

Unapproved Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Sequoia Union High School District
Wednesday, February 20, 2008

- Call to Order The regular meeting of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees was called to order by President Rumley at 4:10 p.m., Wednesday, February 20, 2008, in the Birch Conference Room, Sanford Building, at the District Office in Redwood City.
- Roll Call Trustees present:
- Don Gibson
 Gordon Lewin
 Olivia Martinez
 Lorraine Rumley
 Sally Stewart
 Megan Fisher, Student Trustee (*arrived at 6:27 p.m.*)
- Trustees absent:
- None
- Recess to
Closed Session at 4:11 p.m. The Board of Trustees recessed to conference with real property negotiators as permitted by Government Code Section 54956.8.
- Return to Public
Session at 4:40 p.m. The Board of Trustees returned to Public Session at 4:40 p.m.
- Invitation to Audience President Rumley 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. She 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 Rumley led the Board of Trustees and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Agenda On a motion by Trustee Gibson, seconded by Trustee Martinez, the Board of Trustees approved the agenda as presented.
- Report Out on
Closed Session President Rumley announced that no action was taken in Closed Session.
- Amendments to
Consent Calendar Delete:
- b. Approval of Personnel Recommendations
- Approval of
Consent Calendar On a motion by Trustee Martinez, seconded by Trustee Gibson, 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 Fisher.
- Approval of Minutes
for 2/6/08, Brd. Mtg. Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the minutes for the February 6, 2008, board meeting.
- Approval of Warrants Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved Warrants No. 02851A through 0312, totaling \$4,359,992.16, for January 2008.
- Approval of Monthly
Financial Report Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees accepted the Monthly Financial Report for January 2008.

Approval of Expulsions	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees adopted the hearing panels' findings to expel: (1) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring semester and Fall 2008-09 semesters and establish December 8, 2008, 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; (2) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring semester and Fall 2008-09 semesters and establish December 8, 2008, 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; (3) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring and Fall 2008-09 semesters and establish December 8, 2008, 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 of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring and Fall 2008-09 semesters and establish December 8, 2008, 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 (5) (name of student to appear in official minutes) for the Spring and Fall 2008-09 semesters and establish December 8, 2008, 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 Readmissions	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Readmission Committee's recommendation to accept (name of students to appear in official minutes), and previously expelled students, back into the District.
Approval of CAHSEE Waivers	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees declared the CAHSEE (California High School Exit Examination) waivers requested.
Approval of Redwood High School Site Plan	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Redwood High School Site Plan.
Approval of Job Description for Work Experience Ed. Teacher/Coordinator	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the job description for the Work Experience Education Teacher/Coordinator.
Approval of Work Exp. Education Standards	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the Standards for Work Experience Education.
Approval to Hire Architect & Initiate Relocation of Portable Classrooms	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved hiring Cody Anderson and Wasney Architects on a time and material basis; bidding all necessary site preparation work; hiring testing service firms as needed; the estimated budget for relocating portable classrooms will not exceed \$450,000.
Approval to Proceed with Phase One Construction of Sequoia HS Master Plan	Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved proceeding with Phase One of the new gymnasium/athletic complex: advertising for bids as needed; hiring Cody Anderson and Wasney Architects, and the cost will be \$4 million for Phase One construction of the Sequoia High School Master Plan project.

