

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY DISTRICTS  
September 6, 2023**

**Convene Closed Session**

Board President Owen called this Closed Session Meeting to order at 5:08p.m.

**Public Comments for Closed Session Agenda Items**

None

**Convene Open Session**

Board President Owen called this Regular Meeting Open Session to order at 6:30p.m.

**Attendance at Meeting**

John Owen	Patricia Threet	Kevin Grossman	Angela Meeker
Claudia Vestal	Kyle Kelley	Sheila Coonerty	

Student Board Representative, Matthew Simon  
Student Board Representative, Jimena Vazquez Veloz  
Student Board Representative, Zach Von Worley

Dorothy Coito, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services  
Jim Monreal, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services  
Kris Munro, Superintendent

Absent: Molly Parks, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Members of the Audience

**Welcome and Format**

Board President Owen welcomed those in attendance and explained the format used for this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education.

**3.3 Agenda Changes, Additions, or Deletions**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Nick Labadie Co-President of the Monarch Community Board, a parent's association for Monarch Elementary, began by thanking the board and cabinet for the time and energy they put into the district. Mr. Labadie stated that he was in attendance, along with other Monarch parents, because of concerns regarding the future of Monarch Elementary. Mr. Labadie stated that there were fears that the school would be closed. Mr. Labadie spoke of the Vision 2030 Committee, noting that they have some representation, but that they would like to know more about the process and asked that the meetings be open for observation. Mr. Labadie concluded his comments by saying he hoped that opportunity would be given for participation throughout the process of decision making.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Munro began her report by celebrating that there were five peer tutors in each of the three Math Plus classes at Soquel High. She shared that Mr. Shen and Ms. DelCarlo served as peer tutors when they were students and thought it was a lovely way to build a future workforce and elevate student leadership. Ms. Munro also shared that there were numerous professional development opportunities happening and that a Secondary Math Professional Learning Community was just launched. Ms. Munro discussed the beginning of the Cookies & Conversations meetings which she hopes will help gather feedback to better support staff, students, and families. Ms. Munro also met with PG&E and DSA to mediate and finally resolve a two-year dispute between the two entities which should be finalized over the next few weeks. Ms. Munro concluded her report by sharing that she met with Lookout Santa Cruz to continue their program to offer free subscriptions to all high school students and staff so that their news can be used for current events in classrooms.

### **Student's Report**

Student Board Representative Simon shared that back-to-school night went well with over 500 parents in attendance. Mr. Simon said that sports are in full swing and next week girls' volleyball will be playing against Santa Cruz High, joking to representative Von Worley that they should watch out. Mr. Simon shared that club day and homecoming festivities were coming up and that he was looking forward to continuing the year.

Student Board Representative Vazquez Veloz shared that club and sports day were coming up later in the week and that students were excited. Ms. Vazquez Veloz announced that Homecoming events were beginning and that students can sign up to create floats as well as participate in other events to boost school spirit. She also said that coming up is a college fair with schools such as UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara and SF State slated to attend. Ms. Vazquez Veloz concluded her report by saying that they had a successful back-to-school night with high attendance and good feedback from parents, with Harbor having a strong start to the year.

Student Board Representative Von Worley shared that Santa Cruz lost to Harbor, which was a hit to the team but he knew they would pull through. Mr. Von Worley announced that this year's homecoming theme is music, so every grad gets a different genre. He said that Santa Cruz had a robust back-to-school night with large attendance rates and the band, cheer team and dance team all performed for parents. Mr. Von Worley concluded his report by sharing that seniors went to see *The Taming of the Shrew* at Santa Cruz Shakespeare thanks to the generous donation from Mr. Bartos of Bartos Architecture.

## **BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS**

### **Board Members' Reports**

Trustee Meeker began her report by stating that it was amazing to hear about the engagement from students at all three campuses for the back-to-school nights, club and sports days. Trustee Meeker then commended the new district grant writer Jacquie Benetua on the publication she sent out regarding grant opportunities for teachers, saying what a great way it was to welcome everyone back to the school year. Trustee Meeker also said she was extremely appreciative of how invitational Ms. Benetua is through letting staff know that they can contact her if they need more assistance in their grant writing. Trustee Meeker also shared that she attended the LBTQIA Task Force with Trustee Vestal and that it was great to support students in looking at best practices. She concluded her report saying that she was looking forward to participating in the Vision 2030 Committee to help think about how we can support sustainability moving forward.

