

SACRAMENTO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 1, 2011

Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - II. Pledge of Allegiance
 - III. No Approval of the Minutes
 - IV. Adoption of Agenda
 - V. Official Correspondence
 - VI. Visitor Presentations
 - A. General Public
 - B. Employee Organizations
 - VII. Superintendent's Report
 - VIII. New Business
 - A. Adoption of Consent Agenda
 1. Report on Personnel Transactions
 2. Award Diplomas to Community School Students
 3. Declaration of Technology Equipment listed as Surplus Property and Authorization to Dispose of Technology Equipment Pursuant to Education Code
 - B. Approval of Contracts
 - C. No Approval of Grant Applications/Service Contracts
 - D. Board Report – Measuring Student Progress/Academic Progress Report
 - IX. Board Reports, Comments, and Ideas
 - A. Board Members
 - B. Board President
 - C. Committees
 - X. Items for Distribution
 - A. March/April Events
 - B. March/April Visits
 - XI. Schedule for Future Board Meetings:
 - A. March 15, 2011 – Special Education Report
 - B. March 22, 2011 – Board/Superintendent Study Session
 - C. April 5, 2011 – AVID Report
 - D. April 19, 2011 – After School Report
 - XII. Adjournment
-

I. President Fong called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Board Room of the David P. Meaney Education Center, Sacramento Office of Education, 10474 Mather Boulevard, Mather, California. Board members present were Greg Geeting, Brian Rivas, Brian Cooley, Harold Fong, Eleanor Brown, John Scribner, and Jackie Levy. Also present were David W. Gordon, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Teresa Stinson, General Counsel; Robin Pierson, Joyce Wright, Tammy Sanchez, Tim Taylor, and John Fleischman, Assistant Superintendents; Judy Holsinger, SELPA Executive Director; Tim Herrera, Director of Communications; Gary Barker, SCOETA; Bill Mullen, CSEA; other staff and visitors; and Carla Miller, Recording Secretary.

II. President Fong led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Fong announced that the Board would now be going into Closed Session, under Government Code section 54956.9(b), to confer with legal counsel regarding potential litigation. Specifically, representatives of the California Teachers Association have made statements threatening litigation based on the County Board's decision granting the Fortune Countywide Charter Petition. The Board has provided public notice that the Board will meet in Closed Session to conduct this business and take action as deemed necessary and appropriate.

Recessed Open Session at 5:34 p.m.

Convened Closed Session at 5:37 p.m.

Adjourned Closed Session at 6:32 p.m.

Reconvened Open Session at 6:38 p.m.

President Fong announced that no action was taken in Closed Session.

III. No Approval of Minutes

IV. Mr. Scribner moved to adopt the agenda. Ms. Levy seconded the motion, which carried.

V. There was no official correspondence.

VI.A. There were no requests for visitor presentations from the general public.

VI.B. There were no requests for presentations from employee organizations.

VII. Superintendent Gordon reported on the following:

- Thanked everyone who took time to attend the 5th Annual Heart and Soul Luncheon on February 16 at the Meaney Center. The event helped raised more than \$300 to benefit students in SCOE's Foster Youth Services. Our thanks to the employee events team for organizing this event.
- Hoped everyone had the opportunity to enjoy the Youth Arts Month Exhibit Reception and Awards Presentation this evening. The event was sponsored in conjunction with the California Arts Education Association. The exhibit features more than 50 pieces of artwork submitted from schools in six Sacramento County school districts. The art will be on display in the Meaney Building until mid-May. Our thanks to everyone who attended.

