

Unapproved Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
**Sequoia Union High School District**  
Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Call to Order	The regular meeting of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees was called to order by President Gordon Lewin at 3:34 p.m., Wednesday, March 15, 2006, in the Sanford Building in Redwood City.
Roll Call	Trustees present:  Don Gibson Gordon Lewin Lorraine Rumley Olivia Martinez Sally Stewart Allyson Hillerby, Student Trustee (5:36 p.m.)  Trustees absent:  None
Board Recessed to Closed Session at 3:36 p.m.	The Board of Trustees recessed to Closed Session to conference with labor negotiators as permitted under Government Code Section 54957.8; to conference with legal counsel regarding existing special education litigation, Government Section 54956.9; to conference with legal counsel regarding potential real property litigation, Government Code Section 54956.9; to discuss personnel matters, Government Code Section 54957, and to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation, Government Code Section 54957.
Return to Public Session at 5:36 p.m.	The Board of Trustees returned to Public Session at 5:36 p.m.
Invitation to Audience	President Lewin welcomed the audience and explained that the Consent Calendar consists of routine or previously discussed items to be considered as a unit and voted upon by roll call vote. He explained the Communications – Oral section of the agenda for permitting members of the audience to make presentations totaling no more than 10 minutes.
Pledge of Allegiance	President Lewin led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Approval of Agenda	Student consent – “yes.” On a motion by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Gibson, the Board of Trustees approved the agenda as presented.
Report Out on Closed Session	President Lewin announced that no action was taken during Closed Session.
Amendments to Consent Calendar	Delete:  8b Approval of Personnel Recommendations 8m Approval of Supplemental Textbook, <i>The Radioactive Boy Scout</i> 8n Approval of Special Education Master Plan

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Approval of  
Consent Calendar

Student consent, “yes.” On a motion by Trustee Gibson, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approved the Consent Calendar as amended. Voting “yes” – Trustees Gibson, Lewin, Martinez, Rumley, and Stewart; voting “no” – none; absent – none.

Approval of Minutes  
for 3/1/06 Bd Mtg

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the minutes for the March 1, 2006, board meeting.

Approval of Personnel  
Recommendations

Student consent – “yes.” On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approved the Personnel Recommendations as indicated.

Approval of Expulsions

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees adopted the hearing panels’ findings and expelled: (1) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2005-06 and Fall 2006-07 semesters and established December 8, 2006, as the date the student may apply for readmission and set conditions for readmission to include that the student was satisfactorily involved in educational and counseling programs designed to address the behaviors that led to the expulsion; (2) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2005-06 semester and established June 8, 2006, as the date the student may apply for readmission and set conditions for readmission to include that the student was satisfactorily involved in educational and counseling programs designed to address the behaviors that led to the expulsion; (3) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2005-06 and Fall 2006-07 semesters and established December 8, 2006, as the date the student may apply for readmission and set conditions for readmission to include that the student was satisfactorily involved in educational and counseling programs designed to address the behaviors that led to the expulsion; (4) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2005-06 and Fall 2006-07 semesters and established December 8, 2006, as the date the student may apply for readmission and set conditions for readmission to include that the student was satisfactorily involved in educational and counseling programs designed to address the behaviors that led to the expulsion; (5) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2005-06 and Fall 2006-07 semesters and established December 8, 2006, as the date the student may apply for readmission and set conditions for readmission to include that the student was satisfactorily involved in educational and counseling programs designed to address the behaviors that led to the expulsion; (6) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2005-06 and Fall 2006-07 semesters and established December 8, 2006, as the date the student may apply for readmission and set conditions for readmission to include that the student was satisfactorily involved in educational and counseling programs designed to address the behaviors that led to the expulsion; (7) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2005-06 and Fall 2006-07 semesters and established December 8, 2006, as the date the student may apply for readmission and set conditions for readmission to include that the student was satisfactorily involved in educational and counseling programs designed to address the behaviors that led to the expulsion, and (8) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2005-06 and Fall 2006-07 semesters and established December 8, 2006, as the date the student may apply for readmission and set conditions for readmission to include that the student was satisfactorily involved in educational and counseling programs designed to address the behaviors that led to the expulsion.

