

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

October 4, 2005

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Ron Dietel on October 4, 2005 at La Canada High School in the Information Resource Center at 4463 Oak Grove in La Cañada, California. Present were Board Members, Ron Dietel, Scott Tracy, Jinny Dalbeck, Cindy Wilcox, and Andy Beattie.

CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:31 p.m. in La Canada High School in the Information Resource Center at 4463 Oak Grove in La Canada, California. Present were the five Board Members, Superintendent Jim Stratton, Deputy Superintendent Bill Loose and Assistant Superintendent Mike Leininger. Closed session adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Ron Dietel, President
 Mr. Scott Tracy, Vice President
 Mrs. Jinny Dalbeck, Clerk
 Mrs. Cindy Wilcox, Member
 Mr. Andy Beattie, Member

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 7:10 p.m. in the Information Resource Center at La Canada High School in La Canada. Present were the five Governing Board Members, Mr. Stratton, Dr. Loose, Mr. Leininger and Executive Secretary to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. There were approximately 12 people in the audience. Dr. Dietel asked Ann Nielson to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Dr. Dietel reported there was no action taken in closed session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Beattie) to approve the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was adopted unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Dietel stated that the minutes of the September 13, 2005 regular meeting of the Governing Board had been distributed to the Governing Board Members in advance for review. The minutes of the September 13, 2005 were approved as presented.

REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Dragos reported on the Performing and Visual Arts Programs at La Canada High School. Dr. Dragos reported there are currently 301 students in the instrumental program. It is offered 7 periods a day. Mr. Walt Foremen has recently joined the high school staff for the 7 – 8 instrumental program. Vocal music meets 5 periods a day with approximately 229 students participating in the program. The high school has a separate 7/8 vocal teacher which helps the

7/8 have their own program. These two programs are fairly well established. Tracy Clavin is the new teacher hired for the LCHS Drama program. There are approximately 171 students in the 9 – 12 Drama program. Dr. Dragos has met with Ms. Clavin and together they discussed criteria for choosing performances. The two main criteria for choosing performances are looking at age appropriate performances and working to align the performances with the California standards. Dr. Dragos discussed the proposed performances planned for the year. The high school is currently working on licensing approval prior to formal announcements of the performances. Mrs. Dalbeck asked Dr. Dragos if he and Ms. Clavin have planned a selection process for next year. Dr. Dragos stated they will work together to start choosing next years performance immediately after the All Schools Musical. Ms. Clavin will be sending information to parents as soon as licensing is received. The All Schools Musical information should be out before winter break. Mr. Beattie asked for information to be put in the newsletter to let the community know this issue has been addressed. Mr. Stratton agreed and asked Dr. Dragos to prepare an article for the district's newsletter.

Mr. Stratton reported on the Elementary Spanish Program. The staff is in place and the program started this week. Robert Chacon and Katharine Villanueva are the teachers for this program. Mr. Chacon and Ms. Villanueva have begun this week with the 3rd and 4th graders. Mr. Stratton reported 95 of 117 students at Paradise Canyon Elementary have opted to take the class, 67 of 80 students at La Canada Elementary are taking the class and Palm Crest Elementary is almost at 100% participation. The high school is preparing for the advanced progress of incoming 7th graders due to this new program. Mr. Tracy asked Mr. Stratton how the Spanish teachers are funded. Mr. Stratton reported this program is funded through PTA. The district is very excited about the opportunity to start teaching our students at such an early age.

Mr. Stratton reported a board candidate orientation meeting was held on September 22, 2005. Mr. Stratton, Dr. Loose and Dr. Leininger met with 4 of the 5 candidates.

2. **President's Report**

Dr. Dietel reported over the past month the board has been visiting the school sites. Dr. Dietel stated the primary purpose is for the board to get the opportunity to visit the classrooms. The goal is for each board member is to visit every site and then visit them again in the spring.

Dr. Dietel reported the governing board had a workshop on Sunday, October 2, 2005. At that workshop the governing board created a draft version of the La Canada Unified School District Governing Board Core Values. The Core Values are 1) Success of the whole child: Achievement, Character and Communication skills. 2) Culture of mutual respect and professionalism, 3) Strong communication between all stakeholders including governing board, teachers, staff, students and the community.

