

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

November 18, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Susan Boyd on November 18, 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 6:30 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Canada, California. Present were the five Governing Board Members, Superintendent James Stratton, Assistant Superintendent Mike Leininger and Assistant Superintendent Wendy Sinnette. Closed Session adjourned at 7:00 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

**REGULAR MEETING**

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 7:09 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 were approximately 3 people in the audience. Mrs. Boyd asked Rick Jordan to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Boyd stated that the minutes of the October 21, 2008 meeting of the Governing Board had been distributed to the Governing Board Members in advance for review. The minutes of October 21, 2008, were approved as presented.

**REPORTS**

**1. Student Representative Report**

The Student Representative was not present.

**2. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Stratton announced that the STEP program at the high school began this week and he asked Ms. Sinnette to provide a brief update on the program. Ms. Sinnette reported that the students received their locator cards last Friday. Some students receiving intervention are allowed to have three STEP classes rather than the usual two. Ms. Sinnette facilitates two SSR classes; she asked her students to answer a survey regarding the STEP program and the responses were very positive.

Mr. Stratton reported that District staff continues to monitor the state budget.

Mr. Stratton reported that due to the fires, school sites have had to curtail student activity. The jog-a-thon has been postponed until after the Thanksgiving break.

**3. President's Report**

Mrs. Boyd deferred her report.

**4. Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Operations Report**

**a) Construction Update** - Dr. Leininger provided construction updates on the Paradise Canyon Elementary and Palm Crest Elementary multipurpose rooms. The old lighting at the LCHS tennis courts has been removed. If the weather holds, the District is hoping for a completion date for the LCHS tennis courts in December. Dr. Leininger reported that a ribbon cutting for the opening of the tennis courts was discussed at Joint Use. Dr. Leininger will work with the City and the Governing Board to set a date for the ribbon-cutting.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

No agenda modifications were requested.

**OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD**

The following audience members addressed the Board:

None

**PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS**

**1. First Reading**

- a. **\*Approval of Agreement with Film L.A., R55-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Broberg) to approve the agreement with Film L.A. Mr. Stratton discussed the history behind the proposed agreement. Mr. Stratton reported that in pursuit of additional income, staff talked to other districts about how they manage the leasing of facilities to film companies. Glendale USD and Burbank USD both work with Film L.A. Mr. Peterson worked with staff and Film L.A. to develop the current contract. Mr. Stratton thanked Mr. Peterson for his assistance. The motion to approve the agreement with Film L.A. was adopted unanimously.
- b. **\*Approval of AB1200, R59-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Peterson/Broberg) to approve AB1200. Mr. Stratton reported that this is the document that needs to be submitted to the county using its template. This document states that the District can meet the obligations of the proposed salary increases. The country has reviewed and approved the document. Ms. Sinnette provided a salary increase history covering CSEA, CMSA and LCTA. The Governing Board asked Dr. Hodgson to review page 8 which shows previous salary increases as 0. Mr. Stratton and Dr. Hodgson will review documents with the Los Angeles County Office of Education and provide an update to the Governing Board. The motion to approve the AB1200 was adopted unanimously.
- c. **\*LCTA Contract Agreement and Changes, R62-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Peterson) to approve the LCTA Contract Agreement and Changes. Ms. Sinnette reported on the contract changes and the request for the 3% salary increase retro active to July 1, 2007. Mrs. Wilcox noted that one of the difficult decisions that faces school board members is the allocation of available funds between class size reduction and pay increases. Mrs. Wilcox explained that she had opposed the proposed package in favor of spending more money on class size reduction. Her goal was to lower the cost of a possible parcel tax and to assure the community that the Board had made every effort to reduce class sizes with internal resources. To be consistent, Mrs.

Wilcox said she would be voting no on the proposed pay increases. Mr. Peterson clarified that there was no vote in Closed Session to approve the new contract with the proposed raise but simply direction provided to staff regarding negotiations. Mr. Peterson expressed concern with approving the contract changes while not seeing the actual contract. Mr. Stratton suggested approving this item and providing all the specific language in TWIR, with a staff reminder to provide the complete contract when seeking approval in the future. Mr. Tracy questioned a conflict in the figures on the agenda item page with the figures in the AB1200. The figures were reviewed and there was discussion regarding the way these figures were calculated. Mrs. Broberg made a motion to amend the motion to approve the LCTA contract agreement and changes by approving the Current Considerations, Term, and Salary subject to verification of the financial implications to the AB1200. Due to the concerns of the figures Mr. Stratton suggested moving forward with the first action items beginning with item 1g and coming back to these four items later in the meeting. It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Tracy) to come back to this item at the end of the meeting, along with items d – f.

