

Unapproved Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Sequoia Union High School District
Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Call to Order	The regular meeting of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees was called to order by President Gibson at 4:32 p.m., Wednesday, May 20, 2009, in the Sanford Building, Birch Conference Room, at 480 James Avenue, in Redwood City.
Roll Call	Trustees present: Don Gibson Gordon Lewin (<i>departed at 5:45 p.m. due to illness</i>) Olivia Martinez Lorraine Rumley Sally Stewart Ana Davila, Student Trustee (<i>arrived at 5:30</i>) Absent: Gordon Lewin (<i>departed at 5:45 p.m. due to illness</i>)
Recess to Closed Session	The Board of Trustees recessed to Closed Session at 4:33 p.m., to conference with Legal Counsel—Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(c): (two cases); conference with Real Property Negotiators, Agency Negotiator: Patrick Gemma; conference with Labor Negotiators, Agency Designated Representative: Patrick Gemma, Employee Organizations: SDTA, AFSCME, and discuss a Public Employee Performance Evaluation for a temporary classified employee.
Return to Public Session	The Board of Trustees returned to public session at 5:54 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance	President Gibson led the Board of Trustees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Amended Agenda	Superintendent Gemma advised Board action is requested to add Agenda Item 8t, Adoption of Resolution No. 1399, Naming Fiscal Agent and Legal Applicant for the Built To Last Collaborative; a motion is required and the item can be added if there is a 2/3 majority vote by the Board. This matter came to Dr. Gemma’s attention after the agenda had been prepared; this item requires immediate action and cannot wait until the next regular meeting. Upon adoption of this resolution the District will be reimbursed by \$295,203 in revenue this fiscal year by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and these funds will eliminate the deficit previously projected for the Built To Last program. On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approved amending the agenda for May 20, 2009, with the addition of Agenda Item 8t.
Approval of Amended Agenda	On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Stewart, the Board of Trustees approved the amended agenda.
Report Out on Closed Session	President Gibson reported that no action was taken in Closed Session.
Amendments to Consent Calendar	Removed and voted upon later in the meeting 8c Approval of Expulsions 8k Approval of Job Description for Director Enrollment, Registration, and Personnel 8l Appointment of Vice Principals at Multiple Sites 8t Adoption of Resolution No. 1399, Naming Fiscal Agent and Legal Applicant for the Built To Last Collaborative
Approval of Amended Consent Calendar	On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approve the Consent Calendar as amended. Voting “yes” – Trustees Gibson, Martinez, Rumley, and Stewart; voting “no” – none; absent – Trustee Lewin. Student Trustee consent “yes.”
Approval of Amended Minutes for 5/6/09, Board Meeting	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the minutes for the May 6, 2009, board meeting as amended.

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Approval of Personnel Recommendations	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Personnel Recommendations as indicated.
Approval of Warrants	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved Warrants No. 0418 through 0460A totaling \$5,233,397.43 for April 2009.
Acceptance of Monthly Financial Reports	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted the Monthly Financial Reports for April 2009.
Acceptance of Gifts	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted the gifts and requested the Superintendent to send letters of appreciation to the donors where appropriate.
Approval of Construction Bid	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees awards the bid to DRP Builders in the amount of \$634,000 for the restroom renovations at Woodside High School.
Approval to File Notice of Compl. for Construction Project	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved filing the Notice of Completion for Gala Systems Inc., to provide the lift for the new theater at Carlmont High School.
Approval to File Categorical Exemption, Construction Project	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved filing a Categorical Exemption under CEQA for the Stadium Restroom/Team Room/Classroom project at Woodside High School.
Approval of Contractor for Student Accident Insurance	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the selection of Myers Stevens & Toohey & Co., Inc., as contractor for student accident insurance in fiscal year 2009-10.
Approval of Funding & Support Sponsored Employment Program	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the funding request and support of the Sponsored Employment Program.
Approval of SMCOE Support Services Agreement	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the contract between the SUHSD and SMCOE for district support services.
Approval of Carl Perkins CTE Funding Application, 2009-2010	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the District's Carl Perkins CTE (Career and Technical Education Plan) for Funding, 2009-10.
Approval of CAHSEE Waivers	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam) waivers requested.
Approval of Change in Course Title	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the change in course title from <i>AP French Literature</i> to <i>French Literature Honors</i> .
Approval of Field Trips	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the field trip requests for Menlo-Atherton Boys' Golf Team to go to Pebble Beach, June 9 – 10, 2009, and Woodside High School Cheerleaders to go to Davis, July 22 – 25, 2009.
Approval of API Report	On a motion on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the 2008 API (Academic Performance Index) report.
Appointment of Vice Principals at Multiple Sites	<p>Superintendent Gemma advised that the recommendation is to hire four vice principals, two at Woodside High School and two at Sequoia High School. One vice principal will replace Bonnie Hansen at Sequoia (who will become Principal), and the other is to replace Mary Jo Fox (moving from Woodside to the District). Through the use of site discretionary funds, the principals decided to hire a fifth administrator to have the same number of administrators as Carlmont and Menlo-Atherton. Enrollment has increased at Sequoia, there is the challenging process of keeping out of Program Improvement status, and because of major reductions at the District Office there will be a need for the sites to pick up more of the administrative work.</p> <p>Debra Moore Washington, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, described the application and selection process for the vice principals.</p>