Trustee Kelley shared that earlier in the week he assisted in conducting interviews for the Educator Workforce Housing project and looked forward to discussing it more as the process progresses.

Trustee Threet thanked the Monarch parents for showing up, saying she was glad to see they are engaged in their school. Trustee Threet then discussed the Soquel High football game she attended which had students from Pacific Charter School, Santa Cruz High, Harbor High, San Lorenzo Valley, Aptos High and Middle schools in attendance. She said that the game had a lot of great energy and seeing so many young people from different schools show up was emblematic of how much people want community. Trustee Threet concluded her report by saying she was happy to hear of all the club work happening and was excited that students are excited to be together.

Trustee Grossman also thanked the Monarch parents for speaking and voicing their concerns. Trustee Grossman shared that he took a tour at Westlake Elementary and was excited to have been on campus for a site visit. Trustee Grossman attended his first CSBA Masters in Governance Class on the Foundation of Effective Governance, saying this was the first of five classes and he was excited to be taking them so that he can be a better board member for the community. Trustee Grossman concluded his report by discussing the CTE Advisory meeting he attended, saying he is very passionate about these classes and the offerings we have in the district.

Trustee Coonerty had no report to share.

Trustee Vestal began her report by saying that she was very impressed by the learning environments of the TK/K class and was happy to see parents excited about the new offerings. Trustee Vestal will be attending the Delta school board meeting where the bylaws will be updated and student ambassadors will share about their school. Trustee Vestal also attended the LGBTQIA Task Force and was excited to hear about all the events happening for students such as the Roller Rink event Cats on Skates in Outer Space, Diversity Gala, and the Queer Youth Summit. Trustee Vestal noted that the board was thanked for listening to student voices by passing the Raising the Rainbow Flag resolution and concluded her report by thanking MTSS Coordinator Rishi Lal for chairing the task force meeting.

### **Board President's Report**

Board President Owen discussed the educator housing interviews saying there were some very exciting quality options to consider. Trustee Owen wanted to share a personal story to relate to the discussion regarding Raising the Rainbow Flag at the last board meeting. Trustee Owen said that for over 100 years his family has owned a small strip mall property in the San Bernadino mountains. On August 18<sup>th</sup> one of their tenants was murdered for defending the pride flag, an individual shot and killed her after he ripped down the flag outside of her shop. Trustee Owen said that when the Black Lives Matter movement began he recognized that it was no longer acceptable to only not be racist, but we must all be anti-racist. Trustee Owen said the same must be applied to the LGBTQ community, stating it is not enough to be tolerant one must instead be anti-intolerance. The events in San Bernadino have only furthered his conviction on this viewpoint.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None

### **GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS**

### **Closed Session Items**

### **Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session**

1. Ms. Munro did not have information to share with the Board on Certificated/Classified/Management Leaves, Retirements, Resignations & Appointments.
2. Ms. Munro did not have information to share regarding Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Complaints.
3. Ms. Coito provided an update to and received direction from Trustees regarding the Special Education Interim Settlement Agreement. Vote 7-0.
4. Ms. Munro provided an update to and received direction from Trustees on Legal Counsel, Ongoing Litigation regarding proposed settlement of claims related to e-cigarettes and vaping issues (Govt. Code Section 54952.2) And today the Board voted 7-0 to conditionally resolve litigation against Altria Group, Inc. and other defendants regarding liability and damages related to e-cigarette and vaping.
5. The Board discussed public employee performance evaluation, Superintendent 2023-24 Goals (Govt. Code Section 54957)

### **Acknowledgement of Gifts**

None

## **ITEMS TO BE TRANSACTED AND/OR DISCUSSED**

### **8.2.1.1 Staff Report: Annual Interdistrict Transfers and Open Enrollment Update**

Assistant Superintendent Coito introduced Director of Student Services Casey O'Brien to present the Annual Interdistrict Transfers and Open Enrollment Update. A permit authorizing attendance of a student outside his/her district of residence may be issued upon approval from the district of residence and the district of proposed attendance. Specific application guidelines for approval/denial of inter-district transfers are monitored directly through the office of the Director of Student Services. Inter-district Transfers and instances of Open Enrollment have a direct impact on K-12 enrollment at each site and are monitored carefully. Trustees asked questions and had discussion. This report was informational in nature and no action was taken by the Board at this time.

