

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

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING
SANTA ANA BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 4, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board President Hernández. Other members in attendance were Mr. Richardson, Dr. Yamagata-Noji, and Mr. Palacio. Mrs. Avila was not present at the meeting.

Cabinet members present were Ms. Russo, Dr. Olsky, Mr. Murrey, 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.

Randy Fenwick, SAUSD staff member addressed the Board in support of Special Education Instructional Assistants. He asked the Board to reconsider keeping the aides' and their current hours.

Nancy May, SAUSD parent urged the Board to rehire Ms. Holdcroft, who received a RIF notice.

Andrea Schartz, SAUSD parent addressed the Board with concerns of the new two-story classrooms and the addition of a fire road to double as a drop off/pick up lane going from one lane to two lanes at Greenville Fundamental Elementary.

There were no other public comments.

PRESENTATION

2008-09 Multi-Year Budget Reductions

Superintendent Russo introduced the item. She stated that a total of \$95 million over the past four years has already been reduced. The Governor's May revise requires an additional cut of \$15 million, with a previous amount of \$17 million that must also be cut. She stated that the General Fund is comprised of 92% personnel and it will continue to be affected. The Board is charged with the responsibility to make difficult determinations as to what must be cut. District administration has met with principals and information will be presented for Board's direction. She then called upon Mr. Murrey who provided an overview of the 2008-09 Budget reductions based on the proposed Governor's Budget. Mr. Tsunozumi, Dr. Olsky, and Ms. Lohnes presented detailed information on the potential Budget reductions in an effort to balance the 2008-09 District budget.

Mr. Tsunozumi stated that while expenditures would be reduced, the District has not included any increase in cost for possible negotiated staff salary schedule increases in the multi-year projections.

Additionally, there have been no expenditure growth assumptions built into projections that include step and column staff salary, health plan, utility, and contract costs increases. And based on the forecast, it is estimated that the State's revenues may not be sufficient to restore past reductions or to stop additional program cuts.

Mr. Murrey explained that District budget research committee intensely reviewed existing student support program needs and the costs attributable to those services. Several options were reviewed and will come before the Board for action in hopes of implementation for the 2008-09 school year. The District's reduction plan was discussed that included centralized services, special education services, site allocations, categorical programs, and the use of restricted funds. In centralized support services several reductions to district office staffing were identified and reviewed for possible budget reductions in the amount of \$2.4 million. In special education Ms. Lohnes reviewed further reductions.

Dr. Olsky provided information on *School Site Allocations Base Program*. The goal is to identify additional reductions to site staffing while maximizing site flexibility. Board discussion ensued. The plan incorporates reductions in staffing, whereby site administrators select the positions needed at their respective sites. The results were an additional net savings of \$3.8 million.

Dr. Olsky also discussed base programs at the elementary and secondary levels. The base program brings supplemental categorical support and in some instances District support.

Dr. Olsky reviewed categorical programs and the reduction of Class Size Reduction encroachment. She stated that CSR was originally targeted for elimination, but the District's budget reduction task team proposed utilization of categorical funds primarily from Title I, EIA, and QEIA to maintain CSR, with a potential savings of \$6.0 million. She stated that there is a State Categorical carryover of \$8.0 million identified and targeted for "sweep" into the District's General Fund-Unrestricted Reserve.

The recommended budget reduction and proposed savings are as follows:

- Centralized Support Services \$2.4 million
 - Special Education \$1.8 million
 - School Site Allocation, Base Program \$3.8 million
 - Reduction of CSR Encroachment \$6.0 million
- Totals: \$14.0 million

District staff pledged that the proposed budget cuts did not include the elimination of Class Size Reduction or School Police Services.

There were inquiries from the Board of Education that will be addressed at the June 10th Board of Education meeting in reference to QEIA, elementary music program, special education instructional assistants, and ground services in high schools.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

FUTURE MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Jane A. Russo
Secretary
Santa Ana Board of Education