

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

December 2, 2008

**MINUTES**

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

**A. OPENING PROCEDURES**

1. Call to Order and Welcome  
President Bartholomew called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and read the District Mission Statement.  
Members present:  
    Dan Bartholomew, President  
    Dianne El-Hajj, Vice President (Arrived at 7:30 p.m.)  
    Dustin Burns, Clerk  
    Barbara Ryan, Member (attended via teleconference)  
    Allen Carlisle, Member  
Administration present:  
    Dr. Lisbeth Johnson, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board  
    Bill Clark, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services  
    Emily Andrade, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services  
    Minnie Malin, Director, Human Resources  
    Linda Vail, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary
2. President Bartholomew invited Christian Median, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student from Chet F. Harritt School, 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.

**Motion: Burns Second Ryan Vote: 4-0 (El-Hajj, absent)**  
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**B. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

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

**2. Classroom of the Future Foundation Presentation**

Dr. Johnson reported the District has been meeting with the Classroom of the Future Foundation to share about our project based learning in classrooms. The Classrooms of the Future Foundation at the County Office shared with District administration they are interested in working with Santee School District. Dr. Johnson introduced Mr. Tom Dillon, Chair, and Mr. Bruce Braciszewski, Executive Director, of this Foundation to present to the Board..

Mr. Dillon shared the Foundation was originally created to support the development of the Joe RIndone Center. Since the completion of the Joe Rindone Center, the Foundation has broadened its scope to support school districts in San Diego County. Over three dozen businesses support the Foundation and the challenges of improving education are looked at from a business systems perspective. Businesses that work closely with the Foundation are SAIC, Qualcom, ATT, Cox Communications, Time Warner, MFCU, General Atomics, and other very large corporations. These businesses all strongly believe in public education and are a tremendous resource.

The Foundation has been working with Cajon Valley and Lemon Grove the past few years, and discovered by accident after receiving a briefing, that Santee has an essential component to deliver project based learning that would fill some of the gaps in best practices for Twenty-First Century learning. They see Santee as top in the county for providing amazing professional development, creating infrastructure for technology to allow teachers

to collaborate on a shared vision. Dr Johnson is inspiring in project based learning and has all of the best practices from a systems engineering perspective already operating. The Foundation is anxious to work with Santee School District and Mr. Dillon thanked the Board for what they are doing for education. Mr. Dillon believes what Santee is doing will have a tremendous impact on all students in San Diego County.

Mr. Braciszewski shared the Classroom of the Future Foundation is looking for districts that are leaders in innovation in education. Santee was recently recognized by the Foundation for the way teachers are trained through the SEEDs program and project based learning. The Foundation wants to assist Santee to support the things teachers are doing to collaborate with one another to make changes to improve learning. Santee is now working with Cajon Valley and Lemon Grove to collaborate more closely to bring all the best practices together.

Member Burns thanked Mr. Braciszewski and Mr. Dillon for coming and said it is a testament to the Superintendent, teachers, and staff who work extremely hard daily for students. President Bartholomew said, as reflected in our mission statement, the District believes in teaching students the life skills needed for a changing society. He thanked the Foundation on behalf of the Board and said the support of the Foundation is greatly appreciated.

### **3. Spotlight on Education: Principal Presentations from Chet F. Harritt and Prospect Avenue on Instructional Leadership and Student Presentations**

Andy Johnston and Dawn Minutelli, Principal and Vice Principal from Chet F. Harritt, shared their mission statement and the highlights of how that mission statement comes to life each day. They reported Chet F. Harritt has an 835 API for last year. Staff productively uses modified days to include professional learning communities in a continuous learning cycle. Technology is a focus area and classrooms are well equipped, demonstrated by a short video students produced. Administration and staff are working hard to close the achievement gap and have developed plans to make students successful. Character building programs include *Character Counts*, *Love & Logic*, and *Camp Clue*. They gave each Board member a copy of *Have you Filled Your Bucket Today?* and shared how this is used as a living philosophy at Chet F. Harritt.

