained that it is a web based program that can be played when students have extra time in class or from home. Students must manipulate the math puzzles, not just recite from memory. Mrs. Cress said that all four sixth grade classes at Cajon Park participated in the program this year.

5. Spotlight on Learning-Principal Presentation from Sycamore Canyon School  
Sycamore Canyon Principal, Debbie Brenner, shared with the Board what has been accomplished, where they stand in academics, and the school mission, "All Students at Sycamore Canyon School Meet the Opportunity Every Day To Be and Feel Successful In the Learning Process."

Mrs. Brenner is proud of the API increase last year of 35 points and believes that great things will continue to be seen in the future. She shared student proficiency growth and the emphasis being placed in academic areas. She continues to have high exceptions of student conduct at Sycamore Canyon and reported the suspension rate has dropped 75% in the past two years. The staff focus this year is on high expectations in classroom management, maximizing instructional minutes, balanced teachings and engagement during instruction, curriculum scaffolding, and differentiation in instruction.

The student achievement focus includes DIBELS, performance folders, student goals, interventions, a literacy team, and collaboration/articulation. Mrs. Brenner shared their new Partner in Education, the United States Navy Afloat Training Group Pacific, who are positive role models that embrace the learning with students. She shared that she is very proud of the Sycamore Canyon students. Member El-Hajj asked how many servicemen come on an average day. Mrs. Brenner said the number varies each week from 8 to 15.

Member Burns asked Mrs. Brenner what the Board could look at in budget planning next year to support student achievement at Sycamore Canyon School. Mrs. Brenner said that she would like to see after school programs supported for students. Member Bartholomew asked what the consequences would be if a student does not come to school with their homework. Mrs. Brenner said that students do not want to come see Mrs. Brenner for not having their homework completed. As a parent, Mr. Bartholomew is most impressed with the safe learning environment and believes it has a lot to do with the personal touch that Mrs. Brenner provides.

**C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

President Carlisle invited members of the audience to address the Board about any item not on the agenda. There were no comments.

**D. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Santee School District Board of Education Initial Proposal to Modify Articles of the Current Collective Bargaining Agreement Between Santee School District and California School Employees Association.

President Carlisle opened the Public Hearing regarding Santee School District's Board of Education Initial Proposal to Modify Articles of the Current Collective Bargaining Agreement

Between Santee School District and California School Employees Association. Receiving no comments from the public, President Carlisle closed the public hearing.

2. Santee School District Board of Education Initial Proposal to Re-Negotiate Articles of the Current Collective Bargaining Agreement Between Santee School District and Santee Teachers Association.

President Carlisle opened the Public hearing regarding Santee School District's Board of Education Initial Proposal to Modify Articles of the Current Collective Bargaining Agreement Between Santee School District and Santee Teachers Association. Receiving no comments from the public, President Carlisle closed the public hearing

#### **E. CONSENT ITEMS**

Items listed under Consent are considered to be routine and are all acted on by the Board with one single motion.

- 1.1. Approval of Minutes
- 2.1. Approval of Travel Requests
- 2.2. Approval/Ratification of Revolving Cash Report
- 2.3. Acceptance of Donations
- 2.4. Approval of Response to Request for Agency Recommendation
- 3.1. Approval of Request for Extended Field Trip for Sycamore Canyon School to San Juan Capistrano Mission
- 3.2. Approval of Request for Extended Field Trip for Rio Seco School ASB Students to Visit Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, California
- 4.1. Personnel, Regular
- 4.2. Approval of Request to Increase Work Hours of Out-of-School Time Site Leader Position at Prospect Avenue School

It was moved and seconded to approve Consent Items.

***Motion: El-Hajj***

***Second: Burns***

***Vote: 4-0 (Ryan, absent)***

#### **F. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS**

##### **1.1. Press Releases**

Dr. Johnson said that she was routinely bringing forth marketing strategies for the Board and presented Press Releases as a marketing strategy for Board consideration. Press Releases are a media strategy that our District has not been using as a tool to get the word out about the great things our District is doing. Dr. Johnson shared that Press Releases are routinely used to get the word out to the public about a wide range of topics such as, educational awards, special recognitions, or providing our version of news events. There is no serious financial impact because most information sent as a Press Release could be emailed. Some copies may be mailed to selected audiences. Dr. Johnson shared some examples from another district and taken from a web site. She said that the web site information provided the format for press releases. Dr. Johnson asked for Board discussion on this topic.

Member Bartholomew said he likes the idea and believes that although community newspapers provide information to the community, it is not always easy to get articles published in the newspapers.

Dr. Johnson said that various newspapers will not print stories the way we may wish to have them presented, so we want to provide a Press Release to our community to be received the way the District wishes the information to be published.

