

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

March 16, 2004

The Special Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Andy Beattie on March 16, 2004 in the La Cañada High School Information Resource Center at 4463 Oak Grove in La Cañada, California. Present were Board Members, Andy Beattie, Jinny Dalbeck, Ron Dietel, Scott Tracy, Cindy Wilcox, and Superintendent Sue Leabo, and Chief Business Officer Dave Banis.

There were approximately 40 people in the audience. Mr. Beattie asked Mr. Michael Powers to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Beattie stated there is nothing to report out of closed session.

**OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Mr. Beattie read a statement informing the community of the Special Meeting regulations.

The following audience members addressed the Board:

Sue Wright, President of La Canada Flintridge Educational Foundation  
Jenny Hendler, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers at PCY

**PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS**

**1. First Reading**

**\*Allocation of Additional Local Funds, R123-03-04.** It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Tracy) to accept the Allocation of Additional Funds, R123-03-04. Dr. Leabo reported her recommendation to the board for consideration is that the first \$225,000 in additional funds be used to fund 2.0 FTE English and 1.0 FTE Social Studies Teaching Positions. Additional funding to be allocated as follows: 70% to replace teachers, not specifically identified; 16% Classified employees; 7% for Extra Duty/Extra Pay stipends; and 7% to replace cuts in supplies and services. Approximately \$1.5 million in cuts have been recommended. They are \$1.1 million in certificated staff and extra duty, extra pay, \$240,000 in classified staff and an additional \$100,000 in supplies and services. The board questioned Dr. Leabo on the impact of the \$1.5 million in cuts. Dr. Leabo reported this recommendation is based on the district receiving the same amount of state funds as received in 2003-04. The impact to class size was discussed. Dr. Leabo reported the district is continually looking at ways to reduce operating expenditures in all areas including items such as lights, utilities and purchasing procedures. Student attendance was discussed. Dr. Leabo reported the district lost approximately \$250,000 in revenue because our attendance dropped from 98% to 96%. Mr. Beattie discussed fundraising and the need for community support. Mr. Tracy discussed the goal of the Educational Foundation of increasing the size of the endowment to \$10 million by 2010, which would result in annual donations of \$500,000 to the District and take the pressure off of all fundraising groups. The need for the community to come together and look at the short term needs of the district and the long term need to work very diligently and focus on the endowment was discussed. It was proposed the foundation take the short term capital campaign, embrace the new

people in the community willing to get involved and bring them into the process of establishing a fundraising campaign with new people with new ideas and come up with a plan to move this goal forward.

Mr. Peterson of the Educational Foundation reported on the fundraising efforts and goals of the Educational Foundation. Mr. Peterson discussed the endowment stating the Foundation goal is to raise \$10 million in 10 years.

Mrs. Dalbeck questioned whether the 70% going to 7-12 teaching positions provides enough flexibility for the district. Mrs. Dalbeck stated more money may be raised than we think and recommended 7-12 teaching positions be changed to certificated positions to provide more flexibility. Mr. Tracy concurred.

Karen Nichols, Parent  
 Kathy Trueblood, Parent  
 Jenny Hendler, Teacher  
 Jennifer Ridisill, Parent  
 Robbie Finnigan, LCE PTA  
 Michael Powers, Parent  
 Joel Peterson, Foundation  
 Kaitzer Puglia, Parent  
 Emilie Toomarian, Parent  
 Jane Nowotny, Parent  
 Belinda Randolph, Parent  
 Amy Chen, Parent  
 Theresa King, Parent  
 Susan Boyd, Parent  
 Mandy Emory, LCE Teacher  
 Mary Jane Hufstedler, LCTA President  
 Joe Puglia, Parent  
 Meredie Heaton, Parent  
 Melinda Thompson, Teacher  
 Sue Wright, Foundation  
 Joel Peterson, Foundation

Mr. Beattie thanked the community for their comments and support.

The regular meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 9:40 p.m. Reconvened to Open session 9:43 p.m. Mr. Beattie reported no action was taken in Closed Session.

It was recommended by the board an additional statement be provided in addition to Dr. Leabo's recommendation regarding maintaining class size in K-3 and reducing average class sized in grades 4 - 12.

Mr. Tracy recommended amending statement 1 to read the first \$750,000 be used to fund certificated positions. Mrs. Wilcox seconded the motion. Mr. Dietel disagreed and stated his concern for the districts classified positions and reported the amendment would limit the districts flexibility with the funding. Mr. Dietel prefers we keep Dr. Leabo's proposal.

Mrs. Dalbeck stated that Mr. Tracy's goals of giving the funds back to the teachers is admirable. However, not knowing the amount of funds being raised, the amendment

could result in the \$260,000 in classified position cuts be totally eliminated and those cuts are currently unknown since they have yet to be brought to the board.

Mr. Beattie called for the vote on the amendment. The vote was 2 Ayes, 3 Noes.

Mr. Dietel recommended an amendment to change 2 a to read certificated positions in lieu of teaching positions with a statement to read:

The district goal is to maintain class size in K-3 and reduce average class size in grades 4 – 12.

Mr. Beattie called for the vote. The motion to amend the proposal was adopted 3/2. 3 Ayes 2: Noes.

The motion to accept the Allocation of Additional Local Funds was adopted unanimously.

The regular meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 9:50 p.m. A motion was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Dietel) to extend the board meeting past 10:00 p.m. The motion to extend the meeting was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Beattied reported out of closed session at 11:00 p.m. Mr. Beattie stated there was nothing to report out of Closed Session.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Governing Board is being held on Tuesday, March 30 2004, at 6:00 p.m. in the La Cañada High School Information Resource Center.

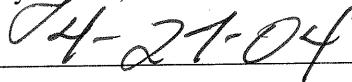


Sue Leabo, Superintendent  
Secretary to the Governing Board

#### MINUTES APPROVED



Cindy Wilcox, Clerk



Date

