

**LA CAÑADA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD**

August 12, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Susan Boyd on August 12, 2008, in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were Governing Board Members Susan Boyd, Joel Peterson, Jeanne Broberg, Cindy Wilcox and Scott Tracy.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:00 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were the five Governing Board Members, Superintendent James Stratton, Assistant Superintendent Mike Leininger and Assistant Superintendent Wendy Sinnette. Closed Session adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mrs. Susan Boyd, President  
Mr. Joel Peterson, Vice President  
Mrs. Jeanne Broberg, Clerk  
Mrs. Cindy Wilcox, Member  
Mr. Scott Tracy, Member

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Mrs. Boyd reported there was no action taken in closed session.

**PRESENTATION**

A presentation by Chuck Youtz of George K. Baum regarding the General Obligation Bond – Series B sale began at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Stratton introduced Chuck Youtz of George K. Baum. Mr. Youtz began the presentation with a brief update of the current bond market and interest rates. Mr. Youtz reported on the district's remaining \$10 million of the 2004 General Obligation Bond and the recent presentation in San Francisco to Standard & Poor's and Moody's, which included Mr. Tracy and Mr. Stratton. The presentation went very well. Based on the presentation, the district's rating was upgraded from AA- to AA. Mr. Youtz discussed the reasons behind the upgrade. He also explained decisions related to pricing. The day prior to pricing, a conference call took place to discuss projected issuance costs, yield, rate and spread. The day of pricing the Consumer Pricing Index was announced which combined with other variables to affect the pricing of the bond. In spite of that, Baum personnel representing the district had a significant order book. However, as a result of a lack of interest in long term purchases the district was faced with three options: pulling the bond sale and putting it off to a later date, having Baum underwrite the additional \$4.2 million or selling the \$5.8 million and coming back and selling the additional \$4.2 million in the first quarter of 2009. The decision was made to sell the \$5.8 million and to come back and sell the additional \$4.2 later. George K. Baum would have been willing and able to underwrite the \$4.2 million but the concern was interest rates would be too high. The County Office of Education advisors strongly supported the selling of the \$5.8 million. Mr. Youtz feels this was the right decision for the time. Mrs. Boyd asked about the lead time for the second issuance. Mr. Youtz reported it would take approximately 45 days for the sale of the additional \$4.2 million. A ratings presentation will not be necessary for the next issuance.

Mr. Peterson asked Mr. Youtz about the impact of the state budget towards the pricing of the remaining \$4.2 million should there be a more negative turn in the budget. Mr. Youtz reported that although the state budget affects the operating budget for school districts, overall it doesn't much affect the view of the investors.

Mr. Youtz reported that the projected tax rate for the current bond funds is well within the parameters that were originally communicated to the voters.

Mrs. Wilcox asked what this means for the district's construction plans. Mr. Stratton reported that Palm Crest Elementary and Paradise Canyon Elementary construction will continue as planned and that La Cañada High School A-Building modernization will be in spring or summer of 2009.

The Governing Board thanked Mr. Youtz for his presentation.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 7:13 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Canada. Present were the five Governing Board Members, Mr. Stratton, Dr. Leininger, Ms. Sinnette and Executive Secretary to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. There was 1 person in the audience. Governing Board President Susan Boyd led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

## **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Mr. Peterson requested item 1d be moved to 1a. Mrs. Wilcox requested 1c be moved to 1b.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Boyd stated that the minutes of the June 24, 2008, and July 15, 2008, meeting of the Governing Board had been distributed to the Governing Board Members in advance for review. Mr. Peterson made minor modifications to the minutes of June 24, 2008. The minutes of June 24, 2008, as amended and July 15, 2008, were approved unanimously.

## **REPORTS**

### **1. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Stratton reported on enrollment and staffing. In June 2008, the district had a total of 4,082 students enrolled. Currently, enrollment is at 3,962, down 120 from last year. Staff had conservatively projected enrollment would be down about 167 for this year. 115 new students have enrolled since June. Total kindergarten enrollment is currently at 183.

Staffing – the District has hired 14 new full time teachers, three long term subs for leave of absences, one counselor, two Speech Pathologists and one teacher for Spanish. Two English positions and one Science position at La Cañada High School still need to be filled. Mr. Stratton reported that approximately 45% of the district's certificated staff is new since 2002.

### **2. President's Report**

Mrs. Boyd deferred her report.

