

**MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION
OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY DISTRICTS
December 6, 2023**

Convene Closed Session

Board Vice President Threet called this Closed Session Meeting to order at 5:09p.m.

Public Comments for Closed Session Agenda Items

GSCFT Co-Presidents Matt Bruner and Jody Kropholler made a public comment to discuss their ongoing concerns regarding compensation and the district budget. The two stated that they believe that there is room in the budget for the ask of the Union regarding compensation due to excess revenues versus expenditures in the unrestricted budget for the last five years. They stated that they felt that their request was reasonable and kept district fiscal solvency in mind because of the over 20% reserves in the unrestricted budget over the last three years, noting that the reserve requirement is only 3%. The two passed out a pamphlet to Trustees with their budget analysis. They concluded by stating that they looked forward to more productive negotiation sessions.

Assistant Superintendent Jim Monreal left the meeting at 6:05 P.M. to attend the Parcel Tax Committee.

Convene Open Session

Board President Owen called this Study Session Meeting Open Session to order at 6:13p.m.

Attendance at Meeting

John Owen	Patricia Threet	Angela Meeker	Kevin Grossman
Kyle Kelley	Claudia Vestal	Sheila Coonerty	

Student Board Representative, Matthew Simon
Student Board Representative, Zach Von Worley
Student Board Representative, Jimena Vazquez Veloz

Dorothy Coito, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services
Jim Monreal, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Molly Parks, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Kris Munro, Superintendent

Members of the Audience

Welcome and Format

Board President Owen welcomed those in attendance and explained the format used for this Study Session of the Board of Education.

Agenda Changes, Additions, or Deletions

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

GENERAL PUBLIC BUSINESS

Closed Session Items

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

1. Ms. Coito provided trustees with information regarding student expulsion #03-23-24.
2. Ms. Coito provided trustees with information regarding student expulsion #04-23-24.
3. Ms. Parks provided an update to and received direction from Trustees regarding negotiations with the GSCFT.
4. Ms. Parks provided an update to and received direction from Trustees regarding negotiations with the SCCCE.

Vote on Student Expulsion #03-23-24

Trustee Threet motioned to accept the District's recommendation to expel student #03-23-24. Trustee Coonerty seconded the motion.

MSP (Threet/Coonerty) 7-0, the Board of Education voted to expel student #03-23-24.

Vote on Student Expulsion #04-23-24

Trustee Threet motioned to accept the District's recommendation to expel student #04-23-24. Trustee Grossman seconded the motion.

MSP (Threet/Grossman) 7-0, the Board of Education voted to expel student #04-23-24.

ITEMS TO BE TRANSACTED AND/OR DISCUSSED

5.2.1 Study Session: Curriculum, Special Education

Origins of Special Education

Director of Special Education Stacy O'Farrell began the study session by providing an overview of the history of Special Education. It was noted that prior to 1975 Special Education students were unable to attend school with general education students. Now 7.5 million students have Individualized Educational Plans implemented to support their access to school.

Major Tenets of Special Education Law

Program Specialist Sarah Krummel discussed the need to ensure children with disabilities are included, accommodated and educated with other general education students to the best extent possible. Ms. Krummel also discussed Child Find and the obligation to "seek and serve" students with disabilities attending school within district boundaries. Ms. Krummel discussed how the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support structure aids in the District's Child Find obligations and allows for interventions and referrals for students with disabilities based on student need.

Special Education Funding

Director Stacy O'Farrell returned to the podium to discuss funding for the Special Education program and showed the Trustees a video to aid in their understanding.

Criteria for Eligibility and Incidence in SCCS, Continuum of Services in SCCS, and North Santa Cruz County SELPA & Regional Programs

Program Specialist Brad Taylor discussed the specific list of thirteen eligibility criteria, set by EdCode, to determine if a student is eligible for Special Education. Mr. Taylor stated that staff must determine if the student can access the curriculum that they should be accessing and if not, what additional support they need in order to access their education. Mr. Taylor explained

that the ideal goal of special education services is to aid the student in getting to a point where the student no longer needs services and can fully succeed in the classroom. Santa Cruz City Schools is part of the North Santa Cruz County SELPA which is composed of thirteen Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with budget and services overseen by the SECA Board which includes the Superintendent from each school district and representatives from the charter schools. Mr. Taylor went on to discuss the different programs offered by SELPA, including through the County Office and through SCCS.

Assistant Superintendent Jim Monreal returned to the meeting at 7:18 P.M.

SCCS Special Education Programs

Program Specialist Staci LaCagnina discussed the specific program supports offered by Santa Cruz City Schools in therapeutic classrooms. Ms. LaCagnina emphasized that staff want to teach skills to help students access the world around them and that the ultimate goal is to be integrated and educated. Ms. LaCagnina discussed the least restrictive to the most restrictive types of supports available to students.

Trustees asked questions and made comments throughout the evening. Ms. Munro concluded the presentation by discussing the success of the move from the County Office of Education therapeutic classrooms to SCCS directed programming spearheaded by Director Stacy O'Farrell. Trustees thanked the Special Education department staff for their dedication to supporting students with all needs and disabilities.

6. Adjournment of Meeting

As there was no further business to come before the Board of Education, Board President Owen adjourned this Study Session Meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Board Meeting Schedule Information

1. The Regular Board Meeting on December 13, 2023, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
2. The Regular Board Meeting on January 17, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
3. The Study Session on January 31, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
4. The Regular Board Meeting on February 14, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
5. The Regular Board Meeting on February 28, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
6. The Regular Board Meeting on March 13, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
7. The Regular Board Meeting on March 27, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
8. The Regular Board Meeting on April 10, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
9. The Study Session on April 24, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
10. The Regular Board Meeting on May 15, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.

11. The Study Session on May 22, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
12. The Regular Board Meeting on May 29, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.
13. The Regular Board Meeting on June 12, 2024, 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and will be broadcast to the public remotely via Zoom.

*For more details about this meeting, please visit our district website and listen to the meeting recording:

http://sccs.net/board_of_education

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Munro, Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

John Owen, President
Board of Education