3. **Student Representative Report**

Ms. Shipley reported on ASB's hurricane relief efforts. Ms. Shipley reported ASB has raised \$6,400 for the Red Cross. Bridge is also holding a fundraiser for Hurricane Relief. ASB is working on putting together two blood drives; one now and another drive in the spring. The Homecoming Dance is on Saturday, October 22nd. The Homecoming game is Friday, October 28th against Blair. There will be a parade from Memorial Park down Foothill Boulevard before the game and fireworks at the game

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board:

Kevin Glynn

Annie Honch, LCUSD Parent
 Graham Stumpf, LCUSD Parent
 John Caire, LCUSD Parent

After public comment, Mr. Stratton briefly reported on the history of the Surplus Property Advisory Committee and the committee's recommendation to the governing board. Mr. Stratton then provided the step-by-step process needed to sell the district office property. Mr. Stratton reported if it is decided to offer the district office for sale, the property must be offered to public agencies. The board would have to vote on a resolution of intent to sell. If anyone takes that offer, the next step is a negotiation of price. If no agreement is reached the seller has the ability to pull the property and offer for sale to private parties. If the board were to do that, a second board meeting would need to be held with intent to sell to private parties. Each session would need two readings.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. **Statement of Assurance for Standards Alignment for Korean Adoptions, Resolution 7-05-06.**

The public hearing was open at 8:00 p.m. There being no public comments the hearing was closed at 8:00 p.m.

2. **Statement of Assurance of Availability of Pupil Textbooks and Instructional Materials for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 for Grades K-12, Resolution 6-05-06.**

The public hearing was open at 8:01 p.m. There being no public comments the hearing was closed at 8:01 p.m.

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

1. **First Reading**

- a. ***Statement of Assurance for Standards Alignment for Korean Adoptions, Resolution 7-05-06.** It was moved and seconded (Tracy/Wilcox) to approve the Statement of Assurance for Standards Alignment for Korean Adoptions, Resolution 7-05-06. Normally, several books are presented; however, there is only one book for Korean. The governing board of La Canada Unified School District adopted new standards-aligned instructional materials for grades 9 – 12 in Korean on October 4, 2005. The governing board certified that it will provide each pupil in grades 9 – 12 in these classes with a standards-aligned textbook or basic instructional materials by October 18, 2005, which is no later than 24 months following the local adoption of these materials. The motion to approve the Statement of Assurance for Standards Alignment for Korean Adoptions, Resolution 7-05-06 was adopted unanimously.
- b. **Statement of Assurance of Availability of Pupil Textbooks and Instructional Materials for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 for Grades K-12, Resolution 6-05-06.** This item is being presented for a first reading. Mr. Stratton reported this is an annual requirement to assure all students have adequate textbooks and instructional materials. This will come back to the special meeting on October 12, 2005.
- c. ***La Canada Teachers Association Contract Agreement and Changes, R43-05-06.** It was moved and seconded (Beattie/Dalbeck) to approve the La Canada Teachers Association Contract Agreement and Changes. Dr. Loose reported we are bringing the contract agreement and changes to the governing board for consideration. The term of the contract is from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2006. This contract includes a salary adjustment and a change in benefits. The total cost of this agreement is \$828,510. The County has approved the contract increase. LCTA has ratified the agreement. Dr. Loose provided clarification to the governing board on the AB1200. Mrs. Dalbeck stated in the past this has come to the board for two readings. Mrs. Dalbeck

recommended this be tabled to Tuesday, October 24th for a second reading. It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Beattie) to table this to the next regularly scheduled meeting. The motion to table the La Canada Teachers Association Contract Agreement and Changes, R43-05-06 was adopted unanimously. Mrs. Dalbeck wanted to clarify the tabling of this item is strictly for clarification purposes not concept.

