



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SARATOGA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Regular Board Meeting  
November 27, 2007**

**M I N U T E S**

Present: Michael Gipe, Cindy Ruby, Pragati Grover, Jack Chang, Shinku Sharma

**1. Call to Order/Public Comment**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Board President Michael Gipe. The public was invited to comment or address the board on issues on the Closed Session Agenda.

There were no comments from the public.

**2. Closed Session**

Board members met in Closed Session for:

- 2.1 Personnel Report
- 2.2 Certificated and Classified Negotiations – Conference with labor negotiator Lane Weiss
- 2.3 Conference with Labor Negotiator (Government Code section 54954.5)  
Agency designated representative: Superintendent  
Unrepresented employees: Administrators, Classified Managers, and Confidential Employees
- 2.4 Conference with Labor Negotiator (Government Code section 54954.5)  
Agency designated representative: Board President Michael Gipe  
Unrepresented employee: Superintendent

**3. Open Session**

Board President Michael Gipe called the meeting into Open Session and announced action taken in Closed Session. A motion was made by Shinku Sharma and seconded by Pragati Grover to approve the Personnel Report and Personnel Report Addendum.

Personnel Report

**Reassignment**

Deborah Dallas, 8<sup>th</sup> grade 1 on 1 Aide at Redwood Middle School is transferring to a 6<sup>th</sup> grade 1 on 1 Aide position at Redwood Middle School effective November 19, 2007.

**Leaves of Absence**

Michele Calhoun, Kindergarten teacher at Saratoga Elementary School is requesting a maternity leave effective January 14, 2008 to April 18, 2008.

Keri Negrych, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Saratoga Elementary School is requesting a maternity leave effective December 19, 2007.

**Resignation**

Bryce Lighthall, 1 on 1 Aide at Argonaut Elementary School, is resigning effective December 21, 2007.

## Personnel Report Addendum

### New Hires

Richel Constantino is being recommended as 1:1 Instructional Aide at Redwood Middle School effective December 3, 2007.

Courtney Gunderson is being recommended as 1:1 Instructional Aide at Redwood Middle School effective November 28, 2007.

Berenice Vela is being recommended as the RPS Instructional Aide at Argonaut Elementary School effective December 3, 2007.

AYES: Gipe, Ruby, Grover, Chang, Sharma  
NOES: 0

### 4. Action/Consent Items

- \*Approval of Agenda
- \*Approval of Minutes for November 13, 2007

A motion was made by Pragati Grover and seconded by Shinku Sharma to approve the Action/Consent Items.

AYES: Gipe, Ruby, Grover, Chang, Sharma  
NOES: 0

### 5. Communications

#### 5.1 Community Comments

There were no comments from the community.

#### 5.2 Comments from Employee Groups

There were no comments from employee groups.

#### 5.3 Comments from the Superintendent

Superintendent Weiss shared a thank you card from Saratoga School students and parents expressing their appreciation for funding an additional crossing guard at the school.

#### 5.4 Comments from the Board

Pragati Grover attended a wonderful 5<sup>th</sup> grade music performance at Argonaut School. She thanked Mrs. Alejandro for her work with students.

### 6. Spotlight: Argonaut Fall Musical

Argonaut School Principal Alex Chapman introduced students who performed *Zippity Do Da* from their upcoming musical *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.* Students participating included: Nicole Chan, Emily Chang, Emily Chen, Jennifer Poo, Christine Raj, Sudeep Raj, Sweeya Raj, Hannah Hulme, Larasa Chiu, Puja Maheshwari, Ami Nachiappan, Samantha Guidry, Kavya Sadrask, Michelle Xu, Shazia Gupta, Cynthia Hao and Ariel Liu. Producer Jean Poo invited board members to attend the performance on December 7-9, 2007. Director Maegan McNerney was thanked for her work with students on this very entertaining performance.

### 7. Action/ Discussion

#### 7.1 Public Hearing to Sunshine Tentative Compensation Agreement with the Saratoga Teachers' Association

We have tentatively reached agreement on compensation with the Saratoga Teachers' Association. Board President Michael Gipe opened the Public Hearing on November 13, 2007 and the public was invited to comment. No comments were received and the Public Hearing was closed at 6:50 p.m.

Superintendent Lane Weiss announced the tentative agreement was ratified by the Saratoga Teachers' Association.

He thanked all the bargaining team members for their hard work. The board was asked to vote on the agreement. Cindy Ruby added it was a very positive process, true to our values, respectful, and everyone contributed.

A motion was made by Cindy Ruby and seconded by Shinku Sharma to approve the Tentative Compensation Agreement with the Saratoga Teachers' Association.

AYES: Gipe, Ruby, Grover, Chang, Sharma

NOES: 0

**7.2 Public Hearing to Sunshine Tentative Compensation Agreement with the Saratoga Classified Association**

We have tentatively reached agreement on compensation with the Saratoga Classified Association. Board President Michael Gipe opened the Public Hearing on November 13, 2007 and the public was invited to comment. No comments were received and the Public Hearing was closed at 6:52 p.m. The board was asked to vote on the agreement.

