

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

March 10, 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 March 10, 2008, in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were 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 Board Members and Superintendent James Stratton. Assistant Superintendent Mike Leininger and Interim Chief Business Office Dr. Stephen Hodgson joined the Governing Board and Superintendent in Closed Session at 5:15 p.m. 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 7:08 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Canada. Present were the five Governing Board members, Mr. Stratton, Dr. Leininger, Dr. Hodgson and Executive Secretary to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. There were approximately 10 people in the audience. Mrs. Boyd asked Student Representative Adam Heller 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 February 5, 2008, meeting of the Governing Board and February 19, 2008, meeting of the Governing Board had been distributed to the Governing Board members in advance for review. It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Wilcox) to approve the minutes of February 5, 2008, and February 19, 2008. The motion to approve the minutes of February 5, 2008, and February 19, 2008, was adopted unanimously.

REPORTS

1. Student Representative

Mr. Heller reported that the Backwards Dance at the end of the month will be held off campus and buses will be provided. ASB is holding a blood drive at the end of the month. This Saturday is the Serv-a-thon; ASB will be repainting the boy's locker rooms.

2. Superintendent's Report

- a) Student Recognition – Mr. Stratton introduced Andrew Jason Blumenfeld who was elected 2008 Governor at the YMCA Youth & Government Model Legislator program. Mr. Blumenfeld talked about his upcoming duties as Governor.

Mr. Stratton reported that at a recent statewide vocal competition there were seven finalists who were chosen as best of Southern California and three of those seven were our high school students. Mr. Stratton will be inviting these students for recognition at an upcoming meeting.

- b) AYSO deferred its presentation until April 15, 2008.

3. President's Report

Mrs. Boyd deferred her report.

4. Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Operations Report

- a) Construction Update – Dr. Leininger provided a brief construction update and stated he will provide additional construction information in TWIR.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board:

None

PUBLIC HEARING

1. **Public Presentation of the 2007-208 LCUSD Negotiations Proposal to CSEA regarding the 2009-10 Calendar, R109-07-08.**

The Public hearing was opened at 7:14 p.m. There being no public comment the hearing was closed at 7:16.

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS**1. First Reading**

- a. ***CAHSEE Waivers, R106-07-08.** It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Peterson) to approve the CAHSEE Waivers as presented. Currently, there are two students whose parents are requesting the CAHSEE waiver. The motion to approve the CAHSEE Waivers as requested was adopted unanimously.
- b. **Adoption of new District Technology Plan, R108-07-08.** The District Technology Plan is being presented for a first reading. Dr. Leininger introduced the Director of Technology, Enoch Kwok, to discuss the plan. Mr. Kwok stated that the state approves the plan in advance to keep the plan from going back and forth for approval. Mr. Kwok reviewed the summary provided. Clarification and recommended changes to the plan were discussed.

Mrs. Boyd asked about the goal on technology-infused instruction and why the goal wasn't set at 100% by 2011 or sooner. Mr. Kwok responded that the goal may not be appropriate for certain classes such as PE, Kinder and First Grade.

Mrs. Wilcox asked about the goal showing teacher access to standardized test data to inform instruction, and why that goal is scheduled out over years rather than met at 100% now. The response was that the data from California standardized tests is available now, but that other test data is not available through a school database to teachers at this time including AP test results and SAT scores.

Mrs. Wilcox asked about the goal for reporting student grades and attendance on-line at the High School level and why that wasn't at 100% now. The goal includes Foothills

School and those teachers don't have access to Pinnacle at this time. Mrs. Boyd suggested that the goal be re-written for LCHS 7-12 teachers to make the intent more clear. There was consensus on that suggestion.

The plan will come back to the Governing Board at the next meeting for approval. Mrs. Broberg thought the report was very well written and could be used to request grants. Mr. Stratton reported that in fact this report is used for the E-Rate grant.

Mr. Peterson would like to see the district become more wireless and mobile. Mr. Kwok will reference this long term objective in the plan.

2. Second Reading

- a. **Approval of Second Interim Budget, R102-07-08.** It was moved and seconded (Peterson/Tracy) to adopt the Second Interim Budget. Dr. Hodgson recognized the hard work of the Director of Fiscal Services, Diane Clinton. Dr. Hodgson reported on changes that have been made to the budget assumptions. Dr. Hodgson reported on the Revenue Limit and the impact of the state budget crises on the district. The district still has priorities and goals which we are hoping to maintain. Mr. Peterson thanked Dr. Hodgson for clarifying the deficit and economic uncertainties. Declining enrollment was discussed. Mrs. Wilcox thanked Dr. Hodgson for the clarity of the budget process. The motion to adopt the Second Interim Budget was adopted unanimously.
- b. **Dispensation of District Office Property, R99-07-08.** It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Tracy) to approve the Dispensation of the District Office Property. Mr. Stratton clarified that a 2/3 vote is required for this vote, which is 4 members voting in favor. Dr. Leininger provided a PowerPoint presentation beginning with the district's enrollment history. The high point in enrollment was in 1967 at 4,984 and the low point in 1986 was 2,982. Basically, average enrollment over the past 50 years is about 4,000 students, which is slightly less than where we are today. Secondly, Dr. Leininger provided a Bond Project Summary showing Phase I projects, Phase II projects, unfunded site priority projects and unfunded bond language projects. Dr. Leininger distributed information regarding the unfunded site priority and unfunded bond language projects. The costs presented are hard costs only. Mr. Tracy asked what the process would be to prioritize these projects. Dr. Leininger reported that staff would go back to the sites and projects would be discussed and prioritized; a recommendation would then come to the Governing Board.

