

**-FAIRFIELD-SUISUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA**

January 9, 2007

- SPECIAL MEETING** A special meeting of the Governing Board of the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District was held in Conference Room #108 at the District Office, 2490 Hilborn Road, Fairfield, California, on Tuesday, January 9, 2007.
- CLOSED SESSION** The Governing Board convened into Closed Session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss personnel items related to employment, student discipline, and conference regarding negotiations with the bargaining units.
- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 7:24 p.m. by Mr. Falati, President.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** Steve Wescoatt from Perry-Smith LLP led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
- REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION** Mr. Carter announced that during Closed Session, the Governing Board discussed personnel items related to employment, student discipline, and conference regarding negotiations. He stated that the Board took action to to approve posting vacancy notices for the new Cordelia Hills and Rolling Hills Elementary Schools, and voted unanimously to grant a leave of absence to a certificated David Weir Elementary School employee.
- ROLL CALL** Members in Attendance: Gary Falati, Dave Gaut, Anne Griffin, Kathy Marianno, Ivan Meadows, Beverly Taylor, Charles B. Wood, and A. Woodrow Carter, Superintendent.
- Members Absent: None.
- APPROVAL OF STUDENT EXPULSION CASE NOS. 71-0607 THROUGH. 82-0607 AND 84-0607 THROUGH 90-0607** ** Motion was made by Mrs. Griffin, seconded by Mrs. Marianno, and carried unanimously to approve student expulsion case numbers 71-0607 through 82-0607 and 84-0606 through 90-0607 as presented.
- APPROVAL OF STUDENT EXPULSION CASE NO. 83-0607** ** Motion was made by Mrs. Marianno, seconded by Mrs. Griffin, and carried with Mr. Wood voting “no” to approve student expulsion case number 83-0607 with the following changes: student will be placed in Independent Study for the Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 semesters and then return to her home school.

**2006-09 SINGLE PLAN
FOR STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT
REPORTS FOR
FAIRVIEW
ELEMENTARY AND
ARMIJO HIGH
SCHOOLS**

Gloria Bandy, Fairview Elementary School Principal, presented an overview of Fairview's 2006-09 Single Plan for Student Achievement, including student demographics, five years of API results, AYP proficiency levels in English Language Arts and Mathematics, AYP subgroup goals and scores, and priority areas. Ms. Bandy and Phyllis James, Fairview Assistant Principal, outlined proposed actions steps which include:

- formative assessments to drive instruction
- emphasis on Professional Learning Community concept
- strengthening the Attendance Campaign
- interventions for English Language Arts, English Learners, and Math.

Ms. James reported that staff is working on increasing parent participation by sponsoring Family Nights in various academic subjects; the Latino Parent Project; parent classes; instituting a Parent Center; collaboration with Healthy Start for community resources; and various ELAC, School Site Council, and Parent Teacher Club activities. Ms. James stated that Armijo High School students will soon resume tutoring students who are struggling in math, thanks to donations from their Adopt-A-School partner, the Lessler Group.

Armijo High School Principal Steven Peters presented information regarding Armijo's 2006-09 Single Plan for Student Achievement, including the report process, current stakeholders, the school's mission and expected learning results, and demographic and subgroup percentages. He reviewed:

- API growth data
- API school rankings for the past six years
- AYP criteria and results
- API achievement gap percentages by subgroup
- School Improvement Plan goals
- strategies
- specific interventions

Mr. Peters then reviewed Armijo's priority areas which include moving all students to proficiency level, eliminating the disparity between subgroups, increasing the number of students completing "a-g" and certification requirements, improving communication between stakeholder groups, and increasing the level of safety on campus.

Dr. Meadows noted that although some students from Armijo High have gone on to some of the top colleges and universities in the country, there is still some concern about the gender gap and the low number of students meeting "a-g" requirements. He stated he would like these issues addressed.

**APPROVAL OF FIRST
INTERIM REPORT AND
CERTIFICATION OF
DISTRICT’S ABILITY
TO MEET FINANCIAL
OBLIGATIONS FOR
2006-07 PURSUANT TO
EDUCATION CODE
§33129**

Kari Sousa, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, stated that the District is required to submit interim reports to the California State Department of Education through the Solano County Office of Education by January 15 to certify the District’s ability to meet its financial obligations. She reviewed information contained in the 2006-2007 First Interim Budget Report, including:

- average daily attendance (ADA)
- revenue limit summary
- budget assumptions
- general fund statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in the fund balance
- mandated costs
- cash flow statement and projection
- multi-year projections
- criteria and standards
- future financial considerations.