Bonnie Hansen, Incoming Principal at Sequoia High School, introduced Patricia Crespo, Instructional Vice Principal, and Michael Kuliga, Administrative Vice Principal for 2009-10.

David Reilly, Principal of Woodside High School, introduced Maureen Campbell, Instructional Vice Principal, and Alvaro Calderon, Administrative Vice Principal for 2009-10.

Gregory Gruszynski, President of Sequoia District Teachers Association (SDTA), congratulated the four people who were selected vice principals. Mr. Gruszynski said he wanted to point out that cuts are being made on important teaching positions and at the same time new administrative positions are being added.

Dr. Gemma advised that the decision had been made to give site administrations more flexibility on how they spend their resources, and the individual sites have made adjustments. These are necessary hires and the number of administrators are consistent with other high school districts in the area. The new Administrative Vice Principal positions have a reduced work year of 195 days rather than the 222.

On a motion from Trustee Martinez, seconded by Trustee Stewart, the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Vice Principals Patricia Crespo, Michael Kuliga, Alvaro Calderon, and Maureen Campbell.

Special Recognitions

Superintendent's Commendations Dr. Gemma recognized the following students for outstanding academic achievement:

Amrita Seghal	Sasha Duchin	Alex Amato
Vanessa Torres	Eric Law	Tamara Hasoon
Carla Chavez	Alicia Scherba	Gregory Liggett
		Robert Weber

Matthew Zito, Principal of Menlo-Atherton High School, introduced the parents of the honored students. President Gibson presented each student with a Certificate of Recognition.

Superintendent Gemma advised that the following Carlmont students recently received scholarships:

Amir Navid Afshar	Michelle Martinez	Jeffrey Mudd
Lauren Bitter	Alfonso Molina	Hannah Sarver
Mae Cadao		Bobby Weaver

Public Comment

Cecily Harris, a neighbor of Carlmont High School, commented on the noise created by traffic and swimming pool activities; Ms. Harris suggested encouraging students to walk or ride bicycles to school.

Roxanne Kelly, also a neighbor of Carlmont, said that the problem with traffic noise seems to be getting worse and was impacting the quality of life in the neighborhood.

Superintendent Gemma advised that the Board could not comment, and he would contact the neighbors of Carlmont High School in the fall when the new principal arrives.

Correspondence

None

Tabled Recognition of Innovative Teacher

Recognition of Innovative Teacher was tabled due to illness until the June 10, 2009, meeting.

Report on Woodside HS

Principal David Reilly advised that “change” is the word of the day at Woodside, the Bell Schedule will reflect an increase in teacher collaboration time and seventh period will be moved to morning; a cross-discipline curriculum has been developed for small-learning communities comprised of mostly SDC and RSP students; a new website has been created; an online E-Behavior system has been implemented which emphasizes the positive; an after-school program funded by Philanthropic Ventures which provides students with nutritious meals and study skills; a mental health program that served 150-170 students this year, and there are plans for a Career Technical Education building to house the Green Academy and a digital media department.

