

*Subject to Board Approval*  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD  
OF THE HERMOSA BEACH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Hermosa Beach City Council Chambers**  
**1645 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254**  
**April 15, 2009**

Dr. Beck explained to the audience that according to California Education Code 35614 “The governing board shall act by majority vote of all of the membership constituting the governing board.” Furthermore, Hermosa Beach City School District HBCSD Board Policy 9323 (b) defines the code as follows: “Quorum: A majority of the number of filled positions on the Board constitutes a quorum. (Education Code 5095, 35165)

Unless otherwise provided by law, affirmative votes by a majority of all the membership of the Board are required to approve any action under consideration, regardless of the number of members present. (Education Code 35164)”

CALL TO ORDER: The open session was called to order by Dr. Beck at 7:41 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Linda Beck, Board President; Mrs. Barbara Zondiros, Board Clerk; Mrs. Lisa Claypoole, Board member arrived at 7:45 p.m. (Mr. Gregory Breen and Mr. Lance Widman, Board members, were absent.)

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Bruce Newlin, Superintendent; Mrs. Angela Jones, Business Manager; Mrs. Tiffany Rudek, Valley Principal; Ms. Sylvia Gluck, View Principal; Mr. Jason Butcher, Assistant Principal, and Ms. Michelle Meraz, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent. Also in attendance were teachers: Mrs. Robyn Alatorre, Mrs. Cathy Barrow, Mrs. Tammy Heath, Ms. Erin Infusino, Mrs. Carrie King, Mrs. April Lankford, Ms. Letitia Liao, Mrs. Marlene Ramirez, Ms. Laura Reevas, Ms. Deborah Stadler, Ms. Jan Stewart, and Mrs. Kim Taylor; and Mr. David Carver, Maintenance & Operations Worker; Mrs. Jeannine Madden, Instructional Aide.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Heath

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BOARD REPORTS: Recognition of the 2009 Outstanding School Crossing Guard was made to Mrs. Silvia Medina. Dr. Beck thanked Mrs. Medina for making it easier for parents to leave their children while heading off to school, due to the great care Mrs. Medina takes in providing safe passage to school. Mrs. Medina was awarded a certificate of appreciation to commemorate her exceptional performance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Dr. Beck requested that item B-60-08/09 on Purchase Orders be moved to Board Action. It was moved by Mrs. Claypoole, seconded by Mrs. Zondiros, that the Board of Education of the Hermosa Beach City School District approve the agenda as amended. The vote in favor was 3 ayes and 2 absentees. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: It was moved by Mrs. Zondiros, seconded by Mrs. Claypoole, that the Board of Education of the Hermosa Beach City School District approve the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of March 11, 2009 as presented. The vote in favor was 3 ayes and 2 absentees. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mrs. Claypoole, seconded by Mrs. Zondiros, that the Board of Education of the Hermosa Beach City School District approve the minutes of the Special School

Board Meeting of March 26, 2009 as presented. The vote in favor was 3 ayes and 2 absentees. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/  
BOARD REPORTS:

A presentation of the Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Steppin' Out Challenge was given by Ms. Vanessa Poster, BCHD Board member and Ms. Alcira Dominguez, BCHD Community Relations Associate. Ms. Poster challenged the school board to register for the challenge, and have the winning totals over Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach school boards. Mrs. Claypoole purchased pedometers for all the Hermosa school staff present to get them involved in the BCHD Steppin' Out Challenge.

Dr. Beck reported on the Facilities Committee Meeting of March 26, 2009. She said the main topic was enrollment numbers and enrollment projections. Classroom space for the enrollment was discussed with and without Class Size Reduction (CSR): with CSR in grades K-3 more classroom space will be needed; if class sizes increase to 24-30 students in grades K-3 the current classroom space will be sufficient. Dr. Beck continued to say that the committee is looking at North School for additional classroom space.

