

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

March 4, 2004

The Special Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by President Andy Beattie on March 4, 2004 in the La Cañada High School Information Resource Center at 4463 Oak Grove in La Cañada, California. Present were Board Members, Jinny Dalbeck, Ron Dietel, Scott Tracy, Cindy Wilcox, and Superintendent Sue Leabo, and Chief Business Officer Dave Banis.

Mr. Stratton was not present.

There were approximately 50 people in the audience. Mr. Beattie asked Mr. John Schulhof to lead the Pledge of Allgiance to the Flag.

Mr. Beattie read a statement informing the community of the Special Meeting regulations.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board:

Mary Jane Hufstedler, LCTA President

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

1. First Reading

- a. ***Resolution#15-03-04 To Reduce or Discontinue Particular Kinds of Service.** It was moved and seconded (Tracy/Dalbeck) to approve Resolution #15-03-04 To Reduce or Discontinue Particular Kinds of Service. Dr. Leabo informed the board since the Parcel Tax did not pass we must plan to make reductions in our budget for next year. Last meeting, the board authorized the reduction in the budget of \$1.5 million for the 2004-05 budget. The district is required to give layoff notices to certificated staff by March 15. If we find we have the funds prior to the beginning of school next year staffing would be the first cuts to bring back. Mr. Dietel questioned whether 9th grade Class Size Reduction (CSR) would be impacted. Dr. Leabo stated 9th grade CSR would be eliminated. Dr. Leabo discussed CSR funding. Dr. Leabo stated that when we look at the results of 9th grade CSR, it is felt that the impact by not eliminating 9th grade CSR would impact other class sizes. Mrs. Wilcox discussed Senior classes and questioned reducing Senior requirements to have 5 classes instead of 6. Dr. Leabo stated that she is currently in discussion with LCHS Administration to discuss options and this is one of those items being discussed. Mrs. Wilcox questioned whether this resolution is giving lay off notices to enough teachers to give ourselves the flexibility to do an implementation later. Dr. Leabo responded that yes she feels that the 21.1 requested will give the district the flexibility needed. She reported that we are currently asking for 21.1 lay offs and we are hoping to only lay off 15. Mrs. Dalbeck stated that tonight allows us to provide the flexibility to decide what the course of action is and asked Dr. Leabo if she is confident that this resolution will give us the flexibility needed. Dr. Leabo stated as we have additional funding her recommendation would be that the first increase in additional dollars would be to increase 7-12 staff. Mr Tracy stated his concerns that the cuts seem to fall pretty heavily on 7-12 and asked why that is and asked for an explanation of these positions and the movement. Dr. Leabo reported we have staffed our K-3 as close to 20:1 as we

can. We could lose \$1 million in funding from the state if we go over that ratio. We have projected staffing as close to that as possible. Grades 4, 5 and 6 we have staffed with the smallest average in classes to 30:1 and up to 32:1. If we reduced staff at elementary you would be looking at classes up to 40:1. The advantage you have in 9-12 is you can mix grade levels. We have some flexibility between elementary and secondary in that they can teach both levels. Inter-district students were questioned. Mr. Tracy questioned whether we can return these students to their home school district. Dr. Leabo stated that the state and the county usually do not allow it. Paradise Canyon and La Canada Elementary have no inter-district students. We have 26 at PCR and 84 at 7-12. In the past two years we simply have not been approving the requests. Mrs. Dalbeck stated that if we lost those 7-12 inter-district students the district would lose approximately \$400,000. Dr. Leabo reported we do have the opportunity to do an August layoff if COLA is below 2% and the budget is not approved in time. Mrs. Dalbeck stated that a lot depends on what happens in April with the May revise. There is a \$6 million gap in the state budget at this time. Dr. Leabo stated that the other thing we don't know is the categorical funding. The state has talked about grouping those funds and putting them into the general fund, which is approximately \$700,000. \$400,000 is site improvement funds. Ron asked about COLA, Dr. Leabo informed the board the anticipated COLA is 1.86% however we haven't received 2% from last year. We have been told at this point we can calculate COLA at 1.86% but it is based on attendance and our attendance is decreasing. We may actually lose funding because of our ADA. Workers Compensation will increase by \$300,000 next year. Dr. Leabo reported there is about \$1.5 million in cuts covered on this list so we have about \$400,000 of flexibility. The number of 21 provides us with flexibility, 15 teachers would cover the amount needed. Dr. Leabo stated that with Particular Kinds of Service (PKS) reductions you have to identify specifically the kind of service. The three directors were questioned: Technology, Assessment and Special Education. Mr. Tracy reported that district staffing has been cut by approximately 16% in the past several years. This district has the least amount of administrative staffing of over 75% of districts.

Mrs. Wilcox made a motion to amend Resolution 15-03-04. The motion was not seconded. Mrs. Wilcox stated that she needs more flexibility than the current resolution supplies. Mrs. Wilcox made a motion to table Resolution #15-03-04. Mr. Beattie and Dr. Leabo stated this Resolution must be adopted prior to the Lay off Resolution on March 9th. The motion to table Resolution #15-03-04 was not seconded.

Mrs. Wilcox wants a discussion with the board on what is an acceptable amendment. Mr. Beattie stated that he is comfortable with the current resolution. Mr. Tracy reported that this is a sad day and the truth is with the failure of the Parcel Tax the kids have lost, the teachers have lost, the community has lost. Mr. Tracy is comfortable with the current resolution. Mrs. Dalbeck agrees the resolution provides the district with the flexibility we need. Mr. Dietel stated Class Size Reduction would be the last thing he would want to cut. Mr. Dietel requested Dr. Leabo report on the impact of eliminating Health and Regional Studies. Dr. Leabo reported that the district is currently working with the high school and administration to look at class requirements not with the intent of laying off teachers but at eliminating class size. During the course of discussion on this Resolution the following audience members addressed the board:

Mark Bernhard
Annie Honch
Mary Jane Hufstedler

Tammy Kaitz
 Mandy Emory
 Renee Steinberg
 Jane Mead
 Jennifer Herzer
 Pat Bird, LCE mom
 Mary White
 Jennifer Rudisill, PCY parent
 Kathy Hernandez, PCR PTA President
 Michael Powers
 Dana Rotley
 Susan Bornhurst, LCE teacher
 Rene LaBran
 Deborah Pruden, LCE teacher
 Laurie Hopkins

A recess was called at 8:10 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:17 p.m. Mr. Beattie asked for board members comments. Mr. Tracy questioned Dr. Leabo what impact on our employment would be involved in the decision to eliminate certain subjects. Dr. Leabo reported the flexibility you buy if you remove the Heath and Regional Studies requirements is those teachers would be reassigned to reduce class size. Dr. Leabo would not make any amendment to this resolution if we were to reduce class requirements.

Mr. Tracy called for the vote. The motion to approve the Resolution was adopted as presented 4 to 1 in favor. Mrs. Wilcox was opposed.

Mr. Beattie stated the board has a tough road ahead and thanked those in the audience for their support with the campaign.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Governing Board is being held on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. in the La Cañada High School Information Resource Center.



Sue Leabo, Superintendent
 Secretary to the Governing Board

MINUTES APPROVED



Cindy Wilcox, Clerk

4-13-04
 Date