- d. ***Resolution 8-05-06 Opposing Proposition 76.** It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Dietel) to approve Resolution 8-05-06 Opposing Proposition 76. The key aspect of Proposition 76 is the proposition will give the governor power to cut the budget mid-year. That one aspect of it makes it something all educators should oppose. Mr. Tracy stated his biggest concern is the way the resolution is drafted. The resolution seems to be very aggressively one sided. It was moved and seconded (Tracy/Beattie) to amend the resolution to include the first four whereas' and the Be it Resolved eliminating the word strongly. The motion to amend the resolution as discussed was adopted unanimously. The motion to approve Resolution 8-05-06 Opposing Proposition 76 as amended was adopted unanimously.
- e. ***Proposition 74, R46-05-06.** It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Dietel) to approve not taking a position on Proposition 74, R46-05-06. Proposition 74 is the waiting period for permanent status period. Dismissal period. Initiative statue period. Dr. Dietel stated the district can not ignore the fact that this is an education initiative on the ballot. However, Dr. Dietel's recommendation is that the district not take a position on this proposition. It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Tracy) to amend the motion to support Proposition 74. Mrs. Wilcox said that she is opposed to permanent employment or tenure of any type and that she thinks that the teacher evaluation system needs to be reviewed and improved. Mrs. Wilcox presented a Resolution in support of Proposition 74 for adoption. The governing board took a moment to review the resolution presented. Mr. Tracy asked Mr. Stratton about the sections of the resolution stating that only one LCUSD teacher had received a "needs improvement" evaluation in the last year, and only one teacher had been let go for cause in the last six years. Mr. Stratton agreed that, based on his memory, both statements were correct. Mrs. Dalbeck stated out of all the states in the union there are only two other states that have a five year tenure period. It was agreed the tenure system needs reformed but this particular initiative opens the door for protracted negotiations. Dr Dietel is concerned about the impact on the negotiations process. Dr. Dietel stated the proposed resolution sends a negative message to our teachers. Mr. Beattie stated the board should decide whether the district is behind the Proposition prior to discussing the Resolution. The motion to approve amending the motion to support Proposition 74 failed with Dr. Dietel, Mr. Tracy, Ms. Dalbeck and Mr. Beattie voting against the motion. The motion to not take a position on Proposition 74, R46-05-06 was adopted by a 3:2 vote, with Mr. Beattie and Mrs. Wilcox voting against the motion.

2. Consent Agenda

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P7-05-06.** The Board approved the following Personnel Items: *Certificated:* New Hires: Nancy Padilla, Katharine Villanueva. *Classified:* Modification: Jeanine Bentz, Resignation: Klaris Bandari, Heather Child, Sara Ziebarth.
- b. **Subject Matter Authorization, R39-05-06.** The Board approved the Subject Matter Authorization for Ms. Choe.
- c. **Approval for Special Activity, R44-05-06.** The Board approved the LCHS Cross Country Clovis International in Fresno, CA Saturday October 8, 2005..

- d. **Approval for Special Activity, R42-05-06.** The Board approved the PCY 5th grade trip to Valley Forge March 27, 2006 to March 31, 2006.
- e. **Student Teaching Agreement – California State University, Los Angeles, R41-05-06.** The Board approved the Student Teaching Agreement with California State University, Los Angeles.
- f. **Student Teaching Agreement – California Lutheran University, R40-05-06.** The Board approved the Student Teaching Agreement with California Lutheran University.
- g. **Gifts to District, R45-05-06.** The Board approved the following Gifts to the District.
- h. **Purchase Order List #5.** The Board approved Purchase Order List #5.

COMMUNICATIONS

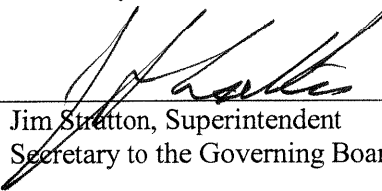
Mr. Tracy provided an update on the YMCA communication with regards to board participation on the YMCA board. Mr. Ken Gorvetzian, a YMCA liaison and Mr. Tracy agreed Mr. Tracy will continue to attend the YMCA board meetings. However, Mr. Gorvetzian's objective is to meet with the district on how best to serve the district and the district's students. Mr. Stratton reported he is currently waiting for the YMCA to call to schedule the meeting.

Mrs. Wilcox reported she toured the new boardroom along with Mrs. Dalbeck and Dr. Leininger. Mrs. Wilcox expressed concern about the board table. Mrs. Wilcox stated the current platform does not appear to be able to support a horse shoe table. Mike reported the furniture is already on site but the district can put a top on the top and make it horseshoe shaped. Scott asked for a diagram of the board room in TWIR. Mrs. Wilcox also requested storage cabinets for the boardroom. Dr. Leininger will look into the possibility of storage.

Mrs. Dalbeck distributed 7/8 PTA membership forms.

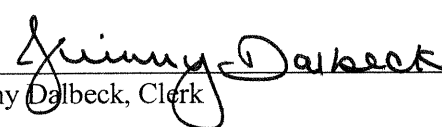
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, October 25, at 7:00 p.m. in the La Cañada High School Information Resource Center.



 Jim Stratton, Superintendent
 Secretary to the Governing Board

MINUTES APPROVED



 Jinny Dalbeck, Clerk

October 25, 2005

 Date

