

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

May 20, 2003  
**MINUTES**

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

**BOARD WORKSHOP – 6:00 p.m.**

1. School Site Councils (SSCs) and Principals will meet with the Board to discuss the 2003-04 District budget.

President opened the workshop by explaining the current crisis of the District with regard to SBX118 and the major loss of Miller-Unruh funds to support the language arts specialists. Member El-Hajj explained the situation with regards to the May Revise and assured the SSCs that should the District exercise its legal right to carryover funds, dollars would be returned when the fiscal picture improves. Both Members Burns and McIntosh were having difficulty seeking funds from SSCs to balance the District budget, especially when other site budgets are being cut. Member El-Hajj stated that balancing the District budget is not optional.

President Ryan invited questions from the audience. Parent Ellen Duty asked if the Board was seeking all carryover funds or just 50 percent. President Ryan responded that the Board was asking for the entire carryover amount. The law entitles a district to take half; an SSC can give all of it voluntarily. It is the desire of the Board to repay the funds when possible.

Parent Robin Acampora asked if a vote of the SSC would be required. Ryan responded that a vote was needed.

Parent Darlene Bickett stated that the Chet F. Harritt SSC voted unanimously to contribute all carryover.

Teacher Lynne Shevinsky asked if the Board would take 50 percent if 100 percent is not offered. El-Hajj replied that there has not been a vote by the Board at this time on that concern.

Parent Kathleen Walford asked if it is positive that IOUs will be honored. Ryan responded that any seated Board would have to vote to return funds. A resolution can be passed to ensure that action. Burns pledged to support the IOUs.

GATE funds would be affected but site block grant funds would not. This request applies to carryover only, not next year's allocation.

Burns expressed the hope that SSCs can come together with the Board to create a balanced budget. Ryan asked SSCs to meet and vote on the Board's proposal. The workshop adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

**A. OPENING PROCEDURES**

1. Call to Order and Welcome

President Ryan called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present:

Barbara Ryan, President  
Dianne El-Hajj, Vice President  
Cathy Abel, Clerk  
Dustin Burns, Member  
Julie McIntosh, Member

Staff present:

Marcia Johnson, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board  
Carolyn Harness, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

Lisbeth Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services  
Bill Stumbaugh, Director, Pupil Services  
Sue Yakubik, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
Arletta Schaffer, Recording Secretary

2. President Ryan invited three Sycamore Canyon students to lead the members, staff and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>El-Hajj</b>	
<b>Second:</b>		<b>McIntosh</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>5 -- 0</b>	

**B. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

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

**C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

President Ryan invited members of the audience to address the Board about any item not on the agenda. She asked for cooperation to hold comments to three minutes each.

Chris Stanley, STA president, addressed the Board on a variety of topics. He suggested closing the District office instead of a school. He supported no reductions to school clerical staff. He did not support the purchase of the Power School student information system. He was opposed to the purchase of new language arts adoption materials.

Bob Hambrick, parent of a special education student, asked the Board not to increase class size and to retain personnel.

Shelly Woodward, a kindergarten student, hoped that next year's children get to learn to read and write.

**D. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Financial Impact of Agreement with California School Employees Association (CSEA)

President Ryan opened the public hearing on the financial impact of the CSEA retirement incentive. There were no public comments.

**E. CONSENT ITEMS**

Items listed under Consent are considered to be routine and are all acted on by the Board with one single motion. It was moved and seconded to approve Consent Items with Item E.2.11. held for separate consideration.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>McIntosh</b>	
<b>Second:</b>		<b>Abel</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>5 -- 0</b>	

**Superintendent**

- 1.1. Approval of Minutes

### **Business Services**

- 2.1. Approval of Travel Requests
- 2.2. Approval/Ratification of Expenditure Warrants
- 2.3. Approval/Ratification of Purchasing Orders
- 2.4. Approval of Financial Reports
- 2.5. Approval/Ratification of Revolving Cash Reports
- 2.6. Acceptance of Donations
- 2.7. Approval of 2003-04 Student Accident Insurance
- 2.8. Adoption of Resolutions Authorizing Designated Agents
- 2.9. Approval of Agreement for Student Transportation Services
  
