

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

September 12, 2000

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Meredith Reynolds on September 12, 2000 in the La Cañada Elementary School Library at 4540 Encinas Drive in La Cañada, California. Present were Board Members Meredith Reynolds, Jeanne Broberg, Jinny Dalbeck, William Moffitt and Barbara Racklin, Superintendent Lorene Gonia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sue Leabo and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Jim Stratton.

CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:02 p.m. in the La Cañada Elementary School Faculty Lounge. Present were the five Board Members, Superintendent Lorene Gonia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sue Leabo and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Jim Stratton. Closed Session adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

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

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 7:03 p.m. by Mrs. Reynolds in the La Cañada Elementary School Library. Present were the five Governing Board Members, Mrs. Gonia, Mrs. Leabo, Mr. Stratton, and Secretary to the Superintendent Judy Mellick. There were approximately 20 people in the audience. Mrs. Reynolds asked teacher Patty Compeau to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded (Racklin/Moffitt) to amend the minutes to correct the misspelling of a name: "Marty Motia." The motion to amend the minutes was adopted unanimously. It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Moffitt) to approve the amended minutes. The motion to approve the amended minutes was adopted unanimously.

REPORTS

1. **21st Century Institute's Trip to Belize**
Four students, Sarah Messner, Amber Martin, Jenna Bicknell, and Andrew Leach, and two teachers, Patty Compeau and Barbara Leach, reported on the trip to Belize. Each student reported

on his/her favorite part of the jungle and the island. The students all reported a wonderful and enriching experience. The teachers commented on the exemplary character of the students and how well they worked together. All commented on the interesting and edifying look at another culture, as well as their own.

2. Superintendent's Report

- a. Enrollment Update. The School District opened with an enrollment of 4,324 students. LCUSD is seeing a continuing trend in smaller Kindergarten classes. Dr. Sue Leabo showed an enrollment comparison of the grade levels from 1999-00 to 2000-01, and reported that the district began the school year fully staffed.
- b. Opening of School. Mrs. Gonia reported that the opening of all schools went smoothly. The plumbing has been finished at PCY, and other projects that have been approved are in the planning stages and construction will take place next summer.
- c. Staff Development Day. Mrs. Gonia reported that the first staff development day included information on the Rebecca Sitton spelling program, which has been adopted by the district. She also reported that the district has worked to compare our curriculum with state standards to ensure that we have a consistent and articulated curriculum for students. Mrs. Gonia reported that pamphlets have been created for each grade level to explain standards and student expectations. There will be a "Curriculum Night" in October where teachers will demonstrate the "no excuses." program.
- d. Introduction of Recommended Candidate for Assistant Superintendent of Business Services. Mrs. Gonia introduced the recommended candidate for Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Mrs. Maureen Evans. Mrs. Evans comes to LCUSD from Long Beach Unified, where she served in various positions, including special education, personnel, purchasing, research and planning, and budget director. Mrs. Evans will be starting on October 16.

3. Report on 1999-00 Unaudited Actuals

Ms. Emese Varga Bihari presented a report on Unaudited Actuals for 1999-00. The audited actuals will come back to the Board as a report in December. Ms. Bihari thanked the Business Office staff for their hard work in getting the reports done. Ms. Bihari reported that the sites and departments were very good about maintaining within their allocated budgets, which helped our ending balance to be better than our estimated actuals. She also reported that Special Education revenues helped decrease our unfunded balance for the Special Education program. The Cafeteria Fund, which maintains itself without any assistance from the general fund, ended with a positive ending fund balance. Ms. Bihari defined the purposes of the various funds. She reported that the building fund will reflect activity for the old 1995 bond that we have closed out and the new 1999 bond. No activity is shown in fund 81, which is the 50/50-match fund for the Library. Fund 82, the State Facilities Fund for 80/20 match shows small activity for the year. The Capital Facilities Fund reflects developer fees; the Lease Maintenance Fund reflects deferred maintenance match and special projects. Student Body funds 7/8 and 9-12 reflect student activities throughout the year. Ms. Bihari reported that the District has a healthy budget, but it is necessary to monitor it closely to maintain a healthy condition. Ms. Bihari stated that the First Interim will be submitted for Board approval in December.

