

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

September 30, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Susan Boyd on September 30, 2008, in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were Governing Board Members Susan Boyd, Joel Peterson, Jeanne Broberg, Cindy Wilcox and Scott Tracy.

CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:00 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were the five Governing Board Members and Superintendent James Stratton. Assistant Superintendent Mike Leininger, Assistant Superintendent Wendy Sinnette and Business Consultant Stephen Hodgson joined Closed Session at 6:00 p.m. Closed Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 7:00 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Canada. Present were the five Governing Board Members, Mr. Stratton, Dr. Leininger, Ms. Sinnette, Dr. Hodgson and Executive Secretary to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. There were approximately 32 people in the audience. Mrs. Boyd asked La Cañada High School Principal Dr. Damon Dragos to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Boyd reported there was no action taken in closed session.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No agenda modifications were requested.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes presented for approval.

REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report

a. Student Recognition – National Merit Semi-Finalists

Mr. Stratton announced that one half of one percentage of students nationally receive National Merit Semi-Finalist distinction. La Cañada High School has 20 students that have qualified this year. These students are outstanding achievers. La Cañada High School principal Dr. Damon Dragos assisted Governing Board President Susan Boyd in the distribution of certificates to these students.

b. Football Game Supervision

At the request of the Governing Board, Mr. Stratton asked Dr. Dragos to report on current supervision at La Cañada High School football games. Dr. Dragos reported on

the game management process. Campus supervisors are present at the football games; on big games two campus supervisors are present. A pair of sheriffs is scheduled during games, and at times there are two pairs. It is preferred that one of the sheriffs is our campus safety officer. Certificated staff is required to provide 15 hours of service hours per school year, so typically there are six certificated staff on duty at each game as well. Cell phones are used for supervision instead of walkie-talkies to provide confidential communication among staff. The strategy for supervision during the games is watch, listen and smell. The Governing Board thanked Dr. Dragos for his report.

2. Business Report

Governor's budget – Dr. Hodgson reported that the Governor signed the State budget on September 23, 2008. Dr. Hodgson distributed a memo to the Governing Board that shows the financial impact to the district and reviewed the highlights.

3. Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Operations Report

a) Construction Update – Dr. Leininger provided a construction update reporting that the dirt at Paradise Canyon Elementary is currently being compacted and digging will begin shortly. The tennis court project started Monday. The City Council increased its funding on the project which brought the district total cost down to \$187,968.50. The District is bringing the five courts up to standard and the City will be assisting with the cost of the additional sixth court.

4. CST/API Report

Ms. Lindi Arthur was present to share with the Governing Board an overview of the STAR scores and the API results. Ms. Arthur discussed the California Standards Test highlights stating that La Cañada Unified is among the top districts in the state. The scores in English Language Arts in second and fifth grade are first in the State; fifth and sixth grade Math scores are also first in the State. Fourth and seventh grades show the highest performance in both English Language Arts and Math in the District. English Language Arts shows continued improvement at all grade levels. The District also shows growth in all content areas from second to seventh grades since the inception of the tests.

Ms. Arthur showed test results by grade and course from inception to 2008 and discussed the changes from year to year that could impact the annual results. Ms. Arthur stated that what is important is to compare the District's performance by content cluster with the State. Ms. Arthur compared those results.

Dr. Dragos discussed the math results and what the high school is doing to work toward higher scores in these areas.

In conclusion, Ms. Arthur reported that most of the growth district-wide is in English Language Arts; grades two through seven are at or above 90% in math; elementary API scores exceed 900 with an overall district API score growth of 3 points and La Cañada Unified continues to be one of the top school districts in the state.

Mrs. Wilcox asked for additional data in TWIR on the Geometry and Algebra test results. Mrs. Wilcox would like to meet with Ms. Arthur to see test results by site and section.

Mr. Peterson asked if Mr. Tracy could share the data that he put together regarding the analysis of districts' test results. This information will be provided in TWIR.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board:

Donna Shepherd, donation from La Cañada Book Store

PUBLIC HEARING

1. **Statement of Assurance of Availability of Pupil Textbooks and Instructional Materials for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 for Grades K – 12, Resolution 6-08-09**

The hearing was opened at 8:46 p.m. There being no public comment, the hearing was closed at 8:46 p.m.

