

FOLSOM CORDOVA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
125 East Bidwell Street
Folsom, California 95630

March 16, 2006

MINUTES

Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
Mills Middle School
Cafetorium
10439 Coloma Road
Rancho Cordova, California 95670

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Teresa A. Stanley, President
Edward Short, Vice President
Sara Myers, Clerk
Richard Shaw, Member
Mary McCormick, Member
Maria Huseinbhai, Student Member

March 16, 2006

Board members present: Teresa Stanley, Richard Shaw, Edward Short, Mary McCormick, and Student Member Maria Huseinbhai (Sara Myers absent)

- 5:00 p.m. – Open Session CALL TO ORDER (Held in Room 41)
Vice President Short announced items to be discussed in closed session.
- 5:05 p.m. – Closed Session (Held in Room 41)
- 6:00 p.m. – Open Meeting (Held in Cafetorium)

Meeting convened at 6:08 p.m. President Stanley called the meeting to order. Empire Oaks students Whitman Heise, Alison Gertsch, Alex Kardasopoulos, Cheyenne Skyrud, and Emily Hull led the flag salute.

REPORTING OUT CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS

Superintendent Godwin asked Assistant Superintendent Mark Rickabaugh to report out on routine action taken in closed session regarding certificated and classified personnel.

Mr. Rickabaugh announced the Summer School administrators for this year:

ELEMENTARY SUMMER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

- Donna Chulos Hays, Principal, Rancho Cordova Elementary School
- Carol La Pierre, Principal, Williamson Elementary School
- Canen Peterson, Principal, Folsom Hills Elementary School

SECONDARY SUMMER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

- Charlie Linebarger, Principal, Mills Middle School
- Peter Maroon, Principal, Cordova High School
- Coline Lucas, Vice Principal, Cordova High School
- John Dixon, Principal, Folsom High School
- Kevin Garmston, Vice Principal, Folsom High School
- Shawn Lundberg, Vice Principal, Middle School Program at Folsom High School
- Dennis Davis, Military Instructional Coordinator, Mather Youth Academy

He also read a short bio on each of the following retirees: Lan Gates, Custodian at White Rock Elementary, who retires with eight years of service; Suzette Hackbarth, Special Education Instructional Assistant at Theodore Judah Elementary, who retires with 10 years of service; Barbara March, Administrative Assistant III, Professional Development/Research, Testing & Assessment Department, who retires with 27 years of service; and Barbara Stubbs, Administrative Assistant at Gold Ridge Elementary, who retires with 25 years of service to the District.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (Approved in Closed Session)

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

SHORT/STANLEY MOVED TO APPROVE routine certificated personnel items.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Myers absent)

CERTIFICATED VOLUNTARY REDUCTION IN ASSIGNMENT

- Vera Manzyuk, School Nurse (#992023), Health Services. From: 80%; To: 40%. Effective: 02/26/06.
- Carol Peterson, Teacher (#990424), Carl Sundahl Elementary School. From: 100%; To: 50%. Effective: 2006/2007 school year.

CERTIFICATED EMPLOYMENT

- Stacey Morse, School Nurse (#992023), Health Services, Preliminary School Nurse Credential; BS + 50; Class 3, Step 2. Effective: 02/28/06.

RATIFY RESIGNATION AND FIX LAST DATE OF EMPLOYMENT

- Sarah Lopez, Teacher (#203916), Rancho Cordova Elementary School (from Leave of Absence). Sarah was hired on August 21, 2001 and has been employed 5 years with the Folsom Cordova Unified School District. Effective: 03/02/06.
- Jennifer O'Dette, Teacher (#991807), Folsom High School (from Leave of Absence). Jennifer was hired on August 24, 1999 and has been employed with the Folsom Cordova Unified School District for 6 years 7 months. Effective: 02/24/06.
- Jennifer Stuart, Teacher (#991670), Mills Middle School (from Leave of Absence). Jennifer was hired on August 20, 2002 and has been employed 4 years with the Folsom Cordova Unified School District. Effective: 02/28/06.
- Jill Thomas, Teacher (#990285), Cordova Gardens Elementary School (from Leave of Absence). Jill was hired on August 28, 2003 and has been employed by the Folsom Cordova Unified School District for 3 years. Effective: 02/27/06.

CERTIFICATED PRE-RETIREMENT

The following employees meet the criteria established by *STRS* and *FCUSD Policy* 4118.01 pertaining to the Pre-Retirement Employment Program and are requesting to participate in the program. Effective: 2006/2007 school year:

- Sheila Abel is requesting her 1st year in the pre-retirement employment program: First Grade Teacher, Oak Chan Elementary School: Employed 09/01/88, 50% work assignment.
- Jean Browne is requesting her 1st year in the pre-retirement employment program: Second Grade Teacher, Folsom Hills Elementary School: Employed 09/03/91, 50% work assignment.
- Erle Culpepper is requesting his 2nd year in the pre-retirement employment program: Psychologist, Psychological Services: Employed 09/01/80, 50% work assignment.
- Sandra Lewis is requesting her 1st year in the pre-retirement employment program: Fourth Grade Teacher, Natoma Station Elementary School: Employed 08/30/89, 50% work assignment.
- Kristine Mayr is requesting her 1st year in the pre-retirement employment program: English Teacher, Cordova High School: Employed 09/01/73, 80% work assignment.