Eighth graders, Eddie Medina and George Gomez, shared their experiences at *Camp Clue* and how they learned that students are really all very similar, including their flaws, and how *Camp Clue* helped the students draw closer together and become a unified class.

President Bartholomew was impressed by the compassion and caring the students expressed and the wisdom in their words. He commended their public speaking. Member El-Hajj congratulated Mr. Johnston and Mrs. Minutelli on a great job and said she uses the "bucket" philosophy in her classroom. Dr. Johnson said Mr. Johnston reported to her that 17 teachers are working with the *Love and Logic* book, as well to promote and enhance a caring and compassion culture in the Chet community.

Mrs. Cheryl Bowen and Mrs. Stephanie Southcott, Principal and Vice Principal of Prospect Avenue School shared highlights from their school. Mrs. Bowen reported that Prospect Avenue is a high achieving school with an 814 API, a 35 point gain last year. They shared a glimpse inside the classrooms through a DVD demonstrating teachers fostering students' achievement.

Students Dustin Daniel and Ravaw Othman also shared their experiences at Camp Clue. They had the opportunity to experience having a disability and discovered how it felt to be excluded from your peer group. The experience helped students to be more understanding of each other and brought the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students all closer together.

Member Carlisle asked if there has been a noticeable difference in the behavior of students who have participated in Camp Clue. Mrs. Southcott said Administration wanted to create a safe haven at school and, with assistance from Meredith Riffel, found Camp Clue as an avenue to provide what they wanted for their school community. She believes it has been successful, especially with the student – teacher relationships and between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Administration also works closely with the Santee Teen Center, where staff comes monthly to interact with the students. Mrs. Bowen said since Camp Clue, a new language has been developed for talking to students, which reminds students how their behavior impacts the larger school community.

President Bartholomew thanked the students for their report and said they provided a great report and presentation. Dr. Johnson thanked Mrs. Bowen and Mrs. Southcott for their hard work in preparing the DVD.

Emily Andrade acknowledged Meredith Riffel for finding services such as *Camp Clue* for the schools and proactively seeking resources for students. Andy Johnston also thanked Mrs. Riffel.

### C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

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

### D. CONSENT ITEMS

Items listed under Consent are considered to be routine and are all acted on by the Board with one single motion. President Bartholomew invited comments from the public on any item listed under Consent.

- 1.1. **Approval of Minutes**
- 1.2. **Set Date and Time of Board's Annual Organizational Meeting**
- 2.1. **Approval/Ratification of Travel Requests**
- 2.2. **Approval/Ratification of Revolving Cash Report**
- 2.3. **Acceptance of Donations**
- 2.4. *(Pulled for separate consideration.)*
- 2.5. **Authorization to File Operations Application of Intent to Participate in the 2008-09 Class Size Reduction (CSR) Program Capitol Improvement/Modernization**
- 3.1. **Retention Reduction Capital Improvement Program Projects**
- 4.1. **Personnel, Regular**
- 4.2. **Certification of Competence in Evaluation and Instructional Methodologies**

It was moved and seconded to approve Consent Items.

**Motion: Burns Second Carlilse Vote: 5-0**  
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### 2.4. Adoption of Resolution to Establish a Special Reserve – Capital Projects Fund 40 *(Pulled by Member Carlisle for separate consideration.)*

Member Carlisle asked Mr. Clark if this was a new account or an annual approval. Mr. Clark said this item would establish a new fund number to account for the COPs proceeds and expenditures, as recommended by the County Office of Education. Mr. Carlisle moved approval.

**Motion: Carlisle Second El-Hajj Vote: 5-0**  
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### F. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

President Bartholomew invited comments from the public on any item listed under Discussion and/or Action.

#### 1.1. Baldrige National Quality Award Program Criteria

Dr. Johnson introduced Mr. Gary Rossi, the regional representative for Baldrige, to give a presentation to the Board about the Baldrige program. Mr. Rossi shared that Baldrige is a framework for looking at the organization as a whole to improve systems and outcomes. There are a number of categories including: strategic planning, leadership processes, community, information analysis, and measurement. The Baldrige criteria focuses on approaches, deployment, and results.