### **8.2.1.2 PUBLIC HEARING: Elementary and Secondary Textbook Sufficiency**

Assistant Superintendent Coito explained that a public hearing for textbook sufficiency must be held annually to be eligible to receive instructional material funds. President Owen opened hearing for public comment.

**Open:** Board president Owen opened this public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

**Comments:** None

**Closed:** Board President Owen closed this public hearing at 7:17 p.m.

### **8.2.1.3 New Business: Resolution 03-23-24: Elementary Textbook Sufficiency**

Assistant Superintendent Coito brought forward Resolution 03-23-24: Elementary Textbook Sufficiency which attests that each elementary student in the district has or will have prior to the end of the fiscal year, sufficient textbooks or instructional materials in specified subjects that are aligned to the academic content standards. At the start of this school year, enrollment was greater than projected at some sites, so additional textbooks were ordered for some subject areas. These textbooks have been received and there are sufficient materials for all students. Superintendent Coito recommended approval of Resolution 03-23-24: Elementary Textbook Sufficiency.

Trustee Vestal motioned to approve Resolution 03-23-24: Elementary Textbook Sufficiency. Trustee Grossman seconded the motion.

The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b> Meeker – Yes	Kelley – Yes	Threet – Yes	Grossman – Yes
Coonerty – Yes	Vestal – Yes	Owen – Yes	

Student Trustee Simon abstained from a vote on this matter.

Student Trustee Vazquez Veloz abstained from a vote on this matter.

Student Von Worley abstained from a vote on this matter.

#### **8.2.1.4 New Business: Resolution 04-23-24: Secondary Textbook Sufficiency**

Assistant Superintendent Coito brought forward Resolution 04-23-24: Secondary Textbook Sufficiency which attests that each secondary student in the district has or will have prior to the end of the fiscal year, sufficient textbooks or instructional materials in specified subjects that are aligned to the academic content standards. This year, there was an insufficiency in textbooks or instructional materials within some schools and subjects. All textbooks have been ordered, but delivery times vary due to demand, availability, and shipment times. Typically, textbooks are received within 2 weeks of an order. Additionally, there will be a review of systems for identifying textbook needs before the end of the school year to ensure adequate materials in subsequent years. Superintendent Coito recommended approval of Resolution 04-23-24: Secondary Textbook Sufficiency.

Trustee Grossman motioned to approve Resolution 04-23-24: Secondary Textbook Sufficiency. Trustee Vestal seconded the motion.

The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b> Meeker – Yes	Kelley – Yes	Threet – Yes	Grossman – Yes
Coonerty – Yes	Vestal – Yes	Owen – Yes	

Student Trustee Simon recommended a yes vote on this matter.

Student Trustee Vazquez Veloz recommended a yes vote on this matter.

Student Von Worley recommended a yes vote on this matter.

#### **8.2.2.1 Staff Report: Opening Enrollment Report**

Assistant Superintendent Monreal presented the Opening Enrollment Report. The report shows attendance by site on August 21st, the eighth day of the 2023-24 school year. The 2023-24 numbers represent the “head count” on that day. The information in the report compares 2023-24 actual enrollment to the 2023-24 projected enrollment, as well as the October 2022 CBEDS enrollment. Human Resources worked diligently to staff the District according to projected numbers and hired late in the 2023 summer to match students as enrollment was verified. Trustees asked questions and had discussion. This report was informational in nature and no action was taken by the Board at this time.

Helayne Ballaban, Elementary Vice President of GSCFT, made a public comment regarding the importance of minimizing combination classes. She stated that when looking at the needs for staffing at elementaries one cannot just look at the total number of students, they must look at grade level numbers so that combo classes and class sizes are minimized as elementary teachers have shared that there are still struggles with behavior issues in students.

