

County Board of Education
Ronald L. Stewart Center
77 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, California
February 6, 2008

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

Absent: None.

Others: Joseph Ovick, Ellen Elster, Ray Penning, Susan Magnone, Michael Bowers, Peggy Marshburn, and Laura Dorsey Huerta, County Office staff. 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 6:00 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION The Board adopted the agenda as presented (M/S: Borsuk/Mirabella).

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

CLOSED SESSION None.

RECOGNITIONS None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS None.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT Report

Joseph A. Ovick, Ed.D., County Superintendent of Schools, distributed copies of the obituary for Dr. Ronald L. Stewart, who was the former Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools and passed away on November 3, 2007. He explained to the Board that word of Dr. Stewart's death had just reached the County Office of Education and that he hoped the Board would adjourn tonight's meeting in his memory. President Ruley stated that he planned to do so. Dr. Ovick then reported that Deputy Superintendent Ellen Elster and he had an opportunity yesterday to spend part of the afternoon at The Making Waves Academy in Richmond, and he expressed a very positive opinion of the charter school, stating that it was a fantastic program; he complimented the Board on its courage in approving the charter and Ellen Elster for her work with the charter school prior to its presentation before the Board; he provided a brief report on his visit to the school; and he suggested that the Board might consider hosting one of its meetings in the spring in the multipurpose room at The Making Waves Academy, since the charter school would be willing to accommodate the Board meeting at their facility. Dr. Ovick then reported that Director Abe Doctolero and he recently participated in the dedication of the new School of Education for St. Mary's College by serving on a panel, along with Senator Perata and others who have an affiliation with the college, and that the event was extremely well attended. He then distributed copies of CCSESA's legislative priorities for 2008 and an update from Bob Canavan from Washington, D.C., with regard to what is happening with No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and federal funding for special education. Lastly, he announced that he received a letter this week from Associate Superintendent Ray Penning announcing his retirement, effective June 30, 2008. He noted that Mr. Penning has been with the COE since 1989 when he was initially hired as the Director of Special Education, and he stated that he would be sorely missed.

**BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES**

Grant from Chevron Corporation

Deputy Superintendent Ellen Elster briefed the Board on this item, and then the Board voted unanimously to approve the \$100,000 grant from Chevron Corporation to Student Programs/ROP to support the expansion of ROP Science programs and Career Guidance resources (M/S: Gomes/Mirabella). Mr. Borsuk asked if other grants from Chevron exist, and Mrs. Elster responded that there are several such grants in variable amounts that have been awarded by Chevron to the CCCOE. Dr. Krapf asked if the funds would be allocated to specific ROP courses, and Mrs. Ellen stated that the funds would support any of the science and engineering courses across the board.

Budget Augmentation

Deputy Superintendent Ellen Elster reported that a grant award in the amount of \$2,500 has been awarded to the Special Education program at Marchus by a donor who wished to remain anonymous. The Board then voted unanimously to approve the budget augmentation for a grant award in the amount of \$2,500 from an anonymous benefactor (M/S: Mirabella/Borsuk).

Board Resolution No. 4-07/08

The Board voted by the following roll call vote to adopt Board Resolution No. 4-07/08 in the Matter of Depository Services with US Bank for the purpose of identifying authorized signators for the Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools revolving fund: Mirabella, aye; Krapf, aye; Gomes, abstained; Borsuk, aye; and Ruley, aye (M/S: Mirabella/Krapf).

Staff Report

Deputy Superintendent Ellen Elster reported the following: Business Services staff are working with the school districts to assist with the preparation of their second interim reports; the CCCOE is requiring that the districts use the governor's proposed budget and the "dart board," which has resulted in some districts making immediate cuts so that they can maintain a "qualified" certification; she noted that, contrary to what was printed in the newspaper, the CCCOE did not rescind any districts' agreements with employee bargaining units and does not have the authority to do so; the districts had been asked to resubmit their second interim reports to reflect the governor's proposed figures because the ones that the districts had initially submitted for approval used the old COLA figures and did not reflect the deficit.

**STUDENT PROGRAMS AND
SERVICES**

**2007-2008 Consolidated Application,
Part II**

Associate Superintendent Ray Penning gave some background on this item and noted that Part II of the application documents expenditures of 06-07 funds and allotments of 07-08 funds. Mr. Gomes inquired about the figure \$17,000 for contract services noted in "Other Uses of Funds" on page 42, and Mr. Penning responded that the \$17,000 referred to in the application pays for a County probation officer that works with the COE's community schools to provide student oversight. The Board then voted unanimously to approve the 2007-2008 Consolidated Application, Part II (M/S: Krapf/ Mirabella).

