

Unapproved Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Sequoia Union High School District
Wednesday, June 10, 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 4:03 p.m., Wednesday, June 10, 2009, in the Sanford Building at the District Office in Redwood City.
- Roll Call Trustees present:
- Don Gibson
 Gordon Lewin
 Lorraine Rumley
 Sally Stewart
 Ana Davila, Student Trustee (arrived at 5:30, departed at 6:15 p.m.)
 Evan Weiner, Student Trustee (arrived at 6:15 p.m.)
- Trustees absent:
- Olivia Martinez
- Recess to
Closed Session at 4:05 p.m. The Board of Trustees recessed to conference with Legal Counsel—Initiation of Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(c): (three cases); conference with Labor Negotiators—Agency designated representative: Patrick Gemma; Employee organizations: SDTA, AFSCME; Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release Government Code Section 54957: Classified employee, and to discuss Superintendent’s Evaluation, Government Code Section 54957.
- Reception for Retirees Superintendent Patrick Gemma announced the names of the retirees, who were recognized for their dedication, passion and contributions to educational excellence.
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| Sandra Asher | Jeanne Crawford | Dolores Jackson | Mary Jordan | Gregory Van Hauser |
| Berndette Clapp | Ronald Gordon | Andrea Jenoff | Thomas Salabert | Josephine Wasilewski |
| Patricia Cocconi | Mark Harris | Kay Kearney | Manuel Serrano | Doss Welsh |
| Linda Common | Barbara Hauer | | Victoria Sullivan | |
- Return to
Public Session at 5:40 p.m. The Board of Trustees returned to Public Session at 5:40 p.m.
- Invitation to Audience President Gibson 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 Public Comment section of the agenda was for permitting members of the audience to make presentations about items not on the agenda.
- Pledge of Allegiance President Gibson led the Board of Trustees and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Board Action to
Amend Agenda Superintendent Gemma advised that Board action was requested to add Agenda Item 12a, Discussion of Potential Revisions to the State Budget; a motion was required and the item can be added if there is a 2/3 majority vote by the Board. Dr. Gemma advised that this matter had come to his attention after the agenda had been prepared, and the Board should receive this information concerning the State budget as soon as possible.
- On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Stewart, the Board of Trustees approved amending the agenda for June 10, 2009, by adding Agenda Item 12a. (Agenda Item 12a changes to 12b, and Agenda Item 12b becomes 12c.)

- Approval of Amended Agenda On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Stewart, all four members of the Board of Trustees approved the agenda as amended.
- Report Out on Closed Session President Gibson announced that no action was taken in Closed Session.
- Amendments to Consent Calendar Removed and voted upon later in the meeting
- 8b Approval of Personnel Recommendations
 - 8d Acceptance of Gifts
 - 8h Approval to Proceed with Career Technical Education Facilities Program
 - 8n Approval of Career Technical Education Standards
 - 8p Acceptance of Grant for Closing the Achievement Gap in Algebra 1 for Incoming Ninth Graders
 - 8q Acceptance of Grant for 2009 Hewlett-Packard Innovations in Education
 - 8x Approval of Resolution No. 1403, Budgetary Increases and Transfers at Year-End for 2008-09
- Approval of Amended Consent Calendar On a motion by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Lewin, the Board of Trustees approved the Consent Calendar as amended. Voting “yes” – Trustees Gibson, Lewin, Rumley, and Stewart; voting “no” – none; absent Trustee Martinez. Student Trustee Davila – “yes.”
- Approval of Minutes 5/13/09, & 5/20/09 Brd. Mtgs. Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the minutes for the May 13, 2009, and May 20, 2009, board meetings.
- Approval of Expulsions Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees adopted the hearing panels’ findings and expelled students 1 through 5 (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 expulsions.
- Approval of Construction Bids Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees authorized the Superintendent to take action on Phase I site work bids for the Stadium Restroom/Team Room project at Woodside High School, and awarded the contract to Real Goods Solar, Inc., for the new Music Arts Building at Carlmont High School at a cost of \$341,885 (after rebate \$227,800).
- Approval to File Notices of Completion Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved filing Notices of Completion for Openings Technologies and McGuire and Hester, Inc.
- Approval of Subcontractor Substitutions for Construction Project Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the subcontractor substitution of Tera-Lite for the restroom renovation project at Woodside High School.
- Approval of Agreement w/ Jack Schreder & Associates Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the agreement with Jack Schreder and Associates.
- Acceptance of Insurance Rates from SMCSIG for 2009-10 Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar the Board of Trustees accepted the insurance rates from SMCSIG (San Mateo County Schools Insurance Group) for 2009-10.

