

County Board of Education
Ronald L. Stewart Center
77 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, California
March 2, 2005

ROLL CALL: Pamela Mirabella, Area 1 Trustee; David Krapf, Area 2 Trustee; Daniel Gomes, Area 3 Trustee; Glenn Ruley, Area 4 Trustee; and Daniel Borsuk, Area 5 Trustee

Absent: None.

Others: Joseph A. Ovick, Ellen Elster, Ray Penning, Susan Magnone, Michael Bowers, Peggy Marshburn, Mac Carey, and Laura Dorsey Huerta, County Office staff; Nicole McCurdy, Sarah White, and Cynthia Brown (Cal. State, East Bay, students). A partial list of attendees is on file at the County Office of Education.

Presiding: Daniel Borsuk, Board President

The regular meeting of the County Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION The agenda was adopted as presented (M/S: Mirabella/Ruley).

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

CLOSED SESSION None.

RECOGNITIONS None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS & APPEALS None.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT Report

Dr. Joseph A. Ovick, County Superintendent of Schools, gave the following report: he updated the Board on the Williams implementation and explained how he and staff are working with the affected districts to ensure that information and materials are provided in a timely manner to the COE; on Friday he will be attending the Graduates of Distinction Award Ceremony at the Liberty Union High School District; he has agreed to participate on a panel on childhood obesity, which will be hosted by Senator Torlakson; Associate Superintendent Ray Penning and he continue to meet with County Administrator John Sweeten, staff from the County Mental Health Department, Gary McHenry (representing Mt. Diablo SELPA), Doug Adams (representing the 16-district SELPA), and Gloria Johnston (representing W. Contra Costa SELPA) regarding AB 3632 funds for Special Education students receiving mental health services; he has been awaiting an overdue report from the County in order to release the funds that the COE has received from the state, and the non-receipt of the report prompted a meeting on Monday; the report has now been received, and the three SELPAs are currently in the process of reviewing the data; the funds will be released to the County as soon as he and the SELPAs are satisfied with the information that has been received; he attended the ACSBA/CCCSBA Legislator Appreciation Night on February 17, and he thought it was a good meeting.

BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Staff Report

As the staff member to the Contra Costa County Committee on School District Organization, Deputy Superintendent Ellen Elster reported the following: the petition from the Hercules group arrived on Friday and is currently being reviewed by the County Counsel's Office to verify whether it is sufficient; the Registrar of Voters will then verify the signatures, a process that must be completed within 30 days; after that time, the County Committee on School District Organization will begin scheduling hearings; the consultant who was engaged by the COE

to do a feasibility study on the Hercules matter has been working on his analysis since September and still must perform a CEQA study; she noted that this will be a much more complex territory transfer than the County Committee has handled in the past; the independent report prepared by Mike Winters will be ready for review within the statutory period in which the County Committee needs to make a decision; lastly, she noted that up to three public hearings would take place on this matter in Hercules and other parts of West Contra Costa. Mrs. Elster then reported that she has spoken with the Lafayette group that wishes to propose a transfer of territory into Lafayette School District/Acalanes Union High School District, and they have indicated that they are preparing to submit a petition by the end of the week; in this case, she informed the Board that all three districts involved will probably oppose the territory transfer. She then distributed copies of a map showing both Oakley Union Elementary School District and Knightsen School District and informed the Board that a section of Oakley that is part of the Knightsen Elementary School District is about to become developed; however, the land is surrounded on three sides by water, which would require all of the students to be transported a long distance in order to reach Knightsen School; therefore, the developer and Oakley Union Elementary School District are seeking a territory transfer of the parcel; she has discussed this matter with Deputy County Counsel Mary Ann Mason, who believes that it would be appropriate to convene a study session of the County Committee on School District Organization to review more detailed maps and figures and to consider whether it might be appropriate for the County Committee to initiate a territory transfer in this matter rather than allow a situation to be created where a petition would inevitably be submitted by families living in the affected area. It was the consensus of the Board to schedule a study session of the County Committee on School District Organization on April 6, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. Lastly, Mrs. Elster reported that tomorrow night Dr. Ovick would be receiving the DVC Foundation's first President's Circle Award.

STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Staff Report

Ray Penning, Associate Superintendent, Student Programs and Services, informed the Board that an interdistrict attendance transfer appeal hearing had originally been scheduled for this evening; however, the parents decided they were happy with the current school their child is attending. He also reported that the Board is scheduled to hear two interdistrict attendance transfer appeals at the March 16, 2005, Board meeting, and an expulsion appeal will be heard at the April 6 Board meeting. Mr. Penning also reported on AB 3632, which deals with services to Special Education students; as such, he has become part of a stakeholders' group that is looking at how the County Mental Health Department might spend Proposition 63 funds, a new source of funding from income taxes paid from earnings over \$1 million that are now earmarked for county mental health services; in deciding what types of services to provide, the County Mental Health Department formed a committee to specifically address services to children; Mr. Penning, Principal Peter Simack, and Director of Special Education Dr. Nicki Swenson, as members of that committee, will be advocating that mental health services should continue for Special Education students using this new source of funding.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Staff Report

Dr. Susan Magnone, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division, distributed a summary on the K-16 Academic Task Force (convened by Dr. Ovick several years ago to bring K-12 and higher education together for purposes of articulation). Dr. Magnone then reported on the Portal Services, a project which has been moving forward more quickly than expected; she informed the Board that a partnership with Calaveras COE has formed whereby that county office is receiving the Portal Services through a contract with the CCCOE; Marin COE and Solano COE have indicated that they would like to contract with the CCCOE for Portal Services, as well; and San Joaquin COE is also displaying some interest in that regard. She explained that it is the demand that is spurring the growing interest in receiving Portal Services, and the speed at which it is spreading throughout the Northern California area has exceeded the CCCOE's expectations. For the benefit of members of the audience, Dr. Magnone explained features of the Portal Services that are available through the CCCOE.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Presentation of 2005-2006 Staff Calendars

Michael Bowers, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, reviewed the 2005-2006 Staff Calendars with the Board.

Staff Report

HR Assistant Superintendent Michael Bowers reported on the success of last weekend's Annual Teacher Job Fair, which drew a huge number of interested candidates; the common message he received from the districts' human resources staff and principals was that they were very impressed with the quality of the teachers who attended; he noted that there was a higher number of fully credentialed teachers than in past years. He also mentioned that there was quite a bit of television and radio publicity and that Dr. Ovick had been interviewed by John Sasaki from Channel 2; his spot ran on both the six o'clock and ten o'clock news that evening.

COMMUNICATIONS

Staff Report

Peggy Marshburn, Communications Director, distributed to Board members the customer services training packet that was provided earlier in the day to the Education Leadership Council and gave a brief report on the training that was presented. She also reminded the Board about the media event scheduled for March 10 at which ChevronTexaco would be presenting a grant in the amount of \$500,000 to the CCCOE's ROP program and asked that Board members apprise her of whether or not they could attend.

BOARD

Legislative Update

None.

CONSENT ACTIONS

**Minutes of 2/16/05 and Temporary
County Certificates**

The Board voted to accept/grant/approve the following Consent Actions: the minutes from the February 16, 2005, Board meeting; applications for Temporary County Certificates (M/S: Ruley/Krapf).

**CORRESPONDENCE/
EVENTS CALENDAR**

Correspondence: Letter dated February 25, 2005, from John Gioia, Contra Costa County Supervisor, District 1, inviting Board members to an event, "Collaborating for Healthy Living Policies that Address Childhood Obesity," on March 18; letter dated February 25, 2005, from the Law Firm of Jones & Matson regarding their updated article on "Layoff of School District Employees"; letters to Board members dated February 24, 2005, from Anne Wilson, United Way, with a report ("Keeping Youth Safe") enclosed.

Calendar of Events: March 10 – Media Conference and Reception for ROP, Ygnacio Valley High School multi-use room, 10:00 a.m.; March 11-13 – CCBE/PTA/CCSESA Annual Spring Conference, March 15 – Public Information Network breakfast, "Hands-on Dealing with the Media"; March 15 – Contra Costa Adult School Quarterly Award Ceremony, West County Detention Facility, 9:30 a.m.; Monterey; March 25 – Awards Ceremony, Mt. McKinley School; April 4 – CCBE Legislative Conference, Sacramento.

**BOARD REPORTS OF
ACTIVITIES**

No written reports of activities were submitted by Board members. Mrs. Mirabella reported that she attended the ACSBA/CCCSBA Legislator Appreciation event, and although she found the legislators' information interesting, she also felt that their ideas were diverse. Mr. Ruley reported that he also attended the Legislator Appreciation dinner and noted that the legislators seem frustrated because they have had difficulties working with the Governor. He also reported that he will be attending the CCBE/PTA/CCSESA Annual Spring Conference in Monterey and would be arriving a day early in order to attend a CCBE Executive Board meeting. Lastly, he reported that he and his wife would be attending the event tomorrow evening to honor Dr. Ovick as the DVC Foundation's first recipient of the President's Circle Award for Outstanding Service to Education and the Community; Dr. Ovick received applause from those present.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board President adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Joseph A. Ovick, Ed.D., Ex Officio Secretary
County Board of Education

Copies of all resolutions adopted by the Board are on file in the Office of the Superintendent, Ex Officio Secretary of the Board of Education.

These unadopted minutes are summaries and excerpts from the regular meeting of March 2, 2005, and are subject to amendment and/or correction prior to the approval of the County Board of Education.