Baldrige started in 1989 to get the United States back in the lead in the global market place. The program began with businesses to implement a continuous improvement framework. Since then, they have worked with several school districts nationwide, and locally including Poway.

Member El-Hajj said the process seems to be a wonderful thing but seems a bit overwhelming, given the current work load of staff. She asked if the process would be affected by that or if it would help with some of the current challenges. Mr. Rossi said it is not the award that is important; it is looking at the criteria and assessing how you do things.

President Bartholomew said he asked Dr. Johnson to investigate Baldrige based on his experience in the business sector. He shared that it is an interesting phenomenon that all businesses say the same thing about having a lot on their plates when presented with the Baldrige program.



**Motion: Burns                      Second El-Hajj                      Vote: 5-0**  
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#### **G. BOARD COMMUNICATION**

Dr. Johnson shared she provided the Board with a copy of the 2008 governance calendar and will bring the calendar for review and discussion to the next meeting.

Mr. Clark reported the District has received a letter regarding a new EIR for the Las Colinas expansion and is working with Eric Hall to develop another letter to respond to the EIR.

President Bartholomew reminded Board members of the meeting scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup>, and said it would begin at 6:30 p.m. Ron Bennett will be facilitating this meet at no cost to the District.

President Bartholomew reported former Grossmont superintendent Terry Ryan recently passed away. Board members would like to send flowers or a plant to the family.

Member Ryan shared a letter from Assembly member Joel Anderson summarizing his willingness to meet to discuss legislative requests. Linda has contacted the office and provided appointment options. Member Ryan said the Board has several items they have discussed including, SB777, waivers, textbook and other categorical flexibility, and the State Allocation Board transferring modernization dollars into new construction. She believes there is a need to focus on one or two priority legislation items at this time. President Bartholomew would like to focus on money items.

Board members said the December 16, 10:00 a.m. appointment would work best. Linda will confirm this time and continue to work to schedule a meeting with Congressman Hunter. The Board asked Linda to work with Member Ryan to schedule a meeting with Senator Hollingsworth to discuss state issues.

Dr. Johnson reported Cajon Park's new building is near completion and teachers are moving in prior to winter break. She suggested a tentative date in March for a dedication ceremony and open house or reception. She said the Board may wish to begin consideration of dedication plaques.

Member Burns believes that a ceremony should be held sooner for Cajon Park and would also like tours made available. Following Board discussion, it was decided to hold a dedication in February. Dr. Johnson will work with the Principal to schedule a date. Member Burns said City staff is anxious to see the inside of the building.

Dr. Johnson has scheduled meetings for Board members to meet with staffs of the Phase II schools for modernization updates. Lis will provide talking points for Board members.

President Bartholomew shared the first draft of the Superintendent recruitment brochure and asked for input and edits for Leadership Associates. All Board members preferred the format from the 2003 brochure and the content in the personnel and professional areas which include the specific desires of the Board. President Bartholomew will submit content edits and the format change request to Leadership Associates.

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

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

1. **Public Employment Matters (Govt. Code § 54957)**  
*Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release  
Superintendent*
2. **Conference with Labor Negotiator (Govt. Code § 54956.8)**  
*Agency Negotiator: Minnie Malin, Director  
Employee Organizations: Santee Teachers Association  
California School Employees Association  
Purpose: Negotiations*
3. Conference with Legal Counsel- (Govt. Code § 54956.9 subdivision (b): *Significant exposure to litigation (One potential case.)*  
Legal Representation: Tim Garfield, Attorney at Law

The Board entered closed session at 9:30 p.m.

**J. RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board reconvened to public session at 10:25 p.m. No action was reported.

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

The December 2, 2008 regular meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

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Dustin Burns, Clerk

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Lisbeth A. Johnson, Ed.D., Secretary