- Linda Swan is requesting her 2nd year in the pre-retirement employment program: Second Grade Teacher, Cordova Gardens Elementary School: Employed 09/22/75, 60% work assignment.

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

SHAW/SHORT MOVED TO APPROVE routine classified personnel items.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Myers absent)

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYMENT

- Rae Floyd (replacement) Food Service Worker I (#206651), Gold Ridge Elem., 3.5 hours daily/9.5 months, Range CL05/Step A. Effective: 3/6/06
- Catherine Foster (replacement) Special Education Instructional Assistant (#201373), Blanche Sprentz Elem., 3 hours daily/9.5 months, Range CL10/Step A. Effective: 2/21/06
- Vinette Guadagno (replacement) Special Education Instructional Assistant (#206087), Folsom Hills Elem., 2 hours daily/9.5 months, Range CL11/Step A. Effective: 3/1/06
- Natalya Levko (replacement) Preschool Associate Teacher (#205050), Sierra Madre Preschool, 3.5 hours daily/9.5 months, Range CL10/Step A. Effective: 3/1/06
- Nataliya Litvinchuk (replacement) Preschool Associate Teacher (#201444), Sierra Madre Preschool, 3.5 hours daily/9.5 months, Range CL10/Step A. Effective: 3/1/06
- Carol Uden (replacement) Food Service Worker I (#202604), Empire Oaks Elem., 2.5 hours daily/9.5 months, Range CL05/Step A. Effective: 2/21/06

CLASSIFIED REASSIGNMENT

- Kimber Facino (replacement FTE/new position) Special Education Instructional Assistant (#206663), Folsom Hills Elem., from 10 hours weekly, Range CL11 to 20.5 hours weekly/Range CL10. Effective: 3/1/06
- Linda Green (replacement) Transportation Department, from Relief Bus Driver, 4 hours daily to Regular Bus Driver (#202531), 5 hours daily. Effective: 2/26/06
- Joseph Mihaljevic (replacement/hours increase) Transportation Department, Regular Bus Driver (#206605), from 5.5 hours daily to 7.5 hours daily. Effective: 2/26/06
- Vernita Murray (replacement/hours increase) Transportation Department, Regular Bus Driver (#205543), from 5 hours daily to 5.75 hours daily. Effective: 2/26/06
- Thea Riley (voluntary hours decrease) Family Support Services, Special Project Coordinator (#206652), from 6 hours daily to 4 hours daily. Effective: 3/1/06
- Jon Traud (replacement/hours increase) Transportation Department, Regular Bus Driver (#206606), from 6 hours daily to 8 hours daily. Effective: 2/26/06

RATIFY RESIGNATION AND FIX LAST DATE OF EMPLOYMENT

- Donna Franklin, Clerk Typist III (#991049), District Music Department, reason: personal. Effective: 4/28/06

CLASSIFIED RETIREMENT

- Lan Gates, Custodian (#991194), White Rock Elementary. Effective: 7/31/06
Lan was hired on July 1, 1998 as a Custodian at Rancho Cordova Elementary. In May of 2003, she transferred to White Rock Elementary. Lan will retire with eight years of service to the District.
- Suzette Hackbarth, Special Education Instructional Assistant (#203005), Theodore Judah Elem., Effective: 6/1/06
Suzette started with the District as a Special Education Instructional Assistant at White Rock Elementary on January 29, 1996. She transferred to Cordova Gardens in 1997 and then to Theodore Judah in August of 2005. Suzette is retiring with ten years of service to the District.

- Barbara March, Administrative Assistant III, Professional Development/Research, Testing & Assessment Dept. Effective: 7/14/06
Barbara was hired as an Account Clerk I for the Research & Evaluation Department at Granite Center on September 6, 1977. She was promoted to a Staff Secretary II in that department in September of 1986. She was reclassified an Administrative Assistant III in July of 1998. In 2000, the Research & Evaluation Department became the Professional Development/Research, Testing & Assessment Department. Barbara retires from that Department and the District with twenty-nine years of service.
- Edith “Barbara” Stubbs, Administrative Assistant-Elementary, Gold Ridge Elementary. Effective: 6/21/06
Barbara started with the District as a Teachers Aide at Peter J. Shield Elementary on September 24, 1980. She continued as an Aide until she became the School Secretary at that school in September of 1987. In March of 1998, Barbara moved to the new Gold Ridge Elementary as an Administrative Assistant-Elementary. This June Barbara will retire with twenty-five years of service to the District.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S STATEMENT

President Stanley congratulated the Summer School principals and retirees.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

The Shakespeare Academy – Barbara Harris

Superintendent Godwin asked Empire Oaks Principal Sharon Heilman to introduce the special presentation. Ms. Heilman introduced teacher and Director of the Shakespeare Academy Barbara Harris

Ms. Harris thanked Trustees and Superintendent Godwin for all of the opportunities to support the arts in FCUSD. The academy was begun seven years ago, and in that time, over 400 children from the District have presented to over 7,000 audience members. The Academy has also received congressional recognition sponsored by Congressman Dan Lungren. She also mentioned that the entire production of the performances is handled by the students.

