

**County Board of Education
Ronald L. Stewart Center
77 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, California
April 9, 2014**

ROLL CALL: Pamela Mirabella, Area 1 Trustee; Daniel Gomes, Area 3 Trustee; Richard Asadoorian, Area 4 Trustee; and Cynthia Ruehlig, Area 5 Trustee

Absent: None

Others: Joseph Ovick, Karen Sakata, Pamela Comfort, Bill Clark, Peggy Marshburn, Mac Carey, Loreen Joseph, and County Office staff.

Presiding: The regular meeting of the Contra Costa County Board of Education was called to order by Vice President Gomes at 5:02 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION Ms. Mirabella moved, Mr. Asadoorian seconded, and the Board voted 4-0-0 to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Mirabella pulled the March 19, 2014 minutes from the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: Ruehlig, Gomes, Asadoorian, Mirabella
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Items on the Agenda None

Items of Interest to the Public The following people spoke in support of approving the Dozier-Libbey Medical High School (DLMHS) charter conversion appeal: Dr. Cynthia Soraoka, founding teacher of DLMHS and charter petitioner; Stacey Wickware, DLMHS teacher and lead petitioner; Lori Bonwell, parent; and Natalie Loomis, student.

RECOGNITIONS

Consider Granting of a Contra Costa County High School Diploma to high school student MM 1-4/9/2014 Ms. Mirabella moved, Mr. Asadoorian seconded, and the Board voted 4-0-0 to approve granting high school diplomas to students MM 1-4/9/2014, GGCS 1-4/9/2014, GGCS 2-4/9/2014, DVHS 1-4/9/2014, and DVHS 2-4/9/2014

Consider Granting of a Contra Costa County High School Diploma to high school student GGCS 1-4/9/2014 Ayes: Ruehlig, Gomes, Asadoorian, Mirabella
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

Consider Granting of a Contra Costa County High School Diploma to high school student GGCS 2-4/9/2014 Dr. Ovick, County Superintendent of Schools and Board Vice President Daniel Gomes presented the graduates with diplomas and offered their congratulations.

Consider Granting of a Contra Costa County High School Diploma to high school student DVHS 1-4/9/2014

Consider Granting of a Contra Costa County High School Diploma to high school student DVHS 2-4/9/2014

CLOSED SESSION

Consider the interdistrict transfer appeal of Student A-04/09/2014 from the Antioch Unified School District to Liberty Union High School District

Item pulled

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Joseph Ovick, Ed.D., County Superintendent of Schools, reported on his recent trip to Washington D.C. where he was part of a delegation of twelve county superintendents who met with the Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and the Under Secretaries of Education. While there they looked at the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and discussed the need for reauthorization of both acts, as well as forty percent funding from Congress and the President for special education. There now seems to be a movement through Congress to force the issue to be discussed. Representatives they met with while in D.C., included Congressman Miller, Congressman McNerny, and Congressman Thompson, all of whom expressed support of full funding. While there Dr. Ovick also met with a commissioner from the FCC regarding E-Rates.

BUSINESS SERVICES

Staff Report

Bill Clark, Associate Superintendent, Business Services, reported that state revenues continue to be ahead of projection. Business Services, working closely with Educational Services and Human Resources, has initiated a number of efforts to address the challenges faced as a result of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) implementation. Special Education policies have been adjusted to coincide with the districts that are now responsible for the actual cost. This, in turn, eliminates financial encroachments on the County Office of Education (COE). Dr. Comfort, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services and her staff have worked through transition strategies for ROP. Also, the Supplemental Early Retirement Program (SERP) targets have been met. The combination of all this has strengthened the COE's fiscal position.

In answer to a question from Ms. Ruehlig, Dr. Comfort explained there is a trend happening statewide of districts taking back less involved students. County offices have been trying to provide services for the more involved students who are sometimes placed in non-public schools.

Mr. Asadoorian asked if the COE is in dialogue with Northgate regarding becoming its own district. Mr. Clark responded that communication has been received regarding the possibility of a proposal or petition around Northgate, but it is very early in the process. Initial steps need to take place with respect to the development of a formal petition and/or action by the Mt. Diablo School Board. It's early on for COE to be involved, but information about the county committee may be asked.

Mr. Clark announced the Dozier-Libbey charter appeal hearing will take place May 7, 2014. The decision on the appeal is tentatively set for May 21, 2014. Ms. Ruehlig asked where the decision of Antioch USD is located in the petition. Mr. Clark will provide that information to the Board members. Mr. Asadoorian asked if the decision that will be made by the court later in the month will affect the presentation of the petition. Dr. Ovick responded he did not know, but the Board will know the court's decision before they make their decision on the charter appeal. He also explained that at this point the COE is not a party in the case, but rather a parallel activity. Depending on the court's decision, the authority of the Board may be looked at.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

**Williams Uniform Complaint
Quarterly Report**

Dr. Comfort shared that for the quarter ending March 31, 2014, there were no complaints filed in any of the areas for any school within the Contra Costa County Office of Education Student Programs division.