Diane Mazzei, Instructional Vice Principal, advised that staff is surveying students and looking at data to heterogeneously group students in core classes. Ms. Mazzei advised that Woodside wants to highlight the Green and Clean Academy, and the Engineering Tech Program is led by Arlene Kolber, who has worked in education for 41 years and is the driving force behind this program. The Green Academy will link with the Engineering program. A new course to be offered is *Physics 9* for ninth graders.

Arlene Kolber reported that Woodside had received a grant from Hewlett-Packard for \$265,000 for professional development and virtual training rooms. In collaboration with Cañada College, Woodside is offering two classes in Health Careers. Mrs. Kolber thanked the Board for supporting Woodside’s programs, its leadership and vision.

Trustee Martinez said the cross discipline program for special education students sounded amazing. She asked how many students were in the program, and David Reilly said that there were 35 students enrolled.

Trustee Rumley asked about sustaining the program, and Mr. Reilly said that it was funded through January of 2010 and was at risk; however, if funding was attained he would like to expand the program.

Trustee Stewart asked what impact the after-school program had on expulsions and suspensions.

David Reilly stated that the program has been very transformative and was leading the way toward 21st Century learning.

Dr. Gemma said that he had attended a Redwood City 2020 council meeting where Jean Fraiser reported on health issues and ways to improve the quality of life; the Superintendent advised that proper nutrition and an active lifestyle are a big part of that. The new Director of Sequoia Hospital Foundation also attended the meeting and said he wants to focus on partnership opportunities concerning nutritious food for youth. The Superintendent said that he told the Director about the program at Woodside.

In response to a question posed by President Gibson, Mr. Reilly said that the small learning community English I pod consisted of 50 students in one, ninth-grade class and another 50 students in one, tenth-grade class. The program was promoted with a brochure, by writing letters to parents of sixth, seventh, and eighth grade parents and visiting the elementary schools in the fall.

Presentation of Report of Peer Assistance & Review for 2008-09

Claudia Meyer-Kispersky, teacher at Sequoia High School and Peer Assistance Review (PAR) consulting teacher, said that PAR required a report to the Board concerning a description of the assistance provided. Ms. Meyer-Kispersky advised that she has worked with two teachers and voluntary teachers; and all teachers showed some improvement and were willing to work with her. The work included goal setting and assessment through observations and conferences.

In response to a question posed by Trustee Stewart concerning program costs, Debra Moore Washington, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, advised that the program is able to support the two periods allotted for Ms. Meyer-Kispersky’s time. The District has budgeted funds from the State for the cost of the consultant teacher.

James Lianides said that he would check on the number of the categorical program tier under which PAR is funded.

Presentation of Community
Promise Proposal

Brad Senden reported that Community Promise is a non-profit organization founded by Dan Bauhaus, Bill Creekbaum and himself, whose goal is to increase high school graduation rates by placement of a parcel tax on the ballot at a cost of \$50 per year which would provide students graduating from the Sequoia Union High School District with fully paid college tuition within the California college system.

Trustee Rumley said she thought this was a creative idea.

Trustee Gibson stated the property values within the Sequoia district attendance area could be positively impacted.

Trustee Stewart asked about the changes in demographics and what about students who did not have "green" cards.

Mr. Foote stated that the committee's mission is broad, and it is open to help any students in the District. The plan requires that a financial aid form is completed, and Community Promise pays upon the establishment of financial aid.

Trustee Rumley advised that the next step was polling the community, and she asked that this not take place until after the Redwood City Elementary District's election on June 2.

Superintendent Gemma thanked Sean Foote for the work he has done as a volunteer in this community, including being chairperson of the District's Measure J bond campaign last year.

Discussion of Report on
Governor's May Revise
Budget

Dr. Lianides stated that he was presenting what the Governor of California announced would happen if the State initiatives failed on May 19 (which they did). Right now the State has a \$21 billion problem. What the Governor is proposing for high schools is to cut the revenue limit for school districts, and at the end of this fiscal year reducing revenue by \$258 per student. For Sequoia Union High School District, categorical program funds may not be received until the end of the year.