Dr. Beck reported on the dinner at the Hermosa Beach Fire Department with the firefighters, Mayor Kit Bobko, Ms. Gluck, Mrs. Rudek, Mr. Butcher, Mrs. Susie Fraley and Dr. Newlin. This was a brainstorming dinner/meeting on how the school district and the HB Fire Department can work collaboratively to benefit the children.

Dr. Newlin reported that representatives from the HB Fire Department will attend the next Curriculum Council meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Audience Oral Communications:

Dr. Don Brann, Vice-President of the Cosca Group (executive search firm contracted to conduct the superintendent search for the school district in September 2008), said he wanted to bring closure and congratulations on the successful hiring of a very experienced, top-notch superintendent. He stated that this was especially fortunate in difficult financial times. There were a low number of applicants due to the time of year the search was conducted, a high turnover rate, a low salary base and a high cost-of-living in the South Bay area. Dr. Brann said that the Hermosa Beach community is doing a fantastic job in providing excellent education. Dr. Brann presented a donation of \$100.00 to the Hermosa Beach Education Foundation. He told the Board that on behalf of the Cosca Group that it was a pleasure to provide a search for Hermosa schools.

Written Communications:

None.

Superintendent Report:

Dr. Newlin reported on the following topics:

- Greater South Bay Education Coalition (GSBEC) meeting of April 14, 2009 – Dr. Newlin and Mrs. Zondiros attended this meeting. The GSBEC is made up of several school districts that also includes: the Torrance Regional Opportunity Program and the Southwest Special Education Local Plan Area. This makes for a more diverse group covering a larger area, and brings a larger opinion to the state. On May 15th, the next GSBEC meeting at Manhattan Beach Unified School District will have guest speaker, Senator Gloria Romero, Chair of Senate Education Committee, to discuss legislation Senate Bill 540 regarding mandated costs and Senate Bill 604 regarding public education mission. Mrs. Romero will hear the concerns of the GSBEC. The GSBEC took a position on the May 19<sup>th</sup> special election. Dr. Newlin said that the successful passage of Propositions 1A-1F will have a dramatic effect of California. If the propositions do not pass, the worst case scenarios will become bleaker.

Dr. Newlin continued to say that Torrance USD is loaning the GSBEC their lobbyist. The GSBEC will lead the school districts and communities in the right direction to have a voice in government.

Mrs. Zondiros added that there is a parent participation group called “Blue Wednesdays” to share knowledge and to contact state legislatures through emails, and watch senate bills. Parent, Edie Babbe from Manhattan Beach USD organizes this group.

- Announcement of the Annual South Bay Classic Golf Tournament will be held on August 21, 2009. This golf tournament fundraises money that is granted to local area school districts to prevent alcohol and drug abuse. Dr. Newlin invited interested golfers to play in the tournament, and anyone who would like to volunteer for the tournament may contact the District Office for more information.

**REPORT:**

Enrollment Report: Dr. Newlin reported a loss of three students in the past month. Dr. Newlin stated that 115 Kindergarteners had enrolled for 2009-2010. This number is lower than the same time as last school year.

CONSENT CALENDAR: It was moved by Mrs. Claypoole, seconded by Mrs. Zondiros, that the Board of Education of the Hermosa Beach City School District approve the Consent Calendar items as amended. The vote in favor was 3 ayes and 2 absentees. Motion carried.

Superintendent

Acceptance of Gifts Acceptance of the following donated gifts: Ms. Linda Carroll donated 6 Toshiba Strata seven-button phones; Mr. Jeff Gould donated a Dell desktop computer with 15” flat screen monitor and accessories valued at \$80.00; and Ms. Dorothy Taylor donated a Baldwin upright piano valued at \$2,000.00. Direction was given to staff to send thank you letters.

Quarterly Uniform Complaint Report Summary Approval was given for the submission of the January through March 2009 Quarterly Uniform Complaint Report Summary to the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

Business:

Purchase Orders Approval was given on the purchase orders issued since the last Board approval in the total amount of \$32,714.82.