Member Burns likes the idea but is concerned that if we were to overuse Press Releases it may cause them to lose appeal and/or effectiveness. Member Ryan believes it is a great way to share information to our community.

Dr. Johnson will move forward to create a template and begin using Press Releases as a communication tool. Board members asked Dr. Johnson to send out a Press Release about the upcoming Foundation golf tournament.

2.1. **Adoption of Resolution #0607-17, Declaring Intention to Reimburse Expenditures Using Proceeds of Issued Debt and Securities for Designated Capital Projects**

Mr. Clark presented Resolution #0607-17 as a follow-up requirement from the action at the last Board meeting issuing debt from the mandated costs reserve fund. He asked the Board of Education to adopt Resolution #0607-17 to reimburse specified funds for capital expenditures made from the District's General Fund, and/or other funds or accounts, prior to the time that the funds from the bonds become available. Capital expenditures incurred on any project which will be funded through the bonds may be reimbursed with proceeds of the bonds under the authority of Resolution #0607-17.

***Motion: Bartholomew***

***Second: Ryan***

***Vote: 5-0***

2.2. **Lease-Leaseback Modernization and New Construction Selection Process**

Bill Clark presented a proposed selection process to select a construction firm to carry out our modernization. There were three firms that came forth as finalists. Administration determined that additional steps would be necessary to assure that we have done all that we could to maximize the services that are provided from the construction firm and to not exceed our budget. Because the nature of the project is so large, it was also determined that there should be a rigorous selection process. Mr. Clark requested that the process be extended to the best interest of the District to assure that the best candidate for the job is chosen and to include reference checks and site visits. Board members will be invited to site visits.

Once this process is complete, the firms could be ranked and then a negotiations process would begin. Member Ryan asked how long that would take.

Mr. Clark said about thirty days to complete the evaluation process. He also said that it is good timing because the new facilities Director will be on board and will be able to be a part of the process. Mr. Clark said that administration may be prepared to come to the Board for a recommendation in April. All three firms have local projects that could be visited easily.

Member El-Hajj asked if this is different than the original selection plan. Mr. Clark said that there was some concern by the chair of the committee that the committee was not unanimous in their decision. He also shared that some of the presenters were missing materials.

Member El-Hajj asked if the Board had asked the committee to make a decision and now there is a change and the decision is coming back to the Board. Mr. Clark said that the committee was apprised that there may be changes to the selection process as the process unfolded. Member El-Hajj asked how many people sat on the interview committee. Mr. Clark said there were eight people on the committee.

Member Burns asked if extending the process would have a negative impact on the selection. Mr. Clark said that with this being such a high cost and large project, it is better to take our time and do it right. Although the process should be done somewhat quickly, the Board needs to have confidence that the selected firm will provide the best service to the District. Mr. Clark believes it is in the best interest of the District to have the new Director of Facilities as part of the process. Member Carlisle supports the proposed plan and believes it is worth the time and effort it will take. He said it would have been better for the interview committee to know that this was going to occur and the committee needs to be made aware of and the rationale behind this decision and invited to attend the selection procedures.

Member Carlisle asked if Mr. Clark was going to ask the Board to make the final decision. Mr. Clark said a very rigorous job study would be conducted including site visits. The firms would bring their team for presentations to the Board to provide Board members with a good sense of

which firm will provide the most value and strongest provisions to guarantee the positive outcomes of the projects. This is a key step, selecting the contract management firm.

Mr. Clark said that he is comfortable either making a recommendation or having the Board make the decision. Board members preferred Mr. Clark to make a recommendation and bring it to the Board for consideration.

Member Bartholomew is concerned that a group of people were asked to make a decision and then the District did not follow the group's recommendation. Member Ryan agrees that if the Board asks a group to do something, it appears that they are taking the responsibility back because we don't like their decision.

Board members want to assure that the members of the interview committee are called back together for a complete explanation of the process and why the process is being extended. Member Carlisle believes that it was a mistake not to have the entire outline presented to the committee in advance.

Member Bartholomew asked if the committee would be involved in the site visits and remainder of the competition. Mr. Clark said the committee would be invited to the site visits and any additional presentations. Member Carlisle asked if all three firms had lease-leaseback experience. Mr. Clark said that all the firms are not equally experienced in the lease-leaseback process. Member Burns said one of the reference checks could be Board members asking their Board colleagues from other districts that have undergone a modernization process for their perceptions. Member El-Hajj wants to tap in on the wisdom of many, and use others' perceptions of who may be more experienced.

Member Ryan moved to authorize administration to extend the selection process to include reference checks, site visits, and firm reports and presentations for the recommended March 20, 2007 Board meeting. The motion also included that Board members will check with their colleagues in other districts.

***Motion: Ryan***

***Second: Bartholomew***

***Vote: 5-0***

### **2.3. Safety Committee Update**

This item is provided to the Board of Education as an informational item. Discussion about processes to improve safety are welcomed. Any action taken is at the discretion of the Board of Education.

