

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

November 14, 2006

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by President Scott Tracy on November 14, 2006 in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were Board Members, Scott Tracy, Jinny Dalbeck, Susan Boyd, Cindy Wilcox, and Joel Peterson.

WORKSHOP

The Governing Board began a workshop at 4:00 p.m. to continue to review and revise the current Board Bylaws. The workshop was adjourned at 5:40p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:40 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Canada, California. Present were the five Board Members, Superintendent Jim Stratton, Deputy Superintendent Bill Loose and Assistant Superintendent Mike Leininger. Closed Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 7:07 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Canada. Present were the five Governing Board members, Mr. Stratton, Dr. Loose, Dr. Leininger and Executive Secretary to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. There were approximately 27 people in the audience. Mr. Tracy asked Ann Neilson 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 (Dalbeck/Peterson) to approve the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was adopted unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Tracy stated that the minutes of the August 22, 2006; August 29, 2006; September 7, 2006; September 12, 2006; September 19, 2006 and September 26, 2006 meetings of the Governing Board had been distributed to the Governing Board Members in advance for review. The minutes of the August 22, 2006; August 29, 2006; September 7, 2006; September 12, 2006; September 19, 2006 and September 26, 2006 meetings of the Governing Board were approved as presented by a 4:1 vote with Mrs. Dalbeck voting against the approval.

REPORTS**1. Student Representative**

Mr. Heaton provided a CIF update on Fall sports.

2. Superintendent's Report

Student Recognition: Mr. Stratton introduced Ms. Sinnette, 7/8 principal, who was present to assist the Board in recognizing the California Junior Scholarship Federation Officers. The four officers are Malia Mailes, President; Shannon Ashford, Vice President; Maanika Keesara, Secretary and Patrick Moore, Treasurer.

Mr. Stratton announced that at the direction of the Board, starting this evening, all Board meetings will be audio taped.

Mr. Stratton provided information on the site's ESS Plans (Every Student Succeeds). Mr. Stratton will continue to update the Board on plans.

3. President's Report

Joint Use Update: Mrs. Dalbeck reported the two issues currently being discussed at Joint Use are the district office property and parking at FIS. The City asked the district to hold a community meeting to get input on the old district office property. Joint Use also requested information on whether the district would qualify for joint use funds; we do not. Mr. Peterson reported the district also had extensive discussion on how to alleviate parking at the FIS campus. Many options have been discussed. The City requested the Board repave the Lanterman lot due to safety issues. The repaving could provide additional spaces. The City would be willing to piggyback the bid and also would consider prorating the cost of repaving. Mrs. Dalbeck discussed some of the parking options that have been discussed.

Emergency Planning: Mr. Tracy reported that Mr. Stratton has been working on emergency preparedness consistent with the Superintendent's 2006 Goals and Objectives. Mr. Stratton discussed the emergency flip chart he will be putting together for staff to better prepare them for various types of emergencies. The district is also implementing a telephone communication program called ConnectEd which will enable the district to contact all district families within a few minutes. The cost of the program is \$1,500 for start up fee and then an ongoing fee of around \$12,000.

4. Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Operations Report

Dr. Leininger deferred his report until the agenda item on the Bond Construction recommendations item.

5. Director of Assessment & Research

Ms. Arthur was present to provide an update on the California Standards Test (CST) scores.

Ms. Arthur provided information on the CST results in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Science that showed the percentage of students meeting or exceeding the state target. Ms. Arthur reviewed the various STAR CST performance levels for students, which are: Far Below Basic, Below Basic, Basic, Proficient and Advanced. Ms. Arthur reviewed the Reporting Clusters in various grades and provided a comparison to the State Average in Minimally Advanced in Language Arts, Mathematics and Science in grades 2 – 11.

Ms. Arthur reported on the District's API scores. LCUSD is currently #3 in the State in API scores. Ms. Arthur showed the district's API progress from 1999-2006. Ms. Arthur submitted 30 data correction changes to the State. 30 students were coded incorrectly. By submitting the data corrections the state will recalculate all schools in the District and will release the new data figures in February.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board:

Emily Felong, CSEA President Elect regarding a CSEA salary increase

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

1. First Reading

- a. ***Approval of Site Block Grant Spending Plans, R64-06-07.** It was moved and seconded (Boyd/Wilcox) to approve the Site Block Grant Spending Plans, R64-05-06. The school site councils at each site put together a spending plan that now comes to the Governing Board for approval. Mr. Stratton has worked closely with the sites to put together their plans. This year, the sites are splitting the cost of the SAFE program with the City. Also, included in the spending plans are the switch upgrades for the computer labs at each site. Mrs. Dalbeck asked about carryover monies. Mr. Stratton clarified. Mr. Peterson asked what is driving the move to go to fiber optics. Mr. Stratton reported the Technology Department will clarify to the Board the degree to which fiber optics is used. The motion to approve the Site Block Grant Spending Plans was adopted unanimously.
- b. ***Approval of Conflict of Interest Code Revision, R61-06-07.** It was moved and seconded (Boyd/Dalbeck) to approve the Conflict of Interest Code Revision, R61-06-07. Biannually the District must review their District's Conflict of Interest Code. In reviewing the Code this year, it was determined minor changes to the Code were required. The revisions being presented for approval are to reflect job title changes. The motion to approve the Approval of Conflict of Interest Code Revision was adopted unanimously.
- c. **Approval of Board Policy Additions, Revisions and Deletions, R62-06-07.** This item is being presented as a first reading. Mr. Stratton reported the District is currently updating the quarterly recommendations by CSBA. The Board requested information on CSBA and its policy procedures in TWIR. The Board requested follow up information on three board policies that are being recommended for deletion. This item will come back at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- d. **Approval of Bond Construction recommendations, R665-06-07.** This item is being presented as a first reading. Dr. Leininger discussed the financial summary for construction projects. Dr. Leininger's report shows total bond funds available to be \$20,873,960. Dr. Leininger discussed future projects which total \$18,549,744. Those projects include LCHS Building "B" 2nd and 3rd Floors; Paradise Canyon Elementary's Multipurpose Room, Palm Crest Elementary's Multipurpose Room; LCHS Building "A" remaining Classrooms; the modernization of the North Gym; and the modernization of the South Gym. Mr. Tracy asked what impact the State bond passing would have on construction costs. Mrs. Dalbeck reported this was a concern of the district and the construction committee and this is why this item is coming to the Board tonight: to give the district a head start on the projects. Dr. Leininger continued the discussion by talking about the construction model. The construction model recommendation is to engage an architect firm to design, a construction management firm for oversight and daily project management and a general contractor for construction. Staff is recommending using the general contractor model due to the