Whitman Heise, Alison Gertsch, Alex Kardasopoulos, Cheyenne Skyrud, and Emily Hull performed one of the “witches” scenes from *Macbeth*.

Trustees thanked the students and all involved for the great performance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

STANLEY/SHORT MOVED TO ADOPT the agenda.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Myers absent)

0506-219 - Public Participation

Conrade Mayer, Rancho Cordova resident

Spoke about the inequities he sees between the club sports and traditional sports at Cordova High School. By club sports, he meant the rugby and lacrosse teams that are ‘District-sponsored.’ His complaint is that club sports do not require a minimum GPA to participate. He feels this allows kids a “path of least resistance,” and he’d like all student-athletes to be held to the same standards.

Ms. Stanley asked for more information on this.

Cindy Evans, District Counselor

- Counselors from both high schools want everyone to know that complete curriculum guides are now posted on school websites.
- Folsom High School is having their career fair on April 19. It's being put on by two seniors as their senior project. Trustees are invited to attend.
- Presentations at this morning's District counselors' meeting included three people who work at Sacramento Works, which provides services for teens, from activities to résumé writing and employment searches, among others. Also, a presentation was given on a new program through Diogenes called California Access to Recovering Effort (CARE).
- District counselors are thrilled to be offered workshops through SCOE.

0506-220 - REPORTS OF DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS

Student Advisory Board – Maria Huseinbhai, Student Board Member, reported on the following:

- SAB meeting was held last week. Most schools are doing well.
- Sutter Middle School and Kinney High School have been raising money for Pennies for Patients for the Leukemia Foundation. Sutter collected \$5,000, and Kinney has raised \$758.
- The cell phone issue has resurfaced in the middle schools, Sutter and Mills in particular. It was reported that a teacher was using a cell phone during a class test. Students are not only distracted, but the teacher is not able to proctor while on the phone.
- Students from Kinney High reported having trouble with kids from other schools while at the light rail station. It seems that police are there only once a week. More patrol would help.
- Next SAB meeting is April 18 at Sutter Middle School.

PTA/PTO Council – Laura Ruby, President:

- No report.

California School Employees Association – Past President Daryl Abdo:

- Distributed copies of the CSEA Budget Review and said that there are questions about the supplies budget which is 67% higher than that for 2005/2006. The California average is \$383, and we're spending \$460.
- Announced a meeting with District that is scheduled for the end of the month to review the budget.

Folsom Cordova Education Association – President Barbara Brydon:

- Asked that Trustees not make a recommendation this evening regarding high school schedules for any campus.
- Feels the process must include the entire community that has a vested interest in that particular school including students, parents, teachers, counselors, administrators, custodians, and Board members.
- Cited the process utilized ten years ago at Folsom High School as a model for successful school reform.

Folsom Cordova Administrators Association – President Judy Cutright:

- Reported on “March Madness” activities taking place on several campuses in the District.
- Preparation for Open Houses are beginning at the elementary schools.
- Congratulated Cordova Meadows Principal Tony Peterson on his school being selected to receive the Title I Academic Achievement Award this year, and Empire Oaks Principal Sharon Heilman for her school advancing to the second round of California Distinguished Schools selection.

- Cordova High participated in the Science Bowl competition last Saturday. In the first round they competed against last year's winner, Mira Loma, and then against Folsom High School, beating them by two points.
- Adult Ed recently hosted world-famous Mexican Guitarist Ariel Lopez to play on February 28, and is now sponsoring well-known early childhood expert, Bev Bos to talk at the Folsom Community Center on April 16. Admission is free.

AGENDA CONSENT ITEMS

McCORMICK/SHORT MOVED TO APPROVE agenda consent items.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Myers absent)

0506-221 - Administrative Matters

A. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2006

0506-222 - Business Matters

- A. Accept Donations: To Acknowledge Receipt of Donations to the District
- B. Warrants and Payroll: Monthly Ratification
- C. Approve Budget Revisions – General Fund and Other funds
- D. Approve 2005/2006 Second Interim Financial Report
- E. Approve Extension of Classroom Furniture and Equipment Bid

0506-223 - Instructional Matters

A. Expulsion Panel Recommendations: Case Numbers: 0506-47, 0506-52, 0506-54, 0506-55, 0506-56, 0506-57, 0506-58, and 0506-59

0506-47

Expel through the end of summer session following the spring semester of the 2005-2006 academic year; student is to attend the Mather Youth Academy through the end of summer session following the spring semester of the 2005-2006 academic year; student is to successfully complete at least one semester at the Mather Youth Academy in order to be considered for return to a comprehensive program of the FCUSD; individual student counseling to address substance abuse and decision-making skills; student must submit a “clean” drug test upon request for readmission to the comprehensive programs of the district.