- Invited everyone to watch the Gordon D. Shaber Mock Trial and Moot Court competition underway at the Sacramento County courthouse this week. SCOE is coordinating the event for the first time this year. Mock Trial simulates a trial level proceeding in which students portray all the courtroom roles, with the exception of judge. Moot Court is an appellate level proceeding in which youth prepare and argue a topical case before a panel of three judges. The awards ceremony is Monday, March 7, 2011 at the Holiday Inn Capital Plaza, in downtown Sacramento. For more information about the competition schedule, please see Tim Herrera. He's very knowledgeable about Mock Trial. His sons were in Mock Trail as well as Superintendent Gordon's daughter who is now an attorney. It's a marvelous program.
- SCOE'S 3rd Annual Health and Wellness Fair will be held Wednesday, March 9, 2011 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Meaney Center. The health fair is designed to teach employees how to improve health in all aspects of their lives, and to show what resources are available to assist employees in achieving a healthy lifestyle. We have 30 vendors participating this year. Our thanks to Payroll Manager Sherry Lack and her team for organizing the event.

VIII.A. Mr. Scribner moved and Mr. Geeting seconded adoption of the consent agenda. Motion carried unopposed. By such action, the Board:

1. Reported on Personnel Transactions
2. Awarded Diplomas to Community School Students
3. Accepted Declaration of Technology Equipment Listed as Surplus Property and Authorized to Dispose of Technology Equipment Pursuant to Education Code

Mr. Fong asked for confirmation that we are not disposing of anything that is usable. Tammy Sanchez confirmed that nothing usable is being disposed of and that all hard drives are either erased or removed.

VIII.B. Mr. Scribner moved and Mr. Geeting seconded approval of the contracts as listed. Motion to approve the contracts carried unopposed.

VIII.C. No Approval of Grant Applications/Service Contracts

VIII.D. Tim Taylor, Assistant Superintendent; Lisa Alcalá, Interim Principal; and Dr. Paul Tuss, Program Manager, provided the Measuring Student Progress/Academic Progress Report.

President Fong stated he would like a report from staff with options that the Board can consider in terms of trying to improve enrollment in our community schools whether it be a credit recovery program or hiring a recruiter to recruit kids. We have made a lot of

investments in our programs and he is sensing their possible closure if we don't do something proactive to try to improve the community school population.

Superintendent Gordon stated we have, since the beginning of last year, actively recruited for the new sites that we put together: Marian Anderson and the Boys and Girls Club. We have roughly 100 new students this year in those community schools. If the districts have to take a \$300-\$400 per student hit; they may not be in a position to send us that many students.. Right now our community schools face a period of real uncertainty. We will try to press to get as many students as we can and we feel we do a great job with those students but ultimately the financial situation of the districts will play a big role in where we end up.

Mr. Cooley asked if the districts lose ADA due to the pending budget cuts, will they stop sending students to our community schools.

Superintendent Gordon stated that Sac City, for example, is keeping more of the younger kids (14-15 year olds) who used to be sent to us. The ones they are sending to us are kids who may have been out of school for weeks or months. They send them to us because they see us as better equipped to deal with that sort of student. The problem is if the districts get to the point where they're trying to hold on to every single kid no matter what, that will change our lives because we're dependent upon them for referrals. Tim, Philip Moore and staff are on top of it every single day. We want to keep our community school program as robust as we possibly can. In the world of K-12 there's no sure thing anymore. The budget cuts will have an effect and we just have to stay loose and pretty nimble.

Ms. Sanchez stated enrollment is up in community schools and down in juvenile court schools. We are recruiting in the community schools and our numbers are way up but we can't recruit for court schools.

Superintendent Gordon said he wants to make sure that the Board and everybody is aware of that fluid situation. We can't count on that into 2011-2012 even though we may have a high-quality program.

Mr. Scribner said his understanding is that we are seeing more of these minors sentenced to in-home detention with an ankle monitor. Are we getting these kids into some type of independent study so we are able to give them some type of curriculum as well as claim ADA? Where are we at with the Juvenile Justice Cabinets? For example in terms of the judges and following up on that issue or those series of issues.

Mr. Taylor replied he and Gary Barker had been looking closely at the WETYC being the new probation model. We were sad to hear they didn't go with that. We need to get to the juvenile judge to show her the new data and find out where the kids with ankle monitors are. We were told that the WETYC was going to be 60-80 kids on ankle monitors and it just didn't happen.

