

Unapproved Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Sequoia Union High School District  
Wednesday, June 24, 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 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 24, 2009, in the Sanford Building at the District Office in Redwood City.
Roll Call	Trustees present:  Don Gibson Gordon Lewin Olivia Martinez Lorraine Rumley Sally Stewart  Evan Weiner, Student Trustee (arrived at 6:07 p.m.)  Trustees absent:  None
Recess to Closed Session at 3:01 p.m.	The Board of Trustees recessed regarding Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release; Conference with Legal Counsel—Anticipated Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(c): (one case); Conference with Real Property Negotiators—Government Code Section 54956.8 (two cases); Conference with Labor Negotiators—Agency Designated Representative: Patrick Gemma; Employee Organizations: SDTA, AFSCME.
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 consisted 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 Agenda	On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approved the agenda.
Report Out on Closed Session	President Gibson advised that the Board met in Closed Session to discuss the acquisition of property located at 1054 Myrtle Street in East Palo Alto, and by a vote of four to zero the property purchase from Mr. and Mrs. Pena for \$450,000 was authorized.
Amendments to Consent Calendar	Removed and voted upon later in the meeting  8c Approval of Personnel Recommendations 8i Approval of Computer Equipment Bid 8n Approval of Contract for Vending Machines at Sites 8t Approval of Revised Management Salary Schedule
Approval of Amended Consent Calendar	On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Stewart, 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 Weiner.
Report on Teacher Induction Program Plan	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Teacher Induction Program Summary Report.
Approval of Minutes 6/10/09 Board Meeting	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the minutes for the June 10, 2009, board meeting.

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Approval of Warrants	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved Warrants No. 0461A through 0511 totaling \$6,865,133.32 for May 2009.
Acceptance of Monthly Financial Reports	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted the Monthly Financial Reports for May 2009.
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 2008-09 and Fall 2009-10 semesters and establish December 8, 2009, as the date that the student can 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 2008-09 and Fall 2009-10 semesters and establish December 8, 2009, as the date that the student can 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 2008-09 and Fall 2009-10 semesters and that the expulsion be suspended. The student is to remain in current school placement for the 2008-09 semester and transfer to another District school for Fall 2009-10 semester; (4) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2008-09 and Fall 2009-10 semesters and that the expulsion be suspended; (5) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Fall and Spring 2009-10 semesters and establish May 8, 2010, as the date that the student can 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 2008-09 and Fall 2009-10 semesters and that the expulsion be suspended; (7) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring 2008-09 and Fall 2009-10 semesters and establish December 8, 2009, as the date that the student can 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 Fall and Spring 2009-10 semesters and establish May 8, 2010, as the date that the student can apply for readmission.
Acceptance of Gifts	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted the gift of \$1,000 from the Silicon Valley Foundation via an anonymous donor to the Woodside High School Library and requested the Superintendent to send a letter of appreciation to the donor.
Authorized Declaring Property As Surplus	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees declared the listed items as surplus property, obsolete and unsuitable for use, and authorized the Superintendent to dispose of the surplus items in accordance with Education Code provisions.
Approval of Construction Projects	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Site Improvement Project at Woodside High School.
Approval of Construction Bids	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the bid of \$25,500 received from Liberty Electric to perform the energy savings retrofit in Stogner gym at Carlmont High School; approved the bid of \$39,800 for AMG Environmental to perform the demolition of Music and Art classrooms at Menlo-Atherton High School, and authorized the Superintendent to take action on bids received during the summer.
Approval to File Notice of Completion	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved filing the Notice of Completion for Blach Construction for the new Performing Arts Center at Menlo-Atherton High School.
Approval of Lease Agreement for Cell Phone Tower	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Lease Agreement with T-Mobile for cell tower installation at Sequoia High School.
Approval of Contract to Host Website	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved contract to host SUHSD website at a cost of \$7,950 in 2009-10 and \$2,400 in 2010-11 for a total of \$10,350, which represents all costs for a two-year agreement.

