

HOPE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The monthly meeting of the Hope School District Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:45 p.m. on April 16, 2007, in the Hope District Board Room. All members were present. The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:50 p.m. The Board reconvened in a Public Session at 7:10 p.m. The following is a brief outline of the actions and discussions addressed by the Board.

The Meeting Reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

During closed session, the Board approved the hiring of a head custodian for Monte Vista School.

Correspondence

Superintendent Fausett reported that she had received a report from the Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury regarding a study of legal services used by Hope School District, Santa Barbara School District, and Santa Maria Joint Union High School District.

Public Comment

Members of the audience spoke to the board regarding Health Care for All.

Consent Items

The following routine consent items were presented to the Board for approval: The Board tabled approval of the minutes of the regular board meeting on February 12, 2007; approved the minutes of the regular board meeting on March 12, 2007; approved the minutes of the special board meeting on March 19, 2007; approved the commercial warrant registry sheets dated March 2, March 9, March 16, March 23, and April 6, 2007.

Discussion Items

Boundaries Adjustment

This discussion item was presented at the request of board member Patricia Hiles. The attendance area for St. Vincent's Housing is of concern due to safety issues of children traveling back and forth to Vieja Valley. Board action and community input are necessary for adjustment of attendance areas. Superintendent Fausett invited former Trustee Mike Underwood to discuss the history behind the current school attendance boundaries. Mr. Underwood reported that the current attendance areas were determined at the time Hope School was reopened. During the planning phase to reopen Hope School, a district-wide committee was formed to identify where our students lived and assign attendance areas. The attendance areas decision was based on socio-economic balance, safety, infrastructure at each school, neighborhood proximity, academic performance, and an intent to minimize family turbulence. Mr.

Underwood emphasized that this decision was made after a careful study that included research, community and staff involvement. The Board requested that the superintendent bring a report of preliminary fall enrollment numbers by school and grade level to the May meeting and at that time, they will determine if further discussion of school attendance areas is necessary.

Trustee Tony Winterbauer excused himself from the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Lease of Available Space

Superintendent Fausett reported that she and Board Member Patricia Hiles met with Waldorf School officials about the possibility of rental of our facilities. Waldorf currently has a 3-day nursery program, a 4-day pre-kindergarten program, and a 5-day kindergarten located at the Goleta Valley Community Center. They also have grades 1-6 on the Goleta School District site. Their interest is in moving their pre-school and kindergarten programs to a school campus. There was discussion regarding fees for use of the space. Waldorf School would like to have two classrooms for next year and, since this is a planned discussion item for the district future committee, the superintendent will make a report to the committee and ask for their input. The superintendent has also been contacted by the Center for Developmental Play, which is a program through UCSB for autistic children to attend a playgroup with their parents. They would need one room that would be used for the playgroup and also for individual student meetings. The superintendent noted that no promises had been made to these groups but there are options for renting out space if the board should decide to offer space at our schools for outside rental.

Deferred Maintenance Plan

Business Manager Julie Wood reported on the status of the process to update the district 5-year deferred maintenance plan. The completed plan will be presented to the Board for approval at the May board meeting.

Action Items

Approval of Single School Plans for Hope School and Vieja Valley School.

Principal Judy Stettler presented the single school plan for Vieja Valley School. Single School Plans are part of a comprehensive process to better inform the Trustees and community about each school's yearly progress and goals. The plan includes strategies to address student needs and achievement, and sharing of special programs, as well as identified challenges. The plan fulfills the No Child Left Behind federal law that requires each

HOPE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

site to prepare a Single Plan for student achievement. Mrs. Stettler also gave an overview of the science and project labs that are in use at Vieja Valley. Principal Barbara LaCorte presented the Hope School Single School Plan at the February board meeting. The Board of Trustees approved (4 ayes; 0 noes; 1 absent) the Single School Plans for Hope School and Vieja Valley School as presented.

Cafeteria Program

Business Manager Julie Wood presented a recommendation for an increase in prices for meals served by the district cafeteria program. This price increase would begin in fall 2007. She presented a report on the district cafeteria program and the cost of school lunches to the Board at the February meeting. The recommended prices are \$1.25 for breakfast (summer school), \$2.50 for lunch, \$.25 for milk, and \$4.00 for adult lunch and adult salad bar. The Board of Trustees approved (4 ayes; 0 noes; 1 absent) the increase in prices for meals served by the cafeteria program as presented.

Approval of Special Education Local Plan Area Local Education Agency Assurance Statements

Superintendent Fausett presented the Special Education Local Plan Area Local Education Agency Assurance Statements to the Board for approval. She explained that the Santa Barbara County SELPA Local Plan was last approved by the local governing Boards in May and June of 2003. At that time, the CDE required that each SELPA and the local governing Board of each district in the SELPA approve twenty-two Assurance Statements as part of the Local Plan. The Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) was reauthorized in 2004 and the Federal Regulations which further define IDEA were approved for implementation in October of 2006. As a result of the reauthorization of IDEA and the new Federal Regulations the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the California Department of Education have determined that a new set of Assurance Statements must be approved as part of each SELPA's Local Plan. The Board of Trustees approved (4 ayes; 0 noes; 1 absent) the Special Education Local Plan Area Local Education Agency Assurance Statements.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Fausett reported that the third chapter of "A Practical Guide to Effective School Board Meetings" was included in the board members' packets. This chapter focuses on the superintendent's duties in the preparation of the meeting agendas and also suggests that a district year-long calendar might be developed

in order to keep the focus of the meetings on necessary district business. Ms. Fausett reported that she and the special education teachers and principals had completed the Special Education Program evaluations for the Department of Education. Ms. Fausett is in the process of completing evaluations of temporary certificated employees at Monte Vista and has scheduled observations of those Monte Vista teachers who are due to be observed this year. The Monte Vista principal selection committee has met and discussed procedures. They will screen the applications this week and interviews of selected candidates will take place on April 25. Superintendent Fausett reported that she has begun to visit homes of new kindergarten students to determine if their residency is within district boundaries. Trustee Todd Sosna inquired about what other basic aide districts do for residency verification and the superintendent reported that they employ the services of a private investigator. Mr. Sosna suggested that Hope district consider hiring the services of a private investigator to help with this task.

Board Members' Reports

The superintendent was asked about the mobile home on the Monte Vista campus and she reported that it has been sold to the district maintenance supervisor.

Patricia Hiles asked for clarification on the procedure of the appeals process for families who have a student attending our schools but have been found to be using inaccurate residency verification.

Elizabeth Owen reported that she had participated in the Hope School 4th grade tall ships field trip and found it to be a very rewarding program.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.