Mr. Clark presented an update on the deferred and other maintenance projects that have been recent priorities in the District. He shared the aging system failures that the District has been handling during the recent weather changes. The Maintenance Department continues to have challenges in these issues and the level of staffing. He also shared that nearby construction projects have raised other nuisances in the district including rodents and traffic issues for school pick up and drop offs. Staff is currently maximizing staff ability to process work orders. Mr. Clark asked the Board to review the pressure issues and provide additional recommendation or comments for staff as areas of importance. He said staff is working on the work order and other paper processes to streamline efforts and reduce the staff time.

Member Bartholomew asked about the problems that are being experienced at Sycamore Canyon with the new HVAC system and what the recourse for the contractor is to get the system working appropriately.

Mr. Clark shared that the contractor is currently receiving contract fines of \$500 a day. He also shared that he had experienced the dynamics previously of bringing in a new component without replacing the entire unit and it is probably reasonable to expect problems until the controls are replaced. He said we may encounter the same issues at Cajon Park because we were forced to replace a major component and did not install an entire system. He is hoping to respond better while waiting for resolutions with fans, heaters, and having a new HVAC tech in place.

Member Bartholomew expressed concerns about the modernization projects having “spot jobs” such as this and creating many problems. Mr. Clark said that this transition and the subsequent issues will continue.

**3.1. Video Conferencing Project**

Emily Andrade shared that she is excited to bring the opportunity to initiate a video conferencing center for the District. A video conference center supports “Classrooms of the Future” and teachers will be able to use this center by bringing their students to the ERC to participate in video conferencing opportunities.

Member El-Hajj is concerned about the proposed financing of this project and using general fund dollars which may provide the Board some discretionary spending. She asked if there were any redevelopment or QZAB dollars that could be used. Mr. Clark said that most of the funds are being used but there is a carryover that could cover the cost of the video conferencing project. Member Bartholomew feels the same way because last year there were some priorities that were not implemented because funds were not available. Member El-Hajj asked if the \$14,000 included everything needed. Mrs. Andrade said the cost would be nearly \$14,000 for a system that would provide extended capabilities. Member Ryan supports the direction to move forward but would like to look at another source of funding. Member Burns supports using QZAB dollars and is pleased to see they are going directly to our schools. He would like to move forward to develop a video conference center.

Member Burns moved to establish a video conference center and find the dollars in redevelopment or QZAB budgets. If not available he would like to use the fire reimbursement dollars.

Member Carlisle suggested this item be added to the priority funding list. The Board asked staff to find redevelopment or QZAB funds for this project. Mr. Clark will investigate carryover dollars in redevelopment funds to cover the expense. The motion was amended to establish the video conference center using restricted funds.

***Motion: Burns***

***Second: Ryan***

***Vote: 5-0***

Member Carlisle requested that Dr. Shaw be the first video conference.

**3.2. Approval of Agreement with San Diego State University for a Social Worker Intern Program**

Emily Andrade shared the opportunity to have Social Worker field interns working at our schools with our current social workers. Member Ryan moved to approve the agreement with San Diego State University for a Social Worker Intern program.

***Motion: Ryan***

***Second: Burns***

***Vote: 5-0***

**4.1. Appointment of Director of Facilities / Modernization**

Mr. Tofflemire shared that the District recently underwent the process to select a Director of Facilities/Modernization and is bringing the recommendation to appoint Mrs. Christina Becker, who comes from Cajon Valley. Member El-Hajj moved to approve the appointment of Christina Becker as the Director of Facilities / Modernization.

***Motion: El-Hajj***

***Second: Burns***

***Vote: 4-0 (Ryan, absent)***

Mrs. Becker shared her appreciation and said that she has visited a number of our schools and has seen and heard great things about Santee. She is looking forward to fabulous things in Santee and schools with excellent facilities.

**4.2. Approval of Request to Increase Work Hours of Student Attendance Position at Sycamore Canyon School**

Mrs. Maria Lenhoff, a Sycamore Canyon parent, addressed the Board supporting the increase of .25 hours per day that the Board is considering for the Student Attendance Clerk at Sycamore

Canyon School. She shared the parents at Sycamore Canyon value and support Mrs. Phillips and she does far beyond her job duties.

Mr Tofflemire shared that a number of years ago the decision was made at Sycamore Canyon, due to their small enrollment, that 45 minutes would be allotted for the SAC duties. Bernard Yeo recently reviewed the workload and duties and determined that an additional 15 minutes per day is needed to complete the work for that school. Administration recommends the increase and the funds would come from the general fund.

