

SANTA ANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
1601 East Chestnut Ave.  
Santa Ana, California 92704

MINUTES OF CLOSED SESSION  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

January 9, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Board President Richardson. Other members in attendance were Mrs. Avila, Dr. Yamagata-Noji, and Mr. Palacio. Cabinet members present were Ms. Russo, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Trigg, Mr. Lopez, Dr. Stainer, Dr. Bratcher, and Ms. Lohnes.

MEETING RECESSED AND RECONVENED

At 5:36 p.m., the Regular meeting was recessed to Closed Session to consider legal matters, personnel matters, special education contracts, and student discipline issues.

The Regular meeting reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Board President.

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION:

Mr. Richardson announced the Board's decision to appoint Ms. Russo, as Superintendent of Schools for the Santa Ana Unified School District. Trustees congratulated Ms. Russo and stated that she was the very best candidate for the job.

By a vote of 4-0, the Board took action to appoint Jane Russo, to the position of Superintendent of Schools for the Santa Ana Unified School District.

By a vote of 4-0, the Board took action to appoint Angela Burrell to the position of Public Information Officer.

By a vote of 4-0, the Board took action to appoint Bianca R. Barquin to the position of Coordinator of Student Achievement, Research and Evaluation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

President Richardson asked those members of the community who wished to address the Board to step forward as he called their names.

Patricia Morales, SAUSD teacher, spoke on behalf of Ms. Cecilia Aguinaga, who is running for the vacant seat on the Board of Education. She stated that Ms. Aguinaga is a proven advocate for students and parents of Santa Ana.

Cecilia Aguinaga, SAUSD classified staff member, encouraged the Board to consider her for the appointment of Board member.

Estela Altamirano, SAUSD parent, stated that she was representing parents from Esqueda Elementary and asked the Board to reconsider returning Mr. Silva to the school. The following parents urged the Board to reconsider returning Mr. Silva to Esqueda Elementary:

Herminio Alonso, SAUSD parent  
Carmen Rosales, SAUSD parent  
Carina Rodriguez, SAUSD parent  
Margarita Alonso, SAUSD parent

The following parents asked that the Board reconsider allowing Mr. Espinosa to return to Valley High School:

Bertha Ortega, SAUSD parent  
Aurora Aldana, SAUSD parent

Thomas Gordon, SAUSD community member, addressed the Board with concerns about not broadcasting the Board meeting. He urged the Board and Administration to be more transparent with information to the community.

Therese Mims, McFadden PTA President and community member, congratulated Ms. Russo for her new position as Superintendent. Ms. Mims suggested that the Board applicant have a business background, and served on a District committee. She also suggested that the Board attend a Budget Reallocation Committee meeting and stated that the District is top heavy.

Victoria Zaragoza, Parent and community member welcomed Ms. Russo aboard. She suggested that the Board appoint a Board member that fits the needs of the children of Santa Ana and one who has the ability to step into the job and keep the District functioning.

#### PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Wendy Benkert, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, Orange County Department of Education, presented an analysis of the SAUSD and countywide declining enrollment. She also updated the Board concerning the Special Education encroachment. She commended the Board and District staff for their outstanding leadership. Mr. Richardson requested a hard copy of the presentation.

#### Status of Recommended 2007-08 Budget Reductions

Mr. Trigg, Associate Superintendent and Mr. Kelvin Tsunozumi, Director, Business Services, presented an update on the 2007-08 Budget reallocation committees' (BRC) recommended reductions. Mr. Trigg stated that student enrollment continues to be an issue. This year with the loss of 1,662 students, the District stands to lose \$9 million. Out of 27 Orange County schools, 20 are experiencing declining enrollment. He stated that reductions required in 2007-08 to meet the state's mandated 2% requirement is \$21 million. The BRC has been directed to keep cuts as far away from the classroom as possible. He then reviewed the committee's process and recommended reductions. The Board has requested additional information and clarification on respective items. Cabinet will address those items in Week In Review.

#### 2006-07 New Categorical Programs Overview

Mr. Trigg, Associate Superintendent, and Mr. Kelvin Tsunozumi, Director, Business Services presented a report on the 2006-07 new State Categorical funding. Mr. Tsunozumi outlined information on the on-going funding of the following programs: economic impact aid (EIA), supplemental school counseling, arts and music block grants, CAHSEE, physical education teacher incentive, arts, music, P.E. equipment and supplies, discretionary block grant sites, teacher recruitment and staff development/retention, instructional materials,

EL supplemental instruction materials, Career tech equipment and supplies, CAHSEE individual intervention materials, and the quality education investment act. The Board has requested additional information on respective items which will be addressed in Week In Review.

CONSENT ITEM

Approval of Board Member Attendance at Educational Policy conference in St. Louis, Missouri, January 26-27, 2007

It was moved by Mr. Palacio, seconded by Dr. Yamagata-Noji, and carried 4-0, to approve Mrs. Avila to attend the Educational Policy Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, January 26-27, 2007.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Discussion and Direction for filling vacancy on Board of Education

Ms. Russo presented a process proposal for the formation and selection to fill the vacancy by a provisional appointment on the Board of Education. She stated that applications were due to the Public Information Office by January 5, 2007, by 4:30 p.m. All applications were reviewed and accepted. Education Code states that interviews must be held at an open meeting, must be advertised at three locations at the District Office, and public input must be made available at the Board meeting. The deadline for the selection of a Board member is January 28, 2007. The Board provided details pertaining to the interview process.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Special Board meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

FUTURE MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

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Superintendent and Secretary,  
Board of Education