

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

February 26, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Susan Boyd on February 26, 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 5:00 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 Michael Leininger, Interim Chief Business Officer Stephen Hodgson and Interim Chief Personnel Officer Cathy McMullen. 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 7:10 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were the five Governing Board members, Mr. Stratton, Dr. Leininger, Dr. Hodgson, Ms. McMullen and Executive Secretary to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. There were approximately 26 people in the audience. Mrs. Boyd asked Dr. Tammy Jackson 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.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No agenda modifications were requested.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Boyd stated that the minutes of the January 15, 2008, meeting of the Governing Board had been distributed to the Governing Board members in advance for review. Minor modifications were made to the minutes. It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Tracy) to approve the minutes of January 15, 2008, as modified. The minutes of January 15, 2008, were approved unanimously as modified.

REPORTS

1. **Student Representative**
 Student Representative Adam Heller was not present.

2. **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Stratton introduced La Cañada High School student Andrew James Rawls. Mr. Rawls received the 2008 Outstanding Delegate Award from the YMCA Youth & Government Model Legislator program. Mrs. Boyd presented Mr. Rawls a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the Governing Board.

3. **President's Report**

Mrs. Boyd deferred her report.

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

a) City/LCUSD Safety Coordinating Calendar – Dr. Leininger reported on the coordination calendar. This calendar includes safety planning meetings between the City and the District. This calendar includes a meeting in September for scheduling emergency drills, evacuation planning and other training. Mr. Peterson commented that he is very pleased with the coordination of this calendar with the City and commended Dr. Leininger for getting this organized.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board:

None

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

1. **First Reading**

a. ***School Accountability Report Cards, R103-07-08.** It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Broberg) to accept the School Accountability Report Cards as presented. Mr. Stratton introduced Ms. Lindi Arthur, Director of Assessment. Ms. Arthur reported that the School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs) are annual reports. The state provides the district with a template to assist with preparing the reports. Ms. Arthur reported that once the SARCs are approved, they will be posted on the district website. Mrs. Wilcox asked for clarification on various aspects of the SARCs, which Ms. Arthur and Mr. Buchanan clarified for her. Mr. Stratton thanked Ms. Arthur, the principals and assistant principals for their hard work. The motion to accept the School Accountability Report Cards was adopted unanimously.

b. **Second Interim Financial Report, R102-07-08.** This item is being presented as a first reading. Dr. Hodgson reported that this item will come back to the Governing Board on March 10th for approval. Dr. Hodgson discussed the status of the Governor's budget and reviewed the Second Interim budget assumptions. Mr. Tracy stated that even with declining enrollment, the district is being exceedingly well managed fiscally and feels we are well positioned to make it through this financial situation. Mr. Peterson asked for clarification on health and welfare benefits and COLA, which Dr. Hodgson provided. Mrs. Broberg thanked the La Cañada Flintridge Educational Foundation for their contribution to the budget. Mrs. Wilcox appreciates staff's hard work on the budget.

It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Peterson) to move First Reading item e forward to be discussed next. The motion to move First Reading item e forward for discussion next was adopted unanimously.

e. ***Resolution 10-07-08 Reduction of Particular Kinds of Service.** It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Peterson) to adopt Resolution 10-07-08 Reduction of Particular

Kinds of Service. Ms. McMullen stated the reduction of particular kinds of service is a .9 position for reading intervention. The position will no longer have the same level of funding as this year. There are assignments available for staff affected by this reduction and the district will look at alternate ways to provide the interventions. The motion to adopt Resolution 10-07-08 was adopted unanimously.

- c. **District Office Dispensation, R99-07-08.** This item is being presented as a first reading. A PowerPoint presentation was made by Dr. Leininger. Dr. Leininger discussed the Facilities Master Plans, the Surplus Property Advisory Committee, the Palm Drive District Office Review Committee and meetings at Palm Crest Elementary with staff and parents. Dr. Leininger reviewed elementary facility data for all three elementary sites, including acreage data. Currently, the options for the property are to keep the property in the land bank or to sell the property. The Governing Board asked Dr. Leininger about the current expenses of maintaining the property. Dr. Leininger reported on the insurance costs and maintenance expenses. Dr. Leininger discussed the process for selling surplus school property. Dr. Leininger clarified low and moderate income housing requirements within the City. Mr. Peterson clarified that the City currently meets the zoning requirements to allow for the potential number of units of low and moderate income housing.