- g. **\*CAHSEE Waiver, R53-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Peterson/Wilcox) to approve the CAHSEE Waivers. The motion to approve the CAHSEE Waivers was adopted unanimously.
- h. **\*Replacement of Sub-contractor for Paradise Canyon Multipurpose Room project, R57-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Broberg) to approve the replacement of sub-contractor for Paradise Canyon Multipurpose Room project. Dr. Leininger reported that the sub-contractor has requested to withdraw from the project. Dr. Leininger is recommending the replacement of United Contractors Company with Klassic Engineering, Inc. The motion to approve the replacement of subcontractor for the Paradise Canyon Multipurpose room project was adopted unanimously.
- i. **Request to go to bid for LCHS Bldg A, R69-08-09.** This item is presented as a first reading. Dr. Leininger reported on the LCHS Building A modernization. The District has allotted \$6.9 million for Building A. Dr. Leininger discussed the financial implications of the project. The additional bond funds would need to be sold prior to the completion of this project. Dr. Leininger discussed class loads for science. Dr. Leininger discussed the Osborn plans for Building A and reported on the scope of the plans. Mr. Peterson clarified that we have an increase of \$1.8 million more in the science labs than previously stated. This is justified by the increase in the number or students taking additional science classes. Mr. Peterson asked if Dr. Leininger believes the District can fund the change in scope. Dr. Leininger responded that the district can fund this project including the change in scope. Mr. Peterson wants to make sure that the Governing Board isn't being asked to make the decision to modernized the science labs and take away from the air conditioning in the North and South gyms. Mr. Stratton would like the Governing Board to take a close look at what is being presented prior to making a decision tonight regarding the scope of work on the gyms. Dr. Leininger discussed the proposed modernization to the North and South gyms. Dr. Leininger would like the North and South gym improvements to be looked at as maintenance items; those improvements would not require DSA approval. Broader scope in the gym areas requires extensive ADA work, costs a significant amount for that work and results in minimal structural space increases for storage, offices, team rooms, etc. Work within the shell of the building becomes more expensive than constructing a new building. Mrs. Broberg reported that as a member of the construction committee she feels that it is important to do the maintenance items until the District can go out for a major bond for a new building. Dr. Leininger reported that you can do a lot of maintenance improvements for \$400,000 when DSA and soft costs are not required. Mr. Stratton stated that what is being recommended is that the District not put the funds into the medium or high scope of work. Dr. Leininger would

like to give Osborn Architects direction before Winter break to get them started. This will come back at the December meeting.

- j. **\*CSBA Delegate Assembly Nominations, R68-08-09.** There was no motion to approve the CSBA Delegate Assembly Nominations. Therefore the agenda item was withdrawn.
- k. **Approval of Board Policy Revisions, R66-08-09.** This item is being presented for a first reading. A minor correction was requested to the Board Policy. This will come back at the next regular meeting for approval.
- l. **\*Resolution 7-08-09 Internal Fund Borrowing.** It was moved and seconded (Tracy/Peterson) to approve the Resolution 7-08-09 Internal Fund Borrowing. Mr. Stratton stated that this gives the district the authorization to transfer funds internally if needed. The motion to adopt Resolution 7-08-09 was adopted unanimously.
- m. **\*Parcel Tax, R70-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Peterson) to approve the Parcel Tax Survey, R70-08-09. Mr. Stratton reported that all of the Los Angeles County Bond measures passed in the recent election and that there appears to be support for schools at this time. Mr. Stratton would like to recommend performing the survey between January 12 and 23, 2009, review the results at the February 10, 2009 meeting, and have the Governing Board decide at the March meeting whether or not to call for a June election. The second item for discussion and direction is whether or not we should expand the focus of the parcel tax and survey. The original focus was class size reduction, but now with the current uncertainty with the State budget the Governing Board should discuss whether to add the budget uncertainty as part of the survey. Mrs. Broberg would like the parcel tax to go beyond class size reduction and agreed with performing the survey in January. Mr. Peterson stated that he is skeptical and does not feel there will be clarity from the state in the next 6 months. Mr. Peterson would like to wait until we hear more of what the new President will bring and doesn't feel we should push for a June election. Mr. Tracy stated that in prior Governing Board discussions it was agreed to wait until after the November election. Almost all of the school bonds on the election ballot passed well beyond the required 2/3 vote. Mr. Tracy would like to move forward with the parcel tax survey with a revised survey to include language that would include protection and maintenance of districts funds. The importance of a June election was discussed. Mrs. Wilcox shared her surprise in the number of school bonds that passed at this election and stated that she is ready to test the community with a revised survey. Mrs. Boyd would like to go ahead with the survey with a revised survey to include protecting and maintaining funding sources. There was consensus among the Governing Board to perform the survey in January with modified language incorporating protection and maintenance. Mr. Stratton would hate to lose focus on class size reduction because that is what started this. Mr. Stratton recommended that the District broaden the language of the survey but that the key factor remain class size reduction. Mr. Stratton will speak with the consultants and arrange a subcommittee review of the revised survey.