- 2.10. Approval of Student Teaching Agreement with Northern Arizona University
- 2.11. Held for separate consideration
- 2.12. Approval of Contract for Fiscal and Mandated Cost Claims Services
- 2.13. Approval of Agreement and Use of School Facilities Form for Use of Swimming Pools

### **Educational Services**

- 3.1. Approval of Restructuring of Pupil Services Budget and Staff
- 3.2. Acceptance of Healthy Kids Annual Report
- 3.3. Approval of Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Funding Application

### **Human Resources**

- 4.1. Personnel, Regular, with a copy to be made a part of the minutes. Consultants approved: Cynthia Chandler, Mary Jo Fithen, Luisa Gamez, Adrienne Looser, Thaddeus Van Dyke
- 4.2. Acceptance of Report on Certificated Credentials and Assignments

#### For separate consideration:

- 2.14. Approval of Memorandums of Understanding/Agreement with San Diego County Superintendent of Schools for CalWORKs Services and SIS Access

Member Burns asked to abstain from the vote due to his employment with the San Diego County Office of Education.

**Motion:** McIntosh  
**Second:** Abel  
**Vote:** 4 – 1 (Burns: abstain)

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

(Items were heard out of sequence but are reported in numerical order for consistency.)

### **Superintendent**

- 1.1. Board Selection of Eighth Grade Promotion Assignments

Board members and the Superintendent selected assignments for presentation of promotion certificates.

Ryan: Chet Harritt, Alternative  
El-Hajj: Carlton Oaks, Hill Creek, Santee  
Burns: Cajon Park, Rio Seco  
McIntosh: Carlton Hills, Pepper Drive  
Johnson: Prospect

- 1.2. Approval to Purchase Power School Student Information System (SIS)

Technology Director, Beverly Blaylock, opened the presentation with the question on many minds: how can the District consider spending money on a new SIS? Responding to the unspoken questions, she replied that the District is at a crossroads. Very severe mandates exist to provide data. We are relying too much on manual records. Administrators do not have ready access to student information. Our current SIS is so difficult that only a few people can use it. In eight years we have connected every classroom and have about 1,200 computers. We have ignored the administrative student information system. Parents need to know how their students are doing. We are mandated under NCLB to provide that information. Funding to pay for Power School is available from redevelopment money that can only be used for technology.

Mrs. Blaylock agrees with Chris Stanley about placing Citrex in the classroom and we are in a pilot phase at one school now. The analysis needs to be completed. She acknowledges that with Power School implementation comes change.

Member El-Hajj has seen Power School as it is supposed to be run and is embarrassed with the lack of information we provide to our parents. She feels comfortable with the purchase of the program using restricted funds. She is concerned by an October 4 implementation.

Mrs. Blaylock explained that Grossmont Union High School District received state funds to enhance its SIS system. They have experienced some problems with the use of a specially developed version of Power School as an enterprise product. It is not the product that we would purchase. The existing county system would be used to begin the school year. The first Power School project would be student attendance. Scheduling, summer school, and teacher grading components would be phased in.

She sees the technology assistants close to the source as well as being a resource to all users. Those staff members would do reports and beginning analysis.

Member Burns is very impressed with Power School. He is excited for the potential now and in the future.

President Ryan too is impressed with Power School. She sees an additional cost to general fund of \$80,000 for two technology assistants.