***Motion: Burns***

***Second: El-Hajj***

***Vote: 5-0***

## **H. BOARD COMMUNICATION**

Member Bartholomew shared that there was a great presentation at the last BAC meeting on security devices. He believes that in light of the issues of break-ins and graffiti, this kind of "smart" technology would be very worthwhile.

Member El-Hajj has attended the Junior High Promotions Standards Committee and wants to make sure that she is representing the entire Board rather than her own thoughts. Each school has its own policies and procedures and the attempt of the committee is to standardize throughout the District. If a student appeals, what part of the process is open to them? Will the Board allow the schools to have latitude and inconsistency? Member Ryan believes that if you have the ability to appeal, it should be for all participation. Member Bartholomew believes that there is a clear difference between being excluded from promotion and the recreational activities. Member Burns does not want to take the decision about Disneyland from the schools because they know the students better than anyone. The conclusion was that schools should have the option to include both promotion and recreational activities in the appeal process.

President Carlisle said that a Facilities Workshop needs to be schedule. The staff and architect meeting comments from sites and departments are coming in and there are some decisions that need to be made to address the comments. A workshop will be scheduled for March. Board members should come to the first meeting with major themes and begin to lay ground on themes. It is estimated to need 4-5 hours. A second meeting will be scheduled to begin making decisions.

Board members preferred to hold the workshops on Saturday afternoons from 12:00-5:00 (Not March 3<sup>rd</sup>) Linda will schedule. Linda will also be scheduling a student discipline hearing.

President Carlisle said the last time the Board met they discussed establishing Board protocols or "We Agree" statements. Dr. Johnson and Mr. Carlisle attended that Board Presidents' Workshop and a Brown Act Workshop. Some protocol samples from CSBA were provided if Board members are interested.

Member Ryan believes there is an important need for protocols or "We Agree" statements, especially going into some really important decision-making. Member Burns agrees and would like to attach this decision to a workshop meeting. Member El-Hajj prefers not to attach this item to another meeting but to have special time set aside to do this.

Member Ryan is concerned about working on this for an hour prior to a Board meeting in case there is a crucial decision and the Board must stop for the meeting. President Carlisle will work with Linda to schedule a time. He asked if the Board members could start by individually looking at the enclosures and sending Linda the items they would like to see included. He really liked the professional governance standards. Member Ryan said that professional governance standards have been adopted by Board members in the past and should be readopted at each election cycle.

Board members would like to review the enclosures and return their responses to Linda to compile them. New items may be added if desired.

Dr. Johnson reported that Monday she delivered a Parent Link message to update parents about Modernization and the upcoming letter being sent home with students. All Board members wish to sign the letter, along with the Superintendent.

Mr. Clark shared that the Board received a copy of the website information and the Oversight Committee application.

President Carlisle shared a Governance calendar from CSBA which gives a snapshot of critical items for the entire year. He asked if the Board is interested in using this tool. Board members agreed that the calendar would be useful and Administration will develop it with our District information.

President Carlisle shared that YMCA staff is very interested in developing a physical education program in partnership with the school district. He asked if there are dollars that could be captured for special partnerships with the YMCA. They wish to focus on adolescence and obesity. Dr. Johnson reported that a meeting with the YMCA representative has been scheduled and Mrs. Andrade will be involved for the curriculum aspect of the program. Any dollars available for partnerships will be investigated.

President Carlisle reported on the Brown Act Workshop and that he learned that our statement in Public Communication does not include opportunities to address items on the agenda. We are required to allow the public to comment on any item. The way we have been doing it is fine, but we need to offer communication again before consent and or discussion items, or provide a blanket statement at the beginning of the meeting to address the Board on any items under their jurisdiction. Member Ryan said that previously Board presidents would say, "Is there anyone that would like to address the Board on this issue?" at the beginning of consent items and at each discussion and action item. President Carlisle asked if they would rather provide multiple opportunities rather than one opportunity during Public Communication. Board members agreed to provide the public multiple opportunities to comment on Board agenda items. Linda will provide directions to address the Board at the front desk.

#### **I. CLOSED SESSION**

President Carlisle announced that the Board would meet in closed session for:

1. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release (Govt. Code § 54957)
2. Conference with Labor Negotiator (Govt. Code § 54956.8)  
*Agency Negotiator: John Tofflemire, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources*  
*Employee Organizations: Santee Teachers Association (STA)*
3. Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Govt. Code §54956.8)  
*Location: Easement between Rio Seco School and Town Center Properties*  
*9525 Cuyamaca St., Santee 92071*  
*Negotiating Party: City of Santee*  
*Agency Negotiators: Dr. Lis Johnson, Superintendent*  
*Bill Clark, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services*  
*Purpose: Price and Terms*

The Board entered closed session at 9:02 p.m.

#### **J. RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION/ ADJOURNMENT**

The Board reconvened to public session at 10:45 p.m. No action was reported. The February 6, 2007 regular meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.