Mr. Rivas asked the superintendent to clarify what he means by recruiting for the community schools because he always thought it was better educationally for the kids to be in comprehensive districts as opposed to being in the community schools.

Superintendent Gordon stated that with the LINKS program we have a very flexible program that's suitable for a range of students. We can serve younger students well. If they're middle school students we can serve the 15-18 year olds, but we have to convince the districts that it is a good fit for their kids and they have to be convinced that they are not sending the ADA down the road when they really need that ADA. That's a fiscal imperative for them which we can't control if that's the way they view the world.

President Fong asked if we know how many dropouts there are who are not going to school. He's hearing that there are a lot of them out there.

Mr. Taylor replied he doesn't have specific data. One of the districts, like Sac City, they had 27 staff two years ago in their prevention/intervention expulsion division and now they have four. They are so stretched out – tracking the kids down is tough, but there are kids out there to capture and work with.

President Fong stated he is being asked to visit an alternative education program that currently has 120 kids at full capacity and they have no more room. They have 60 kids on a waiting list to get into that particular program and they're getting these kids their GEDs. He's being told that there are so many kids out there that are not going to school that would love to go to a program like this and it sounds very similar to our LINKS program. That's why he wants to find out if we can market and grow our community schools even more than what we are doing now so we can retain a program and keep our good teachers we hired recently that might have received layoff notices.

Superintendent Gordon asked if Mr. Fong could share the name of the program he is talking about so that we can learn from them.

Mr. Cooley said this is a program that he referred to Trustee Fong; it's in his trustee area. It's run by Greg Scott and the program is called Juveniles At-Risk. Mr. Scott has organizers that he has hired that go to the at-risk neighborhoods that they have identified door-to-door and there are a lot of kids that are not in Sac City or Elk Grove or a district program and not in our programs. They are not necessarily the hard core juvenile offenders, they're just not going to school and they are under eighteen. As Mr. Fong has indicated, Mr. Scott has 150 kids currently enrolled and their academic piece is through Heritage Peak Charter School which he is not happy with. He has about 60 kids on a waiting list to get into his program. He says there's a sea of willing people that want to be in this program, and we could be capturing some of those students.

Superintendent Gordon stated we will take a look at that right away.

President Fong added he would like a report with options for the Board to consider regarding whether we should seek a recruiter or do some other things to grow our community school program in order to utilize the investments we've made in the

infrastructure of this program and keep those teachers employed who want to work with these kids.

Superintendent Gordon said he's trying to explain that is what we have been doing over the course of the year.

Mr. Cooley said he thinks staff has done a good job of keeping us abreast of that. He would like to see, in the middle or late part of June, an item on this issue particularly as it relates to the budgetary side. As Superintendent Gordon has pointed out, if the tax measures don't pass in June, districts will likely not be in a position where they can attempt to capture every student they ordinarily would not have. We will be in a position of scrambling to protect not only our students and teachers but also our employees and programs. He doesn't have any answers today but maybe we should at least bring this back for a more in-depth study session after the election. We had one about eight years ago where both of our collective bargaining units were involved. What came out of that discussion was the excess cost model of the districts. He's not advocating for that, per se, but maybe we need to talk to some outside folks like Mr. Scott who are doing that as a way to bolster our programs. Mr. Scott is open to a lot of different things and could be working with us to identify students in our program and also work with his program. His recommendation is to have a greater detailed discussion.

Superintendent Gordon added that we would be talking about this at the March 22 Study Session on the budget because a lot of these issues are budgetary.

Mr. Scribner said the study session will occur after the votes in the legislature and we will have some of the pieces of the preliminary puzzle. We won't know the specific cuts or how they will play out until the end of the summer as we get towards the end of session. We can start to deal with our triage or Armageddon budget as we're going to be looking at after the districts get done pulling everything back that they can, but in terms of any of the categorical that's still going to play out awhile longer beyond June.

