

*Minutes of the SSEA Central Coordinating Committee Meeting
Shasta Learning Center
September 15, 2009
3:30 P.M.*

In attendance:

Jim Cloney, Superintendent
Art Schmitt, Chief Business Official
Dana Reginato, Assistant Superintendent/Human Resources
Milan Woollard, Principal (SHS)
Jim Bartow, Principal (FHS)
Keith Turner, Assistant Principal (EHS)
Elsbeth Prigmore, Principal (PHS & Plus Schools)

Guy Malain, Principal (Alt. Ed.)
Tom Carroll, Director/Transportation
Deborah Bayley, ESP (NSIHS)
Eric Levy, SSEA (FHS)
Paralee Roberts, SSEA (SHS)
Patricia Pocinich, ESP (FHS)
Marsette Ford (Recorder)

Transportation

Concerns from some EHS staff were relayed about the length of time allowed for students to reach the EHS bus before it departs following the last period of the day. Tom Carroll explained that the length of time allowed to catch the bus is based upon each individual school's passing bell schedule (EHS is 5 minutes). This practice has been followed for many years. Tom also noted that buses must stay on schedule; if they are late it results in a trickle-down effect, causing the buses to arrive late at the other schools.

Tom is willing to look into the matter if he is made aware of ongoing problems, however Transportation has not received any calls from parents, nor has any school reported a problem to him this year. It was determined that teachers need to inform students to have their parents call Transportation if they are consistently having problems catching the bus at the end of the day.

On another transportation topic, Tom clarified that all requests for District vans need to be initiated and coordinated through Athletic Directors, as well as all communication regarding any change in trip plans. Following this practice will reduce any confusion regarding vehicles and schedules. Early pick up of vehicles is not encouraged, to allow for routine maintenance between trips.

Teacher Paycheck Options

In an effort to avoid future confusion regarding the number of teacher paychecks (options currently include 10, 10 +2, or 11+1), Jim Cloney announced that, effective next school year, the 10+2 option will no longer be available. Teachers may elect to receive 10 paychecks (September through June), or 11+1 (August through June, plus one additional check in June).

Budget Update

Art reported that the 2008-09 budget closed at just under \$5 million more than projected. The reasons for this are: 1) the effect of the District's spending freeze implemented in December 2008; 2) late receipt of Federal stimulus money; 3) threatened State cuts that did not materialize when originally anticipated; and, 4) late receipt of MAA funds. Art is anticipating mid-year cuts from the State but won't know for sure until later in the year. The good news is that, at present, enrollment is up by approximately +100 over the projected figure.

Administration is currently working with the Board through study sessions to develop various budget cuts to be implemented over the next two years. The Federal stimulus funds will be used as a "cash bridge" during the next two years (must be spent by 9/30/11) and then it will go away.

The State budget shortfall is projected to be \$6-8 billion for 2009-10 and could be as high as \$15 billion in 2010-11, because the budget "fixes" this year consisted of one-time "fixes" that were applied toward ongoing problems.

Eric Levy and Len Massaro are scheduled to meet with Art on September 17th to discuss finances in greater detail.

Retirees & Benefits

Art reported that some retirees have not been paying their share of benefit costs. (The District pays the premium up to the cap and the retiree is to pay the difference). The District has been attempting to collect from these individuals for several years, however the notices to those retirees have been ignored. At the present time, approximately \$2,600.00 has not been collected and this amount has been paid out of the Association's share of the retiree fund. Administration is seeking direction from the Association on how long these individuals should be carried before being dropped.

Eric stated that all active employees have an interest in this matter. He will get direction from the Association Executive Committee and get back to Jim and Art on this topic.

API Scores

Jim Cloney reported that the API scores have been released and administration is very pleased. All three comp site scores have continued to rise and have reached an all-time high, with the biggest jump being at EHS.

Distinguished Educator Program

To clear up any confusion on the part of staff regarding DEP status, Eric Levy, Tom Roberts, Art Schmitt and Dana Reginato will meet to discuss issuing a joint statement to clarify this issue. Jim Cloney noted it is a valuable program, but clarification is necessary to clear up confusion.

CLAD

Dana reported that administrators work very hard each year with the counselors to make sure that ESL students requiring service are assigned to CLAD certified teachers, and that the District remains in compliance with established State guidelines. At the start of this school year, EHS received a large influx of incoming 9th grade ESL students. Counselors are presently reviewing these students to see if they can be reclassified. Administration is hoping to get the numbers down, and will know by the end of September if there will be credentialing issues.

ESL

Eric inquired about the number of ESL students at each site and District-wide overall, as a District committee may be required if the numbers are higher than allowed in the guidelines. Dana reviewed the numbers at each comp site and reviewed the reclassification process. Eric will follow up with Simpson University on compliance requirements. Dana shared the District is in compliance regarding committee requirements.

Topics/Issues for CCC Meetings

All SSEA and ESP unit members are encouraged to talk with their Site Rep as the initial contact for relaying topics of concern, and give them the opportunity to resolve the issue(s) at the site level before bringing it to a CCC meeting. CCC meetings are designed to discuss and resolve District level issues.

Litigation

Eric relayed that staff is very much aware of the current financial crisis and that the drug testing litigation is costing money that possibly could have been saved if the District had not implemented the new policy.

Jim Cloney reported that one of the considerations in moving forward with the litigation (appealing the preliminary injunction) was that the District's liability insurance carrier will pay litigation costs up to \$100,000 and the District pays only the \$10,000 deductible. Had that not been the case, the decision may have been different. The litigation costs related to this matter are anticipated to be less than \$100,000.

Dana added the many of the District's other litigation issues are also covered in this manner.

Student Checkout Procedures – Spec. Ed., MIS & Cal-SAFE

Concern regarding this topic stems from the loss of books if the established checkout procedures are not followed, and if there is a way to track students who don't follow the procedures.

Student Checkout Procedures (Cont'd):

Jim Cloney said the student checkout procedures should be the same for all students.

Counseling offices, registrars and site offices all need to work together to avoid dual enrollment and properly track the students. This topic will be re-addressed at the upcoming Principals' Cabinet meeting.

Cost Cuts/Reductions (Employee Suggestions):

Eric inquired about the status of the staff suggestions to cut or reduce costs that were collected last year.

Jim Cloney reported the Board is currently in the process of conducting special Board Study Sessions to prioritize numerous suggested cuts/reductions for the 2010-11 school year. The list of staff suggestions, as well as input from other surveys, has been included as positive feedback in the various proposals that the Board is considering. The Board is discussing issues related to personnel in closed session (may require negotiation) and addressing program issues (non-negotiable items) in open session.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Eric Levy
SSEA Representative

Date

Jim Cloney
Superintendent

Date

CCC-SSEA 9-15-09
/mf