

Unapproved Minutes of Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Sequoia Union High School District
Wednesday, April 19, 2006

- Call to Order The special meeting of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees was called to order by President Gordon Lewin at 4:36 p.m., Wednesday, April 19, 2006, in the Sanford Building in Redwood City.
- Roll Call Trustees present:
- Don Gibson
 Gordon Lewin
 Lorraine Rumley
 Olivia Martinez
 Sally Stewart
- Trustees absent:
- None
- Also present for Board/Student Advisory Council Study Session
- Carlmont
 None
- Menlo-Atherton
 None
- Redwood
 None
- Sequoia
 Allyson Hillerby, Student Trustee
 Shanika Badoya-Mulkerin
 Joseph Garcia
- Woodside
 Heidi Alvarado
 Christina Fletes
 Jorge Sosa
 Mike Sterngold
 Maja Trenkner
- Invitation to Audience President Lewin welcomed the audience and explained that the meeting would begin with the Board of Trustees/Student Advisory Council Study Session where board members would have an opportunity to hear the views of students.
- Pledge of Allegiance Student Trustee Hillerby led meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Board/SAC
Study Session Students started the study session by responding to:
- “What advice would you give your eighth-grade neighbor?”
 “Do you have issues on campus, and if yes, how would you solve them?” “What makes a good teacher? What motivates you to do well in school?”

Superintendent Gemma announced that Woodside student Christina Fletes won the Gates Scholarship, a four-year scholarship, over 1000 other students in the country.

Seniors reported on their majors and on the schools they plan to attend in the fall.

Recognition of Seniors
Not Passing CAHSEE

President Lewin reviewed the options board members had considered with regard to recognizing seniors who had passed all their graduation requirements but had not passed one or both of their CAHSEE tests.

Student Trustee Hillerby suggested that such students be recognized during graduation but not be mixed in with students who had fulfilled all their requirements.

Trustee Gibson suggested that such students participate in the graduation ceremony this year only. He suggested that staff meet with affected parents, so they understand that students still need to pass their test(s).

Trustee Rumley noted that she still supported letting students walk this year only.

Trustee Martinez expressed the belief that students have had a lot of opportunities to study for and pass the test and that students should not participate if they have not passed all their graduation requirements.

Trustee Stewart expressed concern about blaming students for a system that is not functioning well. She advocated for giving affected students a certificate during the graduation exercise..

President Lewin expressed the hope that a decision would be reached. He supported the idea of a one-time participation where affected students would not be the same as those who had passed all requirements.

Marilyn Vanderbroeck, teacher, Sequoia High School Special Day Class, suggested changing standards rather than lowering them.

Kara Turton, Bilingual Resource Teacher, Carlmont High School, spoke on behalf of limited English students who have insufficient English vocabulary to pass CAHSEE.

Mike Radoye, President, Sequoia District Teachers Association, noted that the State has failed in its commitment to offer an accommodation to EL students and urged crafting a remedy that is fair and reasonable and not discriminatory toward EL and special education students.

Jean Slater, EL Teacher, Sequoia High School, reported that it is difficult to master a second language sufficiently to pass the CAHSEE.

Jenny Ortez, EL Teacher, Woodside High School, urged the Board to provide a symbolic gesture toward affected students by recognizing their hard work and giving them a vote of confidence for their future.

Victor Flores, senior, Carlmont High School, attested to the hard work that is necessary for students to pass CAHSEE and urged the Board to permit them to be in the ceremony.

Ana Soto, EL student, Carlmont High School, reported that high school is not easy, and students should be recognized for their hard work.

Jaime Sandoval, EL student, Carlmont High School, expressed concern that he will not be able to pass CAHSEE, because he knows EL students have problems with it.

Molly Nixon, Spanish Teacher, Woodside High School, reported that students have worked very hard to get good grades and complete all graduation requirements and should be recognized even if they cannot pass CAHSEE.

When asked, the Superintendent noted that educators are required to provide accommodations and yet CAHSEE does not provide accommodations for testing. He recommended that the Board consider piloting allowing affected students to participate in the graduation ceremonies for two years, not one.