c. **\*LCTA Contract Agreement and Changes, R62-08-09.**

d. **\*CMSA Salary Proposal for 2007-2008, R63-08-09.**

e. **\*Cabinet Salary Proposal for 2007-2008, R64-08-09.**

f. **\*Additional Salary Settlement for CSEA for 2007-2008, R65-08-09.**

It was moved and seconded (Peterson/Scott Tracy) to approve items 1c – f together. Mr. Stratton reported that there was a simple error on the agenda page and clarified that the \$160,000 is 1%, or 1/3 of the 3% proposed increase. After clarification of the figures items 1c – f were approved 4:1. Mrs. Wilcox voted against the approval of these items. Mrs. Boyd reported that one of the reasons Mrs. Wilcox voted against the vote was because her main objective is in class size reduction and the reason *the other four Board members voted for the increase was because they also felt that class size reduction was a priority and that the budget assumptions included 1 additional FTE*

~~with instructions to staff being that any additional funds would go to the goal of 3 additional FTE. Mrs. Boyd voted for the increase was because of the agreement by the Governing Board that if additional funds become available that those funds would be put towards class size reduction with a minimum of at least 1 FTE for 09-10 with a goal of 3 FTE.~~

## 2. Second Reading

- a. **Approval of Board Policy Revisions, R50-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Peterson) to approve Board Policy Revisions, R50-8-09. It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Wilcox) to approve these items separately. The motion to review them separately was adopted unanimously. Dr. Leininger reported that he supports the priority listed on charges and priorities on BP 1330. Mrs. Broberg asked for clarification on charges. Mr. Peterson suggested modifying the language on BP 1330 to read, "In accordance with Education Code 39134 the Board authorizes, but does not require, at the Superintendent's or designee's discretion, the use of school facilities or grounds without charge..." The motion to approve BP 1330 was adopted unanimously. The motion to approve BP 3553 was adopted unanimously. The motion to approve BP 5131.63 was adopted unanimously.

## 3. Consent Agenda

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P9-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the following Personnel Items: *Certificated:* New Hires: Dawn Ignatian. Leave of Absence: Cynthia Calm, Odessa Esquivel, Odessa Esquivel, Jenny Kazak, Julie Rivas. *Classified:* New Hire: Ramona Tatavosian, Karen Reed. Leave of Absence: Virginia Salit.
- b. **Request for CalSTRS exemption, R54-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the CalSTRS exemption for Evelyn Hamm.
- c. **Special Activity: Valley Forge, R81-080-9.** The Governing Board approved the La Cañada Elementary field trip to Valley Forge.
- d. **Surplus of Equipment, R58-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the declaration of surplus for the maintenance welding truck.
- e. **Notice of Completion, R61-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the Notice of Completion for Rey-Crest Roofing & Waterproofing for PCY, FIS and FIS.
- f. **Lease Agreement with the Learning Ladder, R60-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the lease agreement with Learning Ladder.
- g. **Gifts to District, R67-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the Gifts to the District as presented.
- h. **Purchase Order List #6-08-09.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List #6-08-09

## COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Wilcox asked for clarification about construction updates being brought as discussion items. Mrs. Broberg clarified that as previously agreed by the Governing Board, there was a discussion in agenda planning on tonight's information and it was agreed to present the construction update as a report.

Mrs. Wilcox discussed letters received from parents at Palm Crest Elementary regarding balancing stress and academics, physical fitness and playground safety.

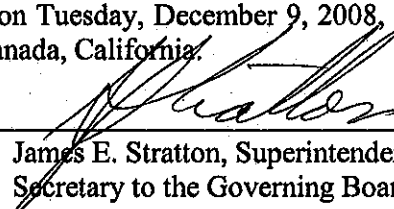
Mr. Stratton reported that the Audit Review is scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Mrs. Boyd and Mrs. Broberg agreed to attend.

The CSBA Conference was discussed.

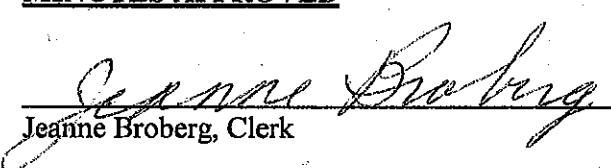
Mrs. Boyd suggested considering an additional source of income by *letting the public know via the website, PTA newsletters and the newspapers about LCUSD rooms available for rent.* ~~renting available meeting rooms.~~ Mr. Stratton suggested ~~posting it on the web site.~~

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, December 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

12-10-08

Date