

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

August 14, 2007

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Scott Tracy on August 14, 2007, in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were Board Members Scott Tracy, Susan Boyd, Cindy Wilcox, and Joel Peterson.

CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:00 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Canada, California. Present were the four Board Members, Superintendent James Stratton, Deputy Superintendent Bill Loose and Assistant Superintendent Mike Leininger. Closed session adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Scott Tracy, President
 Mrs. Susan Boyd, Vice President
 Mr. Joel Peterson, Clerk
 Mrs. Cindy Wilcox, 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 four Governing Board Members, Mr. Stratton, Dr. Loose, Dr. Leininger and Executive Secretary to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. There were approximately 21 people in the audience. Mr. Tracy asked high school principal Damon Dragos to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Tracy reported there was no action taken in closed session.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were made to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Tracy stated that the minutes of the June 19, 2007, meeting of the Governing Board had been distributed to the Governing Board Members in advance for review. The minutes of the June 19, 2007, meeting of the Governing Board were approved as presented.

REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Stratton updated the board on enrollment. The current enrollment figure is at 3,984 not including 70 pending resident requests, which would bring enrollment to a possible 4,054. This figure is about 115 off from enrollment in May of 2007. However, there are a number of inter-district requests in the system and as space becomes available we will be able to enroll those students.

2. President's Report

Mr. Tracy deferred his report.

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

Dr. Leininger provided the Board with a construction update on the Lanterman parking lot which was jointly funded with the City, the football field restrooms in conjunction with youth soccer, Oak Grove field bathrooms, status of the PCR and PCY multipurpose room projects, job walk for lockdown hardware for elementary schools and the LCHS elevator. Mr. Peterson provided clarification on the 2nd & 3rd floor project in Building B at the high school. The Board recognized Dr. Leininger's accomplishments in the timing of the completion of the project and coming in under budget. Dr. Leininger thanked the board for the acknowledgement and thanked Dr. Dragos for his assistance with the project.

4. **High School parent survey results**

Dr. Dragos and Ms. Sinnette were present to discuss the high school parent survey results. Mr. Stratton provided a brief history regarding the high school parent survey and the student assessment policy. Dr. Dragos reported on how many surveys were sent out. Approximately 2200 surveys were mailed. 604 surveys were returned. Dr. Dragos and Ms. Sinnette discussed the survey results. ~~Ms. Sinnette reported that at the heart of the survey, 86% of parents reported that it is important to them that graded tests are sent home.~~

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board:

None

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

1. **First Reading**

- a. **Board Policy Revision – Student Assessment, R8-07-08.** This item is being presented for a first reading. Mr. Tracy provided a history regarding the Governing Board policy revisions on student assessment. The second reading will take place on September 11, 2007. Mr. Stratton stated that the Governing Board has worked very hard revising this policy and has asked for public input. This draft reflects all of the changes that the Governing Board agreed upon at the last meeting.

The following members of the audience addressed the Board regarding this policy:

Jeff Harris, LCHS parent, regarding copyrighted material and access to student records.

Mr. Stratton responded with legal opinions that district has received regarding parent access to student records.

Patty Compeau, LCHS science teacher, regarding teacher perspective on student assessment board policy revisions.

Mrs. Wilcox and Mr. Stratton commented on questions from Advanced Placement tests and pools of test questions from textbook publishers. The Advanced Placement tests do not go home.

Rick Jordan, LCHS teacher regarding returning student assessments.

Lauren Oaks, LCHS parent regarding parent survey

Mike Upton, PCY teacher regarding student assessments

Mary Walsten, LCHS teacher regarding student assessments

Richard Weld, LCHS teacher regarding student assessments

Mandy Redfern, LCTA President regarding student assessments

After public comment, Mr. Tracy asked the Governing Board to review the current policy for possible revisions.

The Board agreed to review the policy by paragraph.

It was moved and seconded (Peterson/Wilcox) that the language in paragraph d page (a) fourth line from the bottom be amended striking “and, if necessary” replacing it with “Under the supervision of and in consultation with.” The Board discussed principal supervision. Dr. Dragos clarified the high school’s current practice.