Personnel:

Classified Employment Transactions  
Approval given for the following classified employment transaction:  
Carol Woo, Employment, District Office Clerk/Typist, effective March 30, 2009  
Michelle Burton, Termination, District Office Clerk/Typist, effective February 17, 2009

Declare Salaries Indefinite The Board declared that all of the management, confidential and other unrepresented employee salaries are indefinite for 2009/2010.

BOARD ACTION:

Superintendent:

Discussion/Possible Action on  
Faculty Collaboration Time

Mrs. Rudek presented the benefits of a Professional Learning Communities, (Research on Effective Teacher Collaboration) on behalf of the Curriculum Council. Mrs. Rudek's presentation touched on the goal for educators, need for a collaborative culture, definition of a Professional Learning Communities, advantages of collaboration, characteristics of a Professional Learning Communities, what does research say, compelling cases of elementary and middle school implementation of Professional Learning Communities, and a time commitment during the school day is needed to begin.

Mrs. Zondiros added that Professional Learning Community is for the students and it is necessary to build in the time for collaboration.

Mrs. Claypoole was not comfortable with making a decision without two board members.

Dr. Newlin was looking for a positive indication to move forward with the Professional Learning Community.

Mrs. Claypoole invited parents and Hermosa Beach Educators Association to voice any concerns and give their input.

The item was tabled to the May school board meeting.

2009-2010 School Calendar  
2010-2011 School Calendar  
2011-2012 School Calendar

It was moved by Dr. Beck, seconded by Mrs. Claypoole, that the Board of Education of the Hermosa Beach City School District adopt the school calendars for 2009-2010, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 as presented. The vote in favor was 3 ayes and 2 absentees. Motion carried.

Resolution #15:08/09  
Biennial Governing Board  
Member Election

It was moved by Mrs. Claypoole, seconded by Mrs. Zondiros, that the Board of Education of the Hermosa Beach City School District approve Resolution #15:08/09 to order a biennial governing board member election on November 3, 2009. The vote in favor was 3 ayes and 2 absentees. Motion carried.

Business:

Purchase Orders

Dr. Beck asked about the cost of archiving electronic mail on purchase order #8664 for Gaggle.net. Dr. Newlin stated that archiving electronic mail is an unfunded mandate for school business email.

It was moved by Mrs. Zondiros, seconded by Mrs. Claypoole, that the Board of Education of the Hermosa Beach City School District approve purchase orders since the last board approval for a total amount of \$32,714.82. The vote in favor was 3 ayes and 2 absentees. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL:

Discussion/Possible Action on  
Resolution #10:08/09 Reduction or Discontinuation  
Of Particular Kinds of Services

Dr. Beck informed the audience that a previous Board action on Resolution #10:08/09 included language on competency criteria that would affect bumping into different assignments or positions. Dr. Beck gave an example that she taught first grade for many years, but moved to a support staff position, which she has held for nine years. According to the Hermosa Beach competency criteria scenario in Resolution #10:08/09, Dr. Beck would not be eligible to bump into a first grade classroom.

Ms. Sippel handed out resolutions on reduction or discontinuance of particular kinds of service from neighboring school districts; i.e. Manhattan Beach USD, Redondo Beach USD and Palos Verdes Peninsula USD. Ms. Sippel stated there were no competency criteria in their resolutions. Ms. Sippel argued that a California credential provides the necessary competency to teach a subject matter. She affirmed that seniority should be honored.

Ms. Stadler said that the competency clause was ambiguous. She requested the Board hold a special school board meeting when all five board members can participate in the decision making. Ms. Stadler read a letter that she had written and sent to the school board members. Ms. Stadler continued to say that she believes the competency clause in effect keeps teachers who are lower on the salary schedule employed. Ms. Stadler said she was advised by the previous superintendent to obtain a multiple subject credential, which she did at the cost of \$4,000.00.