Mr. Peterson asked about the specific projects and wondered whether the prioritizing could be done through a public hearing. Dr. Leininger stated that the sites have been clear about the priorities for this particular bond. Mr. Stratton stated that an extensive process is something that we would certainly use if we were reconfiguring and reprioritizing new projects because of a new bond or other source of funding. But to simply go back and confirm existing site priorities, staff would not use the extensive process that was instituted during the time when the bond was originally voted on.

Dr. Leininger reviewed the reasonable maximum capacity as identified in the 2002 Facilities Master Plan Update. With this information, Dr. Leininger concluded the district could accommodate an enrollment of 4,900, schedule CSR adjustments at 7-12, and still have the available space to maintain class size reduction in K-3, with the available space including FIS.

Dr. Leininger provided quotes regarding the current estimated value of the Palm Drive District Office Property ranging from \$1.2 - \$1.6 million. The cost to scrape

and level the property is currently estimated at \$150,000 for both the cliff house and the main house.

Dr. Leininger reported on the expenses to currently maintain the property. Insurance costs are estimated at approximately \$500 a year. Utilities at the site are \$200 - \$300 per month for gas, water and electrical, with gardening at approximately \$200 per month.

Mr. Peterson stated that the recommendation to sell the property is counter to the view of some members of the community and he expressed his concern with the lack of specifically identified priorities for the funds. Mr. Peterson stated that we could end up with a cash shortfall in some way in the future and stated if the district holds onto the land the district can look at the funds at that time.

Mrs. Broberg stated that she has been a part of the community since 1970 and a member of the Board prior to this for eight years, and all things considered feels the district should sell the property.

Mr. Tracy commented that he is opposed to the sale of district property that is in use for educational purposes but that he is not opposed to selling district property that is not being used for educational purposes. The Surplus Property Advisory Committee did a lot of work on this issue and came to a conclusion. There was a formal process that was prescribed by law that was followed. There was discussion that it would be the intent to sell the property, capture the funds, and put it back to benefit the students. Mr. Tracy's biggest concern is the credibility of the Governing Board with the community. However, Mr. Tracy did state that it is difficult to vote to sell the property when it is unclear right now exactly which project(s) would be funded from the sale of the property.

Mrs. Wilcox stated when we sell the land next to an elementary school it will be very difficult to get it back and she is against the sale of the property.

Mrs. Boyd addressed the various points made by the Governing Board and stated that she has been personally involved in the bond process and reiterated that the site committees took the time to prepare an analysis of projects. She added that there are plenty of projects identified in the bond that are important to the sites and are not currently covered by available funding. If the district takes the low side of the \$1.2 million from the sale of the property the district could expand and relocate the computer lab at Palm Crest Elementary, which was their second priority. With these funds we could renovate the library at Paradise Canyon Elementary or fix their lunch shelter. Mrs. Boyd sat in on the site committee meetings and knows the schools want these projects done. The credibility of the Governing Board to use the assets for what the district said they would use them for is important.

Mr. Tracy would consider tabling this vote until next meeting until a list of projects that the funds would be used for could be provided. Mrs. Broberg stated that the list already exists and she would like to vote on this item as presented.

Mr. Peterson would like to hold off this decision until Phase II projects are done. Mr. Peterson stated best case scenario we sell the property today, collect enough funds to cover whatever priority we have and complete all Phase II projects. His concern is that the sale proceeds would be used for over-runs rather than new projects.

The following members of the audience addressed the Governing Board:

PCR parent – regarding the sale of property and use of bond funds
 Jill Blaisdell – against selling the property
 Carrie Grochow – against selling the property

The motion to approve the dispensation of the District Office Property failed with a 3:2 vote with Mrs. Wilcox and Mr. Peterson voting against the sale of the district office property.

3. Consent Agenda

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P15-07-08.** The Governing Board approved the following Personnel Items: *Certificated*: New Hires: Althea Collins. Leave of Absence: Megan Thomas.
- b. **Resolution 12-07-08 Non-reelecting Certificated Probationary Employees.** The Governing Board adopted Resolution 12-07-08 Non-REELECTING Certificated Probationary Employees 2007-08-02 and 2007-08-03.
- c. **Gifts to District, R107-07-08.** The Governing Board approved the Gifts to the District as presented.
- d. **Purchase Order List #11.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List #11.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Broberg stated that the Community Prevention Council wants to know whether the district has any interest in having drugs dog come randomly to the high school campus. Mr. Stratton reported that a 7 – 12 plan concerning this will be coming to the Board soon as report information.

Mr. Tracy reported that the Five Star Committee has asked districts to carry the message of the Governor's proposed budget cuts to the public. Mr. Tracy distributed a table from the Pasadena Star News of proposed school district budget cuts. Mr. Stratton reported that the Educational Foundation has asked him to do a Q & A on this information.

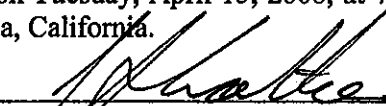
Mrs. Wilcox reminded the Governing Board that Founders Day is tomorrow at the LCHS Cafeteria.

Mrs. Boyd reported that the Boosters Golf Tournament is April 28th. Mrs. Boyd additionally reported that the Educational Foundation GALA was very successful, and that preliminary figures show that the silent auction raised well over \$100,000.

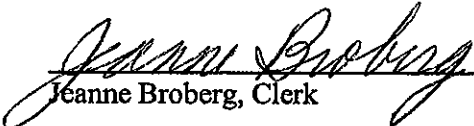
Mr. Peterson reported he forwarded a resource to Mr. Stratton for branding.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 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

5-6-08

Date

3/10/08

