

HOPE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The monthly meeting of the Hope School District Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:15 p.m. on May 1, 2006, in the Hope District Board Room. All members were present. The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:20 p.m. The Board reconvened in a Public Session at 7:05 p.m. The following is a brief outline of the actions and discussions addressed by the Board.

The Meeting Reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

During closed session the board met with Hope District Teachers' Association co-presidents, Kim Geritz and Nancy Lorenzen, regarding negotiations. No action was taken.

The following unanimous actions were taken in closed session: Accepted the retirement of Monte Vista teacher. Accepted the resignation of a Monte Vista teacher currently on a leave of absence and accepted the resignation of the Hope School Library Technician. Approved leaves of absence for the 2006-2007 school year for a Hope School teacher and a Vieja Valley teacher.

Correspondence:

Mr. Underwood reported that he had received correspondence from Mr. Paul Krieger, a Hope School parent, contesting the legality of charging for copies of board meeting documents and audio recordings. The board had reviewed the policy in recent months and consulted with legal counsel regarding the cost structure for providing these copies. Mr. Underwood sent a response to Mr. Krieger and copies to the other board members.

Mr. Underwood reported that board members had received a number of emails from staff relative to the catastrophic leave policy that is on the agenda for this meeting. This subject is important to staff and the board appreciates the positive correspondence.

Public Comment:

A Vieja Valley parent requested that the board clarify the policy regarding priority for attendance at the student's neighborhood school. Should a family who lives within the school's attendance area have priority for attendance at that school over a continuing interdistrict transfer student or the student of an employee? This policy will be an agenda item for discussion at the special board meeting on May 16th.

Consent Items:

The following routine consent items were presented to the Board for approval:

Approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 10, 2006.

Approve the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of April 26, 2006.

Approve submitted purchase orders and warrant reports. Copies of the Commercial Warrant register sheets listing the purchase orders and warrants were provided to members of the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the consent agenda with the stipulation that the audio recording of the April 10th board meeting be reviewed to verify the wording of the motion regarding families who give false information regarding their district status. The following portion of the motion was recorded as stated at the meeting. *If the request is not made the enrollment shall be revoked after 11 school days following the original notice.*

Report:

Technology Committee Update

This report was postponed until the June 5th board meeting.

Action Items:

Clarify Decision Concerning Attendance at District Schools for Children of District Employees

The Trustees had requested that the superintendent prepare guidelines for the enrollment of children of district employees who do not live within district boundaries. The Superintendent presented her recommendations and after discussion the Board unanimously approved the following:

Children of District Employees

All students enrolled as of March 6, 2006, will be allowed to remain through matriculation from 6th grade as long as space is available and attendance is uninterrupted.

New students of current employees, or children of new employees who wish to enroll in district schools, after March 6, 2006, will be subject to space availability and must meet the following criteria:

Certificated employees may request to enroll their children on the first day of school following their date of hire with the district; the employee must be in a position that qualifies them for benefits; and must remain employed by the district for the children to continue enrollment.

Classified employees may request to enroll their children upon satisfactory completion of their six (6) month probationary period with the district; the employee must be in a position that qualifies them for benefits; and must remain employed by the district for the children to continue enrollment.

If for any reason the employee is released or resigns from Hope School District, students of the employee will be released from Hope School District within thirty (30) calendar days. The superintendent has authority to modify the application of this requirement based on

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special circumstances, as assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the interests of the child.

By February 1st of each year, employees must submit to the district office an inter-district transfer agreement from their resident district for the following year.

Approval of Establishment of a Catastrophic Leave Bank

At the April 26th special board meeting, the Board directed the superintendent to present a proposal to allow certificated personnel to voluntarily donate sick days to a certificated employee who is currently experiencing a catastrophic illness. The superintendent requested that the Board approve the following proposal:

The Hope School District agrees to create a Catastrophic Leave Bank in accordance with Education Code section 44043.5

To provide immediate assistance on a one time basis, the following agreement is submitted:

All active, permanent, district certificated employees (unit members) may donate one or two sick day(s) to this catastrophic leave bank, for a specific district employee identified by HDTA representatives as having qualified to receive such donations. This donation is voluntary and in compliance with the provisions of Education Code section 44043.5 and does not provide or guarantee that the donating employee will have rights to days from any catastrophic leave bank established by the district in the future. The district and HDTA will, establish a catastrophic leave bank for certificated permanent staff by September 2006.

Each unit member with more than ten (10) days of accrued sick leave may voluntarily donate one (1) or two (2) day(s) for the benefit of identified employee. Should the employee receiving these days fail to use all of them during the current 2005-06 school year, the remaining days will roll-over to the succeeding school year and will be made available for distribution from the District Catastrophic Leave Bank. Any days rolled over to 2006-07 will be valued at the daily cost of a long-term substitute and the total value of such days will be specifically identified within the district unrestricted reserves.

Each unit member wishing to donate to this Catastrophic Leave Bank must complete an Authorization to Donate Sick Leave form and submit it to the District Office by the 20th of May. The days donated under this arrangement are irrevocable.

Donated sick days may be utilized once identified employee's personal sick leave is exhausted, and may be used for any contracted work day. Receiving employees will be paid at their current rate of pay.

In order to utilize the days donated, said employee must provide a medical doctor's note stating the inability to complete contracted work days.

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved a temporary mechanism for donating sick leave with the establishment of a Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank to allow certificated personnel to voluntarily donate sick days to a certificated employee who is currently experiencing a catastrophic illness.

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved a September 2006 deadline for the establishment of a permanent catastrophic leave bank policy for certificated employees.

Business Manager's Report

Business Manager Julie Wood presented budget assumptions for 2006-2007. The report included the 2005-2006 P2 enrollment and ADA. 2006-2007 projected enrollment and staffing, revenue limit projections, teacher salary and health insurance increases, payroll tax costs, and technology costs. The 2006-2007 school year budget will be presented for adoption at a special board meeting on June 19th.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Fausett reported that the items in her report had been discussed during the meeting: health insurance committee, district residency and student attendance policies.

Board Members' Reports

Mike Underwood requested that a notice be put in the school newsletters reminding district parents of the upcoming board elections. Information will be available at the June meeting. Mr. Underwood said that there have been many questions regarding charter schools and he asked if board members would like to have a presentation from a charter school specialist. Todd Sosna expressed interest in a presentation on charter school laws and regulations and the process to establish a charter school. Superintendent Fausett reported that she has names of several consultants who could present information to the board and community and she will make arrangements for a presentation.

Adjournment of Regular Session

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The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.