Approval of Obsolete Textbooks/Instructional Matls.	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees declared the listed items as obsolete/non-accountable and unsuitable for use, and authorized the Superintendent to dispose of the listed items in accordance with Education Code provisions.
Approval of Teacher Exchange with Mexico	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the teacher exchange with Ministry of Education of Guadalajara and the San Jose Mexican Consulate.
Acceptance of Grant from Sequoia Healthcare District	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted the grant from Sequoia Healthcare District for \$100,000 to be used in 2009-2010.
Approval of English Language Develop. Materials, <i>Milestones</i>	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved adoption of <i>Milestones</i> as the intervention program for ELD I, II, and III courses.
Approval of New Course	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the new course proposal of <i>World Cinema</i> to start in August of 2009.
Approval of Redwood HS WASC/SPSA Site Plan	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Redwood High School WASC/SPSA site plan.
Approval of Job Descr., Dir. Alternative Continuing Ed.	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the job description for Director of Alternative and Continuing Education.
Appointment of Director of Alternative & Continuing Ed.	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Marshall Burgamy as Director of Alternative & Continuing Education.
Ratification & Approval of Field Trips	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees ratified/approved the field trip requests for : Menlo-Atherton High School Track and Field students to Fresno on June 5 and 6, 2009, Menlo-Atherton High School Dance Team to U.C. Davis, August 6-9, 2009, and Sequoia High School Spirit Squad to U.C. Santa Cruz, July 10-13, 2009.
Adoption of Res. No. 1400, Support of Constitutional Amendment SCA 6 (Simitian)	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1400, Support of Constitutional Amendment SCA 6 (Simitian), Enabling School Districts to Pass Local Parcel Taxes with 55 percent of the Vote.
Ratification of Approval of Agreement with Vargas and Company	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees ratified the agreement with Vargas and Company to conduct the Measure H bond financial audit for the period of July 1, 2008, through May 11, 2009.
Approval of Subject Matter Competence	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Subject Matter Competence for Margaret Osborn.
Special Recognitions	
Acceptance of Grant for Closing Achievement Gap in Algebra I for Incoming Ninth Graders	Francisca Miranda, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services, recognized Ellen Wright, Grant Writer, and Janet Creech, Math and Science Resource Teacher, who worked on behalf of SUHSD to obtain the grant for closing the achievement gap for incoming ninth graders.

On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Lewin, the Board of Trustees accepted the grant for closing the achievement gap in Algebra I for incoming ninth graders from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation for implementation of the District's Summer Math Institute in 2009.

Acceptance of Grant for 2009 Hewlett-Packard Innovations in Education

Dr. Miranda said this was an international grant and recognized Janet Creech, who worked with Woodside staff on the grant, and James Vanides of the Hewlett-Packard Group Investment Team, who runs the program. Mr. Vanides advised that SUHSD was only one of 25 school districts awarded this competitive award about using technology in the classroom through a high-tech pipeline focusing on engineering-related careers.

On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Lewin, the Board of Trustees accepted the grant for 2009 Hewlett-Packard Innovations in Education for Woodside High School valued at \$265,314.

Approval of Career Technical Education Facilities Program

Trustee Lewin commented that the Career Technical Education (CTE) is a complex paragon, especially the issue of how much is duplicated between the sites in terms of pathways. We are strong in technology, the question is how the District balances technology with culinary arts and woodshop. We have a large diverse student population and should ensure that all students' needs are met. Mr. Lewin suggested creating a districtwide CTE committee with Board representation.

On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Stewart, the Board of Trustees approved proceeding with the application for the CTE Facilities Program; hiring Jack Schreder and Associates to prepare the final construction drawings for the CTE projects.

Approval of Career Technical Education Standards

In response to the question posed by Trustee Lewin, Vera Jacobson, CTE Resource Teacher, advised that 50 percent of the curriculum presented is career-focused (an example would be students learn to build a resume).