Mr. Peterson amended the motion to amend striking “and, if necessary” replacing it with “under the supervision of.” The motion as amended was adopted unanimously.

Mrs. Boyd asked for clarification on the revisions made on page (b) f 1) regarding copyrighted material.

Copyrighted materials were discussed. Mrs. Wilcox clarified the intent of f 1) and stated that in her opinion the revision meets the need of the Board’s intent.

Mrs. Boyd asked for clarification on the word “test” on page (c) item 6. The Board discussed possible ways to clarify and specify “assessments” in section f. Mrs. Boyd asked for teacher input to help define assessments. Direction was given to staff to work with Mandy Redfern, LCTA President, to get input from teachers that will limit the assessments in f 1 – 7 and will define tests in item 6.

Mrs. Boyd suggested adding a time line to the notification parameters in f 6. Mr. Tracy asked the Governing Board if members are in agreement to add a time reference to the requirement to contact parents regarding C-. Mr. Tracy gave direction to staff to get teacher input on a timeline.

LCHS teacher Ms. Walsten expressed concern with the requirements in f 6 and 7.

Mrs. Boyd proposed addressing K-6 and 7-12 assessments separately. Mr. Peterson stated that he felt this should be left up to the principals.

Mr. Stratton expressed concerns with f 7. Mr. Tracy directed staff to discuss f 7 with teachers. The discussion on f 7 continued. Mrs. Boyd expressed concern with f 7 only addressing “exemption” tests.

LCE teacher Mrs. Redfern reported that at La Cañada Elementary, assessments are turned into the principal and are discussed at grade level meetings. Percentages are discussed at that meeting. Mrs. Redfern wanted to clarify that this dialogue is happening. Mrs. Redfern stated that tests are given for different reasons and that needs to be addressed as well.

Mr. Tracy stated that f 7 is still an issue and is looking for assistance in dealing with the issue. Mrs. Boyd suggested removing f 7 and looking at other ways to address the issue so that material is reviewed and re-taught, for all tests and not just for those tests that are exempted. Mrs. Boyd feels this should not be addressed as assessment exemptions and made a motion to delete f 7. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

Mr. Peterson would like to amend page (a) d before removing 7, saying that we need to trigger a corrective measure in a timely manner.

Mrs. Boyd asked if we can deal with this issue somewhere else in the policy. Ms. Sinnette and Dr. Dragos gave their input and suggested putting this into the ESS (Every Student Succeeds) plan. Ms. Sinnette agrees that we need to address the concerns but requested we trust multiple interventions.

It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Boyd) to extend the meeting to 11:30 p.m.

Mr. Peterson reviewed the modifications that have been made to the policy.

It was moved and seconded (Boyd/Tracy) that f 7 be removed from the policy.

Mrs. Wilcox stated that she wants tests sent home immediately after the majority of the class fails a test and feels that f 7 needs to stay in place.

Mrs. Boyd suggested that we find out if Pinnacle can provide information to the principals to give them timely information on test results by class so the principals know when material needs to be re-taught, whether or not the test is sent home. Mr. Peterson agreed that it would be helpful if Pinnacle could provide reports to principals. Mrs. Boyd doesn't want the staff to depend on parent complaints to determine if there is a problem.

The motion to delete f 7 failed with a 2:2 vote, with Mrs. Wilcox and Mr. Peterson voting against the deletion.

It was moved and seconded (Peterson/Tracy) to delete f 7 and to amend f 5 to change semester to quarterly.

Mrs. Wilcox made an amendment to the motion to amend f 5 to read, "The principal shall meet with the teacher not later than one week after grading a test where a majority of students have failed. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss re-teaching and the requirement to send the tests home." The motion failed for lack of a second.

The motion to delete f 7 and amend f 5 was adopted with a 3:1 vote. Mrs. Wilcox voted against the motion.

The Governing Board gave instructions to staff to delete f 7 and to insert the word quarterly in place of semester in f 5. Mr. Stratton clarified the pinnacle requirement of the teachers and said that there is no deadline to post the test result to Pinnacle. Mr. Stratton reminded the board that the posting of grades on Pinnacle is a negotiated item.

Mrs. Wilcox proposed that a limit be set on the number of assessments that don't go home and requested the Board think about this for the next meeting.

