

SACRAMENTO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 20, 2011

Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - II. Pledge of Allegiance
 - III. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 6, 2011
 - IV. Adoption of Agenda
 - V. Official Correspondence
 - VI. Visitor Presentations
 - A. General Public
 - B. Employee Organizations
 - VII. Superintendent's Report
 - A. Recognition of the October 2011 Employees of the Month
 - B. Recognition of the Nor-Cal Woodturners Chapter
 - VIII. New Business
 - A. Adoption of Consent Agenda
 1. Report on Personnel Transactions
 2. Award Diploma to Court and Community School Students
 - B. No Approval of Contracts
 - C. No Grant Applications/Service Contracts
 - D. Public Hearing and Adoption of Resolution No. 11-18 - Determination of Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials Sufficiency Pursuant to Education Code Section 60119 (Special Education and Community Schools)
 - E. First Reading and Proposed Revisions to Board Bylaw 8340 (Renumbered 9340) – Adjourned and/or Continued Meetings
 - F. First Reading and Proposed Revisions to Board Bylaw 8360 (Renumbered 9360) – Study Sessions
 - G. Board Report – Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)
 - IX. Board Reports, Comments, and Ideas
 - A. Board Members
 - B. Board President
 - C. Committees
 - X. Items for Distribution
 - A. October/November Events
 - B. October/November Visits
 - XI. Adjournment
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I. President Cooley called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. in the Board Room of the David P. Meaney Education Center, Sacramento County Office of Education, 10474 Mather Boulevard, Mather, California. Board members present were Harold Fong, Brian Rivas, Greg Geeting, Brian Cooley, Eleanor Brown, John Scribner, and Jackie Levy. Also present were David Gordon, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Sue Stickel, Deputy Superintendent; Tim Taylor, Assistant Superintendent; other staff and visitors; and Carla Miller, Recording Secretary.

II. Trustee Levy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Cooley announced that the Board would recess into Closed Session under Government Code Section 54957(b); the Board will be conducting the Superintendent's Evaluation. The Board has provided public notice that the Board will meet in Closed Session to conduct this evaluation and take action as deemed necessary and appropriate.

Recessed Open Session at 5:34 p.m.

Convened Closed Session at 5:39 p.m.

Adjourned Closed Session at 6:46 p.m.

Reconvened Open Session at 6:47 p.m.

Teresa Stinson, General Counsel; Robin Pierson, Joyce Wright, and Tammy Sanchez, Assistant Superintendents; Judy Holsinger, SELPA Executive Director; Effie Crush, Chief Administrator-Human Resources; Tim Herrera, Director of Communications; Gary Barker, SCOETA; and Bill Mullen, CSEA were also in attendance at this time.

President Cooley announced the following:

The Board took action in Closed Session by a vote of 5 ayes, 2 noes (see Roll Call Vote below) to extend the Superintendent's contract by one year to June 30, 2015.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fong – No

Mr. Rivas – Yes

Mr. Geeting – Yes

President Cooley – Yes

Ms. Brown – Yes

Mr. Scribner – No

Ms. Levy – Yes

III. On a motion by Mr. Scribner and seconded by Mr. Fong, the minutes of the regular meeting of September 6, 2011 were approved. Motion carried 6 ayes, 1 abstention (Brown).

IV. Mr. Scribner moved to adopt the agenda moving the Woodturners item right before the visitor presentation. Mr. Fong seconded the motion, which carried.

V. There was no official correspondence.

VII.B. Trustee Rivas, Assistant Superintendent Tim Taylor, and Principal Lauren Roth presented the Nor-Cal Woodturners Chapter members with a plaque in appreciation of their contributions to the Palmyer School students.

VI.A. Mark Graham of 25 Teachers' Salaries addressed the Board requesting support for his program's resolution.

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

VII.A. Shunn Brown, Assistant, Sacramento Community Based Coalition, was recognized and honored as the classified employee of the month for October.

Sarah Dudek, Nurse, Special Education Department, was recognized and honored as the certificated employee of the month for October.

Superintendent Gordon reported on the following:

- Thanked everyone who attended Back to School Night at the Palmiter Jr/Sr High School and Elinor Hickey Jr/Sr High School campuses last Wednesday. It was a great opportunity to meet staff, students and parents. He would like to thank Trustees Rivas, Fong and Levy for attending. Gerber Road Community School will host a Back to School Night on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. We hope you can join us.
- Reminded everyone that the Project SAVE Golf Tournament, scheduled for Monday, October 3, 2011 at the Catta Verdera Country Club in Lincoln, still has openings for golfers and for sponsors. This annual fundraiser is the main source of funding for this model community project that has been proven to prevent and reduce youth violence and bullying behaviors. If you are interested in participating, please contact Cheryl Raney at (916) 228-2201 or contact Board President Cooley.
- Announced that the Culinary Café at the Leo A. Palmiter campus will reopen for lunch on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 from noon to 1:00 p.m. The program is now under the direction of our new culinary instructor Jeff Zahniser (ZAN-izer). The grand opening menu has a Hawaiian theme featuring both chicken and short ribs. If you want to make reservations call 566-2039. More details on the menu to follow.
- Reminded everyone that on October 18, 2011 we will be holding a Board study session instead of a regular Board meeting. The topic is Entrepreneurial Opportunities. The session will run from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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