A motion was made by Shinku Sharma and seconded by Jack Chang to approve the Tentative Compensation Agreement with the Saratoga Classified Association.

AYES: Gipe, Ruby, Grover, Chang, Sharma

NOES: 0

**7.3 Administrators, Classified Managers and Confidential Employee Compensation Proposal**

Superintendent Lane Weiss asked the board to approve an increase in compensation (salary) for administrators, classified managers, and confidential employees which matches the tentative agreements of the Saratoga Teachers' Association and the Saratoga Classified Association (6.25% for the 2007-2008 school year).

A motion was made by Cindy Ruby and seconded by Shinku Sharma to approve the requested increase in compensation for administrators, classified managers and confidential employees.

AYES: Gipe, Ruby, Grover, Chang, Sharma

NOES: 0

**7.4 Testing Report – STAR/MARS**

Superintendent Lane Weiss gave a PowerPoint presentation on the results of STAR (State Testing and Accountability) testing and MARS (Math Assessment Resource Service) testing from spring of 2007. The report included a summary of results, Academic Performance Index information and performance assessment information, trends, and steps taken, steps in progress, and steps to be taken. Superintendent Weiss invited board members to meet with him individually to review the testing information and to answer questions. He will be teaching other team members on how to present this information. Superintendent Weiss offered to present this information to staff, PTA's and School Site Councils.

The board thanked Superintendent Weiss for his presentation. Copies of this report are available at the Saratoga Union School District Office.

**7.5 Budget Update**

Superintendent Lane Weiss updated the board on the Basic Aid/Santa Clara County Assessor's Meeting he attended on November 20, 2007.

- Property tax projections slightly lower by .21% or \$34,756
- Roll corrections are still estimated at \$30M
- Residential real estate sales have slowed some so the increase in secured tax is less than in previous years.
- Unsecured taxes for business have increased which helps some of the larger Basic Aid districts in the county with additional property tax income.

**7.6 Board Protocol Discussion**

Board President Mike Gipe facilitated a discussion on the formation of a protocol for board members in the area of email use and communication. This will be included in the board handbook section on policies and protocols.

A motion was made by Cindy Ruby and seconded by Shinku Sharma to approve the proposed board protocol in the area of email use and communication.

AYES: Gipe, Ruby, Grover, Chang, Sharma

NOES: 0

**7.7 English Language Learner (ELL) Report**

Assistant Superintendent Beth Polito reported on the district program designed to serve English Language Learners.

**Testing**

- CELDT (California English Language Development Test) administration results is double the number of identified students qualified to receive EL (English Language) services.
- Increased rigor of benchmarks for qualification

**Program Requirements**

- CLAD (Cross cultural, language and academic development) credentialed classroom teacher designing and delivering English language instruction-primary program component
- Program options should include structured English immersion (includes primary language instruction) and mainstream English program
- Instructional aide supplemental program: Increased hours to deliver supplemental support both in class and pull out both individually and in small groups

**Next Steps**

- Program review to include a look at classroom teacher training, ELD standards, link between ELD standards and our ELA program
- District ELD Plan refinement and presentation to the board
- Meet compliance goals in teacher credentialing and program requirements our CPM (Categorical Program Review) in 2009-10

**7.8 Resolution 325.11/07–Every Child Holds Opportunity Resolution (ECHO)**

Superintendent Lane Weiss presented proposed Resolution 325.11/07– Every Child Holds Opportunity (ECHO) for Board discussion. This resolution urges the governor, state legislature, and federal governments to provide adequate, equitable and stable special education funding for our schools.

A motion was made by Cindy Ruby and seconded by Shinku Sharma to approve Resolution 325.11/07– Every Child Holds Opportunity (ECHO).

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Gipe, Ruby, Grover, Chang, Sharma  
NOES: 0

**7.9 Emergency Supplies Report**

Assistant Superintendent Beth Polito reported on the progress of ordering emergency supplies from the board approved funding (general fund). The order for supplies was shared and all will be ordered by the end of this week. Two-way cross-district radios have also been ordered. Supplies will be assembled by volunteers at Argonaut School.

**8. Communications**

**8.1 Committee Updates**

Superintendent Weiss and Assistant Superintendent Polito updated the board on the following committees and organization:

- District Leadership Team (Technology, Professional Development, School Plan Data Management, and Math textbook adoption process)
- Emergency Prep/Wellness
- Technology
- Saratoga Education Foundation

**8.2 Community Comments**

There were no comments from the community.

**9. Future Agenda Items**

The Board discussed items for future agendas.

- School Plans
- Board Policies
- Board Protocols

Next meeting: December 11, 2007 – Regular and Organizational Meeting

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

---

Clerk of the Board