### **3. Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Operations Report**

#### **a) Construction Update**

Dr. Leininger reported that construction at Palm Crest Elementary is moving quite well and the Oak Grove restrooms are completed. Dr. Leininger will be asking for ribbon cutting dates in communications.

Dr. Leininger distributed a timeline for the La Cañada High School, Building A. The timeline shows DSA approval in November 2008 with projected bid opening in March 2009, and

Governing Board approval in April, 2009. If this timeline goes as planned, construction would begin June 22, 2009. Dr. Leininger discussed the impact to the site during construction.

### **OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD**

The following audience members addressed the Board:

Bill Boyd, 5125 Hayman Avenue

Dorothy Melendy - CSF Charter on LCHS transcripts

### **PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS**

#### **1. First Reading**

- a. **\*Approve Contract with Sidewalk Strategies (a division of Tramutola LLC), R4-080-9.** It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Wilcox) to approve the contract with Sidewalk Strategies (a division of Tramutola LLC). Following the discussion at the last board meeting, Dr. Hodgson had extensive conversations with Charles Heath of Sidewalk Strategies. Mr. Peterson had to leave the meeting due to a family emergency but asked to address his concerns prior to his departure. Mr. Peterson's first concern was with the termination clause in item 7c; secondly, the confidentiality clause in item 9 and lastly, the payment due date in item 2. After expressing his concerns Mr. Peterson left the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Mr. Stratton continued his discussion regarding the changes to the contract. 7c was discussed. Mrs. Broberg thanked Mr. Stratton for addressing the Governing Board's concerns. Mrs. Wilcox expressed a concern with conducting a survey during such uncertain economic times. Mrs. Wilcox suggested approving the contract for the survey yet delaying the survey until after the November election. Mr. Tracy stated that that is a legitimate concern and suggested talking to Charles Heath about the best timeline or phrasing the questions to account for economic and political factors. There was much discussion regarding the timing of the survey and the economy. Mrs. Boyd asked the Governing Board if they would consider going for the Parcel Tax with the economy as it is. Each Governing Board member expressed his/her personal feelings regarding the Parcel Tax. The motion to approve the contract with Sidewalk Strategies was adopted unanimously with direction to talk to Sidewalk Strategies about designing questions to take into account the current economic situation and timing the survey appropriately in regards to the November election.
- b. **\*Approve Contract with True North Research, R22-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Wilcox) to approve the contract with True North Research. Mr. Stratton reported that this contract was the split out from the Sidewalk Strategies contract. Legal counsel created the contract and True North agreed to it. Exhibit A outlines the scope of work. It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Tracy) to amend the motion to maximize the number of correspondents with a cost not to exceed \$20,000. The motion to maximize the number of correspondents with a cost not to exceed \$20,000 was adopted unanimously. The motion to approve the contract with True North Research was adopted unanimously.
- c. **Resolution 1-08-09 Statement of Assurance: AP Biology.** This item is being presented as a first reading. Items c and d were discussed together.
- d. **Resolution 2-08-09 Statement of Assurance: Earth Science.** This item is being presented as a first reading. Items c and d were discussed together. Mr. Stratton discussed the requested textbooks reporting that the teachers who reviewed the AP Biology textbooks chose this textbook because it was the most rigorous in preparing students for the AP tests. The Earth Science textbook was chosen due to the reader friendly content and format: both items will come back at the next meeting for adoption. Due to the fact that the textbooks will not be ordered until approval, the Governing Board requested a special meeting to expedite the adoption so that

textbooks could be ordered prior to the start of school. The Special meeting was scheduled for Friday, August 15, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.

- e. **\*Request to Accept Bid for Paradise Canyon Elementary Multipurpose Room, R13-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Broberg) to approve the request to accept the bid for Paradise Canyon Elementary's Multipurpose room. Dr. Leininger discussed the results of the bid opening that took place on July 31, 2008. The low bidder was United Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$2,830,000. The motion to accept the bid from United Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$2,830,000 for Paradise Canyon Elementary Multipurpose room was adopted unanimously.
- f. **\*Request to Accept the Bid for LCHS Tennis courts, R5-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Tracy/Broberg) to accept the bid for the LCHS tennis courts. Dr. Leininger reported that Taylor Tennis Courts was the only bidder in the amount of \$269,427.00 which includes the resurfacing of the 5 tennis courts and the installation of an additional 6<sup>th</sup> court. The bid came in approximately \$23,000 more than expected. Dr. Leininger will approach the City to request the additional cost be split. The motion to accept the bid for the LCHS tennis courts was adopted unanimously.
- g. **\*Resolution 4-08-08 Authorized Signatures.** It was moved and seconded (Tracy/Wilcox) to approve Resolution 4-08-09 Authorized Signatures. Mr. Stratton reported that Wendy Sinnette, the new Assistant Superintendent, needed to be added to the Authorized Signatures. The motion to adopt Resolution 4-08-09 was approved unanimously.

