

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

SPECIAL MEETING
SANTA ANA BOARD OF EDUCATION

DECEMBER 11, 2008

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m., by President Hernández. Other members in attendance were Mr. Richardson, Mr. Palacio, and Mr. Reyna. Dr. Yamagata-Noji was not present at the meeting.

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Board President Hernández asked those wishing to address the Board in matters pertaining to Closed Session to step to the podium.

There were no speakers to address the Board regarding Closed Session items.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Regular meeting was immediately recessed to Closed Session to consider personnel matters and negotiations.

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

The Regular meeting reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

President Hernández asked members of the community who wished to address the Board to step to the podium as he called their names.

Maria Saldana, SAUSD parent, addressed the Board regarding personal issues regarding her child and special education.

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PRESENTATION

Class Size Reduction Programs: Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA) and K-3 Class Size Reduction (CSR)

Superintendent Russo introduced the item. She then introduced Dr. Olsky who spoke about Class Size Reduction as it relates to the Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA) and K-3 Class Size Reduction (CSR.) The Governor will be releasing the 2009-10 Budget on or about January 10, the 2008-09 budget is still undecided, and legislators are not providing hopeful news regarding education funding during this economic crisis.

Dr. Olsky summarized the presentation beginning with the history of K-3 CSR. She stated that a settlement was the result of the suspension of Proposition 98 in 2004-05 and QEIA was developed. The settlement payments are scheduled over a 7-year period, which began in the 2007-08 school year. She stated that K-3 class size reduction and the QEIA both support reduced class size. The QEIA is in operation at 14 school sites and K-3 CSR is at all elementary schools. She provided comparisons in each program, which included strengths and challenges of each.

Dr. Olsky stated that there are concerns of the State's ability to reimburse the District for the program due to the fiscal crisis and that categorical funding financially supports the K-3 CSR program. In the 2007-08 school year K-3 was funded in the amount of \$16.2 million and the General fund contributed \$5.3 million and in the current year K-3 CSR is funded \$16 million and uses Title I and EIA from the prior year's carryover and the current year allocations at \$5.3 million.

Dr. Olsky then reviewed QEIA program concerns regarding ongoing financial support. She stated that the current use of Title I and State EIA funding to supplement the K-3 CSR/QEIA programs eliminates the encroachment on the core General fund. She said if funding is lost, there is no sustainability plan approved for either K-3 CSR or QEIA and the expectation would be for the District to contribute from the core program General fund or other categorical programs. She stated that a loss of both programs might result in an increase in class size.

Dr. Olsky stated that there would be an increased use of categorical funds from Title I and EIA in the 2009-10 school year to maintain both programs assuming State funding for programs continue. She stated that the Board must consider if CSR programs should continue to receive contributions from other allocations. She said that there is a need to communicate to staff and the community that due to the current budget crisis at the State level, the elimination of K-3 CSR, and possibly QEIA may occur.

Board discussion ensued. Dr. Olsky, Mr. Murrey, and Ms. Russo responded to questions from the Board.

ADJOURNED

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

FUTURE MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST: _____

Jane A. Russo
Secretary
Santa Ana Board of Education