On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Stewart, the Board of Trustees approved the Career Technical Education Standards.

Recognition of Student Trustee & Introduction of New Student Trustee

Susan Berghouse, Director of Enrollment, Registration and Personnel, announced the Board was honoring Student Trustee Ana Davila in appreciation of the time she has given to attend board meetings, and Mrs. Berghouse wished her much success in college. President Gibson presented Ms. Davila with a plaque.

Student Trustee Davila thanked the Board for the opportunity to be student trustee, and said she would like to serve in the same capacity in the future at San Francisco State University.

Susan Berghouse introduced the 2009-10 Student Trustee, Evan Weiner, who will be an 11th grader at Menlo-Atherton High School. Evan said that he is in the Leadership Program at M-A, will be Junior Class President, and is looking forward to being Student Trustee.

Superintendent's Commendations & Comments

Superintendent Gemma introduced Zoe Dubrow, who will be an 11th-grader at Carlmont and took first place in Chemistry at the California Science Fair.

Dr. Gemma also recognized Angel Cardenas, an honors graduate from Redwood High School, who earned a \$5,000 Ruppert Educational Scholarship from Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

Recognition of Innovative Teacher

Susan Berghouse recognized Woodside High School teacher Glenn Carpenter for using innovative and “hands-on” teaching techniques to motivate math students. President Don Gibson presented Master Teacher Glenn Carpenter with a Certificate of Recognition.

District Office Schedule for Month of July 2009

Superintendent Gemma advised that in consideration of the State budget crisis, the District Office will be closed on Mondays and Fridays during the month of July, Maintenance and Technology departments may work a modified schedule; the administrative side of the District will be closed two days a week in July.

Public Comment

None

Discussion of Potential Revisions to State Budget

Superintendent Gemma advised that yesterday’s report from the basic aid districts’ lobbyist was that basic aid districts would be affected by the State budget cuts.

James Lianides, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services, said there would be additional cuts in funding across the State budget and directly to Education beyond the cuts listed in February. Basic aid districts have offered to take the same reductions as revenue districts. These additional cuts are retroactive going back to July of 2008, 80 percent of the 2008-09 cuts may be mitigated by stimulus funds. For SUHSD the net additional hit for 2008-09 would be \$86 per student per ADA (Average Daily Attendance). In 2009-10, there is a \$216 per student ADA reduction in addition to the 2008-09 reduction, which results in a cumulative \$731 reduction per student ADA in 2009-10. Dr. Lianides reported SUHSD will need to make a total of \$5.5 million in reductions and anticipates coming back on June 24 to get a sense of where the Board wants the District’s ending balance to be at year-end on June 30, 2010.

Dr. Gemma stated the projections show that the District has already reduced the 2009-10 budget by \$2.5 million, and the \$731 per student ADA reduction is on top of the \$2.5 million. The Superintendent advised that staff will present strategies for additional reductions for 2009-10 and 2010-11 at the meeting on June 24.

Trustee Rumley asked how comfortable the Board was with reducing the reserve, and how the reduction would impact the District in the next ten years.

President Gibson suggested raising revenue by placing a parcel tax on the ballot in November or in 2010.

Discussion of Proposal from *Alternatives Unlimited*

Superintendent Gemma introduced J. Vincent Brown, Senior Staff Member of *Alternatives Unlimited*, an organization providing alternative education to students at risk in programs named *Drop Back In* and *Alternative Education*.

J. Vincent Brown said *Alternatives Unlimited* was an effective needs-based, data-driven program for students with unmet needs. The program began in 1997 and is owned by a former superintendent. Mr. Brown described the two programs.

In response to a question posed by President Gibson, Dr. Gemma advised that the *Drop Back In* program would cost the District more money; however, he would explore with Mr. Brown opening an Alternative Learning Academy which might be cost-neutral.

Currently, the District contracts with the County, and the *Alternatives Unlimited* program offers a cost savings. Dr. Gemma said that if the Board agreed, he would further explore the option of this program funding Community Day schools.

Trustee Lewin said he would like to see due diligence and learn more about the *Alternatives Unlimited* organization.

Discussion of Board Meeting Dates During Summer

Dr. Gemma said that although we are trying not to have a board meeting in July, he asked the Board to reserve July 29 as a tentative board meeting if required. The Superintendent advised that regular board meetings have been scheduled for Wednesday, August 12 and Wednesday, August 26.