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Denial of Claim	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees denied the claim received on June 3, 2009.
Approval of Agreement for Youth Data Archival System	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the new two-year data use agreement between SUHSD and the John Gardner Center.
Approval of Contractor for Substitute Calling System	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the contract for a new substitute calling system.
Denial of Claim Filed by Summit Inst. for Everest	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees denied the claim filed by Summit Institute on behalf of Everest Charter School as non culpable.
Approval of Field Trips	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the field trip requests for Woodside High School Octagon Club student to go to Orlando, Florida, July 4-7, 2009, and the Menlo-Atherton Cheer Squad to go to Santa Clara on August 1-2, 2009.
Special Recognitions	
Superintendent's Commendations	Redwood High School Science Teacher, Johnny DeSollar, introduced Nicole Yelich, of PG&E, which provided a \$10,000 Bright Ideas grant to Redwood. Mr. DeSollar also introduced Redwood students who were working on environmentally-related projects funded by the grant:
Travis Bench	Gabriel Sandoval
	Dwgn Strong
	Edgardo Velasco
	Alexander Zaragoza
	Francisca Miranda, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services, introduced four teachers from the Mexican Teacher Exchange Program. This is the second year that the teachers from this excellent program have visited SUHSD.
	Trustee Martinez commended the Teacher Induction Program and the excellent report that was approved under Information/Consent.
Report on Restructuring the Compass Program	Morgan Marchbanks, Summer School Administrator, introduced Summer School Co-Principals Javier Galviz and Tina Dress, who reported the aim of the ten-year old Compass program is to ensure that incoming ninth graders experience success in high school. This year's goal was to standardize the program offered at the four comprehensive school sites.
	Carol Gray, of Thrive Foundation, was introduced, whose program had contributed \$53,000 to the District to pay for a teacher coordinator and staff development.
	Trustee Lewin requested enrollment data including the number of students in the program living in East Palo Alto.
	Trustee Martinez suggested offering this program year-round.
	Dr. Gemma stated that the goal is to provide the Compass Program to every ninth grader.
Presentation of Initial Bargaining Proposal from Adult School	Debra Moore Washington, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, advised that the Sequoia Adult School was presenting its initial contract bargaining proposal. A public hearing will be held at the next meeting.
	Joan Singer, President of Sequoia Adult School Federation of Teachers, said the Adult School teachers look forward to meeting with the District and thanked the Board of Trustees for its strong support of the Adult School.
Public Comment	None
Correspondence	None

Discussion of Possible Additional Budget Reductions for 2009-10

James Lianides, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services, advised that this agenda item was precursory to the budget items coming later in the agenda. Dr. Lianides reviewed the State budget situation that had seriously declined since February with the State needing to cut expenditures by an additional \$24 billion. The Legislative Budget Conference Committee is recommending that basic aid school districts share an equal burden of these cuts, and the Sequoia district stands to lose an additional \$5.5 million over the next two years beyond those reductions it made in February. This is not a one-year problem—the District is looking at a multi-year scenario with very flat growth of property tax revenue. Staff is proposing to possibly reduce the 2009-10 budget by an additional \$3 million and in 2010-11 reducing the budget again by \$1.5 million. Dr. Lianides said he anticipates that the State will take the \$5.5 million from the District's categoricals, and the only restricted funds will be those coming from the U.S. government.

Greg Gruszynski, President, Sequoia District Teachers Association, said he thought the Board had done a good job building up the District's large reserve—it is a rainy day fund and it's raining. Mr. Gruszynski said that the District is in a uniquely good position to deal with the situation and suggested reducing expenditures that do not impact students, to work with the unions and begin the bargaining process.

James Lianides reported that health benefits will increase in 2009-10 by approximately 5 percent.

Trustee Lewin said the Board needed to address the uncertainties. He suggested that the Superintendent increase communications correspondence with the community.

