

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

October 21, 2003

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 October 21, 2003 in the La Cañada High School Information Resource Center at 4463 Oak Grove in La Cañada, California. Present were Board Members Scott Tracy, Jinny Dalbeck, Andy Beattie, Ron Dietel, and Meredith Reynolds, Superintendent Sue Leabo, Deputy Superintendent Jim Stratton and Chief Business Officer Dave Banis.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:01 p.m. in the La Cañada High School Information Resource Center Workroom. Present were the five Board Members, Superintendent Sue Leabo, Deputy Superintendent Jim Stratton and Chief Business Officer Dave Banis. Closed session adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

**GOVERNING BOARD WORKSHOP ON PARCEL TAX AND RELATED SURVEY**

The Governing Board held a workshop on a Parcel Tax and Related Survey. Dr. Leabo introduced Ann Nock of George K. Baum. Ms. Nock was in attendance to discuss the Survey with the Governing Board. The survey results were performed on 400 people. Ms. Nock presented a question by question breakdown of the survey results. In closing, Ms. Nock stated there is a community awareness that something needs to be done, but she feels that at this point in time, there is not enough support in any targeted group in the community to go for a Parcel Tax. Ann stated that the district will have to work very hard at passing a Parcel Tax.

The workshop adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**            Scott Tracy, President  
   Mr. Andy Beattie, Vice President  
   Mr. Ron Dietel, Clerk  
   Mrs. Meredith Reynolds, Member  
   Mrs. Jinny Dalbeck, Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**REGULAR MEETING**

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 7:15 p.m. in the La Cañada High School Information Resource Center. Present were the five Governing Board Members, Dr. Leabo, Mr. Stratton, Mr. Banis, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. There were approximately 29 people in the audience. Mr. Tracy asked Lori Marie Rios to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Tracy reported that there was no action taken in closed session.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded (Beattie/Diet) to approve the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was adopted unanimously.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Tracy reported that the minutes of the September 30, 2003 regular meeting of the Governing Board had been distributed to the Governing Board Members in advance for review. The minutes of the September 30, 2003 were approved as amended.

## REPORTS

### 1. **Superintendent's Report**

- a. **Budget Update** - Dr. Leabo discussed several budget scenarios for 2004 -05. If necessary, lay off notices must be sent to teachers prior to March 15. The budget problems this year were solved by \$1.2 million in one time money from the Educational Foundation, Help464, and reserves. 62% of budget is currently spent on certificated staff, 20% is spent on Classified staff. Cuts to the budget would most likely come from staff. The Bond history was discussed.

### 2. **President's Report**

- a. **Joint Use Committee** - Mr. Tracy provided an update on the Joint Use Committee special meeting at Paradise Canyon Elementary. For a considerable amount of time, the Joint Use Committee has been looking at alternate opportunities for additional facilities for joint use. There was an opportunity for the district to receive funds from the State for a gymnasium to be used for Joint Use. The Joint Use Committee wanted to investigate the use of a gymnasium to be used for and by the community. On October 14, 2003 there was a Joint Use meeting to get input from the community. Neighbors expressed concern at the meeting regarding traffic, safety and noise. Other members in the community expressed a desire for the facility. This was an informational meeting to provide community input into the PCY gym proposal. There was strong opposition by neighbors to the gymnasium. Dr. Leabo stated that tonight she has made a recommendation for a bond and a parcel tax but the gymnasium was not included in this recommendation. Mr. Beattie stated that as a member of the Joint Use committee he found four reasons for not supporting the PCY gymnasium: 1) this particular building project was not in the best educational use for the school. 2) PCY stated that they wanted a multi purpose room and not necessarily a gymnasium 3) there was balanced community support, however must support and be sensitive to neighbors concerns 4) there is no significant support by the City.

Mrs. Dalbeck stated that part of the concern was the already heavy use of the Paradise Canyon Elementary's campus. Mrs. Dalbeck requested the Joint Use Committee take a look at current uses at the school campuses and see whether we want to put parameters on joint use. Mrs. Reynolds concurred.

### 3. **Student Representative Report**

Mr. Masters reported on Homecoming. He stated the only activity on everyone's mind was homecoming. There was a Homecoming Parade, which was very cool. La Canada won the homecoming football game. The dance this year was at the California Science Center. Initially the thought was that fewer people would go. However, 43 more tickets than last year were sold. ASB offered a bus to those who didn't want to drive. 9 people signed up for the bus. The overall opinion was the students enjoyed having Homecoming in a new location. A lot of Seniors attended the dance. Mr. Dietel stated there was a lot of concern regarding safety issues. Dr.