It was moved and seconded (Tracy/Boyd) to postpone further discussion on this item to move forward on the other agenda items. The motion to postpone further discussion on this item to move forward on the other agenda items was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Stratton asked for clarification if this item will come back as a continued first reading or if this will come back as a second reading. Mr. Tracy clarified that this will come back for a second reading but if significant changes are made at the September 11 meeting then this issue could come back for a continued second reading.

- b. ***Nomination to LA County Committee on School District Organization, R18-07-08.** It was moved and seconded (Boyd/Peterson) to consider a nomination to LA County Committee on School District Organization. Mr. Peterson nominated Steve Del Guercio. Mrs. Boyd discussed the nomination of Kathy Hernandez. It was moved and seconded (Boyd/Peterson) to nominate Kathy Hernandez and Steve Del Guercio. The motion to nominate Kathy Hernandez and Steve Del Guercio as nominees to LA Country Committee on School District Organization was adopted unanimously. If the nominee's agreed their names will be submitted to the County.

2. Second Reading

- a. **Textbook Adoption: Psychology, Statistics and Composition, R1-07-08**
- b. **Textbook Adoption: 7th & 8th Grade Science Textbooks, R13-07-08.** It was moved and seconded (Peterson/Wilcox) to approve the Textbook Adoption for Psychology, Statistics and Composition, R1-07-08 and the Textbook Adoption for 7th & 8th grade Science Textbooks, R13-07-08. The motion to approve the textbook adoption for Psychology Statistics and Composition and the 7th and 8th grade science textbooks was adopted unanimously.
- c. **Board Policy Revisions, R7-07-08.** It was moved and seconded (Boyd/Peterson) to approve the Board Policy Revisions, R7-07-08. It was moved and seconded (Boyd/Peterson) to amend the shaded area on page (a) of board policy 3310. The amendment included the insertion of the words "budget modification or" to the first sentence after the word "any" and to delete portions of the sentence beginning with "or a budget or budget and ending with ...than the approved or adopted budget" and to also delete an additional portion of that same sentence beginning with, "in the expenditure amount ...and ending with (as applicable)". The motion to amend board policy 3310 as stated was adopted unanimously. The motion to approve the Board Policy revisions as amended was adopted unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P2-07-08.** The Board approved the following Personnel Items: *Certificated:* New Hires: Shannon Brascia, Carl Herman, Patrick Klune, Morgan Savage. Modifications: Kimberly Carbert, Tamar Hill, Sean Mispagel, Sandra Toms. Leave of Absence: Tuyetdong Phan. Resignations: Linda Mackessy and Mary Eillen Walker. *Classified:* New Hires: Christine Connelly, Dierk Esselin, Hilary Gaede, Tawny Williams, Mariann McCorkle. Modifications: Maria Josefina Sosa, Merzhik Mirkhanyan, Martiza Hernandez, Jenek Babakhanean, Astgik Tarkhanians, Dzhemma Grigoryan, Helen Manukyan, Adrene Manyukova, Dora Gonzalez, Seda Minasian, Patty Hwang. Resignations: Valeria Low, William Pruden. Retirement: Claudia Beach.
- b. **Extra Duty/Extra Pay, P3-07-08.** The Board approved the Extra Duty/Extra Pay Report as presented.
- c. **Extra Duty/Extra Pay Report, P4-07-08.** The Board approved the Extra Duty/Extra Pay Report as presented.

- d. **Purchase Order List #2-07-08 and Purchase Order List #18-06-07.** The Board approved Purchase Order List 2-07-08 and Purchase Order list 18-06-07.
- e. **Request to Accept Bid for Waste Disposal, R14-07-08.** The Board approved the bid from Athens Services for 2007-2008 for Waste Disposal.
- f. **Special Activities: PCR Pali Mountain, R15-07-08.** The Board approved the PCR special activity to Pali Mountain October 16 – October 19, 2007.
- g. **Special Activities: PCR Passage to the Mother Lode/Brigg Pilgrim, R16-07-08.** The Board approved the PCR Special activity to the Mother Lode/Brigg Pilgrim in January 2008.
- h. **Special Activities: PCR Valley Forge, R17-07-08.** The Board approved the PCR special activity request to Valley Forge March 24 to March 29, 2008.
- i. **Internship Credential Agreements, National University & University of California, Riverside, R18-07-08.** The Board approved the Internship credential agreements with National University and University of California, Riverside.