Dr. Lianides advised that the District's General Fund reserve is actually lower. This is the first time reserves from the General Fund have been combined with Fund 17 (the Special Reserve Fund-other) to report total District reserves.

Trustee Martinez said that these are unprecedented times, and the Board needs to move forward with the proposed additional \$3 million in reductions. Dr. Martinez seconded Trustee Lewin's recommendation for more communication with the community. We need to do a good job of letting people know what the issues are, protect the sanctity of the classroom, and let the community know that the District continues to meet its students' needs.

Trustee Rumley said we need to work with our labor groups, and we have to put our students first.

Trustee Stewart said she advocates the Board interacting with the community. The schools serve the community; and reality is known only when all views in the room are heard.

President Gibson said the financial situation will affect the District for several years; there needs to be communication with the public. A parcel tax should be a future consideration. We need to consider reducing the budget by approximately \$3 million.

Dr. Gemma said he had met with union leadership on Monday and reminded the group of the District's core values, and said there may be a need to make additional budget reductions. However, there was a way to save jobs by everyone making a small sacrifice. Superintendent Gemma said his preference would be to reduce school year days, which has the least impact on students.

Discussion of Long-Term Facility Planning for Everest Charter School

James Lianides advised that the District is offering a short-term option for two years to Everest Charter School to house its students at 763 Green Street, in East Palo Alto. The District would begin renovating the property at Fifth Avenue in Redwood City where Everest students would remain until the District could build a long-term facility to house two or three charter schools in East Palo Alto.

Superintendent Gemma advised the District needed a site for the Adult School and more importantly there would be mutual small schools in East Palo Alto. In the case of Everest, we want to attract students from the west end of the District, which will create an opportunity for a truly diverse student population within East Palo Alto. In addition, 20 percent of the District's student body lives in East Palo Alto.

Dr. Gemma requested direction from the Board concerning this long-term offer to the Everest leadership.

Trustee Lewin said he thought the plan was good; he liked the quality of the project and the central location of the Green Street facility.

Dr. Lianides said that Measure J bond language addresses building charter schools in East Palo Alto—not in Redwood City.

Trustee Rumley said this plan is good for East Palo Alto as well as for the District.

President Gibson stated that this was a good, long-term plan. The District has an arrangement with the YMCA for use of the gymnasium facilities, which is located close to the Green Street property.

Opened Public Hearing at 7:53 p.m., on Adoption of Official Budget for 2009-10

President Gibson opened the Public Hearing at 7:53 p.m., for consideration of Adoption of Official Budget for 2009-10.

Gregory Gruszyski said the budget reflects current realities of the District and suggested that in a prior discussion the issue of how we might budget into the next year was a bit mischaracterized. If nothing was done we would have a \$4.8 million ending balance, and he was not proposing that there was no need for more cuts to be made.

Closed Public Hearing, 7:59 p.m.

President Gibson closed the Public Hearing at 7:59 p.m.

Opened Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m., Adopt. Res No 1404, Accept State Categorical Funds & Implement Flexibility by SBX3 4

President Gibson opened the Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m., Adoption of Resolution No. 1404, Accepting State Categorical Funds and Implementing Flexibility Authorized by SBX3 4.

There were no speakers at the Public Hearing.

Closed Public Hearing, 8:00 p.m.

President Gibson closed the Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m.

Rejected Additional Reductions to 2009 Summer School

Dr. Gemma advised that the 2009 Summer School is funded by the 2009-10 District budget, and in the past Summer School was considered a categorical program with the District receiving State funding on a per student basis. In February 2009, the State said that Summer School would be considered part of Tier 3 under categorical programs and districts would receive 80 percent of what was received in 2008 whether Summer School was offered or not. Currently the District is operating Summer School in the First Session with 1600 students enrolled. If the second session was disbanded, the District would continue to offer Compass, EII, SII and courses to seniors who needed credits to graduate.

