

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

August 22, 2006

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 August 22, 2006 in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were Board Members, Scott Tracy, Jinny Dalbeck, Cindy Wilcox, and Joel Peterson.

CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:00 p.m. in Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were the four Board Members, Superintendent James Stratton, Deputy Superintendent Bill Loose and Assistant Superintendent Mike Leininger. Closed session adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Scott Tracy, President
Mrs. Jinny Dalbeck, Vice President
Mrs. Cindy Wilcox, Member
Mr. Joel Peterson, Member

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 7:14 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada. Present were the four Governing Board Members, Mr. Stratton, Dr. Loose, Dr. Leininger and Executive Secretary to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. There were approximately 17 people in the audience. Mr. Tracy asked Andy Beattie to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Tracy reported there was no action taken in Closed Session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Peterson) to approve the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was adopted unanimously. It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Tracy) to amend the agenda to move item 2e to become item 1d and to make item 1a a required Second Reading item. Mrs. Dalbeck stated that item 1a is such a major change from the district's current policy that it should require two readings. The motion to amend the agenda was adopted unanimously. The motion to approve the agenda as amended was adopted unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Tracy stated that the minutes of the June 6, 2006 and June 27, 2006 meetings of the Governing Board had been distributed to the Governing Board Members in advance for review. The minutes of the June 6, 2006 and June 27, 2006 meetings of the Governing Board were approved as presented.

REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Stratton discussed current enrollment and provided a staffing update. Enrollment is down throughout the district and there is concern regarding the incoming Kindergarten classes. Kindergarten registration continues to be down. District wide enrollment is down

approximately 87 students. However, Mr. Stratton feels we will continue to get some additional students prior to school starting. Staffing is almost complete. The district has hired 19 new certificated staff, mainly due to retirements and class size reduction in 9th grade.

Mr. Stratton provided an update on students currently enrolled on inter-district permits. Students enrolled on an inter-district permit either live with a guardian who live within the district boundaries or they are the children of parents that work within the district boundaries. There are currently 87 students enrolled on inter-district permits. 18 of the 87 permits issued are new permits.

2. President's Report

Mr. Tracy announced there will be a District Office Options Committee workshop on September 12th at 6:00 p.m.

3. Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Operations Report

Dr. Leininger provided a construction update on the district's current construction projects.

Mr. Peterson asked about the EMS. Mr. Peterson stated at a recent construction meeting there was concern regarding the EMS system. Mr. Peterson recalls having a discussion regarding looking at an outside firm for training and maintenance on the EMS system. Dr. Leininger reported with the EMS system on site we still have training to do on the system. The district will maintain a copy of all the EMS software. The system is currently under warranty so we are still in the process of looking at an outside maintenance company.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board regarding the high school athletics program:

Bud Schaetzle, LCUSD Parent
Tom Borlund, LCUSD Parent
Ridge Muller, LCUSD Parent
Jesse Sherrod, LCUSD Parent

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Consideration of Adoption of School Facilities Fees, Resolution 5-06-07 approving and adopting the Developer Fee Justification Study (Level 1 fees) dated August 22, 2006.

The Public Hearing was opened at 8:10 p.m. Hearing no public comments the public hearing was closed at 8:11 p.m.

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

1. First Reading

- a. **Resolution 5-06-07 approving and adopting the Developer Fee Justification Study (Level 1) fees dated August 22, 2006.** This item is being presented for a first reading and will come back for approval at the September 12th meeting. Dr. Loose provided a brief history on developer fees. Gary Mortimer of School Facilities Planning & Management, Inc prepared the Developer Fee Justification Study and was present to assist the Board with any questions they may have. Mrs. Dalbeck asked what developer fees can be spent on. Mr. Mortimer discussed the "interpretation" of modernization and reported there currently have been no challenges on the interpretation of modernization. Mr. Mortimer reported that a number of school

districts experiencing declining enrollment throughout the state have established the developer fee increase.

Mr. Peterson stated the district has stuck to very strict standards on how the district has spent developer fees. Mr. Stratton agreed by responding the district has always checked with legal counsel on how developer fee monies can be spent. Mr. Mortimer reported that there have been several firms that have interpreted "modernization" use of funds. Mr. Mortimer will provide the name of the firm that could provide a legal counsel letter for the district. Mr. Darren Mattix, President of Mattix Construction stated his views against the increase of the developer fees. Mr. Mattix's statement against the increase of the fees was primarily against commercial and industrial fees. Mrs. Dalbeck asked if residents currently applying for permits would be assessed the fee increase. Mr. Mortimer stated that there is a 60 day process to increase the fees.

Mr. Andy Beattie, a La Cañada resident, discussed his concern of declining enrollment and the justification of whereas #3 in the proposed resolution. The fee increase may actually hurt the students of the district by new families moving into the district and having to pay the increased fees. Mr. Beattie feels this is a huge increase and that the district needs to look at the increase and the impact to the new families moving into the district. Mr. Beattie's other concern is in page 8 of the report regarding refunding. The Board listened to community input and discussed the refunding issue. This item will return at the next regularly scheduled board meeting on September 12, 2006.

- b. **Revised Board Policy 6162.5 Student Assessment, R17-06-07.** Mr. Stratton stated that at the Board workshop in March the Board discussed the Student Assessment Guidelines. One of the results of that meeting was that the governing board directed Mr. Stratton to incorporate the assessment guidelines into the existing board policy. Mr. Stratton's revision recommends that whether or not teachers return tests be left up to the professional judgment of the individual teacher. Mr. Stratton stated there are a lot of excellent teachers within the district that have significant security issues. Secondly, Mr. Stratton is recommending that the implementation and supervision of the assessment guidelines remain at the staff level and not become a board process.

