

**County Board of Education  
Ronald L. Stewart Center  
77 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, California  
August 13, 2014**

- ROLL CALL:** Pamela Mirabella, Area 1 Trustee; Christine Deane, Area 2 Trustee; Daniel Gomes, Area 3 Trustee; Richard Asadoorian, Area 4 Trustee; and Cynthia Ruehlig, Area 5 Trustee.
- Absent:**
- Others:** Karen Sakata, Pamela Comfort, Katie Gaines, Bill Clark, Mac Carey, Lindy Khan, 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 5:00 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION** Ms. Mirabella moved, Mr. Asadoorian seconded, and the Board voted 5-0-0 to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Ruehlig pulled Item 9.3, Acceptance of Public Gift, from the Consent Agenda.
- Ayes: Mirabella, Asadoorian, Gomes, Ruehlig, Deane  
Noes: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None
- PUBLIC COMMENT** None  
Items on the Agenda
- Items of Interest to the Public
- RECOGNITIONS** None
- ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** Karen Sakata, Deputy Superintendent, reported that Dr. Ovick and Cabinet members recently attended the PAC 6 meeting along with other county offices of education. There they received updates from School Services of California and the State Board of Education.
- BUSINESS SERVICES**
- County Superintendent's Compensation** Bill Clark, Associate Superintendent, Business Services, shared revised information with the Board which included the four highest paid superintendents in the county. The information is used for comparative purposes. Regarding the class II counties superintendent comparison chart, Mr. Gomes stated that most annuities are financed by the annuitant themselves. If any of the annuities are self-financed it's considered double counting. Mr. Clark said it is appropriate to count the annuities because it is a form of compensation. It isn't recognized immediately, but those funds are a compensation benefit to the individual. The entire principal and interest will be paid out under the terms of the annuity.

Ms. Deane said the agenda item states the County Superintendent's compensation is not in compliance with Board policy 4600. Therefore, the decision before the Board needs to stay within its policy or be remanded to the Policy Committee. Ms. Ruehlig asked if the policy is based on Education Code or Board of Education policy. Mr. Clark responded that it is a Board of Education adopted bylaw and has legal authority in the sense that it is binding upon the Board. He is not aware of the history of how it was developed. Mr. Gomes asked if Board policy states that the County Superintendent's salary should be within twenty-five percent of the highest superintendents' salaries. Mr. Clark explained that the policy states "reasonably competitive". In the agenda item he shares the COE hiring and salary practices as a point of reference for the Board. Ms. Mirabella suggested the Board look at other county offices of education policies in regard to superintendent compensation.

Ms. Mirabella moved, Ms. Deane seconded, and the Board voted 4-0-1 to approve the superintendent's compensation increase with the understanding that the policy be reviewed before the compensation item comes before the Board next year. Mr. Gomes asked for a roll call vote.

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

Mr. Clark asked the Board for direction regarding the Board's stipend being considered annually. Mr. Gomes said that because this is not tied to anything it should be revisited after the election because there could be new board members.

**Staff Report**

None

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

**Williams Uniform Complaint Quarterly Report**

For the quarter ending on June 30, 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.

Presented as information only.

**Staff Report**

Dr. Pamela Comfort, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services, reported that the Curriculum and Instruction staff is planning the next Common Core Summit which will take place October 28 and 29. She shared that the summit has become well-known statewide for its high caliber presentations. Hilary Dito, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Coordinator, is working on the STEAM Colloquium which will take place at the end of January. Review of school districts LCAPs have been completed and letters will be sent to the board members of each district. She also mentioned that Dr. Khan, Director of Innovation and Support, will be bringing suggested interdistrict transfer policy updates to the Policy Committee for review. She noted the outstanding donation of \$2000 from retired employee Susan Lee.

