

**County Board of Education**  
**Ronald L. Stewart Center**  
**77 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, California**  
**March 19, 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, Marie McClaskey, and Laura Dorsey Huerta, County Office staff; Charles Cowens, WCCUSD Citizens for Positive Education Change, Kensington; Ruth Carver, Walnut Creek; Donna Domingo, Concord; David Raful, Concord; and Elizabeth Wadsworth, Save Our Schools, Concord. 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/Krapf).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Charles Cowens, a resident of Kensington representing West Contra Costa Unified School District Citizens for Positive Education Change, advised the Board that a group of citizens in West Contra Costa has begun a petition drive to convert the election method in West Contra Costa Unified School District from at large to selection of trustees by trustee areas. He stated that the group began collecting signatures on March 3, 2008, and he sent an e-mail to Dr. Ovick, County Superintendent of Schools, and Mrs. Marshburn, Communications Director, with contact information if there is any interest to find out more about the petition drive. Elizabeth Wadsworth of Concord spoke in opposition to the proposed transfer of schools in Mt. Diablo USD to the Walnut Creek School District and the Acalanes Union High School District, and she requested that the petition be denied. Ms. Wadsworth also lauded Dr. Ovick's for the comments on the state's education budget he made at the press conference that took place at Glenbrook Middle School on Monday, March 17. David Raful, a Concord resident, stated that he strongly opposes the petition aimed at transferring schools from the Mt. Diablo USD to the Walnut Creek School District and the Acalanes Union High School District, and he urged Board members to deny the petition.

**CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**RECOGNITIONS**

None.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

**SUPERINTENDENT Report**

Joseph A. Ovick, Ed.D., County Superintendent of Schools, reported that on Monday he participated in a press conference at the invitation of Senator Perata at the Glenbrook Middle School that was attended not only by the legislative delegation from Contra Costa, but also delegations from the counties of Santa Clara and Alameda Counties; he noted that many parents, children, and teachers were in attendance as were the media; legislators shared what they are hoping to accomplish with the legislative session moving forward with the budget;

they expressed their willingness to sit down with the governor to develop a budget that makes sense for children and families; he spoke on the immediate and long-term need for the state to maintain its economic vitality and the need to discern where cost savings can occur and entertain the possibility of revenue enhancements; he stated that a recent poll indicated that 60% of voters would be willing to approve a tax increase related specifically to K-12 education. Further, he reported that he received an e-mail late yesterday afternoon from Linda Best, president of the Contra Costa Council, that her office had been approached by the governor's office regarding an invitation-only town hall meeting that would take place this morning in Pleasant Hill; the governor wished to meet with business leaders and elected officials, and he was invited to attend; there were 30-40 attendees who met with the governor; and Dr. Ovick shared with the Board that, because he and other educational leaders were not selected to ask their questions, he approached the governor immediately following the meeting and expressed to him his dismay at the devastation within the education community that has occurred as a result of his proposed budget; he mentioned to the governor the willingness of voters to approve a tax increase, and the governor shared with him that he was unaware of the recent poll that indicated this fact; lastly, he reminded him that the education community stands ready to work with Secretary of Education David Long, the governor, and the legislature to craft a workable solution. Upon his return to the office, he reported, he wrote a follow-up letter to the governor, and he would send copies to the Board and the local legislators. He then distributed two items: information on the impact of the governor's proposed budget on special education provided by School Services of California and an update from Sue Burr of CCSESA on the 97 school districts that require intervention in the state, the action by the State Board of Education, and the legislation that will allow that action to happen.

**BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE  
SERVICES**

**2007-2008 Second Period Interim  
Report of the County School Service  
Fund Budget**

Deputy Superintendent Ellen Elster reviewed with the Board the 2007-2008 Second Period Interim Report of the County School Service Fund Budget and noted that the Report provides for a Positive Certification that the County Office of Education will end the 2007-2008 fiscal year with a positive cash balance and an overall fund balance. She noted that all the districts' Second Period Interim Reports, as well as the County Office's Report, were finalized beyond the usual timeline because of the budget cuts that had to be made and in order to be as accurate as possible in order to receive Qualified or Positive Certifications. Following Mrs. Elster's review of the Report, Mr. Borsuk asked if the COE needs a 2% reserve and was that figure \$2.6 million, and Mrs. Elster concurred that the reserve needs to be 2% and that figure is \$1.5 million. He then asked what the \$2.6 million figure represented, and she explained that that figure represents the available cash. He also asked which three districts have received Qualified Second Interim Reports, and Mrs. Elster stated that those districts are West Contra Costa USD, Mt. Diablo USD, and Martinez USD. Mrs. Mirabella called Mrs. Elster's attention to page 28, first line, regarding the "actual to date" where the column, "projected year totals," indicates a difference of \$1 million, and Mrs. Elster promised to get back to her with an answer to her question. Mr. Borsuk asked if the CCCOE planned to have a very tight budget between now and June 30, and Mrs. Elster stated that funds for special education are somewhat tight, but the rest of the agency is in pretty good financial shape. Mrs. Mirabella asked if the CCCOE is waiting for the May Revise to receive more information on the financial outlook, and Mrs. Elster responded that if the governor does not change his mind, she believes that the May Revise will be no different from the present projections and that it is possible that the budget will not be passed until the fall. Dr. Ovick shared with the Board that Mr. Penning heard this morning that the budget for the next school year may not be approved until March 2009 because of the partisan battle going on in Sacramento. The Board then voted unanimously to approve the 2007-2008 Second Period interim Report of the County School Service Fund Budget (M/S: Gomes/Krapf).

**County School Service Fund (CSSF)  
Investment Activities**

Deputy Superintendent Ellen Elster gave an update on the County School Service Fund (CSSF) Investment Activities for the quarter ending December 31, 2007. Mrs. Mirabella asked what the child development fund involved, and Mrs. Elster explained that that is money that is prefunded; therefore, those funds will be used.

**Staff Report**

Deputy Superintendent Ellen Elster reported that her department has been reviewing the districts' Second Period Interim Reports.

**STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**  
**Staff Report**

Ray Penning, Associate Superintendent, provided an update on the interdistrict attendance transfer situation in Oakley and Knightsen, which may involve 15-40 appeal requests, and he noted that future hearings may include an attorney representing Oakley Union Elementary School District and the superintendent from Knightsen Elementary School District. Also, he informed the Board that its legal counsel, Deputy County Counsel Esther Milbury, planned to attend the hearings, as well. He has been attempting to resolve the interdistrict transfer matters by explaining the process to both superintendents involved. Mr. Penning also mentioned that Oakley UESD Superintendent Rick Rogers has made a Public Records Act request that the CCCOE report on the judgments made during the past two years made by the County Board of Education with regard to interdistrict attendance transfer appeals. Mr. Ruley requested that copies of this report be provided to the Board, and Mr. Penning stated that he would do so once the list has been compiled. Dr. Krapf asked if the appeal hearings would be scheduled to take place at regularly scheduled Board meetings, and Mr. Penning stated that he did not feel that extra Board meetings would need to be scheduled. Mrs. Mirabella asked if it might be necessary to review the Board's policy about using an administrative panel to hear these appeals, and Mr. Penning commented that using a panel has become difficult because district personnel are selected to sit on it, and they are somewhat hesitant to participate when they know that the Board could overturn their decisions; therefore, since two hearings per appeal would result from such a process, he recommended against using an administrative panel. Mr. Penning then reported that he attended a meeting at the headquarters of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR ) out of concerns for continued funding; the CDCR is reviewing the contracts and exploring possibilities for doing things differently; because the contracts contain a 30-day cancellation clause, the CCCOE has had to issue preliminary notices to some administrators letting them know that their services may not be needed next school year. Lastly, he distributed flyers on two Special Olympics events in Contra Costa County on April 25 and May 16, and he invited Board members to attend.

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**Staff Report**

None.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**  
**Staff Report**

Michael Bowers, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources Department, reported the following: the membership of the Local One bargaining unit has ratified the three-year agreement that was recently negotiated; a 1.625% increase was negotiated, which is the same increase received by the certificated unit and the management/confidential/professional administrative groups; approximately 20 lay-off notices have been issued to employees mainly in positions funded through grants, which is a smaller number than many of the districts had to issue; on November 18 and 19, the CCCOE will be offering a seminar on "Breakthrough Coaching"; he reminded the Board that Cabinet members and their executive assistants went through this same training experience last November and found it to be extremely useful; as a result, the CCCOE is now encouraging principals and/or district office personnel to also participate in this activity; it is anticipated that there will be 40 teams comprised of principals and their assistants/secretaries; the principals will spend two days in training, while the assistants/secretaries will spend only one day in training; the CCCOE and the Alameda County Office of Education will be joining together to offer the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Academy for classified managers, which is the first time it has been offered in the past seven years, and it will be offered over a period of eight weekends (Fridays and Saturdays); he noted that Dr. Ovick will be presenting at several of those sessions.

