

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

March 9, 2004

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Andy Beattie on March 9, 2004 in the La Cañada High School Information Resource Center at 4463 Oak Grove in La Cañada, California. Present were Board Members Andy Beattie, Ron Dietel, Cindy Wilcox, Scott Tracy, and Jinny Dalbeck, Superintendent Sue Leabo, Deputy Superintendent Jim Stratton and Chief Business Officer Dave Banis.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:01 p.m. in the La Cañada High School Information Resource Center Workroom. Present were the five Board Members, Superintendent Sue Leabo, Deputy Superintendent Jim Stratton and Chief Business Officer Dave Banis. Closed session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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

**REGULAR MEETING**

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 7:15 p.m. in the La Cañada High School Information Resource Center. Present were the five Governing Board Members, Dr. Leabo, Mr. Stratton, Mr. Banis, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. There were approximately 120 people in the audience. Mr. Beattie asked Michelle Listo to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Beattie reported in closed session the board took action to issue Notice of Non-Reelection of Certificated Staff, pursuant to Education Code 44929.21(B) effective at the end of the 2003-2004 school year with the vote being Ayes – 5. Noes - 0.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded (Dietel/Tracy) to approve the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was adopted unanimously. It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Dietel) to revise First Reading item b Resolution 16-03-04 to read Layoff Certificated Staff Report. The motion was unanimously approved. It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Dietel) to move 3a Personnel Report to 1h. The motion was rejected by a 2/3 vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Beattie reported the minutes of the February 10, 2004 regular meeting of the Governing Board had been distributed to the Governing Board Members in advance for review. The minutes of the February 10, 2004 meeting were discussed and amended as requested. The minutes stand as corrected.

Mr. Beattie read a brief statement regarding the opportunities for the public to address the governing board.

## REPORTS

### 1. **Superintendent's Report**

- a. **Golden Apple Award** – Dr. Leabo reported every year in March the San Gabriel Valley Administrators Association presents a Golden Apple Award. This is given to a member of the community in recognition of their contribution to the community. The Golden Apple Award this year is now going to Meredith Reynolds.
- b. **Distinguished School** – Dr. Leabo reported Paradise Canyon Elementary has been nominated as a 2004 California Distinguished School. They are one of 228 schools selected from 912 formal applications. There will be a formal visit to the site next week. After that visit Paradise Canyon Elementary will be named a distinguished school.

### 2. **President's Report**

- a. **Election results-** Mr. Beattie reported on the recent election results of Measures B and P. Mr. Beattie reported the board is delighted Measure B passed. The passing of the bond will enable the district to move forward with some sorely needed improvements. We are very grateful to the community for that. Mr. Beattie thanked the majority of voters for the votes on Measure P. However, as a result of Measure P not passing we are faced with some consequences. Mr. Beattie recognized the outstanding community effort to work on the campaign. Mr. Beattie thanked Susan Boyd for her chairmanship of the campaign.

### 3. **Student Representative Report** – Mr. Masters reported on the backwards dance last weekend. ASB is planning a Senior BBQ. The cafeteria changes by Sodexo and the PTA was a great success with lines out the door. The new food is healthy and affordable.

### 4. **API Report**– Lindi Dreibelbis Arthur reported on the Academic Performance Index (API) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) scores. These scores have been used since 1999 to rank schools and track student improvement across the state. The API scores range from 200 – 1000 with 800 being the state target. Not only are our scores high but they continue to improve. All schools have continued to show growth every year. This year is the highest we have seen for all our schools. The district was ranked second among K-12 districts in the State. All of the districts schools are in the top 10% of schools in the state. Ms. Arthur discussed API Indicator Weights. Also discussed was the Academic Performance Index. The state target is 800. The district has been above 800 all along. We are still and have been consistently among the top schools in the state. The Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is a product of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The participation state requirement is 95%, our district has a participation rate of 98 – 99%. The state required API growth rate is a minimum of one point, our district schools have had 8 -18 point growth. LCUSD graduation rate is 98.8% with a state requirement of 82%. All three of our elementary are among the top 53 schools in the state and top ten in the county. Our high school is 10<sup>th</sup> in the state.

## OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board:

Mr. Bryan Johanson – LCUSD Parent  
 Annie Honch – LCUSD Parent  
 Rachel Harris – 7<sup>th</sup> grade student representative

## PUBLIC HEARING

### 1. **Public Presentation of LCTA and District 2004-2005 Negotiation Proposals, R119-03-04.**

Mr. Beattie opened the public hearing on the public presentation of LCTA and District 2004-2005 negotiations proposal at 7:45 p.m. Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:50 p.m.

## PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

### 1. First Reading

- a. **Second Interim Budget Report, R111-03-04.** It was moved and seconded (Tracy/Wilcox) to accept the Second Interim Budget Report. Mr. Banis reported on the Second Interim budget. Mr. Banis stated there is very little change from First Interim. The motion to accept the Second Interim Budget Report was adopted unanimously.
- b. **Lay Off Certificated Staff Report.** Dr. Leabo reported on the certificated staff reductions. This evening the Superintendent is identifying specific certificated staff for lay off. With the exception of two teachers, Dr. Leabo has met with the teachers who are receiving notices. Mr. Beattie stated the report details positions but we are not releasing names as a protection to personnel involved. Mr. Dietel asked Dr. Leabo if the District will still have to lay off these teachers if new monies are received. Dr. Leabo reported the District hopes the 7-12 positions could be restored. Class size was discussed. Dr. Leabo reported 7 – 12 teachers on this list have been layed off due to the failure of Measure P. This will result in average class sizes in 7 – 12 of 39:1. Dr. Leabo reported the large majority of our teachers have CLAD. CLAD was further discussed by the community and the board. Mrs. Dalbeck reported that the first charge of this board is to keep the district fiscally sound. The District must balance the budget with the dollars received from the State. The District has made \$2.0 million in reductions and kept cuts away from the classroom. .

#### **Public Comment on B:**

Richard Weld, LCHS Teacher  
 Katie Budde, LCUSD teacher  
 Edgar Meckerchan, Student at LCHS  
 Madison Smith, Student  
 Bryan Johanson, Parent  
 Mary Linda Vandavelde, LCUSD teacher and resident  
 Deborah Pruden, Teacher  
 Michael Powers, Parent  
 Robbie Finnigan, LCE Parent  
 Dorothy Melendy, LCUSD Parent  
 Suzette Richardson, Parent  
 Kathy Kaze, Teacher – Parent  
 Jennie Knopf, Resident  
 Jenny Hendler, Teacher

A break was called at 9:20  
 Reconvened at 9:23

- c. **CSBA Delegate Assembly Election, R114-03-04.** It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Wilcox) to approve the CSBA Delegate Assembly Election. Once a year the board is asked to vote on CSBA candidates. Mrs. Dalbeck recommended Mary Boger and Joanne Steinmeier and Barbara Messina. Mrs. Dalbeck's recommendation was accept by the board. The motion to mark the ballot for Mary Boger, Joanne Steinmeier and Barbara Messina was adopted unanimously.
- d. **Accept School Accountability Report Cards, R115-03-04.** It was moved and seconded (Tracy/Dalbeck) to accept the School Accountability Report Cards. Each year the district brings to the board the School Accountability Report Card. This report

contains data on the district regarding attendance, salaries and enrollment. This report is for 2002-03. The motion to accept School Accountability Report Cards was adopted unanimously.

- e. **School Safety Plans, R116-03-04.** It was moved and seconded (Dietel/Wilcox) to adopt the school safety plans. Pursuant to Education Code (EC) 35294 every school in California is required to adopt a comprehensive school safety plan to address safety concerns identified through a systematic planning process. SB 1667 became effective in January 1, 2003 and makes several changes to the school safety plan approval process and suggests additional components that plans should incorporate. The plans will be in effect from March 2004 to March 2005. Mr. Dietel requested the high school Child Abuse Reporting be similar to the elementary plans. Mr. Stratton stated that a revision will be made next year. The motion to adopt the school safety plans was adopted unanimously.
- f. **Approval of New Courses at La Canada High School, R118-03-04.** It was moved and seconded (Dietel/Dalbeck) to approve the new courses at La Canada High School. Mr. Stratton explained these courses are all potential elective courses if there is student interest and if staffing is available. Three new courses are being presented for approval. A 9-12 Social Science elective: History vs. Hollywood; a 7<sup>th</sup> grade quarter elective: Cultural Anthropology; and a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade semester elective: 7/8 Leadership. Approval of these courses does not automatically mean these courses will be made available to students but will give 7 – 12 a repertoire of electives to choose from. Staffing will come from the 7-8 and 9-12 overall staffing allotment. The motion to approve the new courses at La Canada High School was adopted unanimously.
- g. **Approval of Bond Oversight Committee Application, R120-03-04.** It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Wilcox) to approve the Bond Oversight Committee Application. Leabo reported this is part of the state requirements with the passing of the Bond. Mrs. Dalbeck stated if there are not major changes this evening we should approve the application so the district can make it available to the public. Some modifications to the application were discussed. The motion to approve the Bond Oversight Committee Application with minor modifications was adopted unanimously.

It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Tracy) to extend the current board meeting to 10:30pm. The motion to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m. was adopted unanimously.

## 2. Second Reading

- a. **Approval of Educational Goals for 2004-05, R99-03-04.** It was moved and seconded (Tracy/Wilcox) to table the approval of the educational goals for 2004-05 to the next board meeting. Mrs. Dalbeck advised giving working goals to sites approving an extension of the 2003-04 with slight adjustments but only as an extension. It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Tracy) to table the approval of Educational Goals for 2004-05 to March 30 for a workshop at 6pm. The motion to approve tabling the educational goals for 2004-05 for a workshop on March 30, 2004 was adopted unanimously. It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Dietel) to extend the current goals with the slight revisions previously discussed. The motion to approve extending the current goals was adopted unanimously.