0506-52

Expel through the end of summer session following the spring semester of the 2005-2006 academic year; student is to attend the Mather Youth Academy or any accredited educational program outside of the district through the end of the spring semester of the 2005-2006 academic year; student is to attend the Mather Youth Academy during summer session following the spring semester of the 2005-2006 academic year; student is to successfully complete at least summer session at the Mather Youth Academy in order to be considered for return to a comprehensive program of the FCUSD; individual student counseling to address anger management and decision-making skills.

0505-54

Expel through the end of summer session following the 3rd trimester of the 2005-2006 academic year. Student is to attend the Sacramento County Community School or any accredited educational program outside of the Folsom Cordova Unified School District through the end of the 3rd trimester of the 2005-2006 academic year; student is to attend the Mather Youth Middle Academy during summer session following the 3rd trimester of the 2005-2006 academic year; student is to successfully complete at least summer session at the Mather Youth Middle Academy in order to be considered for return to a comprehensive program of the FCUSD; individual student counseling to address substance abuse, anger management, and decision-making skills; student must submit a “clean” drug test upon request for readmission to the comprehensive programs of the district.

0506-55

Expel through the end of the fall semester of the 2006-2007 academic year; student is to attend the Sacramento County Community School or any accredited educational program outside of the Folsom Cordova Unified School District through the end of the fall semester of the 2006-2007 academic year; upon reinstatement into the district, student must attend the Mather Youth Academy (as a S.A.R.B. placement) and successfully complete at least one semester in order to be considered for return to a comprehensive program of the FCUSD; individual student counseling to address substance abuse and decision-making skills; student must submit a “clean” drug test upon request for readmission to the comprehensive programs of the district.

0506-56

Expel through the end of summer session following the spring semester of the 2005-2006 academic year; student is to attend the Mather Youth Academy through the end of summer session following the spring semester of the 2005-2006 academic year; student is to successfully complete at least one semester and summer session at the Mather Youth Academy in order to be considered for return to a comprehensive program of the FCUSD; individual student counseling to address substance abuse and decision-making skills; student must submit a “clean” drug test upon request for readmission to the comprehensive programs of the district.

0506-57

Expel through the end of the fall semester of the 2006-2007 academic year; student is to attend the Mather Youth Academy or any accredited educational program outside of the district through the end of the fall semester of the 2006-2007 academic year; individual student counseling to address decision-making skills.

0506-58

Expel through the end of the fall semester of the 2006-2007 academic year; student is to attend the Sacramento County Community School or any accredited educational program outside of the Folsom Cordova Unified School District through the end of the fall semester of the 2006-2007 academic year; upon reinstatement into the district, student must attend the Mather Youth Academy (as a S.A.R.B. placement) and successfully complete at least one semester in order to be considered for return to a comprehensive program of the FCUSD; individual student counseling to address anger management and decision-making skills.

0506-59

Expel through the end of the spring semester of the 2005-2006 academic year; student is to attend the Sacramento County Community School or any accredited educational program outside of the Folsom Cordova Unified School District through the end of the spring semester of the 2005-2006 academic year; upon reinstatement into the district, student must attend the Mather Youth Academy (as a S.A.R.B. placement) during summer session following the spring semester of the 2005-2006 academic year and the fall semester of the 2006-2007 academic year; student must successfully complete at least summer session and one semester at the Mather Youth Academy in order to be considered for return to a comprehensive program of the FCUSD; individual student counseling to address anger management and decision-making skills.

- B. Approve Master Contracts for Nonpublic School Placement and Approve Individual Service Agreements for Specific Students
- C. Approve Nonpublic Agencies and Individual Service Agreements for specific Students
- D. Approve Elementary and Secondary Summer School Curriculum, Locations, Dates, and Times
- E. Approve 2005-06 Curricular Offerings and Textbook Report
- F. Approve Extended Educational Field Trip Request: Cordova Gardens 5th Grade Classes to Point Reyes Seashore, California
- G. Approve Extended Educational Field Trip Request: Cordova High School Orchestra, Colorguard, Jazz Ensemble, and Marching Band Students to the Magic Music Days at Disneyland in Anaheim, California

DISCUSSION/ACTION

0506-224 – Approve Rancho Cordova School Facilities Improvement District School Facilities Needs Analysis (SFNA) and Folsom School Facilities Improvement District SFNA

SHORT/McCORMICK MOVED TO APPROVE both Rancho Cordova and Folsom School Facilities Improvement District School Facilities Needs Analyses which demonstrate the nexus between new development in the School Facilities Improvement Districts and the need to assess fees to finance new school construction in compliance with the provisions of SB50.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, including Advisory (Myers absent)

PUBLIC HEARING

0506-225 – Authorization of the Alternative Section 65995.5 School Facilities Fee and Provisional Approval of the Alternative Section 65995.7 School Facilities Fee - Rancho Cordova School Facilities Improvement District (SFID) and Folsom SFID

President Stanley opened the public hearing at 6:47 p.m.

