

RINCON VALLEY UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting, Board of Trustees
District Office, 1000 Yulupa Avenue
November 3, 2009

MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Cynthia Evers
Ms. Nancy Doherty
Mr. Chris Rafanelli
Mr. Tom Ford
Mrs. Cindy Pilar

Administrators: Mrs. Diane Moresi, Superintendent
Mr. Joe Pandolfo, Assistant Superintendent of Business

Others: Interested parents and staff

1. **OPEN SESSION: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE,
CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** 7:00 p.m.
Mrs. Evers called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS**
None
3. **AGENDA AND CONSENT ITEM APPROVAL**
Mr. Rafanelli moved and Ms. Doherty seconded to approve the agenda and following consent items: Unanimous.
 - 3.1 **Minutes of October 6, 2009 Regular Board Meeting
Minutes of October 20, 2009 Special Board Meeting**
 - 3.2 **Application for K-3 Class Size Reduction Funding**
Annual application to receive state funds for reduced class size in grades K-3.
--Mr. Joe Pandolfo
 - 3.3 **Approval of Warrants:**

10/2/09	-	1028297 - 1028349
10/14/09	-	1030455 – 1030543
10/23/09	-	1032270 – 1032343

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CALENDAR

Mrs. Evers announced the following:

Regular Board Meeting December 10, 2009 (Reorganization)
District Office, 7:00 p.m. (6:30 p.m. closed session)

Regular Board Meeting January 12, 2010
District Office, 7:00 p.m. (6:30 p.m. closed session)

5. PUBLIC AND EMPLOYEE REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

The following members of the community addressed the Board:

1. Cherie Green – parent Spring Creek Matanzas Charter School, resident of the district, and pediatric specialist. Mrs. Green commented on obesity in adolescence. She would like the Board to consider promoting “sustainable schools” and promoting schools to go green. She would like the Board to consider taking advantage of additional charter funds to implement this program at Spring Creek Matanzas Charter School.
2. Mark Anderman – parent Spring Creek Matanzas Charter School, resident of the district, and Santa Rosa Junior College teacher. Mr. Anderman commented on his frustration with communication from the district. He voiced his concerns with the proposed plan to reconfigure Spring Creek campus to K-3 and Matanzas campus to 4 – 8. He is strongly opposed to this change.
3. Tracey Pugh – parent Spring Creek Matanzas School, not a resident of the district. Ms. Pugh commented on her concern about communication between parents and district. She stated that parents want to be involved; they want to make a difference; and they want to be able to prepare their children for changes.
4. Rebecca Casciani –parent Spring Creek Matanzas Charter School, not a resident of the district, and CPA – financial analyst. Mrs. Casciani commented on the communication of the charter school plan and budget implications. She announced that she did not correctly represent the board and staff in a recent email to parents. She was trying to get the information out because parents are not getting the information. She commented on the need for open communication between parents, administrators, and staff especially during transition years.
5. Katherine Benton – parent Spring Creek Matanzas Charter School, resident of the district. Mrs. Benton commented on her concern about the proposed reconfiguration of Spring Creek Matanzas for the school year 2010/2011. Families have just gone through a reconfiguration for 2009/2010. She would like the district to allow it to mature to work out issues before there is a new change. She heard that 3rd grade will go back to Spring Creek and a 7 / 8 charter will go to Matanzas. She is not in favor of 4th graders sharing with 7/8 students.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS, LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Moresi commented on the following:

- Austin Creek is eligible to apply for the California Distinguished School Award. There were only six other elementary schools in Sonoma County.

7. AWARDS

7.1 Mr. Ford moved and Mrs. Pilar seconded to approve the Resolution for Diane Wagner, Certificated Employee of the Month of November, 2009: Unanimous.

Mr. Ford read the resolution. Mr. Reno, principal, read his letter commending Diane Wagner for her critical role in the Charter School's RSP program development. She has shaped the school-wide fluency program and continues to provide leadership when it comes to new ideas to deliver differentiated learning for not only RSP students, but all students. "Her positive personality brings out the best in everyone."

7.2 Mr. Rafanelli moved and Ms. Doherty seconded to approve the Resolution for Kathy Poznanovich, Classified Employee of the Month of November, 2009 Unanimous.

Mr. Rafanelli read the resolution. Hannah Bates read her letter commending Kathy for her work as the district's After School Programs Assistant. Kathy has a deep understanding of human nature; she is creative, organized, empathetic, kind, understanding, and an excellent listener. She has provided guidance and leadership to every member of the day care staff. She cares deeply for the parents and children under their care.

8. INFORMATION

8.1 RCSS Annual Report

Erika Salazar, RCSS Director, presented the annual report on the Redwood Consortium for Student Services. This is the fifth year of operation. RCSS is fully staffed and currently has 228 students in all of their programs, preschool and primary grades. They have 18 classrooms on 11 school campuses and serve children with various disabilities.

