

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

October 21, 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 October 21, 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 Canada, California. Present were the five Governing Board Members, Superintendent James Stratton, Assistant Superintendent Mike Leininger, Assistant Superintendent Wendy Sinnette and Business Consultant Stephen Hodgson. 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 7:04 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 2 people in the audience. Mrs. Boyd asked LCTA President Rick Jordan to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Boyd reported that the Governing Board approved the stipulated expulsion agreement of student #1-08-09 for violation of Education Code 48900 (c) Unlawfully possessed a controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, and the finding at Education Code section 48915 (a)(3) for the remainder of the first semester and the second semester of the 2008-09 school year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Boyd stated that the minutes of the September 9, 2008, and September 30, 2008, meeting of the Governing Board had been distributed to the Governing Board Members in advance for review. Mrs. Wilcox requested the addition of clarifying language to the September 30, 2008 minutes. The minutes of September 9, 2008, and September 30, 2008, were approved with the modification as requested on the minutes of September 30, 2008.

REPORTS

1. **Superintendent's Report**
Mr. Stratton deferred his report
2. **President's Report**
Mrs. Boyd deferred her report.

3. Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Operations Report

a) Construction Update – Dr. Leininger provided a construction update on Paradise Canyon Elementary multipurpose room, the Palm Crest Elementary multipurpose room and the La Cañada High School tennis courts. Mrs. Wilcox asked when the Governing Board would see the Facilities Master Plan update. Dr. Leininger reported it may come as early as the next Governing Board meeting.

4. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

a) Update on STEP/Flex – Ms. Sinnette provided an update on the STEP/Flex program and reported that the program is slated to begin November 12. The STEP offering booklets were distributed to the students on October 16th and assemblies were held on October 19th. Registration will continue through Friday, October 24, 2008, for 7th and 8th graders. High school registration has been extended through midnight Sunday. Students have been asked to choose their top 4 choices; 2 of those choices will be scheduled. Class sizes are expected to be at about 28. Ms. Sinnette provided a sample of classes that teachers are providing. There is a parent meeting tomorrow night regarding the program. Mrs. Boyd reported on feedback from various students regarding the assembly stating that the students are excited about the class options but there was some frustration trying to get into the presentations for the more popular sessions.

Mr. Peterson noted that there is a misconception that the Governing Board has approved the STEP schedule and clarified that the Governing Board in fact only approved an extension of the school day. Mr. Peterson discussed the issue of how STEP topics could be approved by the Governing Board.

Mrs. Wilcox questioned the future evaluation process of the program and requested that surveying of students and parents occur.

Mr. Tracy asked whether or not the STEP classes have been reviewed by administration prior to making them available to the students. Ms. Sinnette clarified that the courses have been closely reviewed and evaluated by administration at the high school and each class provides one of the three goals: intervention, enrichment and support.

Student transcripts and the inclusion of these classes on transcripts were discussed. Mr. Stratton agreed that this is an important extended discussion to have with administration.

The identification of students for intervention was discussed. Ms. Sinnette reported that identification is near completion and that students will be notified shortly.

Mrs. Broberg congratulated the high school on actually implementing the program after one year of work but also questioned how this very different curriculum should be approved by the Governing Board. Mrs. Broberg also asked (since this program has been presented as a trial) what happens if the program doesn't work. Ms. Sinnette reported that one of the tenets of developing, working and building Professional Learning Communities is that if something doesn't work, it should not be maintained. The program will be closely monitored and administration will continually work to remedy what is not working in the program and after working with the pilot if it is felt that the program is not working then staff would move forward without it.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No agenda modifications were requested.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board:

None

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

1. First Reading

- a. ***Election of Members to LA County Committee on School District Organization, R47-08-09.** It was moved (Peterson/Tracy) that the Governing Board not submit a ballot for this election. The motion to not submit a ballot for this election was adopted unanimously.
- b. **Board Policy Revisions, R50-08-09.** This item is being presented as a first reading item. The Governing Board reviewed and discussed BP 1330, BP 3553 and BP 5131.63. Modifications were requested. The modifications will be made and these policies will come back for a second reading at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.
- c. ***Five Star Coalition, R51-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Wilcox) to approve the discussion on participation in the Five Star Coalition. Mr. Stratton reported that Mr. Peterson and Mr. Tracy are the Governing Board liaisons to the Five Star Coalition and that he and they have met to formulate three options, for the Board with the goal of confirming the Board's consensus intent on this issue. One is that having thought about the repercussions of pulling out of the coalition, the Governing Board has decided to stay in the coalition. Two is to ask Coalition members if they feel the coalition is still relevant and give them an opportunity to respond. Third is that there is no further input from the members of Five Star needed and that we will simply announce our departure. Mr. Stratton recommended giving the Coalition the opportunity to dissolve and to tell members that we are reflecting on the value of the membership. Mr. Stratton recommended that the district initiate the Coalition discussion when all three LCUSD members are present. The Governing Board authorized the district to present the proposal to dissolve at the Five Star meeting when all three members attend.
- d. ***Parcel Tax, R52-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Peterson/Wilcox) to approve the discussion regarding a Parcel Tax. The purpose of this discussion is for the Governing Board to review and discuss the timeline of a possible parcel tax survey. The district is aware of the political and economic context in which this survey would be administered and questions whether the right time to perform the survey would be after the election, at the beginning of the year or to postpone the survey indefinitely until we have a better idea of the economic climate. During a discussion with Mr. Stratton, Mr. Tracy and Mr. Peterson, Sidewalk Strategies asked if there is a rush and suggested at least waiting until after the election. Mrs. Broberg suggested the district postpone the survey. Mrs. Boyd explained that with what is going on with the California state budget and not knowing the impact of that budget, her concern is that the district may need a parcel tax for something other than just class size reduction. Until we know what impact the budget will have to the district, she thinks we should postpone the survey indefinitely. Mr. Tracy would like to postpone the survey until at least after the election; he is not comfortable postponing the survey for too long but for now would like to wait. Mr. Stratton recommended that staff continue to bring this item back for discussion to gauge the political and economic climate. Mrs. Boyd would like to adjust expenses with Sidewalk Strategies until we know more. Mr. Tracy asked that staff find out how long survey results are typically good for.