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- Approval of Readmission            Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Readmission Committee's recommendation to accept (name of student to appear in official minutes) back into the District.
- Acceptance of Monthly Financial Report            Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Monthly Financial Report for February 2006.
- Approval of Warrants            Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved Warrants No. 0386 through 0425a totaling \$2,464,567.74.
- Acceptance of Gifts            Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted: \$5,000 from an anonymous donor to help fund the East Palo Alto Future Search Conference; \$10,000 from Peninsula Community Foundation for Principal's Fund at Sequoia High School; and the following gifts for Woodside High School: \$400 from Katherine and Michael Adams (\$200) and Akira and Tina Patrick (\$200) for Robotics Program; \$650 from Peter Jordan for Boys' Basketball; \$150 from John McKee for Girls' Varsity Soccer; \$1,000 from Friends of Kids for football program; \$2,000 from an anonymous donor for Girls' Lacrosse; \$1,000 from an anonymous donor for an English student's trip to Greece; \$408 from Washington Mutual for the Principals' Discretionary account; \$200 from Bonnie Sterngold for gift certificates for needy students; \$250 from Margarita and Jack Abeyta for MESA/AVID, and \$9,072 from Peninsula Community Foundation to KLEAR and asked the Superintendent to send letters of appreciation to the donors.
- Approval of Construction Expenditures            Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the expenditures for: (a) the Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center of \$1,736,355 for Phase Two architectural and engineering services by Hodgetts + Fung, a piggyback contract of \$228,575 for the Phase One modular kitchen from EnviroPlex, and \$43,300 for Phase One geotechnical services by TRC Lowney Associates; (b) the hiring of Cody, Anderson & Wasney for architectural work on the new Redwood High School campus at a cost of \$302,896, and the hiring of DES Architects + Engineers for architectural work to modernize Sequoia High School Classrooms 41 and 42, and to change Room 134 into a staff lounge and a five-unit restroom, and (3)1 the hiring of Cambridge CM Inc., for construction management services for summer modernization work at Carlmont, Menlo-Atherton, Sequoia, and Woodside high schools (\$269,270) and for relocating Redwood High School to James Avenue (\$236,660) at a total cost of \$505,930.
- Approval of Second Interim Report            Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Second Interim Financial Report, the positive certification, and supporting reports, and authorized the Superintendent to file such positive certification with the County Superintendent of Schools.
- Approval of Revision of Board Policy 4300, Management & Confidential Personnel            Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved revised Board Policy 4300, Management and Confidential Personnel, as indicated.
- Approval of Grant            Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved

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Application for TRSSP	the grant application for the Teacher Recruitment and Student Support Program (TRSSP).
Approval of New Courses, Chinese 1 & 2	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the addition of new courses, Chinese 1 and Chinese 2.
Approval of Supplemental Textbook, <i>The Radioactive Boy Scout</i>	<p>Trustee Rumley reported that members of the Curriculum Council had expressed various concerns about <i>The Radioactive Boy Scout</i>.</p> <p>Joy Baumgartel, Science Chair at Woodside High School, explained why she and other science teachers recommend approval.</p> <p>Student consent – “yes.” On the motion by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approved the supplemental textbook, <i>The Radioactive Boy Scout</i> by Ken Silverstein, Villard, New York.</p>
Approval of Special Education Master Plan	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Special Education Master Plan as presented.
Approval of Field Trips	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Sequoia Cheer Team to travel to Anaheim, March 16 – 19; the Menlo-Atherton/Woodside BUILD students to participate in northern California college tour, March 24 – 25; Menlo-Atherton/Woodside BUILD students to participate in southern California college tour, April 8 – 11; Carlmont BSU students to travel to San Jose, March 24 – 26; Woodside/Carlmont Robotics Team to travel to Atlanta, Georgia, April 26 – 30; Woodside Spanish language students to travel to Mexico, April 7 – 14; Sequoia Key Club to travel to San Jose, April 21 – 23; Menlo-Atherton and Woodside Jazz Bands to travel to Reno, April 27 – 30; Menlo-Atherton Advanced Band to travel to Fullerton College, May 11 – 14, and Sequoia AVID students to travel to east bay colleges, March 29.
Special Recognitions	None
Public Hearings	None
Oral Communications	None
Adoption of Resolution No.1321, Reduction of Hours of Certain Classified Svs	Student consent – “yes.” On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Gibson, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1321, Reduction of Hours of Certain Classified Services. Voting “yes” - Trustees Gibson, Lewin, Martinez, Rumley, and Stewart; voting “no” – none; absent – none.
Continued Discussion of Students Not Passing CAHSEE	<p>Superintendent Gemma described the discussions among district staff and principals about recognizing students who had passed all their graduation requirements but not their CASHEE tests.</p> <p>Michael Radoye, President of the Sequoia District Teachers Association (SDTA), reported there was consensus among legislative council repre-</p>