limited size of the projects and the day to day coordination on the job site. The construction management recommendation is Lundgren Management. The architect recommendation is Osborn Architects. Mrs. Wilcox asked about considering other architect firms for the next phase. Mr. Tracy asked the Board liaisons if they agree with staff's recommendation on the architect. Mrs. Dalbeck responded she is supportive of the recommendation and gave a brief history of the district's relationship with Osborn Architects. Mr. Peterson reported he is supportive of the recommendation. Dr Leininger discussed the future projects' timelines.

Dr. Leininger discussed the Paradise Canyon multipurpose room project and the Palm Crest Elementary project. Dr. Leininger provided an update on the district office property and the Palm Crest Elementary multipurpose room.

Dr. Leininger reported it will take more than the remaining funds of Series A to continue with the upcoming projects. Therefore, the sale of Series B bond funds is projected for the summer of 2007.

Mr. Tracy asked the Board members if there are any clarifying questions needed prior to next meeting. Mr. Peterson asked if the District could do a quick information review of other architects. Mr. Stratton asked for direction from the Board. After discussion regarding the architects, the Board directed staff to follow through as time permits on leads, references and sample fees regarding architects and come back to the Board at the December 5th Board meeting.

Mrs. Wilcox asked about the science labs at the high school. During the discussion, Mrs. Dalbeck said that the science labs should meet curricular needs. Mrs. Wilcox agreed.

This item will come back at the December 5th meeting for a second reading.

- e. ***Authorization to go to Bid for LCHS flooring, R63-06-07.** It was moved and seconded (Boyd/Dalbeck) to approve the Authorization to go to Bid for LCHS flooring, R63-06-07. Staff is requesting to go to bid for the ground floor of building F (Choral room) The area is slick and is a skateboard haven. Staff has done preliminary work on this area. The bid has come in over \$15,000. Therefore, staff is requesting approval from the Board to authorize going to bid on this project. The motion to approve the authorization to go to bid for LCHS flooring was adopted unanimously.

2. Consent Agenda

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P7-06-07.** The Board approved the following Personnel Items: *Certificated:* New Hires: Sarah Battin, Steve Bisuano, Marie Frazier, Gayle Friedmann, Allyson Grimes, Tony Haynes, Molly Heng, Susan Lee, Therese Louk, Robet Richter, Ginevra Shaw, Megan Tancredi, Charlane Trella. Modification: Lina Hariz. *Classified:* New Hire: Grace Pratt. Resignation: Amanda Smedley.
- b. **Approval of Mandated Cost Agreement, R60-06-07.** The Board approved entering into an agreement with Axiom for Mandated Cost services.
- c. **Gifts to District, R59-06-07.** The Board approved the Gifts to the District as presented.
- d. **Purchase Order List #7.** The Board approved Purchase Order List #7.

COMMUNICATIONS

Site visits were discussed.

Mr. Peterson asked if staff training on special needs could be done. He also asked if staff development focused on themes. Mr. Stratton stated he can report on the thematic focus of the past years. Staff develop plans are scheduled at the beginning of every school year and this year's focus is "Every Student Succeeds".

Mr. Peterson suggested the District consider preparing a District brochure to be used as a marketing tool for real estate developers, head hunter firms and for families currently attending private school. Mr. Stratton responded a college application brochure exists. The brochure could be expanded into a publication for a wider audience.

Mrs. Dalbeck asked about expansion of the vocational education program. Mr. Stratton responded he and Dr. Dragos are working together to increase the courses available at the high school. Through "Every Student Succeeds" there is great potential for course expansion. Mr. Stratton suggested a full Board discussion of vocational education.

Mrs. Wilcox stated she would like to see two Board liaisons on Curriculum Council.

It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Peterson) to extend the meeting to 11:00 p.m. The motion to extend the meeting to 11:00 was adopted unanimously.

Mrs. Wilcox will provide some CSBA Conference information in TWIR.

Mrs. Wilcox asked for information on the green trucks parked in the Lanterman lot in TWIR.

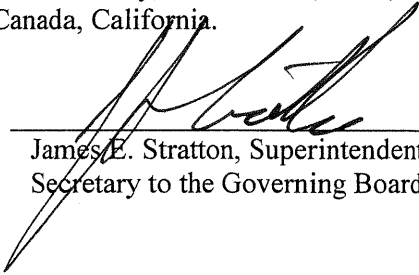
It was agreed a plaque for Mr. Portantino would be presented at the next City Council meeting.

Mrs. Dalbeck would like to agendize a discussion on joining the CSBA Educational Alliance in January.

Mrs. Boyd announced the Booster paddle pledge fundraiser raised over \$20,000.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 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


Joel Peterson, Clerk

Date

2/6/07