Mr. David Carver, Hermosa Beach Educators' Association President, said that if the layoffs were for financial reasons, then seniority should be the priority. He said that the competency clause affects everyone. He requested that the Board eliminate the competency language and if necessary call for a special school board meeting.

Mrs. Zondiros was concerned that if the budget cuts are realized and class sizes are increased there may also be less support staff for the classroom teacher. If budget cuts are made students should feel the least effects of those cuts. By retaining teachers who have been teaching the curriculum in the classroom will minimize the effects of budget cuts to students. Mrs. Zondiros also said that in addition to the applicable valid teaching credential, evaluations are part of the process of monitoring competency. Mrs. Zondiros added that the competency clause is not about saving dollars, but about doing what is best for children.

Dr. Beck informed the audience that Board member, Mr. Widman had asked for this item to be agendaized, and that in his absence he would like the remaining board members to move forward on the item.

Mrs. Claypoole said as a twenty year teacher herself, she has moved to several school districts, and has lost her seniority. She said that seniority should not be a defining factor. Mrs. Claypoole emphatically disagrees with the statement that the school district has written the competency clause in order to retain teachers who are lower on the salary schedule. Mrs. Claypoole said that she would like to wait for all five board members to discuss and make a decision on this item.

Mrs. Robyn Alatorre said that she loves Hermosa Beach School District, but she finds the generality of a specific time frame of five years referred to in the competency criteria infers that the teacher does not have the knowledge to teach a grade level which she finds very

offensive. Mrs. Alatorre said that she taught in a self-contained classroom for many years. She said that the competency criteria should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Dr. Newlin stated that the bottom line is what is best for students.

Mrs. Zondiros explained that she noted evaluations, because it shows that a credential is not the only factor in competency. Mrs. Zondiros further explained that the competency clause in the resolution is about lay-offs and bumping into a position, not about allowing teachers to change positions when there is an opening.

Mrs. Taylor stated the competency criteria language is ambiguous.

Dr. Beck and Mrs. Zondiros both stated that they are in favor of the resolution as originally presented and submitted with the competency criteria.

No action was taken on the item, because the vote with three school board members in attendance would be a 3-0 in favor of what was originally submitted or the outcome would be 2 in favor and 1 against, which would result in defaulting to the original vote.

The two absent board members will be asked for their consensus on bringing this item back to the Board.

Mrs. Ramirez said she is concerned with the ambiguity of the competency criteria language, and how future boards may interpret it.

Dr. Beck informed the audience that she had asked teachers at the March 11, 2009 school board meeting (She cited school board meeting minutes from the March 11, 2009.) to email sample language for the Board to consider, but none had been received.

Mrs. Zondiros added that Resolution #10:08/09 is effective for one year; next school year it may be changed.

Ms. Stadler was concerned with fairness; she said that Resolution #10:08/09 states that 20.80 positions will be laid off, but the actual number is 29. She commented that there is no transparency of what the school district is doing.

Dr. Beck and Mrs. Zondiros both stated that the Board is making difficult decisions about what is best for children.

Mrs. Zondiros also noted that parents are behind the scenes working very hard to raise the funds necessary to keep all of our current programs and staff.

#### ROUNDTABLE:

Mrs. Claypoole announced that the Annual Hearts of Hermosa Dinner, Dance and Auction was another huge success. She said the new venue at St. Rocke was great. Mrs. Claypoole thanked the Hermosa Beach Education Foundation for all of their hard work.