It was moved and seconded to approve the purchase and installation of the Power School SIS from restricted Gillespie Redevelopment Agency funds and that two Technology Assistants be restored to eleven-month contracts.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Abel</b>	
<b>Second:</b>		<b>Burns</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>5 -- 0</b>	

1.3. Approval to Close a School Commencing with the 2003-04 School Year

Superintendent Johnson reported a five-year loss of over 1,300 students and the decline is expected to continue for an additional five years. District facilities have a maximum capacity of 8,795 students. May enrollment is 6,867 with the decline expected to reach 6,699 students before reversing the trend. Santee School has experienced a decline of 10.7 percent this year and Sycamore Canyon's decline is 10.5 percent this year. Santee School is recommended for closure due to loss of enrollment and the impact of freeway construction on future enrollment. The property has potential for business development. The Superintendent suggested that consideration be given to housing students at three areas schools: Hill Creek, Pepper Drive and Prospect.

The second choice for closure is Sycamore Canyon School. Many years ago grades 7 and 8 merged with Carlton Hills. Because of the school's location, developers may have interest if the property were sold.

A reduction of staff and utilities would save \$600,000 per school. Some costs would be incurred for transportation and security.

Twenty-six speakers came before the Board to voice their positions on the suggested closure of Santee and/or Sycamore Canyon schools. The speakers spoke with passion about relations with their school community and staff. Many offered other suggestions to balance the budget without closing a school.

Member McIntosh was sympathetic to parent and student loyalty to their community schools. Since several parents voiced concern that classes will be larger at the receiving schools, she wanted to reassure them that teachers would move with students and there would be no increase in class size.

Member El-Hajj commended those who spoke, saying she understood that this is emotional. It saddens her that there has been little response to earlier requests for input to the budget dilemma. The Board and the Budget Advisory Committee have been working for many months to reduce the budget deficit. This Board recently rejected Option II kindergarten in an effort to keep reductions away from the classroom.

Member Burns commented that his family is rooted in this community. He has asked himself, like several of the speakers, whether all other cost-saving ideas have been exhausted. The Board is left with very few options to balance the budget and the Board has to make choices – tough choices. Teachers in this district are good and students will succeed. He believes that it is important to make decision now so students have an opportunity for closure. He asked the community to work with the Board.

Member Abel stressed that this is the most difficult year with budget reductions and other issues. The Board cares very much about kids.

President Ryan thanked everyone for coming. All Board members take very personally the things that have been said. The Board is responsible for every student in the District. Decisions are not easy ones.

Following an in-depth discussion on the budget status, it was moved and seconded to close Santee School effective with the 2003-04 school year and to continue to study future closure of Sycamore Canyon School.

**Motion:** McIntosh  
**Second:** Abel  
**Vote:** 4 – 0 (El-Hajj: no)

## **Business Services**

### 2.1. Approval of 2002-03 Budget Revisions for April

Budget revisions through April show an uncommitted ending balance of \$103,000. It was moved and seconded to approve the budget reductions report.

**Motion:** Burns  
**Second:** Abel  
**Vote:** 5 -- 0

### 2.2. Discussion of 2003-04 District Budget

Carolyn Harness recapped the budget status as of May 20. She itemized the impact of the Governor's May Revise on the District's 2003-04 budget. All reductions made thus far total \$2.7 million, but a budget shortfall of \$2.3 million is still projected. Items to be considered for further reductions were itemized in background materials.

Members of the audience were invited to address the Board. Carol Richeson is concerned that budget reductions will be detrimental to SDC students. Kathy Stayner, school secretary, believes there may be other avenues that haven't been explored yet.

President Ryan supports keeping the Miller-Unruh funded positions because they support learning. Other Board members agreed.

