

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

February 25, 2003

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Scott Tracy on February 25, 2003 in the La Cañada High School Information Resource Center at 4463 Oak Grove in La Cañada, California. Present were Board Members Jinny Dalbeck, Andy Beattie, Ron Dietel, Meredith Reynolds, and Scott Tracy, Superintendent Sue Leabo, Deputy Superintendent of Educational Services 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 of Educational Services Jim Stratton, and Chief Business Officer Dave Banis. They were joined at 5:30 p.m. by LCHS Principal Dr. Michael Leininger, Assistant Principal Cindy Keech, and 7/8 Principal Gaylene van Zijl. Closed Session adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Scott Tracy, President
 Mr. Andy Beattie, Vice President
 Mr. Ron Dietel, Clerk
 Mrs. Jinny Dalbeck, Member
 Mrs. Meredith Reynolds, Member

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 7:08 p.m. in the La Cañada High School Information Resource Center. Present were the five Governing Board Members, Dr. Leabo, Mr. Stratton, Mr. Banis, and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Judy Mellick. There were approximately 40 people in the audience. Mr. Tracy asked Niels Hauksson from Boy Scout Troop 509 to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Tracy reported that there was no action taken in closed session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded (Dietel/Beattie) to approve the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda as submitted was adopted unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Tracy stated that the minutes of the February 4, 2003 regular meeting of the Governing Board had been distributed to the Governing Board Members in advance for review. The minutes of the February 4, 2003 regular meeting were approved as submitted.

REPORTS

1. **Superintendent's Report** – Dr. Leabo said that she would reserve her report until Item 1a on the agenda.
2. **Student Representative Report** – Ms. Linden reported that the students who were competing in the math competition and came in third in the state completed the next exam in the series and received a perfect score. LCHS is in the middle of CIF playoffs – girls basketball plays in quarter finals tomorrow night. ASB is currently working on the backwards dance. They also have activities planned for every day this week at lunch and break.

3. **President's Report** –

- a. **Joint Use Update** – Mr. Tracy reported on the Joint Use Committee. There were four primary topics discussed at the last meeting: the JUC reviewed the preliminary findings of the architect engaged by the City to consider the feasibility of building a new gym on the FIS campus and where on that site it could be built. The most important results from that study is the finding that Lanterman Auditorium is not a feasible site. The area that seemed to be most efficient is the skate park site. Mrs. Dalbeck added that, in her opinion, it would be better to leave the east side of the FIS campus intact as an academic site for rental or district use in the future.

The second item discussed was the possibility of building a gym at PCY or at the high school where the outdoor basketball courts are. The District has been asked to provide some information on possible costs and possible government grants.

The third item discussed had to do with the operation of Lanterman Auditorium. The Board voted at the last meeting to turn over the operation to another group, either the City, or a community group. The City had a lot of questions and the District is providing them with more information. The City will come to the next Joint Use meeting with a recommendation on whether or not to take over Lanterman Auditorium.

The fourth item was a review of future capital improvement projects. The issue at the top of the list was the refurbishment of the infrastructure of the LCHS varsity and junior varsity baseball fields.

Mr. Tracy also reported on the discussion of portable lighting at the sports fields, particularly PCY. During the Parks and Recreation Commission hearing, one sports group withdrew its request for portable lighting; another sports group had its request denied. The outcome of the hearing was that PCY will now have fewer hours of permitted use than the prior year. The JUC continued the process of addressing issues that relate to the community and use of the fields by the various sports groups. The JUC is looking at traffic, parking, and noise issues in conjunction with these other issues.

4. **Report on SAT, Golden State Exam and Advanced Placement** – Ms. Arthur reported that LCHS is above the national and California averages in both math and verbal on the SAT. According to the College Board reports, there must be a difference of at least 60 points in student scores in order for there to be a difference in ability. The LCHS 10-year average in verbal is 562 and the 10-year average in math is 607.

Ms. Arthur reported that there are 35 AP tests available in California, and LCHS gave 28 of those tests. There are more students taking the tests, and scores are staying consistently high. In 1993, there were 133 students taking 325 tests. In 2000, there were 290 students taking 559 tests. In 2002, there were 356 students taking 697 tests, with an 82% pass rate.

Ms. Arthur also reported that the Golden State Exams were created to provide rigorous examinations in grades 7-12 and recognize outstanding students. There were 13 exams available in 2002; LCHS gave 12 of them. Even though LCHS has a large number of students taking the tests, the scores are high. LCHS has more than double the state average of students who earned state recognition.

5. **College Report** – LCHS Principal Mike Leininger reported that, of a graduating class of 324 last year, 232 or 72% went to 4-year schools, 89 or 27% went to 2-year schools. There is one person in full time employment and two in the armed forces (this does not include the academies, which are considered 4-year schools). Most of the students going to 2-year schools are going to Pasadena City College. Dr. Leininger reported that the district is seeing more and more students attending selective colleges. The next step is to find out how many of these students actually graduate from the 4-year schools.

Mr. Tracy pointed out that historically, approximately 40% of LCHS seniors are admitted to a UC campus and approximately 25-30% choose to enroll. Last year, 42% of the LCHS class of 2002 was accepted to a UC campus and 27% matriculated.

