

Santa Ana Unified School District
1601 E. Chestnut Avenue
Santa Ana, California 92701

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING
SANTA ANA BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 20, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m. by Board President Richardson. Other members in attendance were Mrs. Avila, Mr. Hernandez, and Mr. Palacio. Dr. Yamagata-Noji joined the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Cabinet members present were Ms. Russo, Dr. Olsky, Mr. Lopez, Mr. Ayala, Mr. Mendez, and Ms. Lohnes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ACTION ITEMS

1.0 Adoption of Resolution No. 07/08-2702 - Certification of Information Related to Continued Participation in 2007-08 Class Size Reduction Operations Funding Program for Grades K-3

Dr. Olsky, Deputy Superintendent, stated that this item was carried over from the regular Board meeting of November 13, 2007, due to the hour that evening. Dr. Olsky stated in reference to Class Size Reduction (CSR), rules and regulations are in place and the SAUSD is meeting all criteria as recommended by the Orange County Department of Education. She stated CSR was established in school year 1996-97 to improve the educational program specifically in reading and mathematics for students in grades K-3. In addition, in order to comply with the State of California, the Board is required to certify by Board Resolution that information on the 2007-08 CSR Operations application is accurate. Mr. Mendez was then called to the podium.

Mr. Mendez, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education, stated that in order to apply for an apportionment to implement a CSR program it requires an application for operational funding. He identified steps ensuring CSR compliance in K-3. He provided a timeline that began in August 2007, which included meeting with principals to review requirements, enrollment guidelines, and procedures. He stated that oversight is the responsibility of the school principals, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Division, and the Deputy Superintendent. To assure that classes are not over 20:1 enrollment is reviewed daily with student placements adjusted as necessary throughout the school year. He provided detailed information regarding monitoring of classes and State per pupil funding

allocations for Option 1 CSR for grades 1-3. He stated that the State funding for Kindergarten CSR Option 2 is \$535 per participating pupil and currently there are 126 kindergarten classes in Option 2.

Mr. Mendez then provided procedures concerning new student arrivals and notification to parents when space is not available, and the opening of new classes to remain within 20:1. Mr. Mendez stated that there have been 39 additional elementary teaching positions authorized since August 30, 2007, to meet state requirements. Ongoing and next steps include a monthly written report to the Board on status regarding classes over 20:1 and corrective actions taken to ensure compliance. Mr. Mendez stated that there are 29 combination classes throughout the District at this time.

Mr. Palacio requested information regarding schools offering Combination Classes and asked to include grade levels.

Mr. Hernandez recommended that District minimize the formation of combo whenever possible.

Dr. Noji asked that staff communicate to school office managers/principals that when schools reach enrollment capacity and a student wishes to be enrolled, staff is to refer specifically to wait list.

It was moved by Dr. Yamagata-Noji, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, and carried 5-0 to adopt Resolution No. 07/08-2702 certifying information relating to continued participation in 2007-08 Class Size Reduction Operations funding program for grades K-3 for the 2007-08 school year.

2.0 Approval of Contract With Orange County Department of Education for Consulting and Technical Assistance Support Seven Program Improvement Schools for 2007-08 School Year

Mr. Mendez stated that the No Child Left Behind guidelines recommend external entity assistance for schools in Program Improvement Year 3 or 4. The assistance includes fact-finding interviews and data analysis to determine specific needs of each identified school; professional development for principals and teams regarding analyzing school data; on-site technical assistance in curriculum and intervention; and a professional development institute.

It was moved by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Palacio, and carried 5-0 to approve the contract with the Orange County Department of Education for technical assistance to Program Improvement schools for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

FUTURE MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, January 8, 2007, at 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Jane A. Russo
Secretary
Santa Ana Board of Education