Mrs. Zondiros reported on the Project Forward Town Hall Meeting of March 28, 2009. She said many community members attended and many issues were brought up. Mrs. Zondiros reminded everyone that there is a community survey available online at the city's website ([www.hermosabch.org](http://www.hermosabch.org)) or the school district's website ([www.hbcasd.org](http://www.hbcasd.org)) to gather community input on their thoughts about the school district. Mrs. Zondiros noted several of the questions that were brought up:

- What is the school district doing about North School? The reasons why North School is not being used at this time needs to be communicated clearly and strongly to the community;

- What is the school district doing about foreign language and Gifted and Talented Education programs? Currently, Curriculum Council is working on these two programs;
- What information/data do we have on HBCSD alumni? Have they graduated from high school? Have they gone on to college? Mira Costa and Redondo Union High Schools have been contacted to request information;
- What about merging HBCSD with a local school district? Dr. Newlin is working with local area school districts to find a way of pooling resources and cutting costs.

April 29, 2009 is the next Project Forward Committee meeting. The topic will be organizing Project Forward guiding principles. Mrs. Zondiros also announced a June 30, 2009 final meeting that will be held in conjunction with the Hermosa Beach City Council and the Board of Education. Project Forward Committee will give their recommendations and their guiding principles.

Mrs. Claypoole apologized for arriving late to the school board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 10:02 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Zondiros, seconded by Mrs. Claypoole, that the Board of Education of the Hermosa Beach City School District adjourn the meeting. The vote in favor was 3 ayes and 2 absentees. Motion carried.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS/ EVENTS:

**April**

- 04/06-10 Spring Break
- 04/13 Project Forward Meeting, HB City Council Chambers 7:00pm
- 04/15 School Board Meeting, Hermosa Valley School MPR, 7:30pm**
- 04/17 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Colonial Day
- 04/22 Middle School Honor Roll Breakfast, Valley MPR 7:30am
- 04/22 Flag Ceremony, View
- 04/27 PTO Meeting, Valley MPR 3:15pm

**May**

- 05/04 School Site Council, Valley & View
- 05/04-08 Staff Appreciation Week
- 05/04-15 STAR Testing
- 05/11 Project Forward Meeting, HB City Council Chambers 7:00pm
- 05/13 School Board Meeting, HB City Council Chambers, 7:30pm**
- 05/14-22 Book Fair, Valley Library
- 05/18 PTO Meeting, Valley MPR 3:15pm
- 05/20 Valley Open House, MINIMUM DAY @ VALLEY ONLY
- 05/21 Parent Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, Valley MPR
- 05/21 Flag Ceremony, Valley grades 2-5; 1:30pm
- 05/22 Flag Ceremony, Valley Middle School, 8:45am
- 05/22 Middle School Dance, Valley MPR 6:30pm
- 05/25 Memorial Day Observed, NO CLASSES
- 05/27 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition to Middle School Parent & Student Meeting, Valley MPR
- 05/27-28 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Walk through Revolution
- 05/29-06/05 Book Fair, View Library

**June**

06/01 School Site Council Meeting, Valley & View  
06/02 HVS Band & Choir Spring Concert, HB Playhouse, Community Center 6:00pm  
06/03 Young at Art Art Show, Valley MPR 5:30pm  
06/04 View Open House, MINIMUM DAY @ VIEW ONLY  
06/05 Coordinating Council Dessert Party; Valley MPR 3:30pm  
06/08 PTO Meeting, Valley MPR 3:15PM  
06/09 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Transition Meeting, Valley MPR 7:00pm  
**06/10 *School Board Meeting, HB City Council Chambers 7:30pm***  
06/12 View Field Day  
06/12 Staff vs. Student Softball Game, Valley Field 12:30pm  
06/16 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Beach Day  
06/17 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Rehearsal, Mira Costa High School 8:30 – 11:30am  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion, Mira Costa High School 7:30pm &  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance, Clark Bldg.  
06/18 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Pizza Party; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Disneyland Trip  
06/19 Last Day for Students, Minimum Day  
06/22 Last Day for Teachers  
**06/24 *Tentative Special School Board Meeting to Adopt 09-10 Budget***  
06/30 Joint Meeting with City of Hermosa Beach & Hermosa Beach City School District  
on Project Forward Recommendations

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President

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Clerk