### **8.2.2.2 Staff Report: Long Term Debt Report**

Assistant Superintendent Monreal presented the Long Term Debt Report which shows SCCS' long-term debt obligations. The District's long term debt is currently composed of facilities Bond Measures, a Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) Certificate of Participation (COP) that were issued in 2010 to install the artificial turf field at Branciforte Middle School and Lease financing for our Climatec Sustainability Projects. The District investigated an early payoff of the Certificate of Participation, but there is a penalty for early payment as the financing was through the American Recovery and Investment Act of 2009. Trustees asked questions and had discussion. This report was informational in nature and no action was taken by the Board at this time.

### **8.2.3.1 Staff Report: Annual New Employee Report**

Superintendent Munro presented the Annual New Employee Report. Santa Cruz City Schools (SCCS) welcomed forty-four new certificated staff, four new administrators and two administrators promoted into new leadership roles. The report also shared that the new certificated employee orientation highlighted a variety of topics that included: SCCS Vision and Goals, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, SCCS Collective Commitments, Partnership between Administrators and Labor, and an introduction to the GSCFT and Leadership. The day ended with a bus tour of SCCS school sites. The second day of orientation included specific training on curriculum and assessment. The third day was a site orientation led by school administrators. Trustees asked questions and had discussion. This report was informational in nature and no action was taken by the Board at this time.

### **8.2.4.1 New Business: CSBA for Board Policies First and/or Final Reading**

Superintendent Munro introduced the CSBA Board Policies for First and/or Final Reading. Policies are submitted through the GAMUT online board policy book updating process, which uses CSBA recommendations for review and change approximately six times per year in participating districts. These recommendations reflect recent changes in education code and/or case law. The policies have been reviewed by staff to ensure that any required customization for Santa Cruz City Schools has been included. The Policy Guidesheet provides a basic overview of the policy changes. Trustees asked questions and had discussion.

MSP (Kelley/Vestal) 7-0, the Board of Education approved the First and Final Reading of the CSBA Board Policies.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS**

### **Consent Agenda**

8.3.1.1 Overnight Field Trip Requests: Harbor and Soquel High Athletics, 8.3.2.1 Purchase Orders, Bids & Quotes, 8.3.2.2 Warrant Register, 8.3.2.3 Disposition of Surplus, 8.3.2.4 4th Quarter Investment Report, 8.3.2.5 Resolution 05-23-24: Authorized Signatures 2023-24, 8.3.3.1 Certificated Personnel Actions, 8.3.3.2 Classified Personnel Actions, 8.3.3.3 Revised Job Description: Elementary School Counselor, 8.3.3.4 Revised Job Description: Secondary School Counselor, 8.3.3.5 Revised Job Description and Salary Placement: Site Accounting Technician, 8.3.3.6 Revised Job Description: Behavior Technician Special Education, 8.4.1.1 Consultant Services Agreement: WestEd – Elementary, 8.4.1.2 Memorandum of Understanding: Seniors

Council Foster Grandparents Program, 8.4.1.3 Contract: Annual Renewal: EdPuzzle, 8.4.1.4 Memorandum of Understanding: Renewal: Dientes Community Dental Care, 8.4.1.5 Contract: Annual Renewal: UC Santa Cruz Work Study - AVID Tutors, 8.4.1.6 Victor Services Rate Revision, 8.4.1.7 Out of State Travel Request: Special Education, 8.4.1.8 Independent Consultant Agreement: TT4 Success, 8.4.1.9 Independent Consultant Agreement: Kim Cardilla, 8.4.2.1 Encompass Head Start Lease Renewal, 8.4.2.2 Moore Twining: Proposal: HVAC Special Inspections and Materials Testing, 8.4.2.3 Contract: Smartbus Wifi, 8.4.2.4 Memorandum of Understanding between SCCS and Santa Cruz County Office of Education 2023-24: Hotspots, 8.4.2.5 Contract: Annual Renewal: Information Technology Professional Development Licenses: Computer Based Training, 8.5.1 Bosco Construction Services, Inc.: Contract: DeLaveaga Elementary School Cold Storage, 8.5.2 Dilbeck & Sons Inc.: Change Order 1: DeLaveaga Elementary School Door Hardware Replacement, 8.5.3 Moore Twining: Change Order 1: Bay View Ball Wall Special Inspections and Materials Testing Services, 8.5.4 Peartree+Belli Architects Inc.: Amendment Agreement: Westlake Elementary School Modernization, 8.5.5 Peartree+Belli Architects: Amendment Agreement: Westlake Elementary School Multi Project Overhead, 8.5.6 SC Systems: Change Order 1: Mission Hill Middle School Duct Detectors, 8.5.7 SecureAll: Change Order 2: District Wide Card Access Security System, 8.5.8 Verde Design: Change Order 3: Santa Cruz High School Baseball Backstop Modifications