1. Accepted report on Personnel Transactions
2. Awarded diplomas to Court and Community School Students

VIII.B. No Approval of Contracts

VIII.C. No Grant Applications/Service Contracts

VIII.D. President Cooley opened the Public Hearing on the determination of textbooks and/or instructional materials sufficiency pursuant to Education Code Section 60119 (Special Education and Community Schools) at 7:16 p.m. No one came forward. President Cooley closed the Public Hearing at 7:17 p.m.

Mr. Scribner moved and Mr. Geeting seconded adoption of Resolution No. 11-18 – Determination of Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials Sufficiency Pursuant to Education Code Section 60119 with the revised Attachment “A”. Motion carried unopposed.

VIII.E. President Cooley announced that this was the first reading and adoption of the proposed revisions to Board Bylaw 8340 (Renumbered 9340) – Adjourned and/or Continued Meetings.

Chair Geeting of the Policy Committee recommended that we move forward to second reading at the October 4, 2011 Board Meeting.

VIII.F. President Cooley announced that this was the first reading and adoption of the proposed revisions to Board Bylaw 8360 (Renumbered 9360) – Study Sessions.

Chair Geeting of the Policy Committee recommended that we move forward to second reading at the October 4, 2011 Board Meeting.

VIII.G. Dr. Joyce Wright, Assistant Superintendent, introduced AVID Coordinator Lindsay Paoli who presented a report on the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. She introduced former AVID students Anthony Gibson and Benjamin Villarreal who shared their personal stories and the positive impact AVID has had on their lives.

IX.A. Ms. Levy reported she attended the California County Board of Education (CCBE) conference in Monterey and Trustee Geeting was there as well. He prepared a wonderful report with lots of details on all his notes. When you go to these conferences you can't go to everything so she went to one session that Trustee Geeting was not able to go to. The session was given by a female librarian in Alameda County Juvenile Hall. She didn't know they had librarians in Juvenile Halls. This woman was remarkable. She'd been there about ten years. Her name is Amy Cheney. Her belief is free and independent reading is the number one reason for increased literacy. So she made it her mission to make sure the kids in that Juvenile Hall had books to which they could relate and found interesting enough to read. One of the ways she did that, she brought in the authors of these books to talk to the kids. She gave us a long list of who the authors were. Think about all the bestseller lists for the last ten years; these are the people she brought in. It was so interesting to hear Ms. Cheney talk about how she got those kids to read whose prior idea of reading a book was flipping through Where's Waldo, which has no words. Ms. Levy doesn't remember all the titles, but the kids

eventually devoured those books. It was very inspiring because the one thing we keep hearing about was how for everyone, even adults in state prisons, literacy is such a hot issue. She stated that sometimes you hear a speaker that remains with you for a long time; this person was it for her. She will be visiting Sly Park next week.

Mr. Scribner reported now that the legislative session is done, the bill which was to undo the Tier 1 trigger cuts was vetoed. Given what finance has been recording, we might want to get ahead of the curve and start looking at the Tier 1 cuts and see how they may impact this organization because there are programs within the bill that impact education programs, although the bulk of the hit will come in Tier 2. Triggering Tier 1 seems to be a certainty. We will see how much the Governor really meant it when he said he would be vetoing a lot of bills.

Ms. Brown reported she missed a lot of fine activities that went on in the county particularly the recognition for both the outstanding teachers and for the employees. She is sorry she missed those. When she read over the minutes for the meeting she missed, she read that Mr. Geeting talked about the Hobart Shakespearean School, it brought to mind that what we're hearing and seeing is not so much in these special programs that are succeeding, and who does it or where it's done, it's what they do in the classroom. Similar to our guests tonight, our speaker said you must put your best teachers in that program to make it successful. What is a best teacher? She thought about that statement that said these children dare to defy society's expectations. She would say these children and these adults dare to defy society's expectations and so they perform. She really found that interesting.

Mr. Rivas reported he enjoyed Back to School Night at Palmiter and Hickey. Dinner was delicious. He enjoyed getting to meet and chat briefly with our new chef, Jeff Zahniser. Secondly, with regard to Twin Rivers and the Grand Jury Report; he's had a chance to read it. He has not read the district's response, but he does have a request of his colleagues -- that you also read it and read the district's response and at this point his suggestion is that we not place it on an agenda for one of our meetings. He doesn't think it will be a constructive exercise. He thinks that the document speaks for itself. His suggestion is that we deal with the issues that are discussed in the report if we are presented with a petition to change the way Twin Rivers' trustees are elected.

