

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

January 23, 2001

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Barbara Racklin on January 23, 2001 in the La Cañada Elementary School Cafetorium at 4540 Encinas Drive in La Cañada, California. Present were Board Members Barbara Racklin, Jeanne Broberg, Jinny Dalbeck, William Moffitt and Meredith Reynolds.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:01 p.m. in the La Cañada Elementary School Faculty Lounge. Present were the five Board Members and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Jim Stratton, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sue Leabo, and Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Maureen Evans. Closed Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mrs. Barbara Racklin, President  
Mrs. Jinny Dalbeck, Vice President  
Mrs. Jeanne Broberg, Clerk  
Mr. William Moffitt, Member  
Mrs. Meredith Reynolds, Member

**REGULAR MEETING**

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 7:05 p.m. by Mrs. Racklin in the La Cañada Elementary School Cafetorium. Present were the five Governing Board Members, Mr. Stratton, Dr. Leabo, Mrs. Evans, and Secretary to the Superintendent Judy Mellick. There were approximately 50 people in the audience. Mrs. Racklin asked teacher Susan Hamre to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Mrs. Racklin reported that no action was taken in Closed Session.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Racklin stated that the minutes of the January 9, 2001 meeting of the Governing Board had been distributed to the Governing Board Members in advance for review. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Moffitt) to approve the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was adopted unanimously.

**RECOGNITION OF FALL SPORTS, NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS, ALL-STATE HONOR BAND, ALL SOUTHERN SENIOR HIGH HONOR ORCHESTRA, ALL STATE JUNIOR HIGH HONOR ORCHESTRA, ALL STATE ORCHESTRA, ALL SOUTHERN JUNIOR HIGH HONOR BAND, AND TOURNAMENT OF ROSES HONOR BAND**

Mrs. Racklin introduced Dr. Mike Leininger, Principal of LCHS, who congratulated the students and introduced Coach Rich Wheeler.

Coach Wheeler introduced the All-CIF/Division X Football players:

Lonnie Dietz (12)  
 Daniel Gross (12)  
 Chase McKibben (12)  
 Chris Wooldridge (12)

Dr. Leininger then introduced the following fall sports participants:

Girls Cross Country CIF State Finals/Division III 4<sup>th</sup> place:

Katie Barry (9)  
 Nicole Bonino (12)  
 Emily Farr (11)  
 Rachel Frandsen (11)  
 Carina Garnic (11)  
 Stephanie Lee (9)  
 Jessica Moore (10)  
 Becky Zentmyer (12)

Boys Water Polo All-CIF Division II First Team:

Joe Ondrejcka (11)  
 Matt Yang (11)

and Second Team:

Philip Webster (12)

Girls Volleyball All-CIF/Division III:

Kalee Heydorff (12)  
 Tracy Neumeier (12)  
 Vanessa Young (12)

Dr. Leininger then recognized the National Merit Semifinalists:

Wei Lien Dang (12)  
 Nancy Dutton (12)  
 Daniel Gross (12)  
 Kristina Gupta (12)  
 Bassam Khan (12)  
 Eugene Kym (12)  
 Stephanie Luk (12)  
 Rebecca Nichols (12)  
 David Shanley (12)  
 Jessica Wolf (12)

Dr. Leininger introduced Susan Hamre, Director of Instrumental Music. Ms. Hamre then introduced the Tournament of Roses Honor Band:

Alex Cree (12)  
 Scott Moura (11)  
 Jennifer Lau (11)  
 Brian Harman (12)

All Southern Junior High Honor Band:

Sam Kumagai (8)

All Southern Junior High Honor Orchestra:

Ben Frandsen (8)  
 Brook Speltz (8)

Mitchel Dvoracek (8)  
 Kyle Chen (7)

All State Orchestra:

Eleanor Chen (12)  
 Darren Dvoracek (12)

All Southern Senior High Honor Orchestra:

Eleanor Chen (12)

All Southern Senior High Honor Band:

Aileen Kim (10)  
 Erick Kim (12)  
 Justin Bahrami (12)  
 Darren Dvoracek (12)

All State Band:

Justin Bahrami (12)  
 Darren Dvoracek (12)  
 John Cooper Green (12)  
 Erick Kim (12)  
 May Lin (10)  
 Patrick Rappeleye (11)

Mrs. Racklin presented the students with Certificates of Achievement.