**COMMUNICATIONS**  
**Staff Report**

Communications Officer Peggy Marshburn reported that, on April 10 from 10:00 to noon in the Board Room, a workshop of the Contra Costa Public Information Network will feature "Working with the Media: Avoiding Minefields"; she invited Board members to attend if they would like to receive some information on how to deal with the media; on Dr. Ovick's behalf, she attended the governor's first annual Academic Achievement Awards Dinner on March 11 with four students from Contra Costa County; she noted that, while the attendees from Contra Costa only had to be reimbursed for driving to Sacramento, participants from Southern California had to take flights and stay at hotels, representing hefty expenses during a financially strapped period for schools; however, she stated that the dinner and awards ceremony were excellent and represented a lovely way to celebrate and recognize the students' achievement; lastly, she reported that she and her husband attended the Kennedy-King VIP Reception at which the Kennedy-King Foundation honored Dr. Ovick with a scholarship in his name, which was awarded to one of the students; the board members of the Kennedy-King Foundation also honored Dr. Ovick by making personal donations totaling \$300 to Lungevity, an international association that performs lung cancer research, in Dr. Ovick's name.

**BOARD  
Legislative Update**

**Board's 2007-2008 Goals and  
Accomplishments and 2008-2009  
Mission and Goals**

Mrs. Mirabella asked that her participation at Senator Torlakson's Career Tech hearing be included in the list of the Board's accomplishments. There were no other changes requested, and this item will return for adoption on April 2, 2008.

**CONSENT ACTIONS**

**Minutes of March 5, 2008;  
Temporary County Certificates;  
and CCC High School Diploma**

The Board voted to approve/accept/grant the following Consent Actions: minutes from the March 5, 2008, Board meeting; Temporary County Certificates; and a Contra Costa County High School Diploma to high school student GGCS 1-03/19/2008 (M/S: Mirabella/Borsuk).

**CORRESPONDENCE/  
EVENTS CALENDAR**

**Correspondence:** None.

**Calendar of Events:** April 10 – Contra Costa County Public Information Network: “Working with the Media: Avoiding Minefields,” 10:00 a.m. – noon; April 25 – East County School Based Special Olympics, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; May 8 – ROP Awards Event, Pleasant Hill Comm. Center, 3:30-5:00 p.m.; May 16 – Central County School Based Special Olympics, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; June 2 – Teacher of the Year Reception, 3:00-5:00 p.m., CCCOE Board Room; September 25 – Teacher of the Year Dinner Celebration, Concord Hilton.

**BOARD REPORTS OF  
ACTIVITIES**

No written reports of activities were submitted by Board members. Mr. Borsuk reported that he attended the CCBE/PTA/CCSESA Spring Conference at the Claremont Resort last Saturday, and he attended excellent workshops on at-risk students, P-K closing the achievement gap, foster students (including the achievement gap), the Orange County Truancy Response Project, and a Capitol update; he noted that each workshop was packed and the event was well organized; and he shared with the Board and staff that he read a full-page ad in the *San Francisco Chronicle* in the help-wanted section from the New York City Schools District in which that district is recruiting teachers, especially math and science teachers, from California and offering housing and other incentives. Mrs. Mirabella reported that she had called CCCOE Director Bianca Bloom to inform her that she had heard that WCCUSD took the Gompers and Leadership properties off the cut list and asked that Dr. Bloom check out the properties to see if they would be appropriate for alternative education programs; she also asked Dr. Bloom to explain to her all of the partnerships for career technology in West Contra Costa, and Dr. Bloom suggested that she attend a meeting of the School to Career Partnership; she attended the CCBE/PTA/CCSESA Spring Conference, and she thought the information and presentations were very good; she discussed the Grizzly Youth Academy in San Luis Obispo for at-risk students aged 16-18, which offers a regimented three-phase program and works with the National Guard; she stated that would like to study the program to see if a similar program might be appropriate for students in West Contra Costa; she reported on Tutor Connection, which is a San Diego program that uses new teachers as tutors, a workshop on how to make the standards work for career technology, and the CCCOE's workshop on truancy. Lastly, Mrs. Mirabella mentioned that she had asked a presenter how much money it would take to educate one child, and she learned that California is \$2,000 per child behind the national average and that it would take \$14,000 to educate a child (the same amount that The Making Waves Academy is currently spending per student). Mr. Ruley reported that he also attended the Spring Conference and shared with the Board that he had unofficially heard that this particular conference would probably not continue because of poor attendance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 6:18 p.m. in memory of Doug Prouty, a former CCCOE employee who passed away on March 12.

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 19, 2008, and are subject to amendment and/or correction prior to the approval of the County Board of Education.