- Approval to File Notice of Completion
- Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved filing a Notice of Completion for Beals Martin Associates for the new Ceramics Studio at Sequoia High School.
- Approval of DKS Assoc. to Conduct Traffic Planning Study
- Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved hiring DKS Associates as the engineering firm to conduct an internal traffic planning study for Menlo-Atherton High School.
- Approval of Field Trips
- Upon roll call vote on the Consent Calendar, the Board of Trustees approved the field trip requests for Sequoia Upward Bound students to visit Sacramento State University, February 25, 2008; Menlo-Atherton Boys' Golf Team to compete in Salinas, March 4, 2008; Carmont High School Black Student Union Club to go to San Jose, March 14-16, 2008, Chinese language students and teachers to visit China, March 18-27, 2008, Track Team to compete in Azusa on March 20-23, 2008, Arcadia on April 10-13, 2008, and Ceritos on May 29-June 1, 2008, and Sequoia High School Key Club to visit Sacramento on April 18-20, 2008.
- Valerie Gibbs, Redwood HS Innovative Teacher Recognized
- Marshall Burgamy, Principal, Redwood High School, commended Valerie Gibbs, English and Art teacher, for her enthusiasm and innovative teaching methods. Mr. Burgamy stated that Ms. Gibbs brings a strong sense of community-building to Redwood High School.
- Susan Berghouse, Director of Information and Communications, recognized that Valerie Gibbs holds students to high academic standards and at the same time she makes learning fun.
- Special Recognitions
- Superintendent Gemma commended:
- Carmont High School student Gary Lent for being selected for the All-State Honor Band.
 - Carmont High School student Joy Zhang and Menlo-Atherton High School student Heidi Galbraith for being selected as candidates for the United States Presidential Scholars Program.
 - Carmont High School student Joy Zhang for being one of four students selected from San Mateo County to participate in the Governor's Academic Recognition program.
 - The following students will receive Sequoia Awards Scholarships: Pylar Khatri, Katie Plack, Ming-Yu Stephens, and Peter Wong from Carmont High School; Cynthia Gonzalez, Laura Tovar, and Beatrice Von Guggenberg from Menlo-Atherton High School; Francesca Arana, Alejandra Colin, Emily Friedman, Janell Harding, Jack Kastrop, Elaine Palacios, and Sierra Predovick from Sequoia High School; and Danielle Abaya, Alicia Beekman, Lisa Gellerman, Jenie Giusto, Nicole Tomita, and Kayla Ulrich from Woodside High School. Alicia Beekman will receive a \$10,000 scholarship, and the rest of the students will receive \$5,000.
 - The following students who were named National Merit Finalists: Warren He, Eric Soderstrom, Charles Zhang, and Joy Zhang from Carmont High School; Nicholas Buckley and Jack Kastrop from Sequoia High School; and Trevis Nichols from Woodside High School.

President Rumley advised that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors presented Superintendent Gemma with a plaque in recognition of his good work through the District's Visioning process and his strong support of health services in collaboration with the San Mateo Medical Center and San Mateo County Health.

Public Comment

None

Correspondence

None

Report on
Redwood High School

Marshall Burgamy introduced teachers and staff, and stated that Redwood numbers are up in all achievements. He advised that Redwood's API (Academic Performance Index) scores went from 591 to 774 and are the highest in the State. Mr. Burgamy advised that staff is developing Place-based Education, which applies environmental study with an interdisciplinary approach.

Trustee Lewin reported that the Board had met with students earlier in the day who were most appreciative of the opportunities they were experiencing.

President Rumley said that while she was at Redwood she observed that there were numerous references to job training at ROP and OICW. She asked about implementing another program to catch the younger 9th and 10th grade students.

Mr. Burgamy advised that staff was developing a profile of a successful Redwood student.

Dr. Gemma advised that we do need to look at programs for younger students. He stated that the District is part of the Silicon Valley Foundation, where alternative vehicles for receiving a high school diploma are studied.

Trustee Stewart stated that the Built to Last program also supports this type of student.

Trustee Martinez observed that it is clear that the Redwood staff was doing a great job.

Trustee Gibson advised that he was impressed with Redwood High School, and said we need to enroll students who will most benefit from the program.

Update on Current
Special Education Costs

Linda Common, Chief Administrator for Special Education, reported that 12.5 percent of SUHSD students are in Special Education, and the District tries to balance the number of individual programs at each school. A total of \$13.6 million is expended on Special Education services; and with the District's \$95 million budget, Special Education encroaches on the budget 7.12 percent. Mrs. Common suggested trends to study include: the need for more special education classrooms; the need to offer more local program options; transportation; aides, and returning students.

In response to the question posed by Trustee Lewin, Mrs. Common advised that costs are going up because there are more autistic students entering the program.

Update on State Budget

Edward LaVigne, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services, advised the most recent estimate is that the deficit for the 2008-09 state budget is in the \$16 billion range.

Superintendent Gemma advised that it remains to be seen how SUHSD will be affected by those numbers, because the Sequoia district is a Basic Aid district.

Trustees Stewart and Rumley suggested that the Board adopt a resolution opposing the State's suspension of Proposition 98.

Dr. Gemma advised that staff would bring a resolution back to the Board on March 5.

Update on Vision
Implementation

Superintendent Gemma thanked the Board for its participation in the Retreat on February 13, 2008. He also expressed his thanks to Michael Radoye, President, Sequoia District Teachers' Association, for his involvement.