4. Maintenance Work Update

Director of Maintenance and Operations Dan Dodge reported that rough-grading work has been done for the new library at LCHS. The existing site drainage pipe is completed, and chilled/hot water line re-routing will be starting as soon as possible, pending the Board's approval of the bid tonight. DSA approval has been secured for the JV Field lighting and underground conduit is in place. Pending the Board's approval of bids, delivery and installation of the poles will be scheduled. The plumbing project at PCH went very smoothly. The district was able to work with a cooperative plumbing contractor. There were some challenging situations, but the district and

contractor were able to arrive at mutually equitable solutions. The timeline has been met. The custodian at FIS found water running out the door of the basement room on the north wing of FIS on Thursday, September 7. He immediately contacted Mr. Dodge, and they found a 1-1/2 inch copper line to a brass fire hose connection disintegrated. The basement was pumped out, the pipe repaired, and the process of drying the area out the area was begun. There was not services interruption to all the lessees at FIS. The basement was used to house the District's drama props. The insurance company was notified and sent an adjuster to take pictures. Robin Williams and Gale Caswell were informed and they have enlisted some volunteers to assess the usability of the items.

First Reading

- a. **Resolution 3-00-01: Opposing Passage of Proposition 38, the School Voucher Initiative.** It was moved and seconded (Moffitt/Racklin) to adopt Resolution 3-00-01 opposing passage of Proposition 38, the School Voucher Initiative. A discussion followed, in which the following points were brought up: the Initiative will provide \$4,000 vouchers for approximately 700,000 students. Money that funds private and parochial vouchers will not come out of Proposition 98 funds, so \$3 billion will have to come out of taxes or cuts in services. There is no system for accountability of voucher schools. Voucher schools will have public money but will not have restrictions on acceptance or non-acceptance of students. Among the organizations that have opposed the voucher initiative are AARP, CASBO, California Business Round Table, CSBA, CSEA, ASCA, CTA, the state PTA, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association, and the League of Women Voters. There is no requirement that teachers in voucher schools be credentialed. Voucher schools will not have to follow performance requirements on the part of students. There is nothing in the proposition that prohibits voucher schools from discriminating against students on any basis.

The following people addressed the Board on this item:

Richard Weld, President of La Cañada Teachers Association

David Wilcox, 5354 Palm Drive, La Cañada

Bob Lamson, 4911 Vineta Ave., La Canada

Following the discussion, the Board unanimously adopted the resolution.

- b. **Board Policies Updates, R43-00-01.** It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Moffitt) to approve the first reading of the Board Policies updates presented. Mr. Stratton presented the updated Board Policies and provided clarification on questions from the Board. The updated Board Policies will be brought back to the Board for second reading and adoption on September 26, 2000.
- c. **Approve Project Planning for Outdoor Science Laboratory and Activity Center at La Cañada Elementary School, R38-00-01.** It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Moffitt) to approve project planning for the Outdoor Science Laboratory and Activity Center at La Cañada Elementary School. Discussion centered on the procedures for outside-funded projects. The Board unanimously approved project planning for the Outdoor Science Laboratory and Activity Center at La Cañada Elementary School.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. **Variable Term Waiver Request, R34-00-01.** This is a request for a temporary teacher at Palm Crest Elementary who has not yet completed credential requirements.