Ms. Ruehlig asked if interdistrict transfer appeals that are remanded back to the district can be appealed to the County Board a second time. Dr. Khan said she could not find anything that speaks to it in writing. Ms. Ruehlig asked if County Counsel could be consulted to find out if it could be addressed in board policy. Ms. Sakata said it should be researched further, beginning with looking at what is being done in other counties.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **Staff Report**

Karen Sakata, Deputy Superintendent, reported there were fifty-one employees who took the Supplemental Early Retirement Program (SERP). The majority of those positions will be replaced. She announced three new employees in the Human Resources Department: Martha Collins, Human Resources Assistant II; Beverly Christie, Human Resources Analyst; and Michelle Kiernan, Executive Assistant to Assistant Superintendent Katie Gaines.

Ms. Sakata also shared that first round interviews have been completed for the Chief Communications Officer (CCO) position. The CCO is expected to be in place by the end of August or beginning of September. The Controller position has been posted and interviews will take place on Monday, August 18. The Controller title has been changed to Director of Business Services. The position will still include oversight of Charter Schools, but will now also manage the Business Department.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Staff Report**

None

## **TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS**

### **Staff Report**

Mac Carey, Chief Technology Officer, reported that at the last Board meeting the contract for Board Docs, an online agenda program, was discussed. He suggested scheduling training for Board members at the December 10 Board meeting.

Ms. Mirabella asked Mr. Clark for a copy of the Dozier-Libbey appeal that went to the state. She also asked to be told when the hearings in Sacramento will take place. She would like to attend and have a staff member attend as well, if appropriate. Mr. Clark responded that he will take care of facilitating her request.

## **BOARD**

### **Legislative Update**

Mr. Gomes shared that San Mateo County, which is a charter county, is trying a three-year experiment to go 100% absentee ballot. Exceptions are that every major city will have one polling place where people can cast their ballots. He feels it should be encouraged in Contra Costa County as well, perhaps with a resolution by the Board of Education. There is potential to reduce the cost of ballots by as much as 80%.

Ms. Mirabella shared that CSBA recently sent out a request for response regarding the facilities bond initiative.

### **Consider calling for a meeting of the County Committee on School District Organization**

Ms. Mirabella stated that she asked staff to place this item on the agenda for the purpose of letting her colleagues know of a document she wrote in 1994 on district reorganization titled, *Is Bigger Better?* In it she gives the history of Contra Costa County. She said one of the things the Board is dealing with is the "Oakley orphans". It is her hope that a presentation can be given to the Board to update them on some of her questions regarding the Oakley orphans. Mr. Gomes said it is his understanding that this must be presented to the Board by a party that wants to change the boundary for a purpose. Therefore, the Board would have to find an interested party that would be able to present a petition.

In answer to a question from Ms. Ruehlig, Mr. Clark explained that the Board has the authority to call for these kinds of studies. However, consulting resources are very expensive and hard to obtain. Mr. Gomes suggested waiting for a third party and to not delve into it on their own because of the expense. Ms. Mirabella asked staff to find out how many students are affected. Dr. Khan offered to compile the actual numbers of students who have been admitted from the Oakley orphan area, as well as those that have applied and not been admitted.

Mr. Gomes asked for consensus from the Board. Ms. Mirabella said staff has committed to give the Board a perspective.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeffrey Belle commended the Board for taking a clear stance on the Dozier-Libbey issue. He said there is now a healthy discourse taking place at the school. He added that the Dozier-Libbey petitioners have filed an appeal with the state.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Consider approval of minutes of  
July 16 and July 23, 2014**

**TCCs**

**Consider granting of a High School  
Diploma to high school student  
MM 1-08/13/14**

**Consider granting of a High School  
Diploma to high school student  
MM 2-08/13/14**

**Consider granting of a High School  
Diploma to high school student  
GGAS 1-08/13/2014**

**Consider granting of a High School  
Diploma to adult school student  
GGAS 2-08/13/2014**

**Consider Acceptance of Public Gift in  
the amount of \$2000 from Susan Lee,  
retired CCCOE accountant, to be split  
between the Special Education  
graduation fund and the ROP student  
scholarship fund**

Mr. Mirabella moved, Mr. Asadoorian seconded, and the Board voted 5-0-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Ms. Ruehlig moved, Mr. Asadoorian seconded, and the Board voted 5-0-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

The Board will send a letter to Ms. Lee acknowledging the gift.

**CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS  
CALENDAR**

**Correspondence:** None

**Calendar of Events:**

**September 5, Institute Day, 9:30 a.m., El Campanil Theater**

**September 11, Teacher of the Year Dinner**

**September 12 – 14, CCBE Fall Conference, Monterey**

**September 16, Qtly Awards Ceremony, WCDF, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**September 17, Qtly Awards Ceremony, MCDF, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

**December 14 – 16, CSBA Annual Conference, Moscone Center, San Francisco**

**December 16, Qtly Awards Ceremony, WCDF, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**December 17, Qtly Awards Ceremony, MCDF, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

## BOARD REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES

Ms. Ruehlig shared that she sits on the Board for Synergy Charter School. She explained that the school has the highest score of middle school ELL students in the area. She said that serving on the Synergy Board is not a conflict of interest. The reason being that if they request reauthorization of their charter, it will go to the original district which is Pittsburg Unified. If Pittsburg Unified denies the charter it would then go directly to the state. It would not come to the Contra Costa County Board of Education.

Ms. Mirabella participated in National Night Out in her neighborhood. Ms. Deane visited the superintendents of Canyon School District and Lafayette School District. Mr. Asadoorian shared he will be in Sacramento for the upcoming nominating committee for CSBA officers. He also participated in a conference call for the CCBE conference in Monterey.

Open Session adjourned at 6:43 p.m. Following a ten minute break the meeting reconvened at 6:52 p.m.

## CLOSED SESSION

### **Consider the interdistrict transfer appeal of Student A-08/13/14 from the Pittsburg Unified School District to the Acalanes Union High School District**

The Board convened in closed hearing at 6:53 p.m. to consider the interdistrict attendance transfer appeal of a parent for a child from the Pittsburg Unified School District to the Acalanes Union High School District. The Board convened to closed deliberation at 7:11 p.m. The Board reconvened to closed session hearing at 7:23 p.m. and immediately to open session. On behalf of the Board, Hearing Facilitator, Lindy Khan, announced that the Contra Costa Board of Education voted 5-0-0 to deny the interdistrict transfer appeal of Student A-08/13/14 based upon Contra Costa County Board of Education Administrative Regulations 5200(E) 3.17 other reason not specified – student’s academic record does not meet the district board policy with regard to interdistrict transfers staying in the district for renewal. Secondly it is based on the Acalanes Union High School District’s policy for an interdistrict transfer renewal, the student must maintain academic progress demonstrating a minimum core subject GPA of 2.0 and remain on track for graduation.

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

### **Consider the interdistrict transfer appeal of Student B-08/13/14 from the Antioch Unified School District to the Brentwood Union School District**

The Board convened in closed hearing at 7:28 to consider the interdistrict attendance transfer appeal of a parent for a child from the Antioch Unified School District to the Brentwood Union School District. After a brief confer with Dr. Khan, Mr. Asadoorian cited a conflict of interest regarding the interdistrict transfer appeal of Student B-08/13/14. He recused himself from the hearing and left the Board meeting at 7:38 p.m. The Board convened to closed deliberation at 7:54 p.m. The Board reconvened to closed session hearing at 8:04 p.m. and immediately to open session. On behalf of the Board, Hearing Facilitator, Lindy Khan, announced that the Contra Costa Board of Education voted 3-1-1 to deny the interdistrict transfer appeals of Student B-08/13/14 based upon Contra Costa County Board of Education Administrative Regulations 5200(E) 3.7 there could be a financial hardship to the district.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 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 August 13, 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](mailto:ljoseph@cccoe.k12.ca.us).