DISTRICT GOALS PROGRESS

Communication and Assessment – Dr. Leininger reported on Course guidelines, homework guidelines and assessment guidelines. The information that needs to be included is as follows:

1. General course description and reference to state standards
2. Behavior/Citizenship expectations
3. Letter grade policy
4. Homework policy
5. Availability for extra help and how it is arranged
6. Policy for absences and make-up work and late or missing work
7. How you communicate when assignments are due

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board:

Justin Graham, 768 Forest Green Drive, LC
 Kaitlin Cordova, 1960 Lombardy Drive, LC
 Mary Emily Myers, 900 Big Briar Way, LC
 Lee Conner, 2045 Tondolea Lane, LC
 Ian MacGregor-Scott, 1216 Flanders Road, LC
 Cindy Wilcox, 4408 Union Street, LC
 Dvora Mayer, CSEA Labor Representative

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

1. First Reading

- a. ***Resolution #15-02-03 Classified Layoff.** It was moved and seconded (Beattie/Dalbeck) to approve Resolution #15-02-03 Classified Layoff. Dr. Leabo explained that the district knows there will be cuts in the 2003-04 budget. The district is taking its best guess at this time as to what budget reductions are needed. Dr. Leabo reported on the recommended reductions in classified positions. She said that the district is trying to get the best information possible from the state and taking the necessary steps in order to balance the budget by July 1, 2003.

The following persons addressed the Board on this issue:

Aileen Peterson, CSEA President
 Debbie Pierce, PCY staff member
 Donna Shepherd, LCHS staff member

The motion to approve Resolution #15-02-03 Classified Layoff was adopted 4-1, with member Dietel as the opposing vote.

- b. ***CSBA Delegate Assembly Election Ballot, R144-02-03.** It was moved and seconded (Reynolds/Dietel) to mark the ballot for the CSBA Delegate Assembly Election for Lina Harper and Matt Smith. The motion to mark the ballot for Lina Harper and Matt Smith was adopted unanimously.
- c. ***Rental Fees for IRC, R145-02-03.** It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Reynolds) to approve the recommended rental fees for the IRC. Mr. Banis reported that there have been a couple of groups who have requested use of the IRC for meetings. The fees recommended are \$50 for a for-profit group and \$25 for a non-profit group. Non-profit groups are described as groups that are completely volunteer, with no paid staff. Fees are consistent with what is charged at all other district facilities. With this adoption, the IRC will be added to the Administrative Regulation along with other facilities. The motion to approve the rental fees for the IRC was adopted unanimously.

2. Second Reading

- a. **Educational Goals for 2003-04, R135-02-03.** It was moved and seconded (Beattie/Reynolds) to approve the Educational Goals for 2003-04. Mr. Stratton explained that these are the goals that were discussed at the last meeting. The motion to approve the Educational Goals for 2003-04 was adopted unanimously.
- b. **Textbook Adoption: *Biology*, R133-02-03.** It was moved and seconded (Dietel/Beattie) to approve the textbook adoption: *Biology*. Mr. Stratton explained that this is the biology textbook discussed at the last meeting, which has been certified that it is aligned with standards, and has been on display at the district office for the public's information. The motion to approve the textbook adoption was adopted unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P15-02-03.** The Board approved the following Personnel Items:
Certificated: New Hires – ROP Teacher Tom Forrester, ROP Teacher Britta Foshee.
 Resignation: Secondary Teacher Karen Mealiffe. *Classified:* Resignations: Food Service Worker Gladys Amaya, Paraprofessional I Kimberly Lauxen, Food Service Worker Susan Saul. Release – Custodian.
- b. **Update Job Description – Director Secretary and Office Assistant II, R142-02-03.**
- c. **Authorization to Teach Physical Education, R150-02-03.**
- d. **Assistance League Summer School Contract, R146-02-03.**
- e. **Contract for “Inside the Outdoors” Science Study Program at PCY, R147-02-03.**
- f. **Settlement Agreement for Case No. SN 00-1766, R148-02-03.**
- g. **Special Activities: Choir Tour – Men’s Ensemble, and Concert Choir Tour, R149-02-03.**
- h. **Non-Public School/Non-Public Agency Contracts, R141-02-03.**
- i. **Approval of Agreement with YMCA for Use of School Property for 2003 Summer Camp, R143-02-03.**

j. Purchase Order List #10.**COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs. Dalbeck asked Mr. Stratton if the announcement about Kindergarten parent orientation had been sent to the newspapers and preschools in the area. Mr. Stratton replied that a press release had been sent to the newspapers and the letters were sent to area preschools. Mrs. Reynolds suggested that the information also be sent to realtors in the area.

Mr. Beattie reminded everyone that the Girls basketball game tomorrow night is an away game at Bishop Montgomery in Torrance.

RECONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened to Closed Session at 9:38 p.m. Present were the five Board members, Superintendent Sue Leabo, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Jim Stratton, and Chief Business Officer Dave Banis.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 9:45 p.m. and reported that the Board took action in Closed Session to issue notices of non-reelection to probationary certificated employees, identified by Resolutions:

16-02-03, 17-02-03, 18-02-03, 19-02-03, 20-02-03, 21-02-03

pursuant to Education Code Section 44929.21(b), effective at the end of the 2002-2003 school year, and directed the Superintendent or designee to send out appropriate legal notices. The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Beattie, Dalbeck, Dietel, Reynolds, Tracy
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the La Cañada High School Information Resource Center.

Sue Leabo, Superintendent
Secretary to the Governing Board

MINUTES APPROVED

Ron Dietel, Clerk

Date

2/25/03