Student Trustee Weiner suggested more flexibility in graduation requirements should be given consideration, especially with PE and Safety/Drivers education credits. He has several friends enrolled in Summer School making up credits to graduate.

Trustee Stewart expressed concern about what students would be doing who were expecting to be in Summer School the second semester.

Superintendent Gemma said he believed that school districts can charge for Summer School. There should be other ways for students to get credits—such as independent study and online courses.

Trustee Rumley stated that the District already had a limited the number of students enrolled in Summer School; she asked why are we putting these students at risk by cutting the second session. Trustee Rumley said she could not support this additional reduction, people needed to receive more warning.

Trustee Martinez said she agreed with Trustee Rumley.

Morgan Marchbanks, Summer School Administrator, advised that the Board is talking about 1400 students of which 130 are seniors.

Trustee Martines said, on the other hand it might take something like cutting Summer School to make the community aware of the challenges we are facing.

Trustee Lewin said that having a reduced school year is one of the unintended consequences resulting in reduced graduation rates. We need to change Summer School it cannot be this costly of a program. He asked, do we grant waivers for PE, charge for those who want enrichment and preserve the core of Summer School so the District's graduation rate is not impacted?

Trustee Stewart said she agreed with Trustee Rumley, we do not want to cancel this program.

The following people spoke in favor of holding Summer School for the Second Session:

Jim Redman

Greg Gruszynski for David Lee

Taylor Williams

Morgan Marchbanks said that of the 1670 students enrolled in Summer School, 1161 were eligible for reduced-priced lunches and 87 percent are students of color who will be affected by this decision.

On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Stewart, the Board of Trustees rejected the recommendation to make additional reductions to the 2009 Summer School program. Four Board Members voted "yes" and one Board Member voted "no."

Adoption of Official Budget  
for 2009-10

James Lianides said the 2009-10 budget includes all of the assumptions about Multi-year Projections and a .7 percent increase in property tax revenue. Basically, due to the failure of State initiatives the State was going to impose far more drastic reductions. Theresa Parsons, Associate Superintendent, Fiscal and Operational Services, at San Mateo County Office of Education, advised that he could present a budget to the Board for adoption which is known to be out-of-date. When more factors become known as to how the State budget plays out staff will bring back a more accurate budget.

Trustee Stewart requested the detail behind the budget; the programs offered at the schools and how that money is spent on program.

Trustee Rumley said it would be helpful to have that information, especially if we are talking about a parcel tax.

Trustee Martinez thanked Dr. Lianides and Martin Fuentes, Controller, for all the work that went into the budget.

Trustee Lewin said the budget document serves two purposes: financial control and it can be used as a policy document. We do know the money is going to be taken out of categorical funds. If the budget cuts were now, the District would lose 70 percent of its categorical programs. All of the State cuts will go to the students whose needs are the greatest. It is up to each basic aid district to determine how to handle the situation. The Superintendent is proposing to go in another direction. The big picture here is we need to be successful in working with our community and find a rational way to address these cuts.

Superintendent Gemma said that he agreed with Trustee Lewin, the Official Budget is a financial document, and the Board does need a policy document.

On a motion by Trustee Martinez, seconded by Trustee Rumley, the Board of Trustees adopted the Official Budget for 2009-10. Voting "yes" – Trustees Gibson, Lewin, Martinez, and Rumley; voting "no" – Trustee Stewart. Student Trustee consent "yes."

Adoption of Res. No. 1404  
Accept State Categorical Funds &  
Implement Flexibility by SBX3 4

Trustee Rumley said she was concerned about putting the money for these programs in one pot.  
Dr. Gemma said that in reality there is not much money in those programs, and the General Fund will need to backfill them. The Superintendent advised that this is a requirement of the legislature to adopt this resolution which will provide flexibility to transfer funds.

On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1404, Accepting State Categorical Funds and Implementing Flexibility Authorized by SBX3 4. Voting “yes” – Trustees Gibson, Lewin, Martinez, Rumley and Stewart; voting “no” – none; absent – none. Student Trustee consent “yes.”