President Fong asked if it is possible for us to get data reports on students that will let us know if they stay with us for 60, 90, or 120 days, and if they made any progress in their math and reading that comes out of the Renaissance or credit recovery programs. He recalls his visit in San Diego where he saw a similar program in operation. They are able to give the board data that shows the programs are working and the kids stay a certain amount of time. They make an average of so much progress towards either completing courses, units, or working towards their high school diploma.

Dr. Tuss replied some of that data was included in the SARCs, but also on DataLinks. There is a report that comes out for each school showing the number of students who stayed for 90 days, a number of students who improved from their baseline test until their 90-day test on NWEA and the number of students who met their growth target. We can easily put together a report.

President Fong said with the elimination of the ASAM and with our API scores it is hard to explain. He would like to be able to explain the progress that's made if a student stays with us for a certain amount of time. If he had the data to show that they stay with

us for 60, 90, or 120 days, they made progress and that progress would be the equivalent of so much if they stayed with the whole year with us. He would be comfortable making that argument to people who say we are not doing our part to help close any achievement gaps or helping kids learn when they look at our API scores.

Mr. Scribner mentioned he was thinking about this program and he knows that the language relative to part of the realignment proposal was shared with the Board members earlier, but the bulk of that was the public safety language as it relates to how we shift the funds to the counties for the incarcerated but it was quiet as to the responsibilities relative to the education of those who are incarcerated. So given that there's an absence of that language – the sheriffs are going to grab that money for their operations. We may be smart to engage, fairly quickly, in a discussion of the language on the public safety coalition as it relates to education responsibilities or we may be out. He doesn't know if staff has that language but he will make sure it's forwarded to you.

Mr. Cooley asked John if there was a specific funding allocation for county offices now.

Mr. Scribner answered that in terms of the public safety realignment dollars it's silent.

Mr. Cooley asked if CCSESA is engaged in that public safety coalition.

Mr. Scribner answered he didn't know. It just occurred to him because he had read that language today and it was silent as to how the funds are directed for any education component of the incarcerated or whether we or someone else will have the responsibility for it .

IX.A. Ms. Levy thanked Tim and Lisa for an excellent report. She knows a lot of those high-risk kids and she thinks what you are doing is absolutely wonderful. She is one of the LINKS mentors. She works with one person one-on-one but it's kind of a group thing and we get to know all the kids in the group. That's what these kids need. She attended the LEED Convergence breakfast last week along with Trustee Geeting. LEED stands for Linking Education and Economic Development. It's a great consortium of the education and business communities. This particular one was focused on a unique industry in Sacramento which is basically lobbying and related industries. They basically said we want to be the Washington, D.C. of the west coast. They talked about how critical the Sacramento area is for things that ultimately go national, which she had never thought of before. She knows more about lobbying than she ever knew before. It was very interesting. One of the things that every single speaker and panel member talked about was the importance of communication and teaching kids how to write and speak well, and how to present ideas in a concise fashion. She wished she had every English teacher in the county sitting there listening to that because she thought it was a very good point. They said people with those types of skills do not have trouble finding a job. She enjoyed the Expression Art Exhibit yesterday at the Department of Justice (DOJ). A lot of the art is the same as what is in the SCOE calendar. There were a couple of students there whose work was featured and they were thrilled to see their work matted and framed. One might have even sold a piece. SCOE's involvement in the arts is great. She's looking forward to being a Moot Court Judge tomorrow evening.

They still need additional judges for Saturday if anybody wants to read through fifty pages of legal briefs and pretend to be a lawyer.

Mr. Scribner – no report.