Staff Report

Ray Penning, Associate Superintendent, Student Programs and Services, thanked Dr. Ovick for recognizing his years of service to the agency when he announced his retirement earlier in the meeting. He then reported that interdistrict matters continue to be raised, especially in East County, and that he would be meeting with the new superintendent from Byron Union School District on Friday regarding his concerns over losing students to other districts, a discussion of the district's board policies and interdistrict attendance transfer process, and the appeal process at the COE level. He also reported that he has already been contacted by the Oakley Union Elementary School District regarding the "Oakley Orphans," and, in contacting Antioch USD, he learned that they intend to deny every interdistrict transfer request up to fifth grade from residents in the Oakley Orphan area and that they will deny them as they are submitted. He noted that this could place appeals of these interdistrict transfer denials on the June and July agendas of the County Board of Education; therefore, since so many appeals are expected, he felt it was fortuitous that the Board had agreed to schedule two meetings per month. Lastly, he shared with the Board that he is looking forward to presenting, along with Launi Holland and Jane Shamieh, on the procedures for handling expulsions and interdistrict attendance transfer requests at the CCBE Spring Conference in March.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Staff Report

Dr. Susan Magnone, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services, reported that Elvia Teixeira came to work for Educational Services on January 22 primarily to focus on providing support services to schools and districts in terms of addressing the needs of English learners. She noted that Ms. Teixeira's position fills a need identified by the districts based on a survey conducted by Dr. Ovick and that Ms. Teixeira has hit the ground running by scheduling a focus group with the districts to help identify exactly how the CCCOE can begin working with them to meet their needs with regard to English learners.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Staff Report

Michael Bowers, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources Department, reported the following: Ray Penning will be missed on the management negotiating team when he retires; a tentative agreement has been reached with the CTA unit; that tentative contract will be voted on by the membership on February 13; they will continue to work towards an agreement with Local One when they return to the bargaining table on February 19; the California Education Coalition for Health Care Reform (CECHCR) will be offering a Module 1 training, which will be a three-hour workshop on the basics of what health care committees and school districts (a collaboration of management and labor unions) should know when dealing with health care within their districts and/or county offices of education; five districts will be sending their health benefit teams to the CCCOE for the training on February 12; and he invited Board members to attend the workshop. Lastly, he reminded the Board that the 2008 Teacher/Certificated Staff Recruitment Fair is scheduled to take place on February 23 at Alhambra High School and that a large turnout is expected due to potential layoffs.

COMMUNICATIONS

Staff Report

Communications Officer Peggy Marshburn reported that there was a very successful conclusion to the Academic Decathlon last Saturday at Los Medanos College with the piloting of "arena testing," which required that all of the written tests take place in one large area; she noted that this is the same format that will be used for the team that goes on to the state competition in Sacramento; the Super Quiz also took place on Saturday; and, after tonight's Board meeting, she would be attending the Academic Decathlon Awards Ceremony at Pleasant Hill Middle School. She also reported that mock trials began last night and will continue through the month of February; she noted that there are many teams competing this year. Lastly, she reported that now, in addition to oversight of the Williams settlement process, the CCCOE must follow through with those districts that have received money from the state to provide additional services to students who did not pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), as required by the Valenzuela settlement; therefore, in the spring, her department will be doing paperwork, pulling together data, and examining what kinds and levels of services were provided to students who were eligible to receive them; and, in the fall, the process will become part of the Williams visitations to those schools that are participating.

BOARD

Legislative Update

None.

Board Member's Absence

After a brief discussion, the Board voted to approve the absence of Board Member David Krapf on January 16, 2008, as excused because his inability to attend the meeting was out of his control; therefore, the Board directed that Dr. Krapf receive his stipend for January (M/S: Gomes/Borsuk; Krapf abstained).

Minutes of January 16, 2008

The Board voted to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2008, Board meeting (M/S: Mirabella/Borsuk; Krapf abstained).

CONSENT ACTIONS

Contra Costa Adult School Diplomas; and a Contra Costa High School Diploma

The Board voted to approve/accept/grant the following Consent Actions: granting of Contra Costa County Adult School Diplomas to adult school students CCAS 1/2-06-08, CCAS 2/2-06-08, CCAS 4/2-06-08, and granting of a Contra Costa High School Diploma to adult school student CCAS 3/2-06-08 (M/S: Mirabella/Krapf).

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**CORRESPONDENCE/
EVENTS CALENDAR**

Correspondence: Invitation to the Board from the 32nd District PTA to attend its Founders Day Dinner on February 28, 2008

Calendar of Events: February 23 – CCCOE 2008 Teacher/Certificated Staff Recruitment Fair, Alhambra High School gymnasium, Martinez; February 28 – 32nd District PTA's Founders Day Dinner, Zio Fraedo's, Pleasant Hill; March 7-8 – CCBE Annual Spring Conference, Berkeley. Mr. Ruley noted that the PTA appears to be running in a more organized fashion with regard to the Founders Day Dinner, perhaps because there is now a cubicle for its use at the CCCOE. Mrs. Mirabella commented that she enjoyed reading Dr. Ovick's article in the latest PTA newsletter. Mr. Ruley encouraged Board members to attend the CCBE Spring Conference being held at the Claremont Hotel, which, he noted, is a shorter conference than usual. Mrs. Mirabella stated that, because some of the Board members live very close to Berkeley, it might be expected that they would not stay at the hotel. Dr. Ovick responded that each Board member would need to judge whether or not he/she should spend the night, since there are night meetings scheduled. Mr. Ruley noted that Dr. Ovick and he are attending and both are planning to stay overnight.

**BOARD REPORTS OF
ACTIVITIES**

No written or oral reports of activities were provided by Board members.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 6:30 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 February 6, 2008, and are subject to amendment and/or correction prior to the approval of the County Board of Education.