

SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
5100 Business Center Drive
Fairfield, California

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
August 12, 2009

The Solano County Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, August 12, 2009, at 5100 Business Center Drive in Fairfield, California.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Board President John Galvan called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Ray Silva, Trustee Area 2, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present

John Galvan, President
Larry Asera, Vice President
Mayrene Bates
Doug Ford
Maria Kennedy
Raymond Silva
Rozzana Verder-Aliga, Ed.D.

Mr. Galvan noted that a quorum was present as was County Superintendent of Schools Dee Alarcón, serving as Secretary to the Board.

Others Present:

County Superintendent of Schools Office –

Rob Phillips	Lisette Estrella-Henderson	Marsha Ludwig
Lettie Allen	Laryn Bishop	Lois Keenan
Jay Speck	Janet Harden	Rhonda Moon

Lisa Leone, Travis Unified School District
Sue Tronnes, Benicia Unified School District
Sheryl Ryder, California Department of Education
Jay Lloyd, Community Member
Kym Hewitt, Parent, and her two children
Other members of the community

III. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Mrs. Bates, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, and unanimously carried by those present to approve and adopt the agenda as presented.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS

Motion was made by Mrs. Bates, seconded by Dr. Verder-Aliga, and carried unanimously by those present to approve the items on the consent calendar consisting of the following.

- (a) Minutes of the regular and special meetings held on June 10, 2009, and the regular meeting on June 24, 2009
- (b) Gifts and donations received for which the County Superintendent will write letters of appreciation (Attachment A)

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Alarcón read one item of correspondence. Bobby Stow, Treasurer of Tools of Learning For Children, sent a letter of thanks for the \$300 donation/grant.

VI. APPEAL HEARING REGARDING INTERDISTRICT AGREEMENT

The Solano County Board of Education acted as an appeals board to review an interdistrict attendance agreement request to attend school in another district. The student's district of residence (Vallejo City USD) approved the transfer; however, the district where the student has been attending and wishes to continue attending (Benicia USD) denied the request. The hearing was called to order at 6:05 PM.

Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, introduced the student, parent, and district representative and gave a brief summary of the parent's request for an interdistrict transfer. The student, a 15-year-old male in 10th grade, spoke on his own behalf saying that he was sorry he had messed up his chance to return to school at Benicia High School. He realizes that he must work on his grades, tardiness, and attitude, and he thanked the Board for reviewing his appeal.

Sue Tronnes, Project Specialist for BUSD, explained that the district rarely denies an interdistrict request. When a transfer is granted, the district provides the parent with a letter that clearly describes the district's policy and expectations of good attendance, behavior, and academics. The letter also spells out the consequences when the expectations are not met. The district denied this student's interdistrict request due to attendance, academic, behavioral, and discipline issues.

In response, the mother said her son has trouble adjusting socially, but he has made a promise to her and to himself that he will not abuse the privilege of being allowed to attend school in BUSD again. He hopes for one more chance, and she has a good feeling he is going to do better. To address his behavioral issues, he has been seeing a therapist twice a month for over a year and is beginning to realize he needs to be careful who he hangs out with and how to direct his attention elsewhere.

Pursuant to Education Code §35146, the Board adjourned to closed session at 6:12 PM to deliberate the appeal. The Board may (1) grant the appeal, (2) deny the appeal, or (3) remand the matter back to the district. The Board reconvened at 6:26 PM.

Motion was made by Dr. Verder-Aliga, seconded by Mr. Asera, and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of those present to deny the appeal.

VII. PUBLIC HEARING

(a) Educational Interpreter Regulations Waiver

Lois Keenan, Special Education Program Manager, explained that state regulations require certification of educational interpreters for deaf and hard-of-hearing (D/HH) pupils. SCOE currently has 12 interpreters. As of June 2009, 8 have passed all certification requirements, 1 has taken the test but does not have the results yet, and 3 have met half of the requirements and have a remediation plan in place that will help them complete the requirements within the next year. In order to continue to meet the needs of its D/HH pupils, SCOE needs all 12 of these interpreters. The California Department of Education requires a General Waiver Request for each employee that has achieved partial certification and is making progress toward certification.