Trustee Threet asked to pull agenda item 8.5.4 Peartree+Belli Architects Inc.: Amendment Agreement: Westlake Elementary School Modernization for further discussion.

Trustee Grossman motioned to approved the consent agenda without item 8.5.4 Peartree+Belli Architects Inc.: Amendment Agreement: Westlake Elementary School Modernization. Trustee Vestal seconded the motion.

The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b> Meeker – Yes	Kelley – Yes	Threet – Yes	Grossman – Yes
Coonerty – Yes	Vestal – Yes	Owen – Yes	

Student Trustee Simon abstained from an advisory vote on this matter.

Student Trustee Vazquez Veloz abstained from an advisory vote on this matter.

Student Von Worley abstained from an advisory vote on this matter.

#### **8.5.4.1 Further Discussion: Peartree+Belli Architects Inc.: Amendment Agreement: Westlake Elementary School Modernization**

Vice President Threet stated that she believed the item was incorrectly placed on consent as the board had previously requested that all contracts over 1 million dollars would be on the agenda as an action item. Superintendent Munro agreed that it was an error that it was placed on consent but noted that it was still in legal standing where it was placed on the agenda. Board President Owen agreed with Trustee Threet that he would feel more comfortable passing the amendment if they had known how much the previous architect had been paid and had been flagged to provide more scrutiny to the item. Trustee Grossman shared his appreciation for Trustee Threet pointing out the error, while also stating that he knew Westlake was in need of modernization on different levels.

Trustee Grossman motioned to approve Peartree+Belli Architects Inc.: Amendment Agreement: Westlake Elementary School Modernization. Trustee Vestal seconded the motion.

The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b> Meeker – Yes	Kelley – Yes	Threet – No	Grossman – Yes
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Coonerty – Yes

Vestal – Yes

Owen – No

Student Trustee Simon abstained from an advisory vote on this matter.

Student Trustee Vazquez Veloz abstained from an advisory vote on this matter.

Student Von Worley abstained from an advisory vote on this matter.

#### **8.6 Discussion: Possible Items for Future Meeting Agendas**

None

#### **9. Adjournment of Meeting**

As there was no further business to come before the Board of Education, Board President Owen adjourned this Regular Meeting at 8:23 p.m.

#### **Board Meeting Schedule Information**

1. The Regular Board Meeting on September 20, 2023, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
2. The Study Session on September 27, 2023, 6:00 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
3. The Regular Board Meeting on October 11, 2023, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
4. The Regular Board Meeting on October 25, 2023, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
5. The Regular Board Meeting on November 8, 2023, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
6. The Regular Board Meeting on November 15, 2023, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
7. The Regular Board Meeting on December 13, 2023, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
8. The Regular Board Meeting on January 17, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
9. The Study Session on January 31, 2024, 6:00 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
10. The Regular Board Meeting on February 14, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
11. The Regular Board Meeting on February 28, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
12. The Regular Board Meeting on March 13, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
13. The Regular Board Meeting on March 27, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
14. The Regular Board Meeting on April 10, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
15. The Study Session on April 24, 2024, 6:00 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
16. The Regular Board Meeting on May 15, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
17. The Study Session on May 22, 2024, 6:00 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.



18. The Regular Board Meeting on May 29, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
19. The Regular Board Meeting on June 12, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.

\*For more details about this meeting, please visit our district website and listen to the meeting recording:  
[http://sccs.net/board\\_of\\_education](http://sccs.net/board_of_education)

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Munro, Superintendent  
Santa Cruz City Schools

John Owen, President  
Board of Education