COMMUNICATIONS

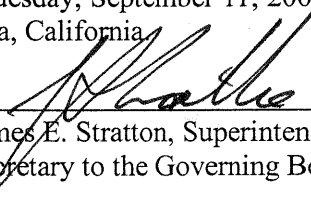
Mr. Peterson reminded the Board of the Kiwanis Gourmet Food & Wine Tasting on September 9.

The Board agreed to meet at the district office at 7:15 a.m. on September 4th for first day of school site visits.

The Board returned to the assessment policy. In the opening section of paragraph F, Mr. Peterson recommended we change tests to the singular “test” so that each test is brought separately for an exemption, since each test requires a separate rationale. The Board concurred. The Board agreed that the assessment policy will come back for a second reading on September 11. If there are wholesale changes, the Board will delay final approval. The Board reviewed direction to staff.

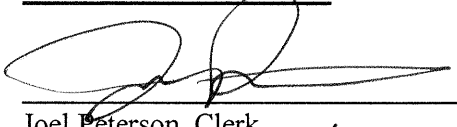
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, September 11, 2007, 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



 Joel Peterson, Clerk

Date

10/29/08

LCHS 7-12 Assessment: Parent Survey Results

Presentation to the LCUSD
Governing Board
August 14, 2007

Number of Respondents to Parent Survey:

604

Question: Is it important to you that
tests get sent home for your
review?

- Yes - 86%
- No - 14%

Question: Do you review test materials
with your student if they are sent
home?

- Yes - 49%
- No - 13%
- Yes, but not always - 38%

Question: I contact my child's teachers when I have a question about my child's grade.

- Yes – 39%
- No – 26%
- Yes, but not always – 35%

Question: I have a schedule that permits me to review tests with the teacher before or after school.

- Yes – 40%
- No – 36%
- Yes, but not always – 24%

Question: Does your child have adequate time to review the prior test before the next one is given?

- English
 - Yes: 62%
 - No: 12%
 - Don't Know: 26%
- Math
 - Yes: 58%
 - No: 20%
 - Don't Know: 22%

Question: Does your child have adequate time to review the prior test before the next one is given?

- Foreign Language
 - Yes: 48%
 - No: 20%
 - Don't Know: 32%
- Science
 - Yes: 55%
 - No: 20%
 - Don't Know: 25%
- Social Studies
 - Yes: 58%
 - No: 12%
 - Don't Know: 30%

Question: I feel I have satisfactory access to my child's graded tests.

- English
 - Yes: 47%
 - No: 38%
 - Not Sure: 15%
- Math
 - Yes: 44%
 - No: 42%
 - Not Sure: 14%

Question: I feel I have satisfactory access to my child's graded tests.

- Foreign Language
 - Yes: 38%
 - No: 39%
 - Don't Know: 23%
- Social Studies
 - Yes: 40%
 - No: 39%
 - Don't Know: 21%
- Science
 - Yes: 39%
 - No: 46%
 - Don't Know: 15%

Question: I find that the test questions match the course content that my child has been taught.

- English
 - Yes: 57%
 - No: 8%
 - Don't Know: 35%
- Math
 - Yes: 54%
 - No: 14%
 - Don't Know: 32%

Question: I find that the test questions match the course content that my child has been taught.

- Foreign Language
 - Yes: 46%
 - No: 12%
 - Don't Know: 42%
- Social Studies
 - Yes: 51%
 - No: 8%
 - Don't Know: 41%
- Science
 - Yes: 45%
 - No: 19%
 - Don't Know: 36%

Question: My child's teachers review assessments in a timely manner.

- English
 - Yes: 55%
 - No: 12%
 - Don't Know: 33%
- Math
 - Yes: 55%
 - No: 15%
 - Don't Know: 30%

Question: I am satisfied with teachers' current frequency of postings on the Pinnacle Internet Viewer (PIV) system.