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

1. First Reading

- a. ***Payment considerations in conjunction with the Sewer Improvement Agreement with the City of La Cañada Flintridge, R40-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Peterson) to present for discussion the current sewer improvements repayment plan. Dr. Hodgson discussed the agreement with the City of La Canada Flintridge regarding the repayment of the Palm Crest Elementary Sewer Improvements and stated there are currently two payment options for the District. The first option is to continue to make a \$25,000 annual payment (interest plus a pre-paid principal amount) during 2008-09 or to make interest only payment of \$14,858.55 this year and begin the principal payment schedule next year as stated in the original agreement. Staff recommendation is to make interest only payments this year and begin the principal payments next year. Mrs. Broberg stated that there is no incentive or reward from the City to pay the extra principal and therefore she recommends the interest only option. Mrs. Wilcox stated that in 2004 the Governing Board looked at the agreement and she felt uncomfortable voting debt for upcoming boards. Mr. Tracy stated that the original thought was to try to repay the loan within the first five years. Mr. Peterson stated that if the payment is not required then he feels we should not make the payment this year and use the money for one time costs and possibly look at this debt as a district goal to reduce financial obligations of the district. Mrs. Wilcox thinks the District should make the principal reduction payment this year as we have been in the past. The Governing Board agreed via a 4:1 vote to make the interest only payment for 2008-09 as stated in the original loan agreement. Mrs. Wilcox voted against the interest only payment for 2008-09.
- b. **Approval of Board Policy Revisions, R38-08-09.** This item is being presented as a first reading only. The Governing Board reviewed and discussed the proposed board policy revisions on BP 5020 and BP 5131.7. This item will come back at the next regular meeting for approval.
- c. ***Amendment to Assistant Superintendent Employment contract, R32-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Tracy) to approve the amendment to the Assistant Superintendent Employment contract. This amendment will extend the contract of Dr. Michael Leininger as Assistant Superintendent for one year to June 30, 2009. Mrs. Wilcox made a motion to table this item until October 21, 2008. The motion failed due to lack of a second. The motion to approve the amendment to the Assistant Superintendent Employment contract was adopted 4:1. Mrs. Wilcox voted against the contract amendment, *due to concerns about performance issues,*
- d. ***Appointment of Bond Oversight Committee Members, R31-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Tracy/Wilcox) to approve the Appointment of Bond Oversight Committee members. Mr. Stratton reported that due to the expiration of terms of several members of the committee, Cameron Totten, Maureen Borland and Jacob Tujian are being recommended for approval as committee representatives for the elementary school sites. The motion to approve the Appointment of Cameron Totten, Maureen Borland and Jacob Tujian was adopted unanimously.
- e. ***Resolution 6-08-09 Statement of Assurance of Availability of Pupil Textbooks & Instruction Materials for Fiscal Year 2008-09.** It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Peterson) to adopt Resolution 6-08-09 Statement of Assurance of Availability

of Pupil Textbooks & Instructional Materials for Fiscal Year 2008-09. The motion to adopted resolution 6-08-09 Statement of Assurance of Availability of Pupil Textbooks & Instruction Materials for Fiscal Year 2008-09 was adopted unanimously.

