

**SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

March 2, 2004
MINUTES

Douglas E. Giles
Educational Resource Center
9619 Cuyamaca Street
Santee, California

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order and Welcome

President El-Hajj called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present:

Dianne El-Hajj, President
Cathy Abel, Vice President
Dustin Burns, Clerk
Julie McIntosh, Member
Barbara Ryan, Member

Staff present:

Dr. Lisbeth Johnson, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board
Carolyn Harness, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Dr. Patrick Shaw, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
John Tofflemire, Director, Human Resources
Arletta Schaffer, Recording Secretary

2. President El-Hajj invited Sycamore Canyon third graders Whitney Lamb and Isabella Lenhoff to lead the members, staff and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda.

Motion:	McIntosh
Second:	Burns
Vote:	5 – 0

B. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Superintendent's Report

- 1.1. Requests for Use of Facilities
- 1.2. Enrollment Report
- 1.3. Developer Fees Collection Report
- 1.4. Schedule of Upcoming Events

2. Introduction of New Executive Assistant

Superintendent Johnson introduced Linda Vail, the new Executive Assistant, and welcomed her. Mrs. Vail is in training at the same time that Mrs. Schaffer works in the Early Retirement Incentive Program. The Board will be asked to approve Mrs. Vail's selection on the Consent Agenda.

3. Spotlight on Learning: Prospect Avenue School

- *Read Across America*

Prospect Avenue is celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday with peer reading, plays and art activities led by language arts specialist, Linda Globerson. Henry Winkler's books will also be spotlighted during the celebration. Dr. Johnson remarked that the highlight of her day was participation in the *Read Across America* activities at Prospect.

- Writing Circle Intervention for Bilingual Students

Also in the spotlight was the writing circle intervention program for second language students. Martha Loutzenhizer works with 45 English learners to support writing proficiency.

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

President El-Hajj invited members of the audience to address the Board about any item not on the agenda.

Christine Blaylock, a Sycamore Canyon parent, supports Proposition J. However, she found the ballot language misleading that stated funds would not be used for administrative purposes. The Board, in fact, voted to use parcel tax proceeds for vice principal salaries.

Maria Lenhoff, a Sycamore Canyon parent, asked if parents may raise funds to be placed in a special fund for the purpose of keeping Sycamore Canyon School open. She asked how much would need to be raised. She was advised by Board members that parents are represented by Karen Fleck, Sycamore Canyon PTA president, on a District budget committee. Mrs. Fleck can carry parent input to the committee and provide feedback on the budget status from the committee to parents.

Diane Lamb, a Sycamore Canyon parent, requested a study of the academic performance of Santee School students who were displaced by the closure. She believes that 80 percent of Santee School students are struggling academically and are singled out at their new locations.

D. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Board's Intent to Adopt a Resolution in Compliance With Board Policy 4355 to Establish a PERS Early Retirement Benefit for Retiring Classified Management Employees

President El-Hajj opened the public hearing on the above item. There were no public comments.

E. CONSENT ITEMS

Items listed under Consent are considered to be routine and are all acted on by the Board with one single motion. It was moved and seconded to approve Consent Items.

Motion:	McIntosh
Second:	Abel
Vote:	5 – 0

Superintendent

- 1.1. Approval of Minutes

Business Services

- 2.1. Approval of Travel Requests
- 2.2. Approval/Ratification of Revolving Cash Reports
- 2.3. Acceptance of Donations

Educational Services

- 3.1. Approval of Extended Field Trip for Pepper Drive School Sixth Grade Student Leadership Participants to "Boomers" in El Cajon

Human Resources

- 4.1. Personnel, Regular, with a copy to be made a part of the minutes. Consultants approved: T. Herman

F. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent

- 1.1. Potential Costs in the Creation of Badges for Santee School District Staff

The Superintendent was asked by the Board to research options and the cost of creating employee badges for all District staff. Badges would increase student safety by enabling school site staffs to screen all visitors entering campuses. Dr. Johnson showed several sample badges from a variety of sources and discussed the pros and cons of each sample. She also provided projected costs for each option. If employee badges are approved, she recommended that the Board consider adopting a policy to set expectations for staff members to wear them while on District sites.

Member McIntosh would like to see product consistency if safety is the primary goal. The in-house sample may not be as cost effective because it is paper.

Member Burns supported the concept for safety reasons. He preferred a badge of permanent quality that can not be counterfeited. He suggested a partnership with another district that already has the badge-making equipment.

Member Ryan could support laminated badges with attached clips and/or a lanyard using a maximum budget of \$2,500.

President El-Hajj summarized the main points: 1. standardized product across district 2. durable as much as possible 3. solid rope or clippy. She believes that cost is a factor and could support an expenditure of \$1,200.

Additional samples and costs supportive of the Board members' discussion points will be presented at the April Board meeting. If approved, a September implementation date was suggested.

G. BOARD POLICIES AND BYLAWS (none)

H. BOARD COMMUNICATION

Member Ryan commented on the suggestion by Maria Lenhoff to raise funds to keep Sycamore Canyon School open. She believes that the District would be bound to use the funds for the purpose intended by parents who raise it. Member McIntosh is concerned about fiscal implications for future years. Member Burns supports parents' desire to raise funds but shares the concerns of Member McIntosh.

President El-Hajj agreed. Her concerns were: how much would parents need to raise and where would the money go if the Board was not able to keep the school open after the fund raising attempt? There is a precedent for funds following the students to their new school. She suggested that parents meet with business services staff to discuss guidelines. It was agreed to place an item on the agenda for March 9 to discuss points mentioned above including how to track donations.

Member Ryan also commented on the point that the Proposition J ballot language was misleading. While she knows that it was her intent to designate no funds for central office administration, she understands that the ballot language did not say that when referencing that vice principal salaries are a priority. Member Abel too believes that there was mistake in communication.

Member McIntosh feels resentful being accused of lying and being dishonest. It was not the Board's intent to mislead. When promising that no parcel tax funds would be used for administrator salaries, the Board was referencing District level administrators. Member Burns felt frustration. The intent of all discussions

was to make a difference for kids. Trust is important and there was no intent to mislead. Vice principals are important and he would like to protect those positions, if possible.

President El-Hajj stated that should the parcel tax pass, we will need to revisit the dilemma at the March 9 meeting.

Superintendent Johnson reported that Secretary of Education Richard Riordan will be in town March 8 for a gathering at the County Office of Education. We have invited him to visit Santee, but his schedule will not permit a visit at this time. Senator Hollingsworth has also been invited to meet with the Board about legislative goals. Staff has been unsuccessful at this time in receiving a return call on our offer to have Senator Hollingsworth visit us. Member Ryan said she would call the Senator.

President El-Hajj reported that the Board/City Joint Committee will meet on March 30. She called for agenda items for that meeting.

I. CLOSED SESSION

President El-Hajj announced that the Board would meet in closed session for:

1. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release
2. Conference with Labor Negotiator
Agency Negotiator: John Tofflemire, Director, Human Resources
Employee Organizations: Santee Teachers Association (STA)
California School Employees Association (CSEA)
3. Conference with Real Property Negotiators
Location: Renzulli Site
Agency Negotiator: Carolyn Harness, Assistant Superintendent,
Business Services

The Board entered closed session at 8:10 p.m.

J. RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION/ ADJOURNMENT

The Board reconvened to public session at 11:45 p.m. No action was reported. The March 2, 2004, regular meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Dustin Burns, Clerk

Lisbeth A. Johnson, Ed.D, Secretary