Motion was made by Mr. Asera, seconded by Mr. Ford, and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of those present to approve the waivers allowing time for partially certified interpreters to continue pursuing certification and enabling SCOE to meet the general education placement needs of its current D/HH population.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

(a) Community Outreach Report

Lisa Leone, ROP teacher and Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year, gave an overview of the Multimedia Design and Virtual Enterprise classes she teaches at Vanden High School. The classes incorporate information technology and business education and focus on skills

that will make the students more employable. The pupils are also shown how their classes carry over into the work world and can transfer into careers through their participation in community outreach projects. She actively seeks out education/business partnerships, mentors, internships, job-shadowing opportunities, youth summer jobs, and philanthropy prospects that will help keep the students living and working in Solano County. Some of the work done by the students earns them college credits. For their various activities, the pupils receive certificates of participation that are placed in a portfolio along with a cover letter, résumé, list of references, and letters of recommendation. She has received feedback from those that have interviewed her students for jobs, and the employers complimented the students on their portfolios and behavior learned in class that makes them stand out from other applicants. Ms. Leone introduced Jay Lloyd, a business partner with whom she is working on a job bridge project through the nonprofit organizations Solano Jobs for Teens and Test Drive Your Life. The project will concentrate on trying to create employability and job opportunities for all Solano County students. Ms. Kennedy expressed her desire to help with this worthwhile program by offering job shadow opportunities.

The Board thanked Mrs. Bates for suggesting that Ms. Leone share with the Board her efforts that show her commitment to making a difference in our community and the lives of our children.

(b) SCOE Safety Plans Update

Rhonda Moon, Director of Facilities/Maintenance & Transportation, provided an update on SCOE's Safety Plans for school sites and nonstudent sites. Her PowerPoint presentation reviewed the purpose of the plans, kinds of disasters for which SCOE has procedures, types of emergency teams/coordinators needed and their responsibilities, and various equipment needs. It is important to have a consistent format for all SCOE sites and schools so staff and substitutes can respond in an effective manner no matter where they are when an emergency strikes. In addition to preparedness for natural disasters and environmental hazards, SCOE has procedures in place to deal with situational safety such as sexual harassment and child abuse reporting. In light of recent reports, pandemic flu procedures are being included that will cover the use of facilities, student and staff absences, and disruption of instruction.

In response to questions from Board members, Ms. Moon said SCOE's next step would be to coordinate our safety plans with those of the county and other key agencies to ensure we have a plan with which we can all work because it is imperative that everyone knows what to do in a crisis. At this time, each of SCOE's sites conducts its own fire drills and safety instruction, but all our sites should be coordinated as well. When asked about early warning technology, Ms. Moon said she would be interested in hearing from companies that offer this type of service or retrofit schools with warning alarms.

(c) Human Resources Report

Jay Speck, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported that 14 classified and 7 certificated employees had been hired since July 1, 2009, filling all 21 positions open at this time. Some of the positions were challenging to fill, but the levels of education were higher for recent applicants than in the past.

(d) Financial Report

Lettie Allen, Associate Superintendent of Administrative Services and Operations, presented the financial report for June 2008-09 and July 2009-10. As is typically the case with the first report of this fiscal year, SCOE is fortunate to have reserves that will sustain us until funds begin to arrive from other expected sources. Cash flow will be challenging in the coming year due to state deferrals, and we are still gathering information on the state's late budget adoption. The Solano County Treasurer is providing constitutional advancements of tax revenue to help SCOE and the districts.

The monthly report has been made easier to understand by grouping the listed programs together by department. The report also looks different from last year's reports as a result of the Board's approval

in June to take advantage of the Tier III Flexibility option that enabled movement of some programs, such as the Intern program and Peer Assistance Review program, into the unrestricted budget. The business staff is busy closing SCOE's books for 2008-09 and plans to present the unaudited actuals at the September Board meeting.