Leininger reported security was high at the Science Center. There were State Police on campus, SC campus police, undercover police and staff for security. Mr. Dietel questioned Mr. Masters whether the students would consider having the dance at the Science Center again. Mr. Masters stated that there was a lot of extra planning having it at the site but he stated that it was worth the effort. He stated that he felt the appeal was that it was out of the area. Dr. Leininger reported there currently is a 45 mile limit on dance locations for Prom. Approx 85 groups of students drove to Homecoming.

### OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board:

Ken Deans, Parent  
Robert Sainburg, LCE Parent  
Betsy Kraft, Fine Arts Parents

### PUBLIC HEARING

1. **Adoption of Resolution 5-03-04 Ordering an Election – Parcel Tax .** Mr. Tracy opened the public hearing on the Adoption of Resolution 5-03-04 Ordering an Election – Parcel Tax at 8:23 p.m. Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed at 8:25 p.m.

### PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

1. **First Reading**
  - a. **\*Voting Instructions to LACSTA Election of Members to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization, R57-03-04.** It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Beattie) to approve the LACSTA Election of Members to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization. Mrs. Dalbeck stated she would support Mr. Whitesell for the Fifth District. The motion to approve the Voting Instructions as R. Whitesell was adopted unanimously.
  - b. **\*Resolution 6-03-04 to Adopt the Gann Limit Calculations.** It was moved and seconded (Dietel/Reynolds) to approve the Resolution to Adopt the Gann Limit Calculations. A proposition in the early 80s prompted the Gann Limit. The Gann Limit is calculated by districts based on a formula created by the state. The motion to approve the Gann Limit Calculations was adopted unanimously.
  - c. **\*Resolution 7-03-04 Authorization of District Representatives to Acquire Surplus Property.** It was moved and seconded (Beattie/Dalbeck) to approve the Authorization of District Representative to Acquire Surplus Property. From time to time, the Federal Government has surplus property available to districts at no cost to the district. This resolution is required to be eligible for such surplus. The motion to approve the Resolution to Authorize District Representatives to Acquire Surplus Property was adopted unanimously.
  - d. **\*Resolution 8-03-04 Proclaiming October 20 through 24, 2003 as Red Ribbon Week.** It was moved and seconded (Dietel/Reynolds) to approve the Resolution Proclaiming October 20 through 24, 2003 as Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week gives students the opportunity to make a commitment to be drug free. Many anti drug activities occur on school campuses during this week. This is a traditional activity. The motion to approve this Resolution was adopted unanimously.
  - e. **\*Approval for Special Activity: LCHS Band & Orchestra to Eastern Europe, R51-03-04.** It was moved and seconded (Reynolds/Dietel) to approve the request for Approval for Special Activity: LCHS Band & Orchestra to Eastern Europe. Mr. Stratton stated this is a trip that is being proposed over Spring Break. There are several fundraising activities to reduce the cost of the trip. The band traditionally takes a trip about every two years. By working with the Band Parents, the itinerary is created, once the board approves the trip more

detail is worked on to schedule specific activities. The band has been overseas in the past and the cost is very similar to trips in the past. This trip was approved two years ago. However, due to 9/11 the trip was postponed and the band went to New Orleans instead. This trip is very organized and being handled by an Educational Field Trip company. The motion to approve this Special Activity was adopted unanimously.

- f. **\*Approval for Special Activity: Bio-Adversity Workshop: Amazon Rain Forest R58 -03-04.** It was moved and seconded (Reynolds/Beattie) to approve the request for Approval for Special Activity: Bio-Adversity Workshop: Amazon Rain Forest. Mr. Stratton reported this is the fourth time 21<sup>st</sup> Century has gone to Peru. This is a very focused trip that takes place in the summer. The trip is very carefully structured to continue the same study that has gone on throughout the year. Safety issues have been addressed. Ms. Compeau has gone every year and made a brief statement regarding the educational benefits of the trip. This trip was also approved two years ago but was cancelled due to 9/11. The motion to approve this Special Activity was adopted unanimously.
- g. **\*Request to go to Bid for Consulting Management for the Food Services Program, R54-03-04.** It was moved and seconded (Beattie/Reynolds) to approve the Request to go to Bid for Consulting Management for the Food Services Program. There has been a focus on improving the cafeteria. The Food Services Task Force has worked together to make some great improvements in the cafeteria. The PTA has currently raised \$13,000 for cafeteria improvements. Part of this improvement plan is contracting with a consultant firm for management of our food services program. They do have to work with the Task Force, the PTA, and the students. The district's goal is to have the firm approved at the December 9<sup>th</sup> board meeting to start January 5. Mrs. Reynolds would like to have the students informed of the change. Mr. Banis reported it is his understanding the company would like to do the same thing. Mrs. Dalbeck questioned who would review the RFPs. Mr. Banis answered, his plan is to have members of the Food Service Task Force review them. Mr. Dietel requested a brief change to the RFP to include Nutritional Standards. The motion to approve this request was adopted unanimously.