After careful consideration it was agreed to cut the following items from the 2003-04 District budget:

Items for Expenditure Reduction	Savings	Motion	Second	Vote
1. Transfer JPA insurance fund balances to the Workers' Compensation fund to cover the \$240,000 premium increase for 2003-04.	120,000	McIntosh	Abel	5 -- 0
3. Reduce 3 teaching positions due to very tight staffing at schools.	274,000	El-Hajj	McIntosh	5 -- 0
4. Reduce 3% special reserve fund to align with reduction of the expenditures in the general fund.	100,000	El-Hajj	McIntosh	5 -- 0
5. Transfer general fund instructional materials to the Proposition 20 restricted lottery account.	97,392	McIntosh	El-Hajj	5 -- 0
6. Tax Override Fund – move these funds to general operating fund to cover operating expenses.	53,342	McIntosh	El-Hajj	5 -- 0

### Educational Services

- 3.1. Evaluation Summary of 2002-2003 Modified Day Programs and Approval of Proposed Adjustments to 2003-2004 School Year Regular Instructional Schedule

It was moved and seconded to receive the 2002-03 modified day evaluation summary and to approve the proposed adjustments to the 2003-04 instructional schedule.

**Motion:** El-Hajj  
**Second:** Abel  
**Vote:** 5 – 0

### Human Resources

- 4.1. Adoption of Resolution to Lay Off Identified Classified Employees

Discussion on this item opened with Member Burns stating that he was open to modifications to the hours of Student Records Secretaries (SRS), but is concerned about eliminating all positions. It is realistic to ask SRS to start up Power School in October?

Member McIntosh believes that school offices are overstaffed compared to other districts.

Member El-Hajj believes that administration should work out the options within a certain dollar parameter. She would support a proposal to save \$120,000.

Member Burns questioned if schools could opt to use categorical funds to increase office hours, if desired.

President Ryan spent time in a school office recently to observe the operation. Since she saw three people in the office who were busy all the times, she is not comfortable cutting positions. Can we look for ways to share responsibilities when there are retirements? Can we consider the reduction of hours through attrition? She supports reassessments when positions become available and staffing to a formula.

Member McIntosh suggested a reduction of two hours to each position and motioned the position hours as follows:

Four-hour positions – Carlton Hills, Chet F. Harritt, Pepper Drive, Prospect, Sycamore Canyon  
Five-hour positions – Carlton Oaks, Hill Creek, Rio Seco  
Six-hour positions – Cajon Park  
(No change for Alternative School at 3.75 hours)

**Motion:** McIntosh  
**Second:** Abel  
**Vote:** 3 – 2 (Burns, Ryan: no)

- 4.2. Ratification of Employer-Employee Collective Bargaining Agreement with California School Employees Association

It was moved and seconded to ratify the tentative agreement on a revision to the Early Retirement Incentive.

**Motion:** El-Hajj  
**Second:** McIntosh  
**Vote:** 5 -- 0

#### **G. BOARD POLICIES AND BYLAWS**

1. First Readings
- 1.1. New: BP 6173, Enrollment of Children and Youth in Homeless Situations
  - 1.2. Review/Revision: BP 1312.3, Complaints about Categorical Programs Including Special Education
- Comments on suggested modifications may be sent to Bill Stumbaugh.
2. Second Reading (none)

#### **H. BOARD COMMUNICATION**

The Board agreed to continue its past practice of three Board signatures on each promotion certificate.

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

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

- 1. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release
- 2. Conference with Labor Negotiator  
*Agency Negotiator: Sue Yakubik, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources*  
*Employee Organizations: Santee Teachers Association (STA)*  
*California School Employees Association (CSEA)*
- 3. Student Discipline Matters
- 4. Public Employee Performance Evaluation  
*Title: Superintendent*
- 5. Conference with Real Property Negotiators  
*Location: Renzulli Site*  
*Agency Negotiator: Carolyn Harness, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services*
- 6. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation  
*Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54956.9*
- 7. Public Employee Appointment: Superintendent

The Board entered closed session at 12:15 a.m.

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

The Board reconvened to public session at 1:25 a.m. No action was reported. The May 20, 2003, regular meeting adjourned at 1:25a.m.

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Cathy Abel, Clerk

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Marcia J. Johnson, Secretary