### **RECOGNITION OF RETIREMENT OF PAT BIERMANN**

Mrs. Racklin introduced Mr. Stratton, who then introduced teacher Pat Biermann, who is retiring at the end of January. Mrs. Racklin presented Ms. Biermann with a plaque congratulating her on her retirement and commending her on her 33 years of service to La Cañada Unified School District.

Mr. Chakib “Chuck” Sambar, Board member of Glendale Unified School District congratulated the Board on the fine program in La Cañada Unified School District. Mr. Sambar commended the Board on the high caliber of teachers at LCUSD, as exhibited by Pat Biermann, and congratulated Mrs. Biermann on her retirement.

### **REPORTS**

#### **1. Superintendent’s Report**

Mrs. Racklin explained that Superintendent Gonias was out of town at the Annual ACSA Superintendents Symposium in Monterey. She then introduced Mr. Stratton, who is filling in for Mrs. Gonias.

Mr. Stratton reported on the “World of Difference” Seminar training for teachers, put on by the Anti-Defamation League. The teachers who attended have now been certified to implement this curriculum.

Mr. Stratton also reported that finals were taking place this week at the high school. The elementary schools are in the process of a math assessment. Tomorrow afternoon will be the first day of the after school GATE enrichment classes, which are open to all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and all 4<sup>th</sup> grade GATE students.

## 2. **Student Representative Report**

Student Representative Michael Kotick reported on the Toy Dance on Dec. 9 – over 200 toys donated – Monte Carlo night, which is a fundraiser by the junior class for prom. He also reported that the high school website is up and running, and includes sports and event information. The high school is taking finals this week. Second semester ASB elections were held last week. The atmosphere at the high school is very positive.

### Opportunity to address Board

There were no audience members wishing to address the Board.

#### 1. **First Reading**

- a. **Board Policy 7141 Bid Process on Public Construction Projects, R136-0-01.** Mrs. Evans reported that existing law allows the selection of bidded additive and deductive alternates prior to the award of a public works contract. With the passage of Assembly Bill 2182 during the 1999-2000 Legislative Term, effective January 1, 2001, newly enacted Public Contract Code Section 20103.8 will revise the procedure which the District must follow for determining the lowest bidder on a public works project if additions or deletions from the base bid are considered. Through the recommendation of counsel, the District recommends that the Board adopt the alternate bidding procedures as Board Policy.

Mrs. Reynolds asked why item (d) would be done. Mrs. Evans replied that item (d) is included in the event it would be necessary, but she did not foresee a situation when it would be needed.

Mrs. Dalbeck asked if the word “Superintendent” should be added to the first sentence under “Designated Employees” and also under “Selection of Low Apparent Bidder.” Mrs. Evans indicated that it would be added.

The Board directed that the Policy be brought back on the Consent Agenda, with the indicated changes.

- b. **\*Proposed Board Calendar for 2001-2002, R142-00-01.** It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Moffitt) to approve the proposed Board Calendar for 2001-2002. Mrs. Racklin commented that on both calendars there were Board meetings scheduled on dates that could be during school vacation time.

Mrs. Reynolds suggested that they discuss whether they would prefer, in theory, Schedule A or Schedule B. Mr. Stratton explained that the staff preference for Schedule A was because having meetings every two weeks made it difficult to do other large projects since staff has to start working the day after the Board meeting on the next Board meeting.

It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Moffitt) to table the motion to approve the Board Calendar for 2001-2001. The motion to table the motion to approve was adopted unanimously. The Board directed staff to come back with changes to add more meetings

to Schedule A to make the number of meetings between 18-20, and to be sure there are no conflicts with the negotiated calendar.

It was moved and seconded (Moffitt/Broberg) to cancel the meeting on February 21, 2001. The motion to cancel the meeting of February 21, 2001 was adopted unanimously.