- f. ***Five Star Coalition, R42-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Peterson/Tracy) to approve a discussion regarding the participation in a coalition of school districts and whether this particular coalition best serves the needs of the District. Mr. Stratton reported that the Five Star Coalition consists of five districts in the area and was originally created to assist these five districts in working together to better influence legislation. As the coalition has evolved and with redistricting of political representatives it appears that many of the concerns that come up do not equally apply to all districts in the coalition. There was much discussion among the Governing Board regarding the validity and benefit to the District in continuing membership in the coalition. The Governing Board agreed to withdraw from the Five Star Coalition, but to continue to attend the meetings until a transition and withdrawal plan and timeline are generated. Mrs. Broberg thanked past Governing Board member Jinny Dalbeck for originally creating this coalition.
- g. ***Agenda Item Discussion and Public Comment, R43-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Peterson/Broberg) to have a discussion regarding Agenda Item Discussion and Public Comment. This was a request of the Governing Board during last meeting's Communications asking for clarification on the appropriate scope of staff reports and on the appropriate agendizing of discussion items entailing extended comments from Governing Board members and the public. Legal counsel advised that the District must make sure that a member of the public knows from the description on the agenda that a specific discussion will occur. Mr. Stratton recommended whenever it is clear in agenda planning that we expect more than an update of information it should be agendized as an actual agenda discussion item. When listed as a report on the agenda it is expected that no action will be taken and there will be limited dialogue between the Governing Board members. Mrs. Boyd stated that the distinction is when Governing Board and audience discussion is appropriate on an item. The Governing Board discussed modifying the agenda for clarification. The Governing Board discussed the options available to better clarify items on the agenda. Mrs. Wilcox would like the public to be welcome to comment on all reports during the time of the report. She added that the distinction between report and agendized discussion item was not public-friendly and might discourage the public from participating. The Governing Board directed staff to make changes to the actual agenda separating first readings to include both action and discussion items and separating reports from the action agenda. Mrs. Wilcox suggested that the recommended modifications be reviewed by legal counsel. The Governing Board agreed to have the modifications reviewed by legal counsel.

2. Consent Agenda

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P7-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the following Personnel Items: *Certificated*: New Hire: Danielle Chandler, Billie Melillo. Resignation: Sharon Horejsi. *Classified*: New Hires: Dayna Roberts, Tawny Williams, Armineh Mooshagian, Jason Morefield, Karen Sanders, Cynthia Aldi, James Lopez, Corina Ritter, Tracey Stanard, Thomas Vacca, Cindy Barahona, Lida Aboulian. Modification: Amy Lomas. Resignation: Christopher Choi, Christina Ordaz, Armineh Mooshagian. Leave of Absence: Donna Schlotman.

- b. **Contract Participation in Outdoor Education Programs with LACOE, R35-08-09.** The Governing Board approved entering into a contract with LACOE for participation in Outdoor Education Programs.
- c. **Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints, R44-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the Valenzuela/CAHSEE Lawsuit Settlement, Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints.
- d. **Special Activity: PCY Wrightwood Outdoor Science, R36-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the Paradise Canyon Elementary request to attend Wrightwood Outdoor Science Camp, February 23 through February 27, 2009.
- e. **Special Activity: LCE Pali Mountain & Time Capsule/Ocean Institute, R37-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the La Cañada Elementary request to attend Pali Mountain on October 20 through October 24, 2008 and Time Capsule/Ocean Institute from December 8 through December 10th and December 10th through December 12th, 2008.
- f. **Special Activity: LCHS Chamber Singers Heritage Festival Tour, R41-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the La Cañada High School Chamber Singers request to attend the Heritage Festival Tour in Kan'ohe, Hawaii April 2 through April 7, 2009.
- g. **Gifts to District, R39-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the Gifts to the District as presented.
- h. **Purchase Order List #4-08-09.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List #4-08-09.

COMMUNICATIONS

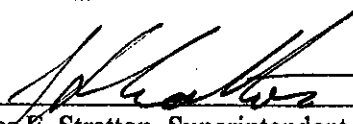
Mrs. Broberg thanked Mr. and Mrs. Freer who made a generous donation to Palm Crest Elementary.

Mr. Stratton reported that he will be in Burlingame, California, October 2 – 3, 2008, for a City Superintendents' meeting.

A Superintendent Evaluation meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 20th at 5 p.m.

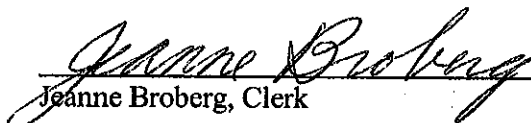
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2008, 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



 Jeanne Broberg, Clerk

 Date

10-21-08