(e) Temporary Certificates

Temporary certificates for credential applicants approved by the County Superintendent were noted. (Attachment B)

(f) Meetings/Special Dates

Activity Calendars for August and September were distributed. Board members are encouraged to participate in these upcoming events and asked to provide timely RSVPs to Monica Ross, Executive Assistant (399-4403, mross@solanocoe.net).

- August 13, 2009 – SCOE Special Education Issues Presentation, 1:00-3:30 PM, SCOE
- August 20, 2009 – Solano EDC Breakfast, 7:30 AM, Hilton Garden Inn, Fairfield (*RSVP to Mrs. Ross by 08/13/09*)
- August 25, 2009 – Board of Education Special Meeting (charter appeal), 9:00 AM, SCOE
– Board of Education Special Meeting (annual planning session), 10:00 AM
- September 7, 2009 – Labor Day Holiday – SCOE Offices Closed
– Napa-Solano Central Labor Council Breakfast, 9:00 AM, Benicia

Board members also received: an update on the CCSESA/CalPERS legal proceedings, a Solano EDC event announcement, and an invitation to the Napa-Solano Building and Construction Trades Council Labor Reception.

Among Mrs. Alarcón's recent activities were: completion of mandatory ethics training due to her position on the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission; hosting the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs) Summer CEO Conference in Napa; attending a meeting of the Solano Transportation Authority where several Safe Routes to School projects were approved for Vallejo and Fairfield; attending a First 5 Solano Commission meeting where the Benicia Mayor and Chief of Police complimented SCOE for the preschool program offered in their city; speaking at a conference of county superintendents in Northern California on the topic of financially troubled districts; and attending back to school kickoff events in the Dixon and Vacaville USDs. She congratulated Mrs. Bates and Mr. Galvan on their continued service on the Board. Both are running unopposed in November's election. Another candidate is running against Mr. Ford in Trustee Area 6. Mrs. Alarcón also shared an update from Dixon USD Superintendent Roger Halberg that 90 of the students that attended the Dixon Montessori Charter School last year have registered to attend school in his district.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Sale and Disposal of Obsolete Inventoried Item

Mrs. Allen presented a recommendation declaring bus #19 as obsolete. It is a 1994 Chevrolet, V.I.N. 2GBHG31K2P4148586 with 262,809 miles. The bus could be sold online at public auction on InterScola.

Motion was made by Mr. Asera, seconded by Mrs. Bates, and unanimously carried by those present to approve the removal of bus #19 from SCOE's inventory.

Mr. Asera asked Mrs. Allen to let him know when the bus will be available for bid. He thinks the green tech training center at Mare Island might be interested in retrofitting and converting it to green energy.

X. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

There were no comments from the community.

XI. BOARD DISCUSSION

(a) Distribution of revised Board Policy Manual

Revisions made by the Board during the 2008-09 year to its policy manual have been finalized and a copy of the updated manual was distributed to each member. Mrs. Alarcón thanked the Board and Laryn Bishop, Administrative Services Manager, for the time they devoted to making the revisions.

(b) Board Program Visits

Some of the Board members gave brief reports on their recent activities including any visits to SCOE program sites.

Mr. Ford distributed copies of an editorial that appeared in today's *The Reporter* newspaper regarding the Dixon Montessori Charter School (DMCS) appeal that the Board heard in July and is scheduled to continue on August 25, 2009. He expressed concern that, if the Board denies the appeal, August 25th may be too late for DMCS to file an appeal with the State Board of Education (SBE) for its September meeting and may delay DMCS from opening the school year in a timely manner. He requested that the Board consider an earlier meeting date on August 19th to make its decision on the DMCS appeal.