Dr. Gemma advised that the Board confirmed the five Objectives that will guide the District's Vision in the years to come. He reported that the Board then brainstormed Strategic Challenges and developed 12 Long-Term Goals that address one or more of the Objectives. The Superintendent stated that the task for staff will be to develop targets and measurements for the Long-Term Goals for the 2008-09 school year.

Board Selected Two
CSBA Delegates for
Subregion 5-B

President Rumley stated that there were three candidates running for two available delegate vacancies for CSBA (California School Boards Association) for Subregion 5-B in San Mateo County. Board members were asked to select two candidates. President Rumley polled the Board, and Karen Leong Clancy (Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary District) received 5 votes; Peter H. Hanley (San Mateo Union High School District) received one vote, and Shelly Masur (Redwood City Elementary District) received four votes.

The Board of Trustees selected Karen Leong Clancy and Shelly Masur as the CSBA Delegates from Subregion 5-B. The selected candidates' names will be marked on the original Ballot, signed by the Board Clerk and returned to CSBA.

Discussion of Design Build
for New Music/Art
Building at Carlmont HS

Donald Gielow, Chief Executive Construction Manager, advised that beginning in 2002 the State allowed school districts to use the Design Build Delivery method allowing for more security and less risk on the part of the District in the design phase of construction. He explained that with this method the contractor hires the architect who designs the building to the District's specifications, and a savings can be realized by working together.

Mr. Gielow stated that a new Music/Art Building at Carlmont High School would bring the music and art classrooms into one building, located next to the new theatre; the project would free up five classrooms on other parts of the campus.

Superintendent Gemma advised that upon receiving direction from the Board, staff will develop an RFP (Request For Proposal) and bring a Design Build contract to the Board for approval. In response to a question posed by President Rumley, Dr. Gemma advised that the law has changed which allows school districts to use Design Build or Lease-Lease Back methods as well as the competitive bid process.

Trustee Martinez stated that staff wants direction, and she thought it would behoove the District to try the Design Build method.

Mr. Gielow advised that the Design Build contract would be approved by legal counsel.

Approval of Personnel
Recommendations

In reference to Consultant Registration and Independent Contractor, McKenzie Communications, Trustee Stewart stated that the District had used the services of McKenzie Communications some time ago. Dr. Stewart asked what the expectations were for this new agreement and how the contractor would be evaluated to determine the return on investment.

Dr. Gemma advised that McKenzie Communications was facilitating a workshop next week.

Susan Berghouse advised that McKenzie will facilitate a workshop to develop a consistent message based upon the District's Vision that would be used throughout the District. Mrs. Berghouse stated that they will also look at ways to communicate. She advised that the total cost for the consultant agreement was \$18,000.

Student consent – “yes.” On a motion from Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Stewart, the Board of Trustees approved the Personnel Recommendations. Voting “yes,” – Trustees Gibson, Lewin, Martinez, and Rumley; voting “no” – Trustee Stewart.

Board of Trustees’/
Superintendent’s Comments
and Committee Reports

Superintendent Gemma announced that two Carlmont High School graduates own “A+ Japanese Auto Repair” in San Carlos. They are offering two workshops, “Let’s Talk Cars, Empowering Women in the Challenging World of Car Maintenance,” a luncheon on March 29, at 12:30 p.m., and dinner on April 10 at 6:00 p.m. There is a fee, which will be donated to “Autism Speaks—Walk Now for Autism.”

President Rumley advised that there will be a liaison lunch meeting tomorrow at the District for administrative staff of the City of Redwood City, the Redwood City Elementary District, and Sequoia district, and that she and Trustee Gibson will be attending.

Trustee Gibson asked for an update concerning recruiting members for the Measure “J” Bond Oversight Committee. Dr. Gemma advised that he had received a letter from a community member volunteering to be on the committee.

Trustee Stewart advised that she had attended an East Palo Alto fundraising lunch where over \$50,000 was raised to fund employment for students from East Palo Alto.

Student Trustee Fisher said that last Tuesday the Student Advisory Council (SAC) met, and a representative from the Wellness Advisory Council made a presentation to the SAC in order to raise awareness about the Council.

Adjournment at
7:02 p.m

On a motion by Trustee Lewin, seconded by Trustee Gibson, the Board of Trustees adjourned its meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Lorraine Rumley, President

Gordon Lewin, Clerk