No one came forward.

Public hearing closed at 6:47 p.m.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

0506-226 - Adopt Resolution 03-16-06-36 and Resolution 03-16-06-37 - Establish Alternative Section 65995.5 Fee and Alternative Section 65995.7 Fee - Rancho Cordova SFID and Folsom SFID, Respectively

SHAW/SHORT MOVED TO ADOPT Resolution 03-16-06-36 and Resolution 03-16-06-37 to establish Alternative Section 65996.6 Fee and Alternative Section 65996.7 Fee – Rancho Cordova SFID and Folsom SFID, respectively

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY including Advisory (Myers absent)

0506-227 – Adopt Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5131.63 – Steroids

Assistant Superintendent Mindi Nunes explained that passage of SB37 revised Education Code related to coaching qualifications and added Education Codes 49030 through 49033 related to performance enhancing substances. In order to address these changes, District used the CSBA recommended Board Policy (BP) and Administrative Regulation (AR) to address their requirements under the noted Education Codes. She explained the steps that will be taken to implement the policy and regulation.

Mr. Short

- Glad to see this policy.
- Asked for clarification about the paragraph in the AR regarding supplemental drugs and that coaches shall follow manufacturer's recommendations when discussing use of any drug or food supplement with a student. Would protein powders or shakes be included? Need to be more specific.

Ms. Nunes

- She believes the intent is to inhibit any supplements that build muscle, creatine and ephedrine substances for example. Believes it is the intent to prohibit those types. Is not familiar with protein powder.

Ms. Brydon

- Need to read the whole paragraph which states performance-enhancing dietary supplements. Protein powder doesn't cause you to build muscles.

Mr. Shaw

- Likes the policy as it's written, but has concerns about students in grades 7-12 receiving lessons about steroids. Where are these lessons taught, who writes them, what are the lessons?
- Regarding the coaches educating students about the dangers of using steroids, who will educate the coaches? Will CIF?

Ms. DeArcos

- For sophomores and 7th graders, probably in Health and Family Life, but could also be in PE classes; hasn't been mandated yet.

Ms. Nunes

- CIF has established a program. It will be mandatory in December 2008 and will be included in the coaches' qualification sheets for next school year.

Mr. Shaw

- His biggest concern is with walk-on coaches.
- In his research, he found that about 15% of kids said they got illegal substances from their coaches, probably walk-on. Some also got them from their doctors. The policy is good, but need to do some thinking about how to make it work in practice.

Ms. McCormick

- Questions the AR on coaches providing non muscle-building nutritional supplements to student athletes. We can't even give aspirin; how can school personnel supply these other supplements?

Ms. Nunes

- On occasion, coaches offer Gatorade. Thinks the intent is to permit items that restore electrolytes.

Ms. Stanley

- Can we take that line out? It does say non muscle-building supplements are permissible. Feels uncomfortable saying coaches and school personnel can provide nutritional supplements.

Mr. Godwin

- Then we should strike the following sentence as well.

Ms. Stanley

- Need to make clear what's not permissible.
- Mr. Shaw raised the issue about how to enforce the BP. The fifth paragraph on page 120 states that a student may be restricted from participating and shall be subject to disciplinary procedures if found to be using supplements. We have no mechanism for determining that. Can we say a negative test result must be submitted or the student can't participate? It would require a component in training of coaches and personnel to recognize the effects of these supplements. Might be more appropriate in the AR than policy. Coaches need the authority to restrict activities till proof that the athlete is not taking supplements.

Mr. Shaw

- Do we know if it's possible to test for these supplements?

Ms. Nunes

- In literature that I've read, you can.

Mr. Godwin

- Will need to do some research and talk with legal counsel about the limits of our authority. Might read “until reasonable suspicion is overcome, a student can’t participate.”

ITEM TABLED for a subsequent meeting.

0506-228 - Adopt School Assistance & Intervention Team (SAIT) Plan for Williamson Elementary

SHAW/McCORMICK MOVED TO ADOPT the School Assistance & Intervention Team (SAIT) Plan for Williamson Elementary School.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY including Advisory (Myers absent)

DISCUSSION

0506-229 – California School Employees Association 2006-07 Proposed Contract Openers to the Board of Education and Announcement of Public Hearing Scheduled for the April 6, 2006, Regular Board Meeting

Assistant Superintendent Mindi Nunes reported that CSEA has chosen to reopen the following articles per Article I A.5 of contracts for both Comprehensive and Transportation Units for the 2006-2007 school year:

Article IX – Other Terms and Conditions of Employment

Article X – Compensation

The public hearing will be held at the April 6, 2006, Board meeting.