Ms. Sousa stated the report reflects a Positive Certification and a continuation of the District’s stable financial standing, although the multi-year projection reflects significant financial challenges facing the District in the upcoming year. She noted the challenges include a declining enrollment of approximately 340 ADA, which translates into a loss of nearly \$2 million in revenue for 2007-08, and operational costs for the two new elementary schools, estimated at \$1 million. Ms. Sousa reviewed one-time and on-going funding sources and expenses, and stated that employee salaries and benefits are the District’s largest expenses. She listed the projection accuracy considerations as:

Projected Increase in General Fund Balance	\$ 794,696
Less Mandated Cost Revenue	(1,270,999)
Add Alternative Education Program Expense	<u>478,000</u>
Variance from Projection at Adopted Budget	\$ 1,697

Ms. Sousa reported that the minimum reserve required is \$5,132,048 and that the District has projected unrestricted reserves of \$14,174,443, which will meet the obligation and assist with future expenses. She stated that future considerations include labor negotiations, operating expenses for the new elementary schools, declining enrollment, status of state revenue, increased water rates, and potential resources needed for Program Improvement schools.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Mike Oxley, Fairfield-Suisun Unified Teachers’ Association (F-SUTA) President, expressed concern that the First Interim Report was included on a special meeting agenda instead of being presented to a larger audience at a regular meeting. He stated that he only became aware of tonight’s special Board meeting by accident since he did not receive agenda notice in the mail. Mr. Oxley questioned if two new elementary schools are really needed in light of the declining enrollment, and stated that he is disappointed in the Board’s decision to advertise vacancies at the new elementary schools.

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Dr. Meadows stated that school district budgets were extremely complicated and are funded differently throughout the state, making it difficult to compare salaries and benefits.

Ms. Taylor congratulated Ms. Sousa for her diligence and very accurate budget projection.

Mr. Falati directed staff to insure that Mr. Oxley received agendas in a timely manner in the future. He commended Ms. Sousa and her staff for a job well done in putting together and administering the budget, and asked her to relay his appreciation to her staff.

** Motion was made by Mrs. Marianno, seconded by Dr. Meadows, and carried unanimously to approve the First Interim Report and Certification of District's Ability to Meet Financial Obligations for 2006-2007.

**ACCEPTANCE OF 2005-
2006 DISTRICT AUDIT
REPORT**

Ms. Sousa introduced Steve Wescoatt, partner in the auditing firm of Perry-Smith LLP, to present the audit report for the period ending June 20, 2006.

Mr. Wescoatt reviewed the audit process, the audit team's responsibilities, and described the role of both the auditors and the management team during the process. He reported that the audit team examined the compliance and record-keeping processes of almost all departments throughout the District and investigated all schools contained in their sampling.

Mr. Wescoatt reported that there were no disagreements with management, no District consultations with other accountants, no side deals, and no difficulties in performing the audit. He reviewed the five audit findings listed in the report, and stated that the majority were insignificant.

Mr. Wood announced that staff should be commended for their outstanding performance in doing an excellent job, and that having no adjustments proposed to any funds of the District is a fine accomplishment and creates a feeling of confidence in the District's business proceedings.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Mr. Oxley extended congratulations on the First Interim Report and asked that the 2005-2006 District Audit Report not be acted on until the next regular Board meeting so that teachers, parents, and community members could offer input.

**ACCEPTANCE OF 2005-
2006 DISTRICT AUDIT
REPORT (continued)**

Mr. Wescoatt reported that the requirements state that the audit report be submitted to the State by January 15 and that the Board review the audit report by January 31, both of which have been met.

Mr. Carter voiced his opposition to the request, stating that legal requirements for notification of the agenda item were met and he did not want to set a precedent by presenting this item a second time.

**ACCEPTANCE OF 2005-
2006 DISTRICT AUDIT
REPORT** (continued)

Mr. Wood noted it is common practice to have important items on the agenda at two separate Board meetings, once for information and again for action.

Ms. Sousa stated that due to Mr. Wescoatt's schedule, the item was put on tonight's special meeting agenda since he is not available for the January 18 regular Board meeting. She also noted that the Finance Subcommittee did not meet in December 2005.

Mr. Falati announced that action on Acceptance of the 2005-2006 District Audit Report would be delayed until the next regular Board meeting on January 18, but that the auditor would not be in attendance for a presentation.

