

Unapproved Minutes of Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Sequoia Union High School District
Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Call to Order	The special meeting of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees was called to order by President Gibson at 3:05 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2009, in the Sanford Building, Birch Conference Room, at 480 James Avenue, in Redwood City.
Roll Call	Trustees present: Don Gibson Gordon Lewin Olivia Martinez Lorraine Rumley Sally Stewart Absent: Ana Davila, Student Trustee
Recess to Closed Session	The Board of Trustees recessed to Closed Session at 3:08 p.m., to conference with Labor Negotiators; Agency Designated Representative: Patrick Gemma; Employee Organizations: SDTA, AFSCME; conference with Legal Counsel—Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(c): (two cases), and to conference concerning the Superintendent’s Evaluation—Government Code Section 54957
Return to Public Session	The Board of Trustees returned to public session at 5:20 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance	President Gibson led the Board of Trustees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Approval of Agenda	On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approved the agenda.
Report Out on Closed Session	President Gibson reported that no action was taken in Closed Session.
Amendment to Consent Calendar	Add: 6c Approval of Field Trip
Approval of Amended Consent Calendar	On a motion by Trustee Rumley, 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 – Student Trustee Davila.
Approval of Personnel Recommendations	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Personnel Recommendations as indicated.
Appointment of Director of Special Education	Superintendent Gemma announced that it was his recommendation and pleasure to present to the Board the new Director of Special Education, Dr. Lauren O’Leary. He provided an overview of Dr. O’Leary’s background. Lauren O’Leary stated that she was very pleased and excited to be named the Director of Special Education, and she will continue Sequoia district’s commitment to provide an education to all students. Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Lauren O’Leary as Director of Special Education.
Approval of Field Trip	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the field trip request for Carlmont High School Golf Team to go to Carmel on May 11-12, 2009.
Presentation of Initial Bargaining Proposal from District to SDTA	Debra Moore Washington, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, announced that as customary, the District is “sunshining” its bargaining proposal, and there will be a public hearing at the next meeting.

Educational Services Report on
Targets & Measurements for
2008-09

Francisca Miranda, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Division, advised that Educational Services is dedicated to providing educational leadership and technical support to District schools. Dr. Miranda recognized the support staff in her division.

Dr. Miranda identified the District goals that Educational Services focused on in 2008-09. A highly informative video was presented describing Educational Services' programs aligned to the following goals. The video was narrated by Vera Jacobson, Resource Teacher, and Brandon Lee, Coordinator of Evaluation and Assessment.

1. Develop and implement career-technical education
2. Close the achievement gap
3. Align graduation requirements with 21st century skills
4. Establish collaborations with elementary schools and Canada College
- ~~5. Implement innovative, effective staff development practices~~
- ~~6. Implement Measure J~~
7. Revitalize summer school
8. Expand student internship opportunities

Trustee Rumley asked about the transfer of curricular support, and Dr. Miranda advised that there will be limited resource teachers at the District who will support English, math and Career Technical Education. Dr. Gemma advised that staff is looking at the site administrators holding quarterly Subject Area Council meetings.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Rumley, Suanna Gillman-Ponce, Director of English Learners (EL), advised that the parent cohort involves parents whose students are enrolled in Compass and English Immersion Institute and staff meets with the EL parents throughout the summer and on into the fall.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Martinez, Dr. Miranda advised that staff meets with all eight feeder elementary districts when the California Standards Tests are reviewed.

Trustee Stewart asked about SARB (Student Attendance Review Board); Michael Hermosillo, Director of Student Services, advised that the County established a SARB, which is countywide, and the administrative vice principals have been trained on the program that mainly focuses on ninth graders' attendance.

Trustee Lewin inquired about which aspects of summer school have successfully grown, and what will not be happening in 2009-10. Dr. Miranda advised that summer school enrollment was capped at 1600 students. The District will fund the NovaNet Scholars and summer math programs for incoming ninth graders. Trustee Lewin summarized that we are basically reducing the number of sections and not the number of programs offered.

President Gibson asked if Middle College will be affected by restructuring. The question was also asked if the District could charge for summer school, and Superintendent Gemma advised that he would look into it.

Discussion of Long-term
District Goals in Context of the
Financial Crisis

Superintendent Gemma stated that given the economic downturn, it is necessary to discuss which District goals are important to board members and should be focused upon and which goals should have less focus in the years ahead.