Superintendent Gemma advised that the schedule for board meetings is in the process of being developed for next year, and consideration is being given to reducing the number of meetings in order to lessen the anxiety of a reduced staff. We will bring the schedule to the Board on June 24.

Opened Public Hearing at 7:55 p.m., Adoption of Res. No. 1401, Approving Engineer's Report, etc.

President Gibson opened the Public Hearing at 7:55 p.m., for consideration of adoption of Resolution No. 1401, Approving Engineer's Report, Confirming Diagram and Assessment, and Ordering Levy of Assessment for Fiscal Year 2009-10 for the SUHSD Maintenance Assessment District.

There were no speakers at the Public Hearing.

Closed Public Hearing 7:56 pm

President Gibson closed the Public Hearing at 7:56 p.m.

Adoption of Res. No. 1401 Approving Engineer's Report for 2009-10 Maintenance Assessment District

On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Stewart, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1401, Approving Engineer's Report, Confirming Diagram and Assessment and Ordering Levy of Assessment for Fiscal Year 2009-10 for the SUHSD Maintenance Assessment District. Voting "yes" – Trustees Gibson, Lewin, Rumley, and Stewart; voting "no" – none; absent – Trustee Martinez. Student Trustee consent "yes."

Approval of District Calendar for 2010-11

On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Stewart, the Board of Trustees approved the District Calendar for 2010-11.

Approval of Declar. of Need for Fully-Qualified Educators

On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Stewart, the Board of Trustees approved the Declaration of Need for Fully-Qualified Educators as presented.

Approval of Board Candidate Policy for 11/3/09, Election

On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Rumley, the Board of Trustees approved the Board Candidate Statement Policy as indicated for the November 3, 2009 General Election.

Approval of Personnel Recommendations

Trustee Stewart requested that the Board approve these consultants prior to commencement of services.

Debra Moore Washington, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, said she would look into the reason why these consultant agreements came late to the Board. Mrs. Washington stated that a reminder will be sent to District and school site staff to obtain Board approval of consultants prior to services being provided.

On a motion by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Rumley, the Board of Trustees approved the Personnel Recommendations as indicated.

Acceptance of Gifts

Superintendent Gemma said he wanted to acknowledge Blach Construction for its generous gift of \$3,000, which will provide student scholarships to be divided between the five schools in the District. Dr. Gemma congratulated Dr. Lianides and Inspector Ralph Adams for their bocce ball expertise and coming in first place in Blach's tournament.

On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Stewart, the Board of Trustees accepted the gift and requested the Superintendent to send a letter of appreciation to the donor.

Adoption of Res. No. 1403,
Budgetary Increase/Transfer
at Year End for 2008-09

Trustee Stewart asked what the budget transfers were for; Dr. Lianides advised that this is a *pro-forma* way to balance accounts at year-end when staff is closing the books.

On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Lewin, the Board of Trustees Adopted Resolution No. 1403, Budgetary Increases and Transfers at Year-End for 2008-09. Voting "yes" – Trustees Gibson, Lewin, Rumley, and Stewart; voting "no" – none; absent – Trustee Martinez. Student Trustee consent "yes."

Board of Trustees'/Supt's.
Comments & Committee
Reports

Trustee Gibson said he and Dr. Martinez attended the East Palo Alto Phoenix Academy panel discussion on dropouts, which was professionally facilitated and everyone came away with good information.

Trustee Lewin reported that he and Trustee Stewart attended a luncheon at Sequoia High School honoring staff retirees and Principal Morgan Marchbanks. Mr. Lewin also said he attended the Woodside graduation and the speakers were very inspiring.

Trustee Rumley said she attended an event on foster youth in the community, which was very insightful and interesting.

Trustee Stewart said she was at the Redwood graduation. Adolescent Counseling Services is sponsoring a workshop on health counseling courses for youth at the Menlo Park Chamber City Council. Dr. Stewart said she will not be in town for the July board meeting and will be available by telephone.

Debra Moore Washington thanked the board members and staff who attended the African American Baccalaureate, which was very successful.

Adjournment
at 8:12 p.m.

On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Rumley, the Board of Trustees adjourned its meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Don Gibson, President

Sally Stewart, Clerk