**TEACHER
RECRUITMENT PLAN
UPDATE**

Ron Hawkins, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented a report on the 2006-2007 Teacher Recruitment Plan. He outlined the goals as aggressive recruitment to employ highly qualified teachers, reduction in the number of teachers teaching outside their credentialed authorization, more diversity in the teaching staff, and retention of new hires. Mr. Hawkins reviewed employee qualities being sought today versus those in the past, as well as projected vacancies in various subject areas based on historical data. He stated that it is important that staff be able to offer a conditional contract at recruitment fairs to attract the best candidates. Per Mr. Hawkins, staff would like to attend the following recruitment fairs:

- University of Utah, and Brigham Young University
- CSU Sacramento, Chico, and Dominguez Hill
- CAEE Long Beach, and Dublin (California)
- Louisiana State University
- Washington Education Seattle, and Spokane
- Portland State
- Universities of Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Western Michigan, Central Michigan, and Michigan State
- Davis
- Howard University
- University of Nevada (Reno)
- Solano County Office of Education
- Spain

Mr. Hawkins stated that they would utilize Teach for America as a major source of recruiting, and also discussed the possibility of recruiting experienced teachers from Spain. He noted that Teach for America's goal is to have a positive affect on education in America and that they recruit the brightest in the field and offer ongoing support to new teachers.

In addition, Mr. Hawkins reported that Teach for America has strict criteria and only 28% of applicants qualify. He noted that the District does not recruit for specific schools, but on a District-wide basis; that the Ventures screening process is used; and that complete background checks are performed on candidates offered a conditional contract.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Mr. Oxley announced that according to Senate Bill 1133, January 19 is the deadline to apply for Class Size Reduction funds. He asked if any studies have been done on retention rates of teachers hired at out-of-state recruitment fairs, as he has heard that they often only stay in the District anywhere from one day to one semester. Mr. Oxley asked that this issue be addressed and that the District try to retain teachers currently on staff.

Joan Gaut, Fairview Elementary School music teacher, stated that music teachers are not included in the recruitment plan and that they too need to be hired earlier in the year. She noted that music teachers provide a huge service to the District and that music and PE classes are the highlight of the day for many students. Mrs. Gaut reported that she has repeatedly requested that music teachers be allowed to form a collaborative group to meet on Wednesdays similar to other teachers.

Nancy Dunn, F-SUTA Vice President, asked how teachers at the new elementary schools would be selected and if positions at the new schools would be held for newly recruited teachers. She stated that if positions are filled at the new sites before the teachers' contract is settled, this issue, currently being discussed in contract negotiations, would be moot. Ms. Dunn also wondered if candidates at recruitment fairs would be willing to work for a district that does not have a settled contract. She stated that she hopes the contract is settled soon and that F-SUTA does not have to ask its members not to apply for positions at the new schools.

**APPROVAL OF
REQUEST FOR
BUDGET
AUGMENTATION FOR
TEACHER
RECRUITMENT PLAN**

Mr. Hawkins presented a budget augmentation request in order to implement the teacher recruitment plan for 2006-2007.

Dr. Meadows stated that he had met with the music teachers regarding collaboration time and suggested that Mrs. Gaut contact the Superintendent to proceed further.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Mr. Oxley stated that prior to opening Rodriguez High School, the District and teachers' association had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding filling positions at new schools, and that without the MOU, teachers who have been in the District for 20 years or more had no advantage over teachers new to the District.

**APPROVAL OF
REQUEST FOR
BUDGET
AUGMENTATION FOR
TEACHER
RECRUITMENT PLAN**
(continued)

** Motion was made by Dr. Meadows, seconded by Mrs. Marianno, and carried unanimously to approve the request for budget augmentation for the Teacher Recruitment Plan in the amount of \$30,000.

**BOARD MEMBER CSBA
CONFERENCE
REPORTS**

Mr. Wood requested that Board member CSBA Conference Reports be delayed until the January 18 Board meeting.

**BOARD MEMBER CSBA
CONFERENCE
REPORTS (continued)**

Mr. Gaut noted that he was recruited to teach in the District from Spokane in 1964.

Mrs. Marianno requested that tonight’s meeting be adjourned in honor of Ms. Taylor’s father, Herbert Miller, who passed away in December.

Mrs. Griffin stated that she was glad so many Board members attended the International Baccalaureate ceremony at the Nelson Center last week and that she attended the Solano County Honor Band Concert last Sunday. She noted that the Vallejo School District, where she teaches, does not offer either music or physical education in any of their elementary schools.

Mr. Falati asked that the meeting also be adjourned in honor of the late Wesley Pangburn, former Amijo High teacher, who taught for approximately 40 years. He announced that there would be a special Board meeting on January 16 and that the next regular Board meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. in honor of Herbert Miller and Wesley Pangburn.

Approved: _____
Beverly Taylor, Clerk

Attest: _____
Gary Falati, President

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