- c. **Variable Term Waiver, R140-00-01.** Dr. Leabo explained that requests for variable term waivers may be submitted by employing agencies, including school districts, to solve a temporary certification or assignment problem when the employing agency finds there is an insufficient number of certificated persons who meet the specified employment criteria for a position for the purposes of educational reform, class size reduction, or other compelling reasons. Mrs. Leabo explained that La Cañada Unified School District has employed a teacher at La Cañada High School who has not yet completed credential requirements. This waiver request is for the 2000-01 school year. Mrs. Dalbeck asked what the target completion date is, and how far along is the person in the process of completing the credential. Dr. Leabo explained that she did not have the information, but the waiver is for the rest of the year. A person is allowed 12 months to complete the units required, and 4 years to complete the credential. The Variable Term Waiver was for first reading only and will be brought back for Board approval on February 6, 2001.

## 2. Second Reading

- a. **New Board Policy 6191 – Consolidated Program Evaluation, R124-00-01.** It was moved and seconded (Reynolds/Broberg) to approve New Board Policy 6191 – Consolidated Program Evaluation. Mr. Stratton explained that the policy was discussed at the last Board meeting and the requested changes were made to the policy. The motion to approve New Board Policy 6191 – Consolidated Program Evaluation was adopted unanimously.

## Consent Agenda

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P18-00-01.** *Certificated:* New Hires – Biology Teacher Richard Herring (temporary), English Teacher Kerry Martinez (temporary), Physical Education Teacher Kevin Mathews (temporary), Substitute Teacher Chiara Vilgiate. *Modification –* Math Teacher Mary R. Dicks, from 100% to 117%. *Classified:* New Hires – Classroom Aide Emily Brockman, Classroom Aide Sarah Jones, Classroom/Noon Aide Nicole Neumann.
- b. **Foothills School’s Substitute Rate of Pay, R144-00-01.**
- c. **LCE Outdoor Science Lab, R132-00-01.**
- d. **New Board Policy 3553 Free and Reduced Meals, R127-00-01.**
- e. **Change Orders for Phase 2 Library, R139-00-01.**
- f. **Special Activities: Drum Line and Winter Guard Trip to Regional Competition in Las Vegas, NV, R141-00-01.**
- g. **Non-Public School/Non-Public Agency Contracts, R143-00-01.**
- h. **Gifts, R138-00-01.**
- i. **Purchase Order List #11**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs. Reynolds reminded the Board about taking out an ad in the Tribute Book for the Educational Foundation Gala. The ad is paid for personally by the Board members, not out of district funds.

Mrs. Dalbeck reported that she was in Sacramento last week for the CSBA Legislative Conference, and met with legislators. She presented a request for state sponsorship of a two-year pilot program providing operational funds for extended hours at the joint use library. She also presented the Legislators with the Five-Star Coalition Legislative Agenda and set up appointments with the legislators to attend Five-Star Coalition meetings. They talked about the flexibility in the governor's budget. Mrs. Dalbeck expressed the District's and Coalition's desire that the monies that the governor has designated for middle schools might be used for grades 4-9 and include a district choice of options, i.e., class size reduction, extended year, extended school day, staff development, to best meet the needs of a particular school district, rather than a "one-size fits all" kind of approach. She also held discussions with legislators about the possibility that schools be placed in a special category exempting them from rolling blackouts or brownouts. In the future, the schools, along with other essential industries such as hospitals, should be put in a special rate payer category, thus creating a stable rate for electricity so schools can budget appropriately for energy costs. East Los Angeles City College has interrupted classes because they can't afford their energy bill. Mrs. Dalbeck commented that the increase in energy costs is something the district really needs to be aware of. It is hoped that the legislature will look at these issues. Jeff Frost, legislative representative for Five-Star Coalition, is also working with other school districts in San Bernardino and Marin Counties on the energy issue.

Mrs. Reynolds commented that often schools are Red Cross evacuation centers, so the energy crisis is even more of an issue. Mrs. Racklin reported that the La Cañada City Council discussed having funds available for energy costs because the high school is a designated shelter for the city. She reported that the Red Cross position is as an advocate to Edison and Red Cross will not open a shelter in the event of a temporary blackout, but only if there is a crisis.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on February 6, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. in the La Cañada Elementary School Library.

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Lorene Gonia, Superintendent  
Secretary to the Governing Board

**MINUTES APPROVED**


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Jeanne Broberg, Clerk, Governing Board

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Date