Mr. Galvan reminded those present that a ruling likely would have been made at the July 30th appeal hearing, but DMCS presented additional documents that day, and the Board would not be exhibiting due diligence if it made a decision without considering all the information presented. The unfortunate timing of that submittal created a difficult situation for the DMCS students, parents, and staff. Regrettably, a quorum was not available to meet on August 19th.

Mrs. Alarcón clarified that, at the state level, these matters first go before the Advisory Commission on Charter Schools (ACCS). The Commission then makes a recommendation to the SBE who decides whether to approve or deny the request. A meeting on August 25th is within the legal timeframe in which the Board may make its decision. Petitioner Scott Hill stated at the July 30th meeting that DMCS had not provided adequate information as required by law, and he recognized that the Board had no choice but to reject the appeal; however, DMCS is looking at other options for the charter in case the matter does not proceed as he expects.

Mr. Asera questioned whether discussing DMCS was out of order since it was not specifically mentioned on this agenda. Mr. Galvan called for a recess at 7:25 PM, and the Board reconvened at 7:30 PM.

Discussion continued with Mr. Phillips saying that of the 48 additional pages submitted by DMCS on July 30th, 13 contained general program information, and the rest were of a financial nature. An addendum to the Administrative Review Panel's initial report is being prepared now for the Board's consideration. Mrs. Allen pointed out the importance of conducting a thorough review of the data in order to provide accurate information to the Board and, if necessary, to SBE to help in its decision-making process. Mrs. Alarcón added that the SBE has the authority to request further information from DMCS, but our Board must base its decision on the information presented to the district.

(c) Suggestions on future Board agenda items

There were no suggestions for future Board agenda items.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Attachments: (A) Gifts/Donations
(B) Temporary Certificates

Dee Alarcón, Secretary
Solano County Board of Education

**Donations to Solano County Office of Education
August 12, 2009**

Office furniture and appliances valued at approximately \$3,000 donated by Steven Lillard of AIG Financial Corporation, Fairfield, for the Irene Larsen Center.

Monetary gift of \$400 donated by the Tau Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Fairfield, for the preschool program at Irene Larsen Center.

TEMPORARY CERTIFICATES

<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Credential</u>
Rebecca Mullinax	SCOE	Education Specialist/Early Childhood Special Education/Short-Term Staff Permit
Ann Cifarelli	SCOE	Education Specialist/Moderate-Severe/ Short-Term Staff Permit
Deborah Powers	Vallejo	Emergency CLAD
Madeline Feeley	Vallejo	CLAD Certificate
Gina Butterworth	Vallejo	Designated Subjects/Career Tech Ed/ Full-Time/ Health Science & Medical Technology
Shawn Jones	Vallejo	CBEST Substitute/Waiver
Stephanie Foster	Vallejo	CBEST Substitute/Waiver
Harold Lape	Vallejo	CBEST Substitute/Waiver
Stephanie Ory	Vallejo	Career Emergency Substitute Permit
Noel Agustin	Vallejo	Subject Matter Authorization: Chemistry; Intro English
Alba Ojeda	Vallejo	CBEST Substitute/Waiver
Gregory Fetters	Vallejo	Administrative Services
Shirley McNichols	Vallejo	Administrative Services
Christina Sendlakowski	Benicia	CLAD Certificate
Sherwin Thompson	Vallejo	Career Emergency Substitute Permit
Deberah Carey	Vallejo	Emergency Substitute Permit
Rick Olson	Benicia	Emergency CLAD
Mary Ellen Quine	Travis	Single Subject/Health Science; P.E.
Mary Ellen Quine	Travis	Multiple Subject
Alison Gardner	Vacaville	Administrative Services
Marian Johnson	Vacaville	Career Emergency Substitute Permit
Susan Ceballos	Fairfield-Suisun	Administrative Services
Stacie Ryan	Fairfield-Suisun	Supplementary Authorization: Intro. English
Laurie Halcomb	Fairfield-Suisun	Administrative Services
Judith Ruggiero-Reed	Fairfield-Suisun	Single Subject/Science: Biological Sciences; Social Science /Limited Assignment
Brian Swetland	Fairfield-Suisun	Emergency CLAD
Trent Beeby	Vacaville	Multiple Subject
Maria Burton	Vacaville	Multiple Subject
Brooke Fuller	Benicia	Single Subject/English/Short-Term Staff Permit
Jane Millmann	Vacaville	Emergency Substitute Permit
Rebecca Negrillo	SCOE	Education Specialist/Moderate-Severe/ Short-Term Staff Permit
Nicole Dinsdale	Benicia	Education Specialist/Moderate-Severe/ Short-Term Staff Permit
Aliya Cromartie	SCOE	Education Specialist/Moderate-Severe/Waiver
Claudia Recking-Goetz	SCOE	Education Specialist/Moderate-Severe/ Provisional Intern Permit
Allison Henry	SCOE	CBEST Substitute/Waiver
Caroline Holtzhauer	SCOE	CBEST Substitute/Waiver
Carolynne Walker	Vallejo	Child Development Teacher