Dr. Leininger reported that the funds from the sale of the property can only be used for capital outlay and can not go into the General Fund. Dr. Leininger discussed the proposed use of the funds for construction projects.

Dr. Leininger presented a rationale to sell the property and a rationale to keep the property and recommended the Governing Board proceed with the plans to sell the district office located at 5039 Palm Drive.

Mrs. Wilcox distributed a list of questions she has regarding the sale of the property and stated she would like to further address the rationales. Mr. Stratton stated he realizes this is a hard decision of the Governing Board. He also reported the district has a long term plan for increased enrollment using existing facilities and lease sites which does not include the use of the old district office property.

Mrs. Broberg stated that this property can not be looked at as an option for increased enrollment. The property is not a practical place to hold as crucial for increased enrollment.

Mrs. Wilcox distributed an enrollment chart prepared by a parent many years ago. She requested that staff prepare enrollment information that goes farther back than the current district information from 1991. Mrs. Boyd asked the Governing Board if they are interested in this enrollment data. The Governing Board agreed to ask staff to go back as far as possible with enrollment information. Mrs. Broberg, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Tracy didn't see the relevance of the information but agreed with the direction to staff if the search would not require too much time.

Mrs. Wilcox additionally would like to see anything in writing or charts that address maximum enrollment and the district's contingency plan for maximum enrollment. Mr. Stratton stated that staff can assemble previous architect recommendations.

Mr. Peterson provided history on the Surplus Property Advisory Committee recommendation when the committee declared the district office property as surplus.

Mrs. Wilcox would like to see a capacity chart from the 2002 Facilities Master Plan. Mrs. Wilcox agreed to prepare a chart using existing information.

Mrs. Wilcox asked that "for future district needs" be added to the staff's PowerPoint rationale to keep the property and asked that the Board further draft rationale statements. Mr. Peterson stated that it is important that each board member create his/her own list of reasons to sell or keep this property.

Mr. Peterson is concerned with identifying specific construction projects which would be funded through the sale of the property.

Mrs. Boyd also asked what bond projects the sale proceeds would accomplish that couldn't be accomplished if the property were not sold. The Governing Board asked for a list of what projects selling the property would accomplish.

Mr. Stratton stated that staff will bring back to the Governing Board a list of projects which have been prioritized and which have not been funded.

Mr. Tracy would like the current value of the property prior to the vote. Mr. Tracy feels this is an important criterion in making the decision. Mr. Tracy would also like an estimate on what it would cost to scrape the property. Lease options were discussed.

Mrs. Wilcox again requested a longer list of rationale. Mr. Stratton stated this is a staff document and the PowerPoint presentation is not intended as an official Governing Board consensus statement. He also recommended that Mrs. Wilcox create an individual list that will help her make a final decision. The Board voted on whether staff needs to create a longer rationale list. There was not consensus to create this list.

Mr. Peterson's last comment was to thank the staff. Mr. Peterson stated that there has been an enormous amount of effort by staff in this whole process.

Graham Stumpf, Palm Crest parent, commented on the sale of property. After Mr. Stumpf's comments, Mr. Peterson commented on the discussions with the City regarding the property.

The following members of the public commented on the sale of the Palm Drive property:

Amy Bernhardt, Palm Crest Elementary PTA President and Palm Crest parent
Denise Longo, Palm Crest Elementary parent
Allen Blaisdell, Palm Crest Elementary parent
Annie Honch, PCR parent

It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Tracy) to extend the meeting to 11:00 p.m. A break was called at 10:45 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 10:48 a.m.

John Caire, a Palm Crest parent, suggested contacting his cousin to see if he can assist in developing the property. Mrs. Boyd polled the Governing Board to see if they are interested in such an effort. The Governing Board agreed.

It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Wilcox) to extend the meeting to 11:15 p.m. The motion to extend the meeting to 11:15 was adopted unanimously.