0506-230 - High School Scheduling Options

Superintendent Godwin asked Ms. DeArcos to introduce this item. Ms. DeArcos explained that several years ago, after looking at various scheduling models, the Board implemented a 6-period schedule with a 0-period option. The general feeling at that time was that an alternative schedule would be utilized in a new high school in Folsom, and that it could be a 4x4. An ad hoc committee has been working on the study of alternative schedules. She introduced committee members Dennis Willeford, Chris Aland, and Dan Anklam.

Mr. Willeford thanked other committee members John Bliss, Christine Faulkner, student Jennifer Giese, Pat Peck, and Carrie Weldon. The committee conducted a district-wide survey on the District website and received over 1,000 comments. The committee has basically looked at two scheduling options, a year-long, 6-period schedule and the 4x4 semester-long schedule (with modifications of both).

Mr. Aland talked about the impact on academic achievement of the schedules researched. He also discussed the impact on attendance and discipline. There is concern that AP and STAR scores will fall with a 4x4. There is also about 17% less instructional time with a 4x4.

Mr. Anklam addressed the impact on electives, extracurricular activities, ROP, and students transferring into a 4x4 schedule from another schedule.

Mr. Willeford talked about staffing and the cost of 4x4 versus 6-period. Extra costs involved in 4x4 could be mitigated through early graduation, students taking college courses on campus, or partnerships.

Mr. Willeford also commented that per responses received, it looks like a large number of respondents are skeptical of a new schedule. Professional development of staff is a major consideration. Curriculum guides need to be changed.

Mr. Shaw

- Are we satisfied we've polled all stakeholders? This is a critical piece in this process.
- Didn't understand concern about AP classes.

Mr. Willeford

- There are other stakeholders who have not been included, e.g., business partnerships. Suggested we use forums at both ends of the District.
- The concern with AP classes is that if a class is taken in the fall, the AP exam isn't given until May. Learning retention might be a problem.

Carrie Weldon, teacher and AP Coordinator at Folsom High School

- Has taught on a 4x4 schedule and is concerned about what it would do to the AP program. She has seen AP students on a 4x4 not do as well as with a regular schedule.

Ms. Stanley

- Might it work with a modified 4x4?

Ms. Weldon

- Yes, has seen it work at Granite Bay. They offer AP Language Arts and Literature in succeeding semesters, for example.

Mr. Shaw

- Would like to hear about changes for early graduation or concurrent enrollment in college courses.

Mr. Willeford

- Because of more opportunities for classes under a 4x4, there is more opportunity for involvement in partnerships, etc. We also have the Accelerated College Entrance (ACE) program in our District.

Mr. Shaw

- Social gains are easily documented in favor of the 4x4. Seems more of a social than academic consideration.

Mr. Willeford

- Research pretty solidly supported that.

Mr. Shaw

- Probably, for most kids, the API is not a good judge of student success. That's my interpretation. Have we considered other indicators such as number of kids accepted in colleges, completing college, or where they are in 5-10 years?

Mr. Willeford

- I believe that would be a better indicator.

Mr. Shaw

- You did the survey on two schedules we don't have in our District.

Mr. Willeford

- We do have the 6- period day in middle school. We chose these two schedules because they represent each end of the spectrum.

Haley Hart, Cordova High School junior and member of the scheduling committee

- From a student's point of view, strongly recommends modified 4x4 because of class offerings. Gives kids a chance to get into a lot of different subjects. However, the AP problem is an issue.

Mr. Short

- Questioned the problem counselors see with 4x4 scheduling due process.

Mr. Aland

- When students come in from a 6-period into a 4x4 mid-semester, it requires a little work for counselors. The advanced student usually is going to do well. For the student who is struggling, it's an opportunity for remediation by putting them into easier classes the remainder of the semester. Takes a little creativity.

Cindy Evans

- Students within our District who change schools, usually change at semester. That doesn't cause too much of a problem. The concern is with the student who moves into our District or within our District during the semester. If we move to a 4x4, we need to have a policy regarding how to award credits. Comprehensive high schools in our District do not give partial credit.

Ms. Stanley

- Since students currently in middle school will be the ones initially impacted by a new schedule, were they surveyed?

Mr. Willeford

- The only students surveyed other than those responding to the online survey were students on the SAB.

Ms. Huseinbhai

- Middle school students are on the SAB. Kids are aware of what's going on.

Ms. Stanley

- Regarding the issue of decreasing or flattening of test scores with a 4x4, concerns her that since testing is done in the spring, first semester learning might be forgotten by test time. With more schools going to alternative schedules, may need to do a weeklong review in the spring, or the state could offer tests twice a year.

Mr. Willeford

- Doesn't see where California plans to adjust the test schedule. If API scores are the 'be all, end all,' we need to take a long look at 4x4. If options for students is our focus, this is it.

Ms. Huseinbhai

- Granite Bay High School is on a 4x4 and doesn't have Senior Project. Wondered if we would continue Senior Project with a new schedule.