## 3. Consent Agenda

It was moved and seconded (Tracy/Dalbeck) to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The vote to approve the Consent Agenda was 3-1. Ayes - Beattie, Dalbeck, Tracy. Nays – Wilcox. Mr. Dietel abstained.

- a. **Personnel Report, P16-03-04.** The Board approved the following Personnel Items:  
*Certificated:* New Hires: Jane Chang, Julia Cole, Melissa Dogero, Mary Hardester,

Linda Mackessy, Michael McGuiness, Nora Meymarian, Jennifer Nash, Wendy Senour. Leave of Absence: Shannon Burke. Resignation: Claudine Douglas, Ted Grissom, Linda Kwan. *Classified*: New Hires: Marie Frazier, Makiko Naksone, Rima Hovsepian. Modification: Merzik Mirkhanyan, Rita Vartoomian. Resignations: Robert Grimes, Erika Larson. Retirement: Georgie Mendonca. Approval of Tenure Status: Rehire for Tenured Status: Julie Archer, Debra Bedell-au, Kristen Brown, Sheri Burns, Jane Chang, Craig Franzen, Tricia Glaser, Christina Kane, Cynthia Keech, Joseph Lee, James Padilla, Lori Marie Rios, Wendy Sinnette, Allison Sootkoos, Sally Spangler, Leslie Turnipseed, Carol Wawrychuk, Gavin Williams, Steve Zimmerman. Approval for Prob II Status: Rehire for Prob II: Marissa Bajenski, James Carnal, Cristina Diaz, Lindsay Horne, Edita Keshishyan, Dana Khudaverdyan, Kimerly Lauzen, Cynthia Manuel, Linda Matchie, Andrea Redecker, Karen Rose, Paige Salardino, Daniel Yoder.

- b. **Extra Duty, Extra Pay, P17-03-04.** The Board approved the Extra Duty/Extra Pay Report.
- c. **Resolution #13-03-04, Non-Re-Electing a Certificated Probationary Employee.** The Board approved Resolution #13-03-04, Non-Re-electing Mr. Bryan Barbosa a Certificated Probationary Employee.
- d. **Resolution #14-03-04, Non-Re-Electing a Certificated Probationary Employee.** The Board approved Resolution #13-03-04, Non-Re-electing Ms. Olia Jamichi, a Certificated Probationary Employee
- e. **Subject Matter Authorization, R109-03-04.** The Board approved the Subject Matter Authorization.
- f. **Approval of Assistance League Summer School Contact, R117-03-04.** The Board approved the Assistance League Summer School Contract.
- g. **Gifts to District, R112-03-04.** The Board approved the following Gifts to the District. \$1,312.48, The Roszkos Family; \$80.00, Mr. Andrew Slavitt; \$1,160.00, Wells Fargo Bank; \$437.52, The Roszkos Family; \$21.00, Cartridges for Kids; \$52.52, Kathy Hernandez; \$1,500.00, Mr. Pius Joseph & Mr. Larry Rosenstein Esquire; \$55.05, Verizon Long Distance; \$250.00, Antonio Rodriguez; \$52.12, Leslie Husa; Omega D-2 Print Enlarger, Ron Dietel; Gas Range, Mr. John Ehret.
- h. **Purchase Order List #10.** The Board approved Purchase Order List #10.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Wilcox requested in the future the board get the tenured notice in advance along with personnel files. Dr. Leabo will check with legal counsel.

The board reconvened to Close Session at 10: 13 p.m. The board reconveyed to open session at 10:15 p.m.

Mr. Beattie reported out of closed session that Resolution #13-03-04 Non re-election a certificated Probationary Employee was adopted by the Governing board of the La Canada Unified School District on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2004, by the following vote. AYES: 5. NOES: 0.

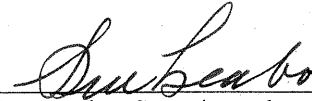
Mr. Beattie continued that Resolution #14-03-04 Non re-election a certificated Probationary Employee was adopted by the Governing board of the La Canada Unified School District on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2004, by the following vote. AYES: 5. NOES: 0.

Calendars were discussed.

### ADJOURNMENT

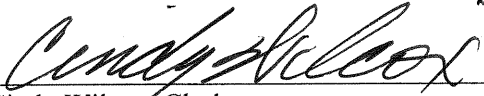
There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:23 p.m. The Next

Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, March 30 2004, at 7:00 p.m. in the La Cañada High School Information Resource Center.

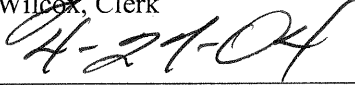


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Sue Leabo, Superintendent  
Secretary to the Governing Board

**MINUTES APPROVED**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Wilcox, Clerk



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Date