RCSS is in the second year of an Autism/Communication Pilot Project, MSCERTS. This pilot project has allowed them to serve more students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Communication Delay. It is a comprehensive educational approach that uses multidisciplinary framework model to address challenges faced by children with ASD and related disabilities. Ms. Salazar discussed the goals of RCSS. RCSS is on the Rincon Valley website.

Comments:

- Chris Rafanelli stated that the program saves \$2 million for the consortium districts.
- Tom Ford asked why there is an increase in the number of students by the end of the year. Ms. Salazar explained that the intake is ongoing as it is mandated that they teach all children as they turn 3 years old.
- Alicia DeCoite, parent Spring Matanzas Charter School, stated her frustration with the district because she did not know that RCSS existed, and she has a son who is now in high school and has been diagnosed with special needs.

8.2 Student Services Update

Mrs. Moresi reported on the following current curriculum and instruction activities:

- The technology subcommittee met to begin the development of the technology standards scope and sequence.
- GATE Class A met October 2. Class B will meet December 1. GATE classes for students started October 13. Odyssey of the Mind has registered 16 teams. 32 teachers signed up for the GATE conference.
- A Math Fair was held at Matanzas. A second will be held at Whited.
- CELDT testing is completed. The assessment team completed 93 initials and 309 annuals.
- Wednesday afternoon in-service was held on October 14.
- Principals, resource teachers, and psychologists attended the SELPA certification training, "Managing Student Behavior." They are now certified on legal restraint procedures.
- New teachers met to review report cards and district conference procedures.

Comments:

Rebecca Casciani asked who was on the district's technology committee. Mrs. Moresi explained that the technology committee consists of teachers in the district from each grade level. Their purpose is to discuss technology for standards at each grade level. Computer techs will get copies of standards. They meet on an as needed basis. The technology plan was finalized last year and approved by the Board and State. Parents can view the technology plan on the district's website or email Merritt Booster.

8.3 Rincon Valley Union School District 2009-2010 Budget Projection Update

Mr. Pandolfo gave an update on the district's 2009 /2010 budget projections and plan. Future cuts are probably not out of the question. Staff presented four models at the October 20 Board Study Session. The district must find creative ways to continue programs. They have a reserve right now. The list of possible cuts was presented, but staff continues to explore options. The district will need to move in an aggressive manner. The most extreme is to close schools and increase class size. If some of the funding does not materialize, the district may have to make some of the proposed cuts. No action will be taken right now.

Mrs. Pandolfo reported that the 7/8 charter applied for a loan. The charter school was awarded a low interest loan of 3.7 million dollars. Charters have not been given this type of financing authority. Staff will learn more because the charter is eligible.

Comments:

Rebecca Casciani asked if the Board would disclose the top three items that would be considered to cut.

Tom Ford responded that we do not want to announce that at this time and cause undo anxiety for employees.

Mrs. Casciani asked when would be the time frame to disclose the cuts. Mr. Pandolfo responded that timing is based on news from the state.

Mrs. Doherty explained that staff has provided the Board several options based on the state's decision. There may not be any communication in a precise timeline. Mr. Rafanelli added that it is an ongoing process because districts are not funded in advance.

Mr. Pandolfo – the district's reserve is 13% . We try to maintain a high reserve so not to affect the students.

Colette Haldi, CTA representative, thanked the Board for being cautious about the information they give regarding cuts when we are not sure about the realities. Lisa Maxwell, CSEA President, thanked the Board for the same cautiousness.

8.4 Governance Handbook Addition – “What Every Board Needs to Know About the District”

Board of Trustees reviewed an addition to the governance handbook entitled, “What Every Board Needs to Know about the District.”

Cindy Mendenhall completed the document. If the Board has anything to add or delete they can let her know, and she will make the changes. This document will be revised annually.

9. PERSONNEL

Mr. Rafanelli moved and Mr. Ford seconded to approve the following personnel items: Unanimous.

9.1 Classified – New Hires

- Alma Leon, Noon Duty, Whited, effective October 12, 2009

9.2 Classified – Resignations

- Irene Graff, Day Care Assistant, Sequoia, effective November 1, 2009

10. CSEA / RVUTA COMMENTS

CSEA – Thanked staff for respectful and professional communication with classified union regarding potential budget cuts.
CTA – no comments

11. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chris Rafanelli commented on teacher training programs with a focus on teacher credentialing programs. He would like the district to look closely at that and to monitor and provide feedback to those organizations.

Tom Ford announced that the Rincon Valley Education Foundation has a new president. It will be a challenging year for them. There are a lot of new members this year. Tom is trying to recruit non-parent members to serve on the foundation committee.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Reorganization
- Annual Accounting of Developer Fees
- First Interim Financial Report 09-10
- Healthy Kids Survey Results – January
- Transportation Report – January
- Teacher credentialing program presentations

13. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Cindy Pilar would like literature on models of excellence – what does “good” look like. The Board would like to be prepared and informed on what to look for.

14. ADJOURN

Mr. Ford moved and Mr. Rafanelli seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.:
Unanimous.

Mrs. Diane Moresi
Superintendent
Secretary to the Board of Trustees