Mr. Godwin

- From talking to principals and staff members, there is concern about the viability and continuance of Senior Project. We will have to look at the value of whether to continue or not.

Carrie Weldon, teacher, Folsom High School

- Has taught on a 4x4 and is not a fan. Doesn't feel it's advantageous to student learning. Compressed time is an issue for her. Spent a lot of time in reviewing at the beginning of a course. The 17% loss of instructional time doesn't sound like much, but it is when being held to state standards. Concerned about potential lower API scores. Folsom High teachers feel test scores are important. Foreign language and music teachers are concerned about the impact on their programs.

Anne Royston, teacher, Folsom High School

- Employment issues need to be clarified. How will people be chosen to go to Vista del Lago? Also mentioned that some of the information from the top ten API schools wasn't put on the comparison slides. Not all data from surrounding schools was used.

Wendy Pierce, teacher, Folsom High School

- Has taught under a 4x4. Speaking as a teacher and parent, is concerned about the time kids need in order to process learning. Instruction is compacted with 4x4, but students need the same amount of time to process as with a year-long course.
- Another issue is that teachers need to be prepared for a 4x4. We only have one year to train teachers.
- Is also concerned about the discipline issue and Special Ed and ELL kids who have to sit in a classroom for 90 minutes. May be more challenging for them.

Ms. Brydon

- Distributed a chart with comments on the traditional 6-period, modified 6-period, traditional 4x4, and modified 4x4 schedules. She compiled the data based on information in the slide show presentation. She also distributed information from the College Board website regarding 4x4 and its impact on AP exams and performance.
- Noted that Folsom High School wasn't included in the slide on Research on API Scores.
- Feels we have more important things to look at than schedules.
- All the information she's read invariably said that the degree to which benefits of a schedule are realized in practice is believed to be highly variable, depending in part on the quantity and quality of staff development provided as the schedule changes.
- Does the community want more electives at the cost of test scores?

Jean Schumpeldt, teacher and parent

- Daughter attended a 4x4. In her senior year, she had completed all requirements after the first semester. At that point she was in "elective heaven." She did not want to leave high school for college mainly because of friends and the social aspect. That brings her to the cost of funding a 4x4. Part of the reasoning is that students will leave and go to college. She questions how many will actually do that.
- Can't get past the 17% loss of instructional time.

Ms. McCormick

- From what she's heard from those who've been involved in a 4x4, questions whether we have enough time for staff development before Vista del Lago opens.

Ms. Royston

- When she started on a 4x4, there was no staff development at all. It was difficult.

Mr. Godwin

- Our plan would identify folks who want to get into staff development. There is time for a 2007/08 opening.

Ms. McCormick

- Regarding the test issue, she understands that good students will usually have no problem, but what about students who need extra support classes?

Ms. Weldon

- It is very difficult to get Special Ed and ELL kids to pass core classes in a 4x4. The pace is very difficult for them; they really struggle with compressed instruction.

Mr. Godwin

- One of the reasons that most of the schools in the nation have moved to the 4x4, and one of the reasons why you are seeing a proliferation of 4x4's, is the flexibility that is built into it.
- Regarding the 17% reduction in teaching time. Some students are capable of going a little faster and are bored in the classes they have now. 4x4 can be a great match for them. Fewer classes can also allow students to handle the pace of 4x4 very well. Flexibility makes it work for students who need extra help. For example, instead of taking Algebra 1 in one semester, they would take Algebra 1A semester one and Algebra 1B the second semester.
- 4x4 schedules wouldn't survive if there wasn't a way to solve the AP problem. Some kids do very well because most of what we learn gets put into long-term memory. We still should have reviews over the summer, for instance. Another alternative would be taking an AP class that runs up to the date of the test, then doing something else after the AP test is over. Could use some sort of variable credit for SAT preparation or college exploration, for example.
- Need to take a look at the problems and come up with creative solutions. Is a fan of 4x4, but doesn't mean he is an opponent of the 6-period day. Folsom High School's loyalty to their schedule is a good thing; they believe in it and work hard to make it successful.
- The plan for Vista del Lago is to identify a principal and have that principal meet with parents, students, and staff members who might be involved. We will report to them the recommendation of the Scheduling Committee that they strongly look at an alternative schedule, like the 4x4, but we serve that community, and it will ultimately be their decision.
- There are problems, but there are also solutions. Regardless of the schedule, we need to find a way to allow students to make more choices. Wants every student to be able to tailor their education to take the courses they are required to take, but also have the opportunity to do some of the things they want to do. He calls it 'the grin factor.'
- The drama presentation tonight was delightful. Wishes more college-bound students and students who have to take remedial classes had the opportunity to take drama. Under a 4x4, more will have a chance to take drama or alternative courses in science, language arts, and everything else.

Mr. Shaw

- Thanked the committee for work and time expended. It's a really good start. This will take a long time. Frankly is wide open at this point, doesn't have an opinion. Has a lot of work to do as a Board member. We all have a lot of work to do. Hates to make a decision based on what happens in one of our high schools. What do we want for all four high schools? This is a tough decision.

