

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

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING
SANTA ANA BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 4, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 p.m. by Board President Hernández. Other members in attendance were Mr. Richardson and Mrs. Avila. Dr. Yamagata-Noji and Mr. Palacio were not in attendance.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

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

There were no public comments.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Additional Budget Reductions Needed for Second Interim Report for 2008-09 School Year

Superintendent Russo called upon Mr. Trigg, Interim Associate Superintendent, Business Services, who introduced the item. Mr. Trigg called Mr. Kelvin Tsunezumi, Executive Director Fiscal Services, to the podium to provide the presentation.

Mr. Tsunezumi presented a summary of the February 26, 2008, regular Board meeting. Board members made several inquiries and asked that staff return with information.

Mr. Tsunezumi put it in perspective by stating that at the December 11 and 13, 2007, Board meeting the 2008-09 Budget reductions totaling \$17 million were considered. From the \$17 million, Trustees approved \$14.9 million in reductions. The Orange County Department of Education charged the SAUSD to identify the remaining \$2.1 million by the Second Interim, therefore bringing the additional \$2.1 million in reductions to the February 26, 2008, for approval. Mr. Tsunezumi reiterated that \$2.1 must be reduced in order to meet the approval of the County Office of Education.

Mr. Tsunozumi reviewed the Governor's proposal impact and stated that it is estimated that \$26.5 million in cuts above-and-beyond the \$14.9 million previously approved would be required to be reduced should the Governor's Budget pass. The SAUSD would need to identify an additional \$26.5 million in reductions by June 2008. He said that Assembly Bill 1200 mandates a 2% minimum reserve for two years out. If the Governor's Budget is approved for school years 2008-09 and 2009-10, the 2% revenue would be difficult if not impossible to acquire. He stated that in addition to the \$26.5 million for 2008-09, there would be an additional \$10 million for 2009-10 in order to meet the 2% state required reserve.

Ms. Lohnes, Chief Miyashiro, and Mr. Minnick provided information on topics related to Board member's inquires from the February 26th Board meeting. Mr. Tsunozumi stated at the March 11, 2008, regular Board meeting, staff will bring \$1.3 million in additional reduction recommendations to ensure a "Positive" certification. If the Board does not approve the reductions, OCDE may certify the SAUSD as "Qualified" or "Negative" which would implement stricter oversight and control over District fiscal matters. Ms. Lohnes, Chief Miyashiro, and Mr. Minnick then reviewed items in which the Board requested additional information. Items discussed were Special Education Instructional Assistants' (IA) hours and schedules and Student Support Paraprofessional (SSP) schedules in elementary, intermediate, and high schools. Next reviewed were SAUSD Police expenditures and District Safety Officers moving from 12 month to 11 months. Chief Miyashiro stated that in no way would reducing hours change police service to students or staff. Then reviewed was the elimination of three nurse positions. Mr. Tsunozumi stated that at the March 11, 2008, the Second Interim Report will be presented and which will include a total of \$1.3 million in additional reductions.

Mr. Richardson stated that although fiscally times are tough, schools are showing signs of improvement.

Mrs. Avila asked staff to look into an education base program at every school and identify what is absolutely essential.

Mr. Hernández asked that the District work with a lobbyist who would earnestly push for the District's needs.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

FUTURE MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Jane A. Russo
Secretary
Santa Ana Board of Education