Temporary Certificates (continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Credential</u>
Desiree Jansson	Benicia	Emergency Substitute Permit
Eva Coley	Vallejo	CBEST Substitute/Waiver
Amy Herzog	Vallejo	Emergency CLAD
Iris Flood	Vallejo	CLAD Certificate
Maria Plowman	SCOE	Education Specialist/Moderate-Severe/ Provisional Intern Permit
Douglas Moore	Fairfield-Suisun	Single Subject/Business
Clayton Hughes	Fairfield-Suisun	Single Subject/English/Limited Assignment
Richard Nichols	Fairfield-Suisun	Emergency CLAD
Jerome Spaulding	Fairfield-Suisun	Supplementary Authorization: Computer Concepts; Intro Math
Frederick Kelly	Fairfield-Suisun	Single Subject/Science: Biological Sciences/ Limited Assignment
Brandy Adams	Fairfield-Suisun	Multiple Subject with Supplementary Authorization: Intro Science
Dennis Palmer	Fairfield-Suisun	Supplementary Authorization: Math
Denise Brown	Fairfield-Suisun	Administrative Services
Gail Ty	Vallejo	Education Specialist/Early Childhood Special Education/Short-Term Staff Permit
Alice Hause	Fairfield-Suisun	Emergency CLAD
Jaime Montoya-Arango	Fairfield-Suisun	Single Subject/Spanish
Elizabeth Teresi	Fairfield-Suisun	Administrative Services
Regina Pettit	Fairfield-Suisun	Emergency CLAD
Debra Nash	Fairfield-Suisun	Multiple Subject
Carmencita Simpelo	Vallejo	Child Development Site Supervisor Permit
Kathleen Farros-Hoepfner	Vacaville	Administrative Services
Arnold Evans	Vacaville	Emergency Substitute Permit
Shawna Serpas	Fairfield-Suisun	Emergency CLAD
Janette Schnurr	Fairfield-Suisun	Single Subject/Art
Jamie Duffield	Fairfield-Suisun	Supplementary Authorization: English
Patricia Barnett	Fairfield-Suisun	Emergency CLAD
Deborah Aronsen	Fairfield-Suisun	Single Subject/Science: Biological/Limited Assignment

Temporary County Certificates Issued June-July 2009

District	<i>Full Credential/ Auth.</i>	<i>Intern Cred.</i>	<i>Prov. Intern Permit</i>	<i>Short- Term Staff Permit</i>	<i>Emergency Permit</i>	<i>Waiver</i>	<i>Emergency Sub</i>	<i>Child Dev. Permit</i>
Benicia	1			2	1		1	
SCOE			2	3		3		
Dixon								
Fairfield- Suisun	17				6			
Travis	2							
Vacaville	4				1		2	
Vallejo	6			1	2	5	3	2
MIT Academy								
Private/ NPS								
Solano College								
Solano County								
Totals	30		2	6	10	8	6	2