Ms. Brown reported she would like to echo some of the comments from Ms. Levy about the report this evening. It's really exciting to see how you use the data to make it individual for each of the students, which she feels is the key to keeping the interest and making them feel like they're not repeating the same thing again and again. It would be interesting to see reports showing the progress and that it takes a while for the API to show. She thinks it would be very powerful to show that this kind of instruction is what truly helps and eliminates some of the achievement gap. She was invited to visit Sac Prep Charter School on the Freeport Elementary campus. She was very impressed with the school, particularly the culture, the positive and confident students, and the kind of improvement that is taking place there. When she visits some of these schools that really do have fine programs as far as closing the gap, it makes her a little sad that they don't have more visitors. If she were a neighboring school and looked at those scores she would be on that doorstep every morning just to see what's happening there and sharing. It would be very helpful if schools that are out of the mainstream, if that is the correct way to word it, would have some kind of system where they could communicate with each other, build on ideas, share the gems that each has in their own school.

Mr. Geeting thanked Tim, Lisa, Paul and Carol for tonight's excellent presentation. Since the presentation touched on technology he wanted to remind our President that based on our decision at the last meeting he is empowered to appoint a Technology Liaison who would meet monthly with John Fleischman and his group and the meeting will be the first Thursday of each month. It's possible to get somebody in for March. The advantage of being a Board liaison is that the meeting doesn't have to be noticed as a public meeting with all of those constraints that would exist if three of us were to be a committee. The Youth Arts Month was outstanding. He thanked staff for a job well done. It's one thing to walk down the hall and say it's beautiful and it's another to actually make it all happen. The staff that did that needs to be congratulated. Yesterday, he joined Trustee Levy in attending the opening of the Art Exhibit at the Department of Justice (DOJ) building. It's an excellent exhibit. In fact, if you go you will recognize a number of the pieces from being in your SCOE calendar. The originals are on display. Trustee Levy talked about the LEED Convergence conference. The featured speaker was Ed Manning, principal partner of KP Public Affairs which is the largest government affairs, public relations, lobbying firm in Sacramento. One of the interesting things Mr. Manning did was sum up the total spending of the largest 15 advocacy groups over the past decade and the sum is an excess of \$1 billion. It pales in comparison to a cluster like health care but still it's a lot of money. Among the things that came out in the follow up discussion was that jobs tend to be remarkably stable in that industry at the high end and at the low end it provides a lot of opportunity for interns and young people to get into the business. On February 21, he joined Trustees Brown, Cooley and Levy at the prerelease screening of HBO's production of Thurgood, starring Laurence Fishburne. The film was essentially a recording of Fishburne's one man stage play about the life of Thurgood Marshall, former Supreme Court justice. Fishburne was nominated for a Tony Award for the show when it was on Broadway, and

he does an outstanding job with the part. The event was co-sponsored by the Sacramento Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women and the Greater Sacramento Urban League. Thurgood then aired on HBO last Thursday. One interesting thing he learned about Thurgood Marshall from the play, which ties into another of our SCOE activities, is that Thurgood Marshall attended college with one of America's outstanding poets, Langston Hughes and the two were very good friends. Two of Hughes' poems are in our Poetry Out Loud Anthology including one that's titled, "I Too", which was featured in this film. He thought it was a fitting way to celebrate Black History month.

Mr. Rivas stated at the last meeting he asked about the feasibility of broadcasting our meetings online.

Superintendent Gordon stated that Mr. Fleischman is looking into it and will give him a report which he will share as soon as it is completed.