Staff Report

Pamela Comfort, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services, shared that the 10th Annual Young Children's Issues Forum was a huge success. She commended Ruth Fernandez on the fabulous job she did organizing the Forum. Last Saturday, she, along with Ruth Fernandez, and Eloise Mendoza attended the California Association for the Education of Young Children Conference in Pasadena where they presented a session on how to support children transitioning from preschool to Transitional Kindergarten (TK) or Kindergarten. In attendance were child care providers, preschool teachers and staff, and Kindergarten and TK teachers. They spoke about the role of professionals, the role of parents, and how to support parents in their role. They also discussed the child's perspective. Recently they had a meeting that involved representatives from early learning in the community including First Five.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Staff Report

Karen Sakata, Deputy Superintendent, reported that the Supplemental Early Retirement Plan (SERP) will proceed. Keenan, the contract administrator, has completed analysis and determined there is a savings. The employees taking the SERP will retire between May 1 and June 30. She shared that eleven special education classes are closing and because the March 15 deadline was before the final information was received regarding SERP, layoff notices were issued to seven teachers. Now that it is known that SERP will proceed, five of those notices have been rescinded. The two remaining notices are for an ROP and special education position.

Ms. Mirabella asked that an outline of the savings be provided during the budget process. Mr. Gomes asked what the incentive, in terms of dollars, was given to the employees to retire. Mr. Clark answered that it is an annuity taken between five and ten years. It was recommended by the consulting firm to make it sixty percent of the employee's annual compensation. Mr. Gomes asked how the savings was calculated. Mr. Clark explained that the consulting firm calculates the savings. Mr. Gomes asked that copies of Keenan's report on how the savings were calculated be provided at the next Board meeting for review.

In regard to the Board vacancy, Ms. Sakata shared that information was sent to school districts, newspapers, and the public library. Nine inquiries have been received, three of them live within Area 2 and are therefore eligible to apply. Completed applications are due April 28. Applicants will be interviewed at the May 7 Board meeting. Copies of the questions used in the 2009 vacancy filling process were given to Board members for review. She asked that input be sent directly to her.

COMMUNICATIONS

Staff Report

Peggy Marshburn, Chief Communications Officer, reported that she went on a distinguished school visit to Tassajara Elementary School in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. She shared that application screening for Teacher of the Year took place last Friday. There are twenty-two Teachers of the Year this year. The four semi-finalists will be announced shortly. Dr. Ovick has begun classroom visits of the Teachers of the Year. Ms. Marshburn is also beginning work on the Williams project. Distinguished schools will be announced in May by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson.

TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

Staff Report

Mac Carey, Chief Technology Officer, reported that as instructed by the Board, he has looked into companies that provide online systems that manage board meetings and produce agendas and minutes. The company BoardDocs will give an online presentation next week which he along with Loreen Joseph and other staff who submit board packet materials will participate. Ms. Mirabella asked if the Board would consider videotaping Board meetings. The Board concurred that it should be an agenda item. Mr. Carey suggested that audio recordings may be less expensive. He shared the Board meetings are currently audio recorded, but not made available on line. The audio could be marked to align with the agenda so the public can hear that part of the agenda. Mr. Carey will bring this back as an agenda item.

BOARD

Legislative Update

None

Remembrance of Ellen Elster's Life and Contributions

Mr. Asadoorian moved, Ms. Mirabella seconded, and the Board voted 4-0 to approve placing "Ellen Elster, in memoriam" on the agenda masthead, below the list of current Board Members, for the remainder of her term ending December 2014.

Ayes: Gomes, Asadoorian, Ruehlig, Mirabella
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

Policy Committee Members

Tabled until the May 7, 2014 Board meeting.

Resolution 11-13/14 Supporting Measure E, Contra Costa Community College District

Resolution 11-13/14 in support of the Contra Costa Community College District bond measure that will appear on the June 2014 ballot.

Public Comment: Greg Enholm, Board Member, Contra Costa County College District, urged the Board to approve the resolution. He said that in addition to having the Board's endorsement as a group he would also like their individual endorsement.

Dr. Ovick said the Community College District has been frugal since it's beginning in terms of maintaining suitable facilities for students and preparing them for the future. Measure E will provide dollars available to bring the school facilities to the 21st Century and also better equip the classes within the campuses as well as the satellite sites in Brentwood and San Ramon. There seems to be a groundswell of support for Measure E including the Contra Costa Times. He asked that his name be added as co-signer on the resolution if approved by the Board. Ms. Mirabella asked that the resolution be sent to all eighteen school districts in the county.

Ms. Mirabella moved, Ms. Ruehlig seconded, and the Board voted 4-0 to adopt the resolution and amend it by adding Dr. Ovick as co-signer.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Mirabella moved, Ms. Ruehlig seconded, and the Board voted 3-0-1 to approve the Minutes of March 19, 2014.

Ayes: Gomes, Ruehlig, Mirabella
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: Asadoorian

Ms. Mirabella moved, Ms. Ruehlig seconded, and the Board voted 4-0 to excuse the absence of Mr. Asadoorian from the special board meeting of April 2, due to his attendance at a board related conference.

Ayes: Gomes, Asadoorian, Ruehlig, Mirabella
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS CALENDAR

Correspondence: None

Calendar of Events:

September 11, Teacher of the Year Dinner

September 12-14, CCBE Fall Conference, Monterey

BOARD REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES

Ms. Mirabella attended the Young Children's Issues Forum. Ms. Ruehlig gave pins commemorating April as Child Abuse Prevention Month to the Board and staff. Mr. Asadoorian summarized his trip to the NSBA Conference in New Orleans and gave the Board and staff items from the conference.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 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 April 9, 2014, and are subject to amendments and/or correction prior to the approval of the County Board of Education.

For further information, contact Loreen Joseph, 925/942-3380, ljoseph@cccoe.k12.ca.us.