- d. ***CSBA Delegate Assembly Election, R100-07-08.** It was moved and seconded (Peterson/Tracy) to instruct the district how to vote on the CSBA Delegate Assembly Election ballot. Mr. Stratton recommended voting for Jeanne Broberg, Ed Honowitz and Greg Krikorian. It was moved and seconded (Peterson/Tracy) to vote for Jeanne Broberg, Ed Honowitz and Greg Krikorian. The motion to vote for Jeanne Broberg, Ed Honowitz and Greg Krikorian was adopted unanimously.
- e. ***Appointment of Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, R104-07-08.** It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Peterson) to appoint Wendy Sinnette as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. Mr. Stratton reported the position of Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources is an important one and it is important to appoint someone with experience and people skills to this position. Mr. Stratton believes it is also important to have someone who is committed to the district and knows the various sites. Ms. Sinnette has been with the district for 6 years; prior to that she was a principal in another organization. Mr. Stratton stated that Ms. Sinnette would be a great asset to the district office. The motion to appoint Wendy Sinnette as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources effective August 1, 2008, was adopted unanimously.

2. Second Reading

- a. **Adoption of 2008-09 District Goals, R94-07-08.** . It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Tracy) to adopt the 2008-09 District Goals. At the last meeting the Governing Board made suggestions to revise the district goals. These suggestions went to Curriculum Council. Curriculum Council made one suggestion, which has been added. It was moved and seconded (Tracy/Wilcox) to add CSEA and CMSA to III A 2. The motion was adopted unanimously. It was moved and seconded (Peterson/Wilcox) to amend II A to add a #9 which addresses the possible impact of gender on learning. The motion to add a #9 as concept was adopted unanimously. The motion to adopt the 2008-09 district goals as amended was adopted unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P14-07-08.** The Board approved the following Personnel Items: *Certificated:* Leave of Absence: Megan Thomas. *Classified:* New Hires: Diana Havani, Jhenik Khachatryan, Karineh Moradians-Cooper, Virginia Salit. *Reclassification:* Barbara Pahk, Tanya Wilson, Lina Hariz, Kay Bahrami, Connie Knight. *Resignation:* Stephanie Oblad. *Leave of Absence:* Marianne McCorkle, Sara Lloyd. *Retirement:* Rose Harris.
- b. **Extra Duty, Extra Pay, P15-07-08.** The Board approved the Extra Duty/Extra Pay Report as presented.
- c. **Resolution 11-07-08 Non-re-election of Certificated Probationary Employee.** The Board approved Resolution 11-07-08 non-re-electing Certificated Probationary employee #2007-08-01.
- d. **Approval of CSEA Job Descriptions, R101-07-08.** The Board approved the CSEA Job Descriptions for the Library Coordinator 7-8 and Library Coordinator K-6 and for the Sign Language Interpreter.
- e. **Request to Enter into Contract for Legal Services, R104-07-08.** The Board approved entering into contract with Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost for legal services.
- f. **Special Activity: All State Honor Choir, R96-07-08.** The Board approved the field trip for the All State Honor Choir to Sacramento, California March 13 to March 15, 2008.

- g. **Special Activity: CIF Southern Section Wrestling, R97-07-08.** The Board ratified the LCHS wrestling team trip to the CIF Southern Section championship in Oxnard, California February 14 through February 16, 2008.
- h. **Gifts to District, R87-07-08.** The Board approved the following Gifts to the District.
- i. **Purchase Order List #10-70-8.** The Board approved Purchase Order List #10-070-8

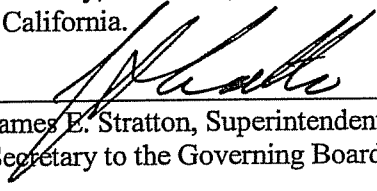
COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Peterson stated he will not be available for the Expulsion Hearing on March 4th. Mr. Tracy stated he may have a conflict as well.

Mrs. Boyd reported on the request for STAR funding and stated that the Boosters have agreed to pay the 7th and 8th grade portion of the STAR program up to \$5,600. Mr. Stratton reported he will be meeting with the PTA regarding funding for the program. Dr. Leininger stated it looks like Kiwanis will be donating \$1,500 to the program.

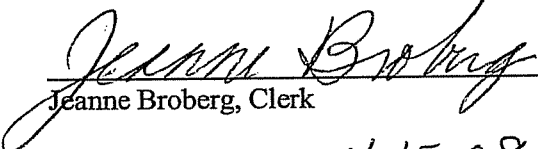
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Monday, March 10, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California.



 James E. Stratton, Superintendent
 Secretary to the Governing Board

MINUTES APPROVED



 Jeanne Broberg, Clerk

_____ 4-15-08

 Date