Mr. Rivas stated he would like us to have a conversation at some point about reinvigorating and revitalizing our legislative committee. He thinks it's an opportunity for us to play to our strengths. He's seen Trustees Scribner, Cooley, and Geeting in action on this front firsthand and they have a lot to offer. This example that Trustee Scribner was asking about, our high stakes decisions on what is going on in the budget and how funding is being divvied up for youthful offenders is an example of an area in which we need to get more involved. Mr. President, that is a request. You mentioned some concern about having too many committees, but maybe we should look at consolidating some; we are well positioned to be a leader among county boards in that area. Last night, he attended the Mayor's state of our schools meeting which was partly a public speaking opportunity for him and it was also an opportunity to announce the formation of a non-profit that he has created called Stand Up. Mayor Johnson is a big supporter and fan of the Fortunes. He made it a point to congratulate them on their petition approval and celebrate the opening of the additional Fortune schools. He wanted to share that in some areas he has controversial ideas to make Sacramento city schools the greatest in the country; like promoting more charters and un-doing the seniority system for layoffs and teacher evaluation, but in other areas he thinks there's an opportunity for collaboration; he talked a lot about his organization and their focus on a series of goals. The first one he wants to try to tackle is 3rd grade reading, and according to his data, he said that less than 40% of Sacramento City students are reading at grade level. He commented about the fact that some states are projecting their prison construction based on 3rd grade reading levels because you can predict what's going to happen to students that early in their academic career. Another request for the Superintendent is to take a look at Stand Up. He wondered if the Superintendent knew Andie Corso, the Mayor's education staffer, and if he would see what they have planned and see if there's an opportunity to work with them on things like this 3rd grade reading.

Superintendent Gordon shared that we have been working on this with the Mayor for about eight or nine months – the United Way has been launched on this priority of curbing dropouts and improving 3rd grade reading and some of it is sponsored by AT&T. Sue Stickel and her staff have been involved in designing what the plan is and that will

be discussed at the United Way meeting. It's tied back to Kevin Johnson. We would be happy to give you a report on that at any time because Sue Stickel and the reading staff have been intimately involved in helping putting it together.

Mr. Cooley thanked Tim and staff for a great report. He will give the rest of his report at the following Board meeting.

IX.B. President Fong reported he attended the Mayor's state of the school report. The Mayor equated education to a civil rights movement and suggested sit downs, protests, marches and those kinds of things to get kids their education. President Fong is not sure that's what needs to be done. He also realized that there are things that we can do together and there are things on which we have to agree to disagree. On the topic of the 3rd grade reading that all kids read at the level of 3rd grade. He thinks is a goal that all of us can agree on. Many of the other items talked about, in terms of teachers and unions, he's not sure that he agrees with those. There may be other things that they bring up that would be of interest but on an education thing there's lots of research that backs up the 3rd grade indicator of whether or not you will be successful in the rest of your school life. He would like for us to be able to do that with them, and to use the resources that we have as the county board to engage the other districts and make it a priority. He thinks many of them do but he doesn't think we do it as a collective body that shares whether it's successful with another district or a certain population. President Fong thinks it's a good partnership but would caution that the Mayor bashed the teachers a couple of times and a few people cautioned him that they really weren't part of the problem. There are great teachers out there and there are bad teachers out there but he thinks most of our teachers are good teachers, and we can make good teachers better teachers. President Fong went to that in hopes of getting an idea of where the state of our schools is in. He thinks the Mayor actually had a number lower than 40, maybe 30 something percent, reading at 3rd grade level. The mayor said 60 something wasn't. There's not a single zip code in the county that reads at 70% at 3rd grade level. He thinks there are things we can work on. We will discuss creating a Legislative Committee at the Executive Committee meeting. There are a lot of active committees at this time and some do not get full Committee attendance as it stands. It may be a good idea to consolidate some of the committees so we can get our attendance. Brian asked whether we will have an Executive Committee meeting. We will have one next month.

IX.C. There were no committee reports.

X.A. There was no distribution of the March/April Events item.

X.B. There was no distribution of the March/April Site Visits item.

XI. Schedule for Future Board Meetings:

- A. March 15, 2011 – Special Education Report
- B. March 22, 2011 – Board/Superintendent Study Session
- C. April 5, 2011 – AVID Report
- D. April 19, 2011 – After School Report

XII. Mr. Geeting moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Levy seconded the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Ms. Brown announced she has a commitment that she can't change at the next Board meeting so she will not be able to be here and has spoken with the Superintendent about it.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Gordon
Secretary to the Board

Date approved: April 5, 2011