

Santa Ana Unified School District
1601 E. Chestnut Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92706

SANTA ANA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Board Meetings
May 25, 2010

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Yamagata-Noji. Also in attendance were Mr. Hernández, Mr. Palacio, and Mr. Reyna. Mr. Richardson was not in attendance at the meeting.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Dr. Yamagata-Noji. She welcomed all in attendance to the meeting. Dr. Yamagata-Noji stated that although there was a regular scheduled meeting for tonight, it was cancelled and replaced with a special board meeting. This was in accordance with the Brown Act and the recommendation of the Orange County Department of Education legal counsel.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Superintendent Russo announced that at the April 13, 2010 Board meeting by a vote of 5-0, Santa Ana Unified School District took action in closed session through a resolution to authorize participation in litigation challenging the State's School Finance System. For the record, Ms. Russo announced that on Thursday, May 20, 2010 a lawsuit titled Robles-Wong vs. California, case number RG10515769 was filed in Alameda County, California. The resolution will be attached to the minutes of this meeting as public record. The plaintiffs in the case along with SAUSD are eight other school districts, the California School Board Association, State Parent-Teacher Association, the Association of California Administrators and approximately 60 students and parents. A more detailed list of plaintiffs can be provided upon request. The lawsuit seeks to remedy the broken school finance system by declaring that it is unconstitutional, requiring State lawmakers to uphold their constitutional duty to design and implement a school finance system that provides all students equal access to the required educational program.

Superintendent Russo stated that in the past five years, the District has cut over \$166 million dollars from a \$500 million dollar budget. While making substantial academic achievement gains including the recognition of five California Distinguished Schools this past year, the District has had to remove many of the supports that have contributed to those gains. Attorney fees for involvement in the case will be provided at no cost to the District. For more information on the lawsuit, you can access the website at www.fixschoolfinance.org.

Longevity Recognition for Employees Who Have Served 25, 30, and 35 Years of Service

The Board of Education annually recognizes those employees who have served the Santa Ana Unified School District for 25, 30, and 35 years. There was a total of 112 employees with service in these categories. Those present received a plaque and/or certificates and pins. The employees received personal greetings from the Board members and the Superintendent and were commended for their dedication to the students of the District.

Mr. Lopez thanked SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union, Santa Ana Educators Association, and California School Employees Association for their continuous support and assistance in sponsoring the reception.

RECESSED TO RECEPTION AND CLOSED SESSION

President Yamagata-Noji recessed the Special meeting for a reception in honor of the employees receiving longevity awards and to Closed Session to consider negotiations and personnel matters.

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

The Regular meeting reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Yamagata-Noji asked those members of the community who wished to address the Board to step forward.

Katrina Sanborn-Haynes, SAUSD teacher, addressed the Board in reference to the Federal School Improvement Grant and asked that the application not be approved.

Yesireth Solis and Jason Ochoa, SAUSD students, addressed the Board to inform them that they would not be enrolling at Lathrop Intermediate School or any other intermediate school until Villa Fundamental had space available. Jason handed packets to Ms. Russo.

Carlos Perez, administrative law judge, addressed the Board in reference to the proposed decision by the administrative law judge regarding lay-off notices to the teachers. He requested the Board to consider the decision that was issued and adopt it in its entirety.

Meg Robinson, SAUSD teacher, addressed the Board in reference to the Federal School Improvement Grant and indicated that the application lacks collaboration and that no teacher input was requested in writing the application.

Gary Reynolds, SAUSD teacher, addressed the Board in reference to receiving the Persistently Low Achieving Schools status at Santa Ana High School. He provided a handout listing SAHS graduates and the name of college/university that they are attending or attended. Dr. Reynolds indicated that there is a large group of students who reject the education offered at our schools and this is a major problem.

Tammra Detviler, SAUSD teacher, addressed the Board in reference to the programs they have been trained for and the need to evaluate each program to determine what will work for the students.

Alex Bassinne, SAUSD teacher, addressed the Board in reference to the math department at Santa Ana High School. He spoke about the after school tutoring and the engineer and architecture club on campus. They want to see students be successful and asked the Board to revisit the Federal School Improvement Grant.