Ms. Huseinbhai

- Honestly came in totally against the 4x4, but after listening and serving on the committee, she has learned a lot. Thinks it probably isn't best for every student, but thinks we should try it at Vista del Lago, but keep options open for other schools.

Mr. Short

- Thanked the committee and everyone involved. Will be a tough decision. He's very open minded and needs to learn more. Heard at least ten positive reasons for the 4x4, and many against. As far as instructional minutes go, yes, the 4x4 is more compressed, however, annual instructional opportunities increase. Change is difficult.

Ms. McCormick

- Sees a lot of advantages to the 4x4, but after listening to comments, needs more input from people concerned. Likes giving more choices and opportunities and likes the opportunity for students who need that extra class. Has concerns and unanswered questions regarding other issues, such as employment and staff development. At this point needs to learn more, but is open.

Mr. Short

- Concerned about bussing impact and costs. Need to be cautious with budget in these times. Look closer at staffing needs.

Ms. Stanley

- As a parent, if she had a choice for her daughter, after what she has heard, she would choose a 4x4 because it offers more electives that interest her and gives her college competitiveness.
- With the increased number of 4x4's in California and other states, it seems that none of the challenges raised can be insurmountable, otherwise people wouldn't be doing it.
- Needs more information. Need to find other ways to do surveys.
- Besides the middle school students and parents who will be most affected initially, she thinks we need to educate the business community. Sample some businesses and see what potential partnerships exist for creating work for students in their senior year.
- Would like to see research on knowledge retention. Maybe need a component for pre-test review to mitigate the problem with AP and STAR testing.
- Would be great if we could see data at the college level to see if there is any difference in students coming from a 4x4 or year-long program.
- Need to look at professional development options and explore those.
- Has questions about affect on Special Ed and ELL students.
- Would it be feasible to increase bell time by ten minutes a day to offset the 17% loss?
- Need to learn more about transfer issues and how others have overcome them.
- Regarding STAR testing, maybe the state could do it twice a year.
- Knows that not every student will be successful in a comprehensive school on a 6-period, year-long schedule; some will go to continuation school. It will be the same with a 4x4.
- Thanked the committee for their work.

REPORTS

0506-231- Reports to the Board of Education

A. Superintendent Godwin reported on the following:

- No report.

B. Correspondence to the Board

C. District Committees

BOARD OF EDUCATION

0506-232 - Board Business

A. Board Communication

Ms. Huseinbhai

- Had the opportunity to be on the committee to select new principals for high schools. It was a great experience.
- Attended the Secondary Curriculum Advisory Committee meeting yesterday. Likes the new course offerings, especially Spanish 1 at the middle schools. Gives kids a better advantage.
- Read an article recently regarding research done on asthma that indicates everything we've been doing is wrong. Conventional treatment is with steroid-type drugs. They now have found cells called Killer T Cells that concentrate in the lungs of asthmatics. Steroids only deal with symptoms of the disease.

Mr. Shaw

- Former Cordova High student Chris Wilcox placed 5th in the state wrestling championships.
- Announced that 18 kids qualified for the state tournament as a result of the County History Day.

Ms. McCormick

- Congratulated retirees, especially Barbara March and Barbara Stubbs for all their years of service.
- Saw *Macbeth* and *Cinderella*; both were wonderful. The kids were great. Thanked all people who spent time working with the students on these productions.
- Attended boundary forum for Rancho Cordova. Certainly was different from the Folsom forums. Very few people in attendance.

Mr. Short

- Shakespeare presentation tonight was wonderful.
- Regarding Conrade Mayer's mention of club sports being 'district sponsored,' what does that mean?
- Don't forget the Air Show with the Navy's Blue Angels this weekend at Mather.

Ms. Stanley

- Loved *Macbeth*. The kids were impressive, and Barbara Harris is just excellent.
- Beautification day at Folsom High School is April 1.
- During our joint coordination meetings with Rancho Cordova, we should talk to them about getting police support during school commute times for the light rail station near Kinney High. Maybe partnering with them on a work-ready program?
- Congratulated History Day Award winners. Ms. Bateman and Bev Purcell also received awards for their support and work on History Day.
- Attended the California State University Executive Symposium. They talked about secession planning which is important to us because we have excellent personnel. We have both the issue of planning for retirees and the "raider" issue. Excellent personnel makes us ripe for the picking, especially from the private sector since they have more money. Also discussed teaching strategic and analytical thinking.

Meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

INFORMATION

0506-233 - Modernization and Construction Projects Update – Rancho Cordova

0506-234 - Next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2006, at Folsom High School, 1655 Iron Point Road, Folsom, California, 95630.

Record of meeting schedule for March 16, 2006:

Open Session	5:00 p.m.
Closed Session	5:05 p.m.
Open Session	6:08 p.m.
Meeting adjourned at	9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Godwin, Executive Secretary to the Board

Sara Myers, Clerk of the Board