- b. **Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators, R35-00-01.** This is a requirement of the California Education Code in order to employ teachers who are in the process of completing a full credential.
- c. **Personnel Report, P4-00-01.** *Certificated:* New Hires: Substitute Teachers Matt Daniels and Lynn Finigan. Counselor Arvind Arya, 6th grade teacher Robin Collins (temporary), Reading Intervention teacher Emily Coons, ELD/Spanish teacher Elizabeth Hurley, Honors English teacher Kimberly Kadletz, Special Education teacher Jane Lowry, ROP teacher Monica Peralta, ROP/English teacher Sean Pollard (temporary), ROP teacher Keli Wayland, Social Science teacher Gavin Williams, Math teacher Celine Young. Modifications: 9-12 English position for Tricia Anselm from 100% to 117%, Social Science position for Marina Chahine from 100% to 117%, Art/Science position for Andrew Di Conti from 100% to 117%, Spanish position for Carol A. Granz from 100% to 117%, Band position for Sue Hamre from 100% to 117%, Government/Economics position for Mary Langedyke from 100% to 117%, French position for Donna Larson from 100% to 117%, Math position for Kim McComas from 40% to 60%, Music position for Lori M. Rios from 80% to 100%, English position for Sandra Toms from 100% to 117%. Resignations of Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Dennis Ballard and ROP teacher Lisa Dennison. *Classified:* New Hires ELD Aide Amy Albitre, 1:1 Aide/Noon Corey Cullen, On Call, as needed Catalina DeSzily, PE/Campus Aide Diane Fabrizio, Instructional Specialist-Special Education Jeffrey Flagg, On Call, as needed Belinda Hanson, Resource Room Clerk Georganne McAdams, 1:1 Aide Georganne McAdams (temporary), Classroom Aide Kathy McCluer, ELD Aide, Linda Neumeier, 1:1 Noon Aide Beverlee Reccelle, Instructional Specialist – Special Education Cindy Roberg, Paraprofessional/PE Aide Kathryn Robertson, PE Aide Cameron Saul, Noon Aide Karen Smedley, Paraprofessional/PE Aide Connie Storey, ELD Aide Melinda Thompson, 1:1 Aide Daniel Tubbs. Modification: SI Aide position for Jo Ann Jarboe .50 (increase), SI Aide position for Melanie Kissell .50 (increase), Instructional Specialist-Special Ed. .50 (Increase), ESL Aide position for Mickey Reardon from 46.88% to 75% FTE, Instructional Specialist-Special Ed. .50 (decrease). Resignations of 1:1 Aide Apryl Akers, Classroom/Noon Aide Vanessa Balderamma, Instructional Specialist-Special Ed. Patricia Collins, Resource Room Clerk Robin Collins, 1:1 Aide/Noon Diane Fabrizio, Library Manager Helen Moses, Drama Consultant Aaron Steele-Nicholson, PE/Campus Aide Daniel Tubbs. *CMSA:* Robert Brauneisen from Step 4 to Step 5 (no change in range).
- d. **Extra-Duty/Extra-Pay Report, P5-00-01.** Extra Duty, Extra Pay updates since August 15, 2000.
- e. **Non-Public School, Non-Public Agency Contracts, R37-00-01.** These are contracts for students with special needs.
- f. **Change Order for Phase II-B of the High School Construction and Modernization, R40-00-01.** Due to an increase in the scope of the work, a change order has been issued in the amount of \$4720.78.
- g. **Approval of the 1999-2000 Unaudited Actuals, R41-00-01.** Section 42100 of the Education Code requires that the Governing Board of each school district approve, on a form prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, an annual statement of all receipts and expenditures of the District for the preceding fiscal year and then file the statement with the County Superintendent of Schools on or before September 15.
- h. **2000-01 Budget Calendar, R42-00-01.** The Budget Calendar reflects important timelines for preparation and approval of the District budget.
- i. **Purchase Order List #3-00-01.**
- j. **Gifts to the District, R39-00-01.** This is a list of donations to the district since the last regular board meeting.
- k. **Accept Bid from Barr Electric for the JV Field Lighting Project, R44-00-01.** This is a request to accept the bid from Barr Electric for the JV Field Lighting Project.

- l. Employment Agreement for Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, R45-00-01.** The Board is asked to approve the Employment Agreement with Maureen Evans for Assistant Superintendent of Business Services.
- m. Accept Proposal for Removal and Installation of Chilled/Hot Water Piping at LCHS, R46-00-01.** The Board is asked to approve the proposal from Pacific Mechanical Service for \$51,305.00, all-inclusive, to remove the old chilled/hot water piping and install the new piping in the new location.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Broberg requested that the summer school dates be available as soon as possible. She presented the Board with a book, entitled, "With Rigor for All – Teaching the Classics to Contemporary Students," by Carol Jago.

Mrs. Dalbeck commented that she did not want the idea of a budget committee lost and would like to see the district get underway with applications. Mrs. Dalbeck said that it would really be advantageous to us to have a community resource. She would like to begin the process before October 16, when the new Assistant Superintendent of Business Services comes on board. She commented that after attending the State Allocation Board meetings, and knowing where the SAB is going, the Board needs to make a decision whether to bring the projects that remain on the unfunded list to be DSA approved. Do we want to spend current bond dollars to put other projects on the DSA list to apply for funds? Mrs. Dalbeck would like to have a workshop and have both architectural firms attend.

Mrs. Reynolds suggested that perhaps we should include Mrs. Evans in a workshop to get her input.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no need to reconvene Closed Session, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on September 26, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. in the La Cañada Elementary School Library.

Lorene Gonia, Superintendent
Secretary to the Governing Board

MINUTES APPROVED

Barbara Racklin, Clerk, Governing Board

Date