David Reuter, SAUSD teacher, addressed the Board in reference to the Federal School Improvement Grant and wanted to inform the Board that SAEA did not like the language used in the grant application. In addition, SAEA was not included in the proposed language used for the application.

AGENDA - ACTION ITEMS**1.0 ADOPTION OF DECISION TO LAY-OFF CERTIFICATED STAFF**

Mr. Juan Lopez, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, stepped to the podium and stated that the arbitrator's decision was to rescind 24 of the 38 laid-off teachers as stated earlier by Mr. Perez. A revised proposal has been submitted to the Board, questioning the rational that was used and asked the Board to consider a separate proposal which would be to continue with the lay-off of all 38 positions.

It was moved by Mr. Palacio, seconded by Mr. Reyna to reject the staff recommendation and replace it with the administrative law decision to rescind 24 of the 38 positions, and carried 3-1, Mr. Hernández dissenting, to approve the administrative law judge decision.

2.0 APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF FEDERAL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Dr. Cathie Olsky, Deputy Superintendent, stepped to the podium to request approval the submission of the Federal School Improvement Grant (SIG) application for the six schools identified by the State as persistently low achieving. The application deadline was June 1, 2010. Administration had made several presentations to the Board of Education providing information and legal parameters for the SIG grant, shared the input from administrators, staff, students, parents, and feedback from community meetings to assist in the selection process of one of the four intervention models for each identified school.

Ms. Michelle LePatner, Director of Research and Evaluation, was asked to approach the podium. She addressed the issues the schools face and the areas to be addressed which include, developing and increasing teacher and school leader effectiveness, comprehensive instructional reform strategies, increasing learning time and creating community-oriented schools, and providing operational flexibility and sustained support. Each plan will be established uniquely for each school, focusing on their individual need.

It was moved by Mr. Hernández, seconded by Mr. Palacio with an amendment for a specific plan for collaboration to be in place with parents and both bargaining units involved and carried 4-0 to approve submission of the Federal School Improvement Grant.

3.0 APPROVAL OF 2009-10 THIRD INTERIM REPORT - CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATUS AS OF APRIL 30, 2010

Mr. Michel Bishop, Assistant Superintendent for Business, approached the podium to request Board certification of the Third Interim Report for 2009-10. Mr. Bishop informed the Board that the Governor's May Revise was issued about two weeks ago and still needs Legislative approval. At the School Services of California workshop last Friday, he was informed that there is not much that affects education. In review, it is very similar as the Governor's proposal. The potential budget cuts to SAUSD are similar to those that were made in January. A third interim financial report is required to be submitted to the County Superintendent of Schools, California Department of Education and the State Controller's Office. The SAUSD's third interim report, as of April 30, 2010, satisfies the financial reporting requirement of Education Code Section 42131 and upon acceptance by the Board; the report will be forwarded to the Orange County Department of Education, California Department of Education, and the State Controller's Office.

Education Code Section 42131 requires the Board to certify the District's financial status of this fiscal year and for the subsequent two fiscal years based on the financial information known as of April 30, 2010.

Mr. Bishop asked Mr. Kelvin Tsunozumi, Executive Director for Business Services, to step to the podium to further explain the third interim report which incorporates proposed revenue reductions outlined in the May revision.

Mr. Tsunozumi stated that the State fully funded QEIA but reduced funding for Tier III programs for all districts. An award letter for additional ARRA-Stabilization funds for \$3.0 million was received. Staff recommended that the funds be utilized to offset unrestricted general fund cuts in 2010-11 and that any new costs will be offset by new revenue and/or through reduction of existing costs. Mr. Tsunozumi went over the projected ending balances for 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12.

It was moved by Mr. Hernández, seconded by Dr. Yamagata-Noji to approve and certify the District's financial status as of April 30, 2010 as well as approve the use of \$3.0 million in additional ARRA Stabilization funds to address budgetary deficits projected to occur in 2010-11, and carried 4-0.s

ADJOURNED

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Special Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 P.M.

FUTURE MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Jane A. Russo
Secretary
Santa Ana Board of Education