Mrs. Wilcox distributed a draft of her proposed board policy on Student Assessment. Mrs. Wilcox expressed her concern with the existing proposed board policy, which would allow teachers to decide whether or not to return tests. Mrs. Wilcox stated her understanding is that the security of assessments is often breached between school periods. Students walk out of tests and make general comments about the content of the questions, and that gives fellow students time to prepare for the test later in the day. The early period students don't need to provide the detailed numbers or wording. Likewise the students may give general information about the test to a parent, sibling or tutor, which also compromises security of the test when the exact same questions are given from year to year. Mrs. Wilcox is concerned that students with low grades on a test do not have enough privacy in a crowded classroom to review an assessment. The students are reluctant to put the test on a desk if it might be seen by their peers and this prevents the students from reviewing errors and learning from the test during classroom review. Mrs. Wilcox stated that making appointments to review assessments has been a huge imposition on her family, and she doesn't know how families with two working parents manage to review graded tests that are held by the teachers.

Mr. Tracy recommended this item be tabled until all members of the board are present, this will also give the board time to review Mrs. Wilcox's recommended changes. Mr. Peterson agreed with the recommendation to table the policy.

Mrs. Dalbeck reported on her disappointment of previously working on the assessment guidelines and the lack of enforcement of the guidelines that were created, and asked Mr. Stratton what the enforcements will be of the proposed board policy changes. Mr. Stratton responded that with the proposed changes the assessment guidelines will become a board policy, which would make the guidelines a requirement.

This item will return for a Second Reading at the September 12, 2006 meeting of the Governing Board.

- c. ***Resolution 4-06-07 Opposing AB 1381.** It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Peterson) to adopt Resolution 4-06-07 Opposing AB 1381. The California School Board Association has requested that school districts review AB 1381 and consider opposing the bill. CSBA believes that AB 1381 sets a bad precedent for school governance that would harm, not improve, student achievement. Mrs. Dalbeck reported this Bill will go to the Senate for approval. If the Senate approves the Bill the Governor has said he will sign it. Mrs. Dalbeck is strongly opposed to the Bill. Mrs. Wilcox said that she was very concerned with the bill, particularly the lack of accountability that would result from the division of responsibilities as described in the fourth part. It was moved and seconded (Peterson/Tracy) to amend Resolution 4-06-07. The motion to amend Resolution 4-06-07 was adopted unanimously. The motion to approve Resolution 4-06-07 Opposing AB 1381 as amended was adopted unanimously.
- d. **Accept Bid for Transportation, R20-06-07.** It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Dalbeck) to Accept Bid for Transportation, R20-06-07. Dr. Leininger recommended approving the bid for transportation with Laidlaw for Chilao transportation and field & athletic trips and to consider reviewing the Chilao part of the transportation prior to next years bid process. The motion to accept the Bid for Transportation from Laidlaw for Chilao transportation and field & athletic trips for the 2006-07 school year was adopted unanimously.

2. Consent Agenda

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P3-06-07.** The Board approved the following Personnel Items: *Certification:* New Hires: Alfred Reyes. *Classified:* New Hires: Michael Alcoloreme, Roubina Barkhordarian, Jesse Estevez, Karen Furno, Hilary Gaeded, Lisa Kellogg, Heather McClellar, Stephanie Oblad, Bill Pruden, Rebekah Ruswick. *Modification:* Karen Rosselet, Linda Sims. *Resignation:* Elizabeth Dowling.
- b. **Agreement for District Regional Occupational Program with LACOE, R23-06-07.** The Board approved entering into agreement with Los Angeles County Office of Education for the district Regional Occupational Program.
- c. **Accept Bid for LCHS Bid Packet 17 – Flooring, R25-06-07.** The Board accepted the Bid from Donald M. Hoover in the amount of \$40,000.00 for flooring at the high school.
- d. **Request to Reject all Bids for Bid Packet 18 – LCHS Home Economics – Painting, R25-06-07.** The Board rejected all bids for Bid Package 18 – LCHS Home Economics – Painting.
- e. **Accept Bid for Pest Management, R21-06-07.** The Board accepted the bid from Armed Exterminators for pest management services for 2006-07.
- f. **Accept Bid for Pool Cleaning Services, R22-06-07.** The Board accepted the bid for pool cleaning services from Caliber Pool Cleaning Services for 2006-07.

- g. **Purchase Order List #3-06-07.** The Board approved purchase order list #3.

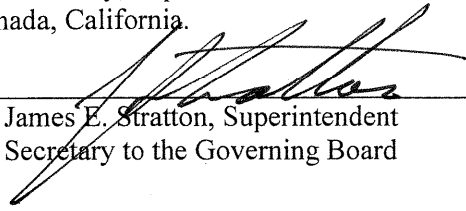
COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Dalbeck provided a Five Star Coalition update.

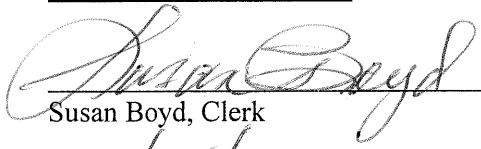
Calendars and upcoming events were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, September 12 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Canada, California.


James E. Stratton, Superintendent
Secretary to the Governing Board

MINUTES APPROVED


Susan Boyd, Clerk


Date