2. Second Reading

- a. **Approval of Board Policy Revisions, R28-08-09.** It was moved and seconded (Tracy/Broberg) to approve Board Policy revisions BP 5020 and BP 5131.7. Mr. Stratton reported that we are bringing back these Board Policies with the recommendations made by the Governing Board during first reading. Mrs. Wilcox made a motion to modify board policy 5131.7 by removing the words, "carrying such items" and adding, "brandishing or threatening others without substantial provocation." The motion failed due to lack of a second. It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Wilcox) to approve Board Policy 5020 and 5131.7 separately. The motion to approve Board Policy 5020 was adopted unanimously. The motion to approve Board Policy 5131.7 was adopted by a 4:1 vote with Mrs. Wilcox voting against the adoption.

3. Consent Agenda

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P8-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the following Personnel Items: Certificated: New Hires: Christine Almasi, Steve Bisauno, Tracy Brantlinger, Elizabeth Ellis, Anna Friedman, Maria Klein, Adrineh Markarian, Michelle Page, Lauren Wickham. Classified: New Hires: Cynthia Aldi. Resignation: Cindy Barahona, Marianne McCorkle. Leave of Absence: Theresa Kalnins.
- b. **Approval of Assistance League of Flintridge Summer School Contract, R45-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the 2009 Assistance League of Flintridge Summer School Contract.
- c. **Student Teaching Agreement with CSUN, R48-08-09.** The Governing Board approved entering into a Student Teacher Agreement with CSUN.
- d. **Special Activity: LCHS Yosemite Institute, R49-080-9.** The Governing Board approved the Special Activity for LCHS Yosemite Institute.
- e. **Gifts to District, R46-08-09.** The Governing Board approved the Gifts to the District as presented.
- f. **Purchase Order List #5-08-09.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List #5-08-09

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Peterson reported that he will be meeting with our Student Board representative, Kirby Comstock, and we are hoping to have her at the next Governing Board meeting.

Mr. Peterson commented that the format for the agenda is new and asked that the Governing Board continue to work on finding a balance with what is an appropriate report versus a discussion item. Mr. Tracy agreed that time be spent at agenda planning to decide whether an item is presented as a report or a discussion item. Construction updates, for example, may need to be agendized items rather than reports.

Mrs. Wilcox reported that she contacted Mr. Stratton about a second group touring the high school. She would like to tour and asked if anyone else is interested. Mr. Tracy would also like to visit 9-12. Kim Bergner will work with the principal to schedule an additional visit.

Mrs. Boyd reported on the LCE visit. Mr. Stratton reported that the goal is that the principal is part of the visit and is present to assist with background information during the visit.

Mrs. Wilcox distributed information regarding charter schools and stated that she would like to attend the Charter School session at the CSBA Annual Conference in December. Mrs. Boyd would also like to attend.

Mrs. Wilcox requested the report on the 2007 and 2008 AP tests. Mr. Stratton reported a presentation will be made on both SAT and AP tests at future meetings.

Mrs. Wilcox asked that Dr. Leininger's response to her question on "in danger" regarding the expulsion hearing be put in TWIR.

Mr. Tracy reported that in TWIR two weeks ago the Class of 2008 information was included. Mr. Tracy commended staff that prepared this report and asked how this information is being used at the high school. Mr. Tracy suggested that a press release be drafted regarding the college success and volunteered to write it. Mr. Tracy asked that Mr. Stratton thank Mr. Buchanan for his hard work.

Mr. Stratton asked to reschedule the Superintendent's Evaluation to October 30, 2008, at 5:00 p.m.

Dr. Leininger asked to schedule the expulsion hearing. It was agreed to reschedule the expulsion hearing to November 19th at 6:00 p.m. or October 28th if the District does not receive a letter from the parents.

CLOSED SESSION

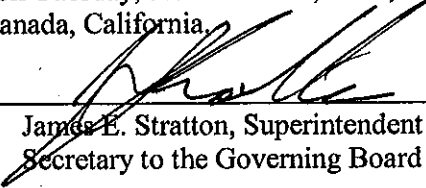
The five members of the Governing Board, Mr. Stratton, Dr. Leininger and Ms. Sinnette reconvened to Closed Session at 9:01 p.m. Closed Session adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

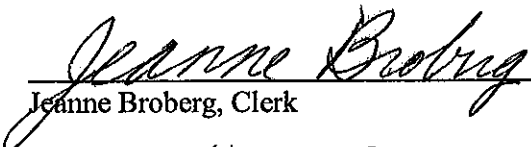
Mrs. Boyd stated that there was nothing to report out of Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 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

11-18-08
Date