- English
 - Yes: 54%
 - No: 20%
 - Don't Know: 26%
- Math
 - Yes: 54%
 - No: 20%
 - Don't Know: 26%

Question: My child's teachers review assessments in a timely manner.

- Foreign Language
 - Yes: 45%
 - No: 14%
 - Don't Know: 41%
- Science
 - Yes: 46%
 - No: 19%
 - Don't Know: 35%
- Social Studies
 - Yes: 54%
 - No: 12%
 - Don't Know: 34%

Question: I am satisfied with teachers' current frequency of postings on the Pinnacle Internet Viewer (PIV) system.

- Foreign Language
 - Yes: 46%
 - No: 19%
 - Don't Know: 35%
- Science
 - Yes: 48%
 - No: 25%
 - Don't Know: 27%
- Social Studies
 - Yes: 50%
 - No: 22%
 - Don't Know: 28%

Question: I am satisfied with the quality of tests that I've seen (e.g. readability, clarity of questions and directions, etc.).

- Yes – 73%
- No – 27%

Question: I make regular use of the Pinnacle Internet Viewer (PIV) grade system to review my child's progress.

- Yes – 64%
- No – 36%

Random comments from participants:

“Ms. Baldwin and Ms. Miller do not update pinnacle”

“What is PIV? Please email me info”

“My student is a 2007 graduate. He monitored his grades on Pinnacle and found it very helpful. His only problem was with uneven math classes. Mr. Clausen’s class is on the computer which helps with homework. I realize sending home tests can lead to cheating but for the students who need help at home, having the tests back is essential, each student’s needs are different. I disagree with the over-testing of the No Child Left behind – there are many ways to assess learning.”

“Spanish Dept. so difficult we must go to hillside for Spanish – It is very wrong to punish LCHS students that are great students by lowering grade point averages important for college.”

“Note: Teachers need to send home tests!!!”

Response to question 30, Part I: Don’t see them!! Except Social Studies

Response to question 30, Part II: Social Studies available other no.”

“Never seen the tests!”

“Response to question 30, Part I: I haven’t seen any

If this is any kind of example, the test process needs improvement. The scantron has no “not applicable”, incorrect numbering and no Part I & Part II”

“Response to question 1: ! So we can see what to study, what to review, what to seek help on.

Yes, good teachers all around, we just need to know when/how to intervene.

Response to question 26: ! Less current in other subjects.

Response to question 30, Part II: Definitely! Very helpful, to prompt student to address issue w/ teacher first.”

“I confess that I have not been adequately attuned to these matters. By these questions, I am encourage to look more closely at test scores. I have not followed pinnacle, although I should have done that too.”

“Tests should come home plz”

“Would be great if P.E. and elective classes also had grades and progress reports on pinnacle. Parents are not aware of grade until report card is delivered. Thank You.”

“Response to question 30, Part II: Did not know it existed – maybe you need to be sure parents know this is available:

“Change Biology Teacher! Does not teach what is on tests. Because of that student is not prepped for college biology. Glad Boal is leaving. Need new coaches to spark athletic program – be competitive w/ programs like Palos Verdes, Mira Costa, etc. Look at their curriculum and athletics compared to ours. I donated 10,000 last year. I will donate \$0 this year because my voice means nothing. You seem to follow people that don’t put their money where their mouth is. I will donate a lot to athletics if do this. baseball, cross country (run 14 miles slow for a 5K???) Does that training make sense? Idiot. No coaches who favor laziness or kids that say they will quit if don’t get captain position. Have coach that gets mad and kid that works hard and favors lazy one.”

“Ridiculous use of funds! And manpower”

Response to question 2: “We would, but never sent home”

“Here’s an example of why your surveys and test policies no longer matter to me. If you want parents to take the time to fill this out – don’t send out a survey with a 2-sided Scantron and expect parents to get it. Here’s a more detailed answer to # 3: I don’t contact teacher about grades at the high because it backfires. Especially in Science and Math.

Response to question 30 Part II: “D)no Only if I want to drive myself crazy”

Response to the statement in the body of the letter “...stamped envelope not later than Tuesday, July 31st, 2007.” RESPONSE: “Ridiculous timing – disrespectful!”