The Superintendent said given that the budget reductions for 2009-10 are \$2.5 million we want to send a message to the public that our school sites will experience minimal reduction in programs. The majority of the reductions (\$1.6 million) are at the District, and we have to determine the targets and measurements for 2009-10 which affect the reality of a reduced work force at the District Office.

The reduction in positions at the District for 2009-10 will total 14 actual positions which, taken from the current year's number of positions, equates to an approximate 20 to 30 percent reduction in administration of services. There will be a reduction in student services at the District Office, and the Subject Area Council meetings will be transferred to the sites with the exception of PI (Program Improvement).

The Superintendent said that he would like to bring to the Board as a separate item, discussion concerning closing the District Office to foot traffic in July, announcing that the closure was due to the State budget deficit.

Dr. Gemma listed the Sequoia Union High School District Long-term Three to Five-year Goals as follows:

1. Develop and implement career-technical education
2. Close the achievement gap
3. Align graduation requirements with 21st century skills
4. Establish collaborations with elementary schools and Cañada College
5. Implement innovative, effective staff development practices
6. Implement Measure J
7. Revitalize summer school
8. Expand student internship opportunities
9. Maximize technology for optimal learning, teaching and operational efficiencies
10. Limit outsourcing of Special Education services
11. Develop a Districtwide news and communications program
12. Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of support services

Superintendent Gemma asked Trustees to comment on where we might provide less focus and where must high focus be imparted; then staff will come back with more strategies at the District level.

Trustee Rumley stated that the Board had worked on these goals and she believed they were all important to the District and its students. She asked staff to consider which goals could be paid less attention to now and could be picked up later, and which goals involved collaboration which if removed would collapse. Mrs. Rumley suggested that less focus means that the goal is not totally eliminated.

Trustee Lewin said that the Board should trim rather than eliminate. When something is shut down it takes years to get it reestablished. Concerning closing the District Office in July, Mr. Lewin suggested having the office open for limited days.

Trustee Martinez advised she did not think it was a good situation to close the building in July. Dr. Martinez stated that she did not want to eliminate any of the goals, and suggested perhaps Goal Number 5 could be placed on the list of goals with less focus. In response to Dr. Gemma's question about the Teacher Induction Program, Trustee Martinez said the District should continue to ensure hiring high-quality staff.

Trustee Lewin listed the goals in order of his preference, and they were numbered in order: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Trustee Martinez listed her recommendations as: 1, 3, 4, 7, and 9.

Trustee Stewart made reference to the Vision and asked what we might do to make Goal 2 a viable goal and suggested that four of the other goals could be rolled into this goal; concerning Goal 3, Dr. Stewart suggested that students not be overloaded with courses; for Goal 1, she advised that this goal may impact enrollment and asked what collaboration was needed. Trustee Stewart suggested working with Redwood City 2020 on student internships.

Trustee Gibson observed that Goals 10, 11, and 12 were not affected. Concerning Goals 1 through 9, President Gibson said he does not see the District eliminating any of these goals. He asked where the District could cut back so that it does not lose ground. Concerning closing down the District Office in July, Mr. Gibson said he was not against it, and he also suggested limiting work hours in July.

Trustee Rumley said she was in favor of limiting the hours the District Office was open in July.

Board of Trustees'/
Superintendent's Comments
& Committee Reports

Trustee Lewin advised he had attended a meeting with board members and staff from the City of East Palo Alto and Ravenswood City Elementary District, and the meeting addressed school site issues.

James Lianides, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services, said he had also attended the meeting in East Palo Alto where emergency preparedness was discussed. Because the District transports SUHSD and Tinsley students living in East Palo Alto, we need to look into the transportation issues surrounding emergency planning. Dr. Lianides said there was agreement that these meetings should continue, and there is the potential of increased collaboration between our three agencies. The group will next meet on Thursday, July 2 at 12:30 p.m.

Trustee Rumley announced that three board members had attended the Kent Awards, and Carlmont, Menlo-Atherton, Woodside and the District all received awards.

Trustee Stewart asked about the East Palo Alto Summer Job Program, and Dr. Gemma said he would bring an action item to the Board on May 20.

Adjournment at
7:13 p.m.

On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Don Gibson, President

Sally Stewart, Clerk