sentatives that students who complete all other graduation requirements should not be denied access to the graduation ceremony and activities, particularly since most students identified are EL students who were not able to pass their tests because of their lack of English skills. He asked that board members consider social justice issues as well as educational issues and indicated that the recommendation of the SDTA Legislative Council was for students who pass their graduation requirements be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Kristine Weisman, Carlmont teacher, noted that students who have completed their graduation requirements but must take the CAHSEE make-up test in May. She asked that such students be permitted to celebrate their accomplishments with their friends and family as their May test scores will not be available until July.

Susan Gold, Carlmont teacher, noted that students who don't pass CAHSEE will face the consequences anyway and expressed the view that the District should give those students the opportunity to celebrate what they have accomplished.

Marilyn Vandebroek, Sequoia High School Special Day Class teacher, added that she fully expects many of her students to pass all their other graduation requirements and not the CAHSEE. She expressed concern about students disengaging, and future parents not seeing special education as a viable choice for their students. She noted that colleges and universities routinely permit their students to walk who are deficient in some units, and district schools have historically permitted LIF students to graduate.

Trustee Stewart acknowledged that when laws are instituted they never work 100 percent. She agreed that students should have opportunity to walk at graduation.

Trustee Martinez added that this situation is not new, because staff has always held strong on refusing students to walk if they have not completed all their graduation requirements. She opined that as high school district trustees certain standards must be maintained.

Trustee Rumley suggested the compromise of letting this year's students walk at graduation and not allow future students to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Trustee Gibson agreed that the public expects the Board to hold the District to a high standard and expressed the view that district students will be able to perform at that level. He agreed with the compromise of allowing students to walk this year but not in future years.

Student Trustee Hillerby questioned the equity of allowing students who had not passed CAHSEE to walk when students who had not passed one or two units would not be permitted to walk.

President Lewin noted that the District now schedules a summer graduation ceremony for students who complete their graduation requirements during the summer. He suggested that those students continue to participate in the graduation activities and asked if they could be addressed separately at the ceremony.

Eric Hartwig, Principal on Special Assignment, noted that students need to take CAHSEE very seriously from the beginning, because they will have many opportunities to take it.

Morgan Marchbanks, Principal at Sequoia High School, expressed the fear that large numbers of students who discover they won't be able to participate in graduation will drop out, thereby negatively affecting the schools' PI status.

Susana Munzell, Coordinator of EL and Categorical, added that the District is not firm enough yet with students and parents. She suggested that the District shares responsibility with students and their families in letting them believe they have a chance to graduate with their peers when it may actually take five years for students' English skills to be proficient enough for them to pass CAHSEE.

Francisca Miranda, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services, reported that 74 students are on target to earn their graduation requirements but have yet to pass their math or English language arts tests.

President Lewin suggested that for this year only students who have not passed CAHSEE be recognized separately from graduates.

Trustee Martinez expressed interest in seeing the results of the February test and the hope that only a small number of students would remain.

President Lewin asked that this item be returned to the Board after the February CAHSEE results are known.

Approval of Personnel  
Recommendations

Trustee Rumley asked about the specifics of the Future Search program and how the funds were used.

Approval of  
Special Ed  
Master Plan

Student consent – “yes.” On a motion by Trustee Martinez, seconded by Trustee Stewart, the Board of Trustees approved the Special Education Master Plan as presented.

Board of Trustees' /  
& Superintendent's  
Comments

Student Trustee Hillerby reported on her participation in the recent Sojourn to the Past trip.

Trustee Rumley announced that the next San Mateo County School Boards Association dinner meeting will be on foundations and encouraged fellow board members to attend.

Trustee Martinez reported on the opening of the beautiful new athletic field at Menlo-Atherton High School.

Trustee Stewart noted that Board Policy 4300, Management and Confidential Personnel, came to the Board for the first time as an Action Item and noted that the previous practice had been to first bring board policies and other non-routine action items to the Board as Discussion Items and then as Action Items.

Recess to

The Board of Trustees returned to Closed Session at 7:10 p.m.

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Closed Session

at 7:10 p.m.

Return to  
Public Session  
& Adjournment  
at 8:42 p.m.

The Board of Trustees returned to Public Session and, by consensus,  
adjourned its meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon Lewin, President

Olivia Martinez, Clerk

dmr