## 2. Second Reading

- a. **Textbook Adoption: Science, Grades K-6 California Series, R3-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Tracy) to approve the Textbook Adoption, Science, Grades K-6 California Series. Mr. Stratton discussed the process of this adoption. The motion to approve the textbook adoption, Science, Grades K-6 California Series, was adopted unanimously.

## 3. Consent Agenda

It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Tracy) to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion to approve the Consent Agenda was adopted unanimously.

- a. **Personnel Report, P2-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the following Personnel Items: *Certificated:* New Hires: Julie Roberts, Victoria Shumway, Mary Ellen Walker, Elizabeth Whisnant, Edna Zamora. Leave of Absence: Odessa Esquivel, Julia Lee Hwang. Resignation: Kerry Rupe. *Classified:* New Hires: Frinna De La Cruz, Irma Torres, Clint Watson. Modification/Transfer: Heaja Kim. Resignation: Sarah Bergner, Frinna De La Cruz.
- b. **Variable Term Waiver, R19-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the Variable Term Waiver for Laura Richey.
- c. **Disposal of PCR Textbooks, R7-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the disposal of the Palm Crest Elementary textbooks as requested.
- d. **Disposal of LCE Textbooks, R10-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the disposal of the La Canada Elementary textbooks as requested.
- e. **Disposal of PCY Textbooks, R11-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the disposal of the Paradise Canyon Elementary textbooks as requested.
- f. **Special Activity: LCHS Chamber Singers, R17-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the LCHS Chamber Singers special activity request to Badger, California, in October 2008.
- g. **Special Activity: Cheer Camp, R16-08-09.** The Governing Board ratified the high school request to attend Cheer Camp in August 2008.
- h. **Special Activity: Varsity Boys & Girls Cross Country, R23-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the Varsity Boys & Girls Cross Country special activity request to Idyllwild in October 2008.
- i. **Rejection of Claim, R20-08-09.** The Governing Board rejected claim #04-08-09.

- j. **Approval Agreement with LACOE for District Participation in ROP, R18-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the agreement with LACOE for District Participation in ROP.
- k. **Purchase Order List #17-07-08.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List #17-07-08.
- l. **Purchase Order List #2-08-09.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List #2-08-09.

### COMMUNICATIONS

A Special Meeting for textbook adoption was calendared for Friday, August 15 at 8:30 a.m.

Mrs. Broberg expressed concern with the late request for the Cheer Camp special activity and asked that the process remain that no fundraising be done prior to approval.

Mrs. Broberg reported that 2007 was the highest birth rate in 50 years.

The Kiwanis new teacher luncheon is August 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at Descanso Gardens.

Mrs. Wilcox requested a list of the parents in the Jacobson focus group whenever that group meets and an update/summary on Renaissance's lease payments in an upcoming TWIR.

Mrs. Wilcox reported on the Anthony Portantino state budget discussion event which included a report by Ron Bennett of School Services.

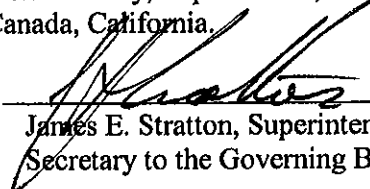
Mr. Tracy reported on his suggested column on the bond presentation and the upgraded rating. He will prepare it and share it for review.

Mrs. Boyd will not be present at the September 30<sup>th</sup> meeting but will invite Mr. Peterson to chair the meeting.

Dr. Leininger requested dates for the ribbon-cutting for the Oak Grove restrooms. Suggested dates were scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 or 9:00 a.m. Dr. Leininger will talk to the City of La Cañada Flintridge and confirm dates with the Governing Board.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Canada, California.

  
James E. Stratton, Superintendent  
Secretary to the Governing Board

### MINUTES APPROVED

  
Jeanne Broberg, Clerk

Date \_\_\_\_\_

8/12/08