

**County Board of Education**  
**Ronald L. Stewart Center**  
**77 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, California**  
**January 16, 2008**

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

**Absent:** David T. Krapf, Area 2

**Others:** Joseph Ovick, Ellen Elster, Michael Bowers, Peggy Marshburn, Bianca Bloom, Lindy Khan, Lynn Mackey, Rebecca Corrigan, Jim Mattson, Teachers Sue and Jill, and Laura Dorsey Huerta, County Office staff; high school student DVHS1-1/16/2008; and adult school students CCAS 5/1-16-08 and CCAS 7/1-16-08 (and family and friends of the graduates). A partial list of attendees is on file at the County Office of Education.

**Presiding:** Glenn A. Ruley, Board President

The regular meeting of the Contra Costa County Board of Education was called to order at 6:02 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION**

The Board adopted the agenda with the following amendments: Item 7.2.1 was removed from the agenda, and Item 8.7, a Contra Costa Adult School Diploma, was moved from under Consent Actions to 5.3 under Recognitions (M/S: Mirabella/Gomes).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**RECOGNITIONS**

**Granting of Contra Costa County High School and Adult Diplomas**

The Board voted to grant a Contra Costa County High School Diplomas to high school student DVHS1-1/16/2008 and adult school student CCAS 7/1-16-08 and a Contra Costa Adult School Diploma to adult school student CCAS 5/1-16-08 (M/S: Mirabella/ Gomes). Principal Lindy Khan introduced her two graduates and Contra Costa Adult School teachers Sue and Jill, who provided some background on the graduates' educational attainments. Principal Rebecca Corrigan then introduced her graduate and Jim Mattson, a Delta Vista High School teacher, who spoke of the graduate's educational accomplishments. Dr. Joseph Ovick, County Superintendent of Schools, and Board President Glenn Ruley presented the graduates with their diplomas and conveyed their congratulations.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

**SUPERINTENDENT Report**

Joseph A. Ovick, Ed.D., County Superintendent of Schools, introduced Lynn Mackey to the Board as the newly appointed Director of the COE's education program through the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation (CDCR). He noted that she is now responsible for all of the COE's CDCR programs throughout the state of California. Ms. Mackey expressed her appreciation at having this opportunity to be part of the CDCR education program. Mr. Borsuk commented that, with the governor's budget cuts and what he wants to do with the prison system, there may be more students headed into the CDCR program, and Dr. Ovick agreed. Dr. Ovick then gave a brief report on the proposed state budget and noted that the uncertainty of the education funding will have an impact on collective bargaining for many of the school districts. He reported that the COE has cautioned the school districts as they move forward with their collective bargaining to make certain that they can afford to honor any agreements that are made, based on the proposed budget cuts. He then reported that he met with a group of business leaders this morning with the East County Business/Education

Alliance, and he was asked what \$4 billion tangibly means to education. He explained that this amount would be equivalent to the cost of providing educational services to four times the number of students in Contra Costa County (165,000 X 4) with the legal obligation to continue to provide the educational services to those children. He stated that, as a result of a meeting with Senator Torlakson last month at which the senator asked local districts to advise the Legislature on where school districts need more flexibility and where dollars could be redirected or eliminated for the coming school year, Dr. Ovick and Deputy Superintendent Ellen Elster will be meeting with a group of chief business officials and superintendents from the school districts to compile a list of ideas. He then discussed the process that he is suggesting for getting buy-in from all of the districts, their boards, and the County Board before submitting the list to the Legislature. Mr. Ruley mentioned that a recent article in a local newspaper had presented measurable ways to understand what \$1 billion represents and that the article might help people envision how much \$4 billion represents.

**BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

**Staff Report**

Deputy Superintendent Ellen Elster explained that the County Office of Education has been spared most of the governor's budget cuts; it would be receiving zero COLA, but the school districts will be receiving no COLA plus -2.4%; the school districts will be asked to take one-half percent off their revenue limit at second interim, but the COE is not being asked to do that. She then distributed a handout from School Services of California that stated, "This favorable treatment is due to COE revenue limits being funded with a higher proportion of property taxes than districts, resulting in a smaller impact from the 10.9% cut in state aid." Mrs. Elster also distributed several other handouts relating to the proposed budget, and she reviewed with the Board the figures on the "Projection Dartboard" provided by School Services of California. Lastly, she indicated to the Board that the COE had to send back three districts' salary settlements that had been reached prior to the announcement of the governor's cuts, asking the districts (San Ramon Valley Unified School District, Acalanes Union High School District, and Oakley Union Elementary School District) to resubmit them showing how they can afford the new salaries this year and the next two years given the proposed cuts.

**STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

**Staff Report**

None.

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

**Staff Report**

None.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Staff Report**

Michael Bowers, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources Department, reported that a special workshop is being hosted by the COE, presented by an attorney, for all of the Human Resources district staff and any interested superintendents on the processes for lay-offs with regard to both certificated and classified personnel. The COE has also invited the Solano County Human Resources staff to attend this much-needed presentation. He also reminded the Board that, on February 23, the 2008 Teacher/Certificated Staff Recruitment Fair is slated to take place at Alhambra High School

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Staff Report**

Communications Officer Peggy Marshburn reported that a wonderful Academic Decathlon event took place last Saturday, which involved judging of essays, interviews, and prepared and impromptu speeches; she heard from judges that they were very impressed with the high quality of the students' speeches and interviews; and she noted that the second part of the Academic Decathlon would take place on February 2 and would involve written quizzes and the Super Quiz. She also reported that her department is preparing for Mock Trials, which will be held during the month of February; she noted that they are recruiting attorneys and judges to be scorers and to work in the courtrooms during those times when students are making their presentations; and she invited Board members to contact her with any suggested names of interested attorneys or judges who might wish to volunteer for the Mock Trials. She informed Board members that they would be receiving invitations to the awards events for both the Academic Decathlon and Mock Trials.

**BOARD**

**Legislative Update**

None.

**CONSENT ACTIONS**

**Minutes of December 12, 2007;  
Temporary County Certificates;  
Contra Costa County High School  
Diplomas; Contra Costa Adult  
School Diplomas; and Public Gifts**

The Board voted to approve/accept/grant the following Consent Actions: the minutes of the December 12, 2007, granting of Contra Costa County High School Diplomas to adult school students CCAS 2/1-16-08, CCAS 6/1-16-08, CCAS 8/1-16-08, and CCAS 10/1-16-08; granting of Contra Costa Adult School Diplomas to adult school students CCAS 1/1-16-08, CCAS 3/1-16-08, CCAS 4/1-16-08, and CCAS 9/1-16-08; and the following public gifts, which were donated to the Contra Costa County Office of Education for the Floyd Marchus Special Education Programs: \$100 from Diane Larson, \$150 from Patricia Parker, \$200 from Christine Zupan, \$200 from Mr. and Mrs. Atwood, \$305 from Christi Norton, and \$2,500 from Paul f. Morton (M/S: Borsuk/Gomes).

**CORRESPONDENCE/  
EVENTS CALENDAR**

**Correspondence:** Letters dated December 26, 2007, to the Board from Dennis M. Diemer, General Manager, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), regarding the 2007 EBMUD Annual Report; and letters dated December 18, 2007, to the Board from Richard W. Harris and Edward H. McCormick of EBMUD regarding its combined Water Conservation and Water Recycling Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report.

**Calendar of Events:** January 24, 2008 – Contra Costa Public Information Network: “Spreading the Word: Pushing Emergency Notification Through Technology,” Walnut Creek City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 10:00 a.m. to noon; February 2 – Academic Decathlon, Los Medanos College, Pittsburg; February 23 – CCCOE 2008 Teacher/Certificated Staff Recruitment Fair, Alhambra High School gymnasium, Martinez; March 7-8 – CCBE Annual Spring Conference, Berkeley.

**BOARD REPORTS OF  
ACTIVITIES**

No written reports of activities were submitted by Board members. Mr. Borsuk took this opportunity to ask whether the May 21 Board meeting could be moved to another date, since he would be out of town that day. After briefly discussing alternate dates, it was the consensus of the Board to take up this matter at a later date. Mr. Ruley made a request of staff to prepare and present an update for the Board on the monies being set aside for retirement purposes and any consequences of not doing what the agency is currently doing, and Mrs. Elster agreed to do so. Mr. Gomes reported that the week before last he attended a board meeting of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District in order to hear an item on the district’s proposed budget reductions and another item requested by the Northgate Parents for Transfer, a group of Walnut Creek parents who are requesting that Mt. Diablo Unified School District allow the transfer of five or six elementary schools and one high school to the Walnut Creek School District and Acalanes Union High School District; he briefly reported on both matters. He also reported that last Wednesday he attended a meeting at Northgate High School to hear Dr. William Daggett speak on the topic of the effect that worldwide competition is having on education and how education has played an important part in the rise of India and China in meeting the needs of the commercial competition throughout the world.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 6:44 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 January 16, 2008, and are subject to amendment and/or correction prior to the approval of the County Board of Education.