Mr. Fong reported he also attended Back to School Night at Palmiter and Hickey. He had a chance to talk to five or six parents about what has changed in their kid's lives as a result of going to our schools. One of the parents told him that the reason his son was in this particular school was because the son messed up at his previous school, but after being with us last year and this year he saw a 180 degree turnaround in his child. Those types of things are great to hear. Mr. Fong is looking forward to the October 12, 2011 Back to School Night at Gerber. He will be talking to some of the parents there also. He would like to make a request that we also schedule a Back to School Night at the North Area School if we can. In the upcoming October 18, 2011 study session we will be talking about being entrepreneurs, he would like to add some discussion and options on being entrepreneurs on the education side that directly serves our kids. Finding resources and funding for our SAFE program, partnering with SETA, and the Departments of Labor and Justice – things like that may have been overlooked in the

past. He would like it to be presented and discussed so that Board members may be able to help by lobbying our congress persons to make those funds happen for us.

Mr. Geeting apologized for not attending Back to School Night at Elinor Hickey and Leo Palmiter. It was held at the same time as the once a year fundraiser for the Wellspring Women's Center in Oak Park and that event goes on his calendar the moment he gets the invitation because they do such great work for the Oak Park community. He apologized in advance that he will not be able to attend the Back to School Night at Gerber on October 12, 2011 because he has no coverage for his daughter that evening.

We all got the Williams reports and - noting that he had been on the worker end of this type of effort, where you are at a school site with your clipboard all day - he wanted to express appreciation to the staff for the remarkable amount of effort. He will have questions related to the Williams reports at the appropriate time. It was a pleasure to join Trustee Levy at the CCBE fall conference in Monterey. As she mentioned, he did a brief write up on the sessions and everyone will find a copy in your folder. We certainly appreciated that Superintendent Tom Torlakson took time from his very busy schedule to attend and address the members, as did CSBA President Martha Fluor, CSBA President-elect Jill Wynns, Vice President Cindy Marks, and CSBA Executive Director Vernon Billy. Last Friday, he joined Trustees Levy, Rivas and Superintendent Gordon at the LEED Convergence VII, which addressed the theme of finance, insurance, and real estate in our region. Tammy Maynard, Chair of the School of Business at the University of Phoenix provided remarks and emphasized the convergence of ingenuity and education as a key driver for economic recovery for our region. She was followed by the featured speaker, Jonathon Lederer, who is the principal partner of Lederer Private Wealth Management. Mr. Lederer mustered considerable data and the analysis that made a very compelling case that we have a long way to go before we emerge from the economic downturn. He said that empirically a long period of deleveraging nearly always follows a major financial crisis and deleveraging starts typically two years after the financial crisis and then typically lasts six to seven years. Mr. Lederer concluded that we face significant headwinds for at least the next five years. And among the macro issues he identified as impediments to economic recovery included the enormous and growing federal debt burden, the substantial and growing cost of entitlement programs, and the Federal Reserve's zero interest policy, which he argues creates uncertainty in the economy. There was a follow-up panel group that was excellent. Mike Winn from the California Building Industry Association; he stressed despite the downturn we have to encourage young people towards careers in the building industry so that they are ready to take advantage of opportunity when the cycle returns. Doug Covill, President of the Sacramento Association of Realtors, advocated strongly for purging the housing sector of its so called toxic assets so that the market can get healthy again and start to grow. Steve Bender, CEO of Warren Bender Insurance, who remains very bullish on our region despite the tough trajectory that we face at this time. James Beckwith, CEO of Five Star Bank, who agreed with the assessment that tough times are going to confront us for at least two and a half to three years, and who advocated that for an improved effort to brand our region and market it aggressively in the same way that the state of Michigan is now branding and aggressively marketing itself through television commercials that feature actor Jeff Daniels. Finally, last night he attended the September meeting of Women Democrats of Sacramento County to watch a screening of the Inconvenient Truth Behind Waiting for

Superman. It's a sixty-five minute movie focusing particular criticism on New York's charter schools and the involvement of business and corporate leaders in public education. It advocates for broadly based efforts to reduce class size, create more equitable funding for public schools, ensure that curricula are culturally relevant to students, provide more teaching time and less testing, and foster social justice unionism. He will say it lacks the production polish of the movie Waiting for Superman, which is another way of saying that it seems to run a little longer than sixty-five minutes, but for people who are involved in K-12 education, it certainly provides a worthy counterpoint to Waiting for Superman and presents a number of issues to ponder.

IX.B. President Cooley – no report.

IX.C. There were no committee reports.

X.A. There was no distribution of the September/October Events item.

X.B. There was no distribution of the September/October Site Visits item.

XI. Mr. Geeting moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rivas seconded the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Gordon
Secretary to the Board

Date approved: October 4, 2011