Dr. Gemma advised that staff is on alert and will be presenting a balanced budget. He announced that Senator Joe Simitian will hold a public forum on Saturday, June 13, at 9:00 a.m., at Palo Alto Unified School District Offices.

Trustee Stewart announced that she had attended the CSBA (California School Boards Association) Delegate Assembly; she advised that K-12 education is 40 percent of the state budget and has taken 60 percent of the budget cuts.

Public Hearing Opened at
8:08 p.m., for Initial Bargaining
Proposal from the District to
SDTA

President Gibson opened the Public Hearing at 8:08 p.m., for the Initial Bargaining Proposal from the District to SDTA (Sequoia District Teachers Association).

Sandy Nelson, Administrative Secretary at Menlo-Atherton High School, said that the proposal to limit medical benefits for upcoming retirees affects her personally; she was speaking for all members who could not be at the meeting.

Gregory Gruzynski, President of SDTA, thanked the District for the proposal, and said he was worried that the possible tradeoffs being made now might have consequences down the road when it comes time to compensate teachers. Mr. Gruzynski asked the Board to continue its commitment to ensuring that the District has a quality teaching force and it be made clear in the agreement that is ultimately achieved.

Public Hearing Closed at 8:17 p.m. President Gibson closed the Public Hearing at 8:17 p.m.

Approval of Woodside High School WASC/SPSA Site Plan

On a motion by Trustee Martinez, seconded by Trustee Rumley, the Board of Trustees approved the Woodside High School WASC/SPSA (Western Association of Schools and Colleges/Single Plan for Student Achievement) site plan.

Approval of Expulsions

Trustee Stewart said that the total number of suspensions and expulsions to date appear to be higher than they were in past years; Dr. Stewart asked what the reason was and what could be done to lower the number.

On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approved the hearing panels' findings and expelled students numbered 1 through 8 (names of students to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2008-09 and Fall 2009-10 semesters and established December 8, 2009, as the date that the students can apply for readmission and set conditions for readmission to include that the students were satisfactorily involved in educational and counseling programs designed to address the behaviors that led to the expulsion.

Approval of Job Description for Director of Enrollment, Registration, & Personnel

In response to a question posed by Trustee Stewart, Superintendent Gemma advised that Susan Berghouse, the current Director of Public Information and Communications, has dropped some her duties and taken on other responsibilities, and the job title and description have been revised to reflect the change in duties.

On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approved the revised job description for the Director of Enrollment, Registration, and Personnel.

Adoption of Res. No. 1399, Naming Fiscal Agent & Legal Applicant for the Built to Last Collaborative

Trustee Stewart asked where Built to Last was listed in the stimulus package. Dr. Gemma advised that Americorps and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act volunteer services received a huge funding boost from the Obama administration designed to ensure continued employment in programs such as Americorps. The District has already been approved to receive these funds. Adoption of this resolution assures that the District will get this money sooner rather than later; these funds are for this year's program and covers the deficit.

On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1399, Naming Fiscal Agent and Legal Applicant for the Built to Last Collaborative. Voting "yes" – Trustees Gibson, Martinez, Rumley, and Stewart; voting "no" – none; absent – Trustee Lewin. Student Trustee consent "yes."

Superintendent's Commendations and Comments

Dr. Gemma reported that he participated in a program at Menlo-Atherton High School honoring parent volunteers, most notable were the stories of philanthropy. Don Gielow, Chief Construction Manager will meet next week with Trustees Martinez and Rumley and provide project updates.

Trustee Martinez said she had the opportunity to take Dr. Thomas Schoenbelt, Assistant Provost and Executive Director of Haas Center Stanford, to Menlo-Atherton, where they met with students in a leadership program reaching out to students in the middle.

Trustee Rumley said she attended a great fundraiser for Adolescent Counseling Services (ACS). The organization raised \$110,000, and supports students at Menlo-Atherton, Redwood and Woodside high schools.

Trustee Stewart reported that the San Mateo County Economic group made a presentation at the CSBA meeting.

Adjournment at 8:35 p.m.

On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Don Gibson, President

Sally Stewart, Clerk