Approval of Personnel  
Recommendations

Trustee Stewart asked about hiring Action Learning Systems (ALS).

Francisca Miranda advised that the evaluation presented last fall was the result of the impact of Program Improvement (PI) and ALS was hired to improve student achievement.

On a motion by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Rumley, the Board of Trustees approved the Personnel Recommendations, including certificated and classified employees, as indicated.

Approval of Computer  
Equipment Bid

On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Rumley, the Board of Trustees approved Omnipro as the vendor for the computer equipment bid.

Approval of Contract for  
Vending Machines at Sites

Trustee Stewart asked how much money is received from the vending contracts.

James Lianides said it was over \$50,000 per school, and the revenue was shared with the food service program. There is new legislation regulating the types of items that could be placed in the vending machines which has affected sales, and staff has put out Requests for Proposals (RFP). There are six or seven vendors interested in bidding this RFP, and they need to bid items that are compliant with the legislation. We hope to have a decision after July 9, which would give us time to get the vending machines in place prior to school starting.

On a motion by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Rumley, the Board of Trustees authorized the Superintendent to take action on the beverage vending contract.

Approval of Revised Management  
Salary Schedule

Debra Moore Washington, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, reviewed the changes to the Management Salary Schedule.

Dr. Gemma said he should point out that the increased cost for the Vice Principals was paid for by site discretionary funds. The net result was a decrease in 2.0 FTE for management salaries, which is an estimated savings of \$300,000.

The following people spoke concerning this item: Edith Salvatore, Sequoia High School Instructor and SDTA Representative, and Sharon Bologna read a letter from Nadia Bledsoe, AFSCME Business Agent.

Superintendent Gemma said he felt an obligation to respond to a portion of the letter from Nadia Bledsoe. Following a year’s study by a noted communications firm, it was recommended to hire a Public Information Officer and supplement that plan with a \$90,000 contract for additional public relations work. The District found an extremely experienced person who accepted the position and, because of that person’s expertise, decided to change the Public Information Officer to a senior management position and save the additional \$90,000 cost of consultants. There was verbal agreement that the person would work at a lesser salary for half year, and the advancement of the Public Information Officer on the Management Salary Schedule was to meet a contractual obligation and was not a raise. Dr. Gemma said he continues to support the need for this position.

David Reilly, Principal of Woodside High School, advised that at Woodside there has been complete transparency concerning the funding of an additional Administrative Vice Principal (195 day work year). With the addition of another Vice Principal the teachers will be better served—discipline is more immediate and the teachers will see a difference right away.

On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Lewin, the Board of Trustees approved the revised Management Salary Schedule.

Board of Trustees'  
Superintendent's Comments &  
Committee Reports

The Superintendent confirmed the agreement to call a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2009; the agenda items include adopting a resolution reserving the Board's right to reduce employee compensation for 2009-10, subject to Board's collective bargaining obligations, announce the Appointment of the Vice Principal in Charge at Redwood High School and the Board will meet in Closed Session.

Trustee Martinez said it is to be expected that there will be reaction concerning the very strong actions and positions the Board is taking. Dr. Martinez said she wanted to empathize with District employees who are seeing their colleagues lose positions and it is easy to second-guess decisions. She reminded everyone that we are all here for the same thing.

Trustee Rumley announced that she attended the opening of the new Teen Wellness Center on James Avenue. The Center provides confidential services and support to our teens (any student who is 12 years old can seek services). Trustee Rumley thanked the Board for its support and for providing the building. This project was a prime example of three collaborative groups working together to serve students.

Trustee Stewart said she was at the Adult School graduation, which was very well done and ran smoothly. The English Language students had two celebrations at Woodside High School.

Adjournment  
at 9:42 p.m.

On a motion by Trustee Rumley, seconded by Trustee Lewin, the Board of Trustees adjourned its meeting at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Don Gibson, President

Sally Stewart, Clerk