## 2. Second Reading

- a. **Supplemental Funding, Resolution 5-03-04 Ordering and Election – Parcel Tax.** It was moved and seconded to approve Supplemental Funding, Resolution 5-03-04 Ordering and Election – Parcel Tax. (Dietel/Beattie) Dr. Leabo reported a Parcel Tax has been discussed to great depths. She reported the survey results are not extremely positive. However, she strongly urges the board to approve this request and let the community decide. Each board member spoke to express their concerns and ideas. The amount of the Parcel Tax and the Senior Exemption was discussed. Senior Exemption was agreed to. A \$400 Parcel Tax was agreed to. Exhibit A was discussed. A motion to amend the Resolution was moved and seconded (Reynolds/Dietel). The amendment to the Resolution is to propose to the community a Parcel Tax for the term of three years in the amount of \$400 per year per taxable parcel with a voluntary or optional exemption for parcels occupied by senior 65 or over. The amendment passed unanimously. With revenues to be spent to support small class size, provide adequate level of support services and to maintain a strong instructional program; to be put on the ballot for a March election. The language to the motion will be brought to the board for review. Dr. Leabo will notify the county between now and next meeting in terms of the amount and terms. The motion to approve Supplemental Funding Resolution 5-03-04 Ordering and Election – Parcel Tax as amended was adopted unanimously.

It was moved and seconded (Beattie/Dietel) to extend the meeting past 10:30 p.m. The motion to extend the meeting past 10:30 was adopted unanimously.

- b. **Supplemental Funding, Resolution 4-03-04 Ordering and Election – General Obligation Bond.** It was moved and seconded (Beattie/Reynolds) to approve Supplemental Funding, Resolution 4-03-04 Ordering and Election – General Obligation Bond. The board intensely discussed a general obligation bond. A motion was moved and seconded (Beattie/Reynolds) to table this Resolution. The motion to table Resolution 4-03-04 Ordering and Election – General Obligation Bond was adopted unanimously.
- c. **New and Revised Board Policies, R43-03-04.** It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Reynolds) to approve the New and Revised Board Policies. Quarterly updates will be presented to the board. These are being presented due to either legal counsel, law or staff changes. The motion to approve the New and revised Board Policies was adopted unanimously.

### 3. Consent Agenda

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P8-03-04.** The Board approved the following Personnel Items: *Certificated* Modification – Patricia Anselm, Mark Ewoldsen, Sue Hamre, Maggie Landau, Hope Miller, Larry Naeve, Wendy Senour, Richard Wheeler *Classified*: New Hire – Manik Aidie, Karen Bauer, Laura Johnson, Erika Larson, Ann Omae. Modification – Daniel Tubbs.
- b. **Extra Duty/Extra Pay, P9-03-04.** The Board approved the Extra Duty/Extra Pay Report.
- c. **Non-Public School/Non-Public Agency Contracts, R50-03-04.** The Board approved the non-public school/non-public agencies contracts.
- d. **Approval for Special Activities: Sierra Nevada Wrestling Classic, R52-03-04.** The Board approved Special Activities: Sierra Nevada Wrestling Classic.
- e. **Special Activities: Ocean Institute, R59-03-04.** The Board approved Special Activities: Ocean Institute.
- f. **Disposal of Surplus Equipment, R53-03-04.** LCE has requested the disposal of irreparable equipment that has been replaced. The Board approved the Disposal of Surplus Equipment.
- g. **Notice of Completion, R56-03-04.** Pacific Mechanical has completed the work on the LCHS-Chiller Boiler. The board approved the Notice of Completion for Pacific Mechanical.
- h. **Gifts to District, R31-03-04.** The Board approved the following donations: \$157.00 from Marshall & Karen Mathison; \$165.00 from Christie Skinner & Thomas Gilligan; Monitor and speakers from Dr. & Mrs. Bushman; \$500.00 from Home Depot, \$203.55 from Target; \$7.00 from Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce; \$300.00 from Edison International; \$4,000.00 from LCE PTA.
- i. **Purchase Order List #5** The Board approved Purchase Order List #5.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Dalbeck questioned the short term facility use rates. Dr. Leabo reported this will be brought to the board in December.

The board requested CIF cards. Dr. Leabo informed the board the cards will be requested from CIF.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in

the La Cañada High School Information Resource Center.

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Sue Leabo, Superintendent  
Secretary to the Governing Board

**MINUTES APPROVED**

  
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Ron Dietel, Clerk

*Nov 18, 2003*  
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Date