Bonnie Hansen, Instructional Vice Principal, Sequoia High School, urged enabling EL students to walk during graduation, because it is a matter of equity and second language students do not have the political support of special needs students.

Trustee Rumley and Student Trustee Hillerby reported they were persuaded to view the issue differently after hearing testimony from students and staff.

Student consent – “yes.” Trustee Rumley moved and Trustee Stewart seconded that the Board of Trustees allow students who have passed all district graduation requirements full participation in the graduation ceremonies. Voting “yes” – Trustees Rumley and Stewart; voting “no” – Trustees Gibson, Lewin, and Martinez; absent – none.

Student consent – “yes.” On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Stewart, the Board of Trustees authorized students passing all district graduation requirements to fully participate in graduation ceremonies for two years. Voting “yes” – Trustees Lewin, Rumley, and Stewart; voting “no” – Trustees Gibson and Martinez; absent – none.

Discussion of Project
Labor Agreement

Superintendent Gemma announced that a Project Labor Agreement for the Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center project has been requested by the San Mateo County Building and Trades Council.

Bill Nack, Business Manager/Director of the San Mateo County Building and Trades Council, explained what could be expected from a project labor agreement and noted that terms would be specific to each project. He added that a component could be added to the agreement which would support a construction career apprenticeship program for district students.

Board members asked clarifying questions and expressed cautious support.

President Lewin expressed interest in entering into an agreement if the District were able to go out to bid under the PLA and then have the right to walk away from first round of bids and rebid without the PLA.

As requested by Trustee Gibson, Superintendent Gemma stated that he will come back to the Board in June with more information from both sides of the issue.

Public Hearing
Opened at 8:07 p.m.

President Lewin opened the Public Hearing at 8:07 p.m. on the District's initial proposal to SDTA.

Public Hearing
Closed at 8:08 p.m.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:08 p.m. without comment from the audience.

Approval of
Consent Calendar

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

Approval of Personnel
Recommendations

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Personnel Recommendations as indicated.

Approval of
Job Description for
Chief Administrator
of Special Education

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the job description for Chief Administrator of Special Education as presented.

Approval of Expulsions

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees adopted the hearing panels' findings and expelled: (1) (name 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 to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2005-05 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; (3) (name to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2005-05 and Fall 2006-07 semesters and established December 8, 2006, as the date that 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 to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2005-06 semester and established

June 8, 2006, as the date that 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 to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2005-06 and Fall 2006-07 semesters and established December 8, 2006, as the date that 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 to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2005-06 and Fall 2006-07 semesters and established December 8, 2006, as the date that 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 (7) (name to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2005-06 and Fall 2006-07 semesters and established December 8, 2006, as the date that 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.

Approval of
Stipulated Expulsions

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees expelled: (1) (name to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2005-06 semester. The student will remain at Gateway Program through the end of the 2005-06 school year. While at Gateway Program, the District will ensure that the student receives all special education services included in the student's current and future IEPs. If the student complies with the behavior plan, the student may transfer to a comprehensive school within the District beginning with the first semester of the 2006-07 school year; (2) (name to appear in official minutes) expelled for the Spring 2005-06 semester and suspended the expulsion. The student shall remain at County School-South through the end of the 2005-06 school year. If the student complies with the behavior plan set forth, the student may transfer to a comprehensive school within the District at the beginning of the 2006-07 school year, and (3) (name to appear in official minutes) for the remainder of the 2005-06 school year. The student will be allowed to receive a diploma upon receipt of documentation of completion of courses from a WASC accredited institution. The student is to meet with the vice principal at the site after June 9, 2006, to show proof of completion of the above terms of expulsion.

Denial of Claim

Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees denied the claim received on March 7, 2006, from Dan Siegel, Siegel & Yee, on behalf of his clients, who are students at Sequoia High School.

Recess to
Closed Session
at 8:10 p.m.

The Board of Trustees recessed to Closed Session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation as permitted under Government Code Section 54957 and to conference with real property negotiators as permitted under Government Code Section 54954.5.

Return to
Public Session

The Board of Trustees returned to Public Session and by consensus adjourned its meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Minutes for 4/19/06 Board Meeting
Page 6
& Adjournment
at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon Lewin, President

Olivia Martinez, Clerk

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