

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

August 30, 2005

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Ron Dietel on August 30, 2005 at La Cañada High School in the Information Resource Center at 4463 Oak Grove in La Cañada, California. Present were Board Members, Ron Dietel, Scott Tracy, Jinny Dalbeck, Cindy Wilcox, and Andy Beattie.

CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:30 p.m. at La Cañada High School in the Information Resource Center at 4463 Oak Grove in La Cañada, California. Present were the five Board Members, Superintendent Jim Stratton, Deputy Superintendent Bill Loose and Assistant Superintendent Michael Leininger. Closed Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Ron Dietel, President
Mr. Scott Tracy, Vice President
Mrs. Jinny Dalbeck, Clerk
Mrs. Cindy Wilcox, Member
Mr. Andy Beattie, Member

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 7:06 p.m. in the Information Resource Center at La Cañada High School in La Cañada. Present were the five Governing Board Members, Mr. Stratton, Dr. Loose, Dr. Leininger and Executive Secretary to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. There were approximately 30 people in the audience. Dr. Dietel asked Meredie Heaton to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Dr. Dietel reported there was no action taken in closed session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Beattie) to approve the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was adopted unanimously. It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Beattie) to move items 2a and 2d to be items 1e and 1f. The motion to move items 2a and 2d to be items 1e and 1f was adopted unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Dietel stated that the minutes of the July 18, 2005 and August 2, 2005 meetings of the Governing Board had been distributed to the Governing Board Members in advance for review. The minutes of the July 18 2005 and August 2, 2005 were approved as presented.

REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report

Opening of School – Mr. Stratton reported on the opening of school. Mr. Stratton stated flexibility has been the key word. Staff has been very flexible working with minor issues due to construction. Dr. Leininger and staff have worked with the sites to correct these issues. Overall, enrollment is about 23 students short from where we were last year. Currently the

district enrollment is at 4,269 with 6 students still pending. Elementary enrollment is at 1,973, last year was at 2,005. The drop in elementary enrollment was not unexpected. The high school has held pretty firm at 2,277. Last year the high school enrollment was 2,275. Foothill's enrollment is at 19 this year. District wide there are two spots left in Kindergarten, 7 spots left in first grade, 6 spots left in second grade and 5 spots left in third grade. There are 23 new faces throughout the district this year due to retirees, leave of absences and some increased positions. Construction at La Cañada Elementary has been completed. The high school cafeteria flooring should be ready by Thursday. The restrooms at the high school have been completed. Test results have come in. In all categories the results are very, very strong. Ms. Dreibelbis Arthur will be discussing this in detail later this evening. The district is very happy to report LCTA has reached an agreement in concept.

2. **President's Report**

Dr. Dietel reported the district is working on a district wide newsletter and he will incorporate his monthly report into that newsletter. Dr. Dietel welcomed Mr. Stratton as Superintendent and welcomed Dr. Leininger as Assistant Superintendent. Dr. Dietel also welcomed new Principals: Dr. Dragos as Principal of La Cañada High School, Wendy Sinnette as 7/8 Principal and Ernesto Leon as Palm Crest Principal.

Mr. Tracy introduced Marisa Shipley the new student representative.

A brief recess was called at 7:20 p.m. for a reception to welcome new staff. The meeting was reconvened at 7:40

3. **STAR Results**

Mr. Stratton introduced Lindi Dreibelbis Arthur, Director of Assessment. Ms. Arthur will be reporting this evening on the 2005 STAR Program. California Standards Tests (CSTs) and California Achievement Tests (CAT/6). Ms. Arthur reported in La Cañada Unified all students are tested. The state target in California is for all students' test results to be proficient or advanced. LCUSD continues to be among the top districts in the state in all areas. LCUSD is 40% above the state average in all areas except some areas in Mathematics.

Ms. Arthur reviewed the Performance Levels in percentage of students meeting or exceeding the State target for English Language Arts showing results from 2000 through 2005. Ms. Arthur stated 1% represents approximately 3 students. Ms. Arthur discussed the Content Clusters for English Language Arts. Ms. Arthur explained, the Content Clusters are given to the teachers to help assess their students' performance.

Proficiency Variations by Grade Level and Enrollment in Mathematics was reviewed and discussed. Ms Arthur discussed the mathematics results and the difference between the test scores by grade level in Mathematics and English Language Arts. Content Clusters in Mathematics were reviewed and discussed.

History-Social Science test results were reviewed and discussed. 80% of 8th graders in History-Social Science tested proficient or advanced, which is an increase over last years test results. 66% of 10th Grade World History students tested proficient or advanced and 72% of 11th grade World History students tested proficient or advanced.

Ms. Arthur also discussed the Science CST results explaining the percentage of students meeting or exceeding the state target in 5th Grade Science, Biology, Earth Science, Chemistry and Physics.

Ms. Arthur presented site comparisons. La Cañada Elementary shows the highest scores. However, all site scores are strong. District comparisons were also discussed. When compared to local districts, LCUSD is either first, second or third in test scores in English Language Arts in every category. Math comparisons were also discussed. LCUSD has the highest scores in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade and General Math when compared to other local districts.

CAT/6 scores were briefly discussed.

Mr. Tracy stated it is very gratifying to see the progress made in Language Arts but expressed strong concern when nearly 50% of our 10th grade students scored below or far below basic in Algebra 1. Mr. Stratton reported that we will not let this fall into abeyance and will bring this back to the board throughout the year.

Mr. Beattie stated he would like to hone into Math this year.

The API test results will be discussed at a later date.

Dr. Dietel stated the presentation by Ms. Arthur has been very helpful and this is more detailed than ever before presented.

4. **Student Representative Report**

Marisa Shipley, the Student Representation stated she is very excited about being the student representative this year. Ms. Shipley stated she is going to work on getting more students to talk to her. She is working on several ideas that would free up the communication that would let her know what the concerns are. Ms. Shipley reported the new bathrooms are wonderful and feels the students will take care of them and appreciate them. Ms. Shipley reported the counseling staff this year is amazing. Ms. Shipley also reported Ms. Hill is the new ASB Advisor this year and Mrs. Calm is the Senior Advisor.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board:

Mandy Redfern

Public Hearing

1. **Statement of Assurance for Standards Alignment for Social Science Adoptions, Resolution 03-05-06: Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach, The Americans, Civilization Past and Present and Modern World History.**

The public hearing was opened at 8:47 p.m. There being no public comments the hearing was closed at 8:48 p.m.

2. **Statement of Assurance for Standards Alignment for Science Adoption, Resolution 04-05-06: Biology: A Molecular Approach**

The public hearing was opened at 8:48 p.m. There being no public comments the hearing was closed at 8:49 p.m.

It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Tracy) to move agenda item 1d to 1a. The motion to move agenda item 1d to 1a was adopted unanimously.

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

1. First Reading

- a. **Statement of Assurance for Standards Alignment for Social Science Adoptions, Resolution 03-05-06:** Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach, The Americans, Civilization Past and Present and Modern World History. This item is being presented as a first reading. Mr. Stratton stated textbook adoptions are taken very seriously. Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach is the 12th grade textbook, The Americans is the 11th grade textbook and Civilization Past and Present and Modern World History are the 10th grade textbooks. It is very important to align these textbooks with the California State Standards. Mrs. Dalbeck asked staff to review the adoption process. Mr. Franzen, a high school social science teacher, reported this process began in February. The first step was to talk about what books are out there. The Los Angeles County Office of Education provided a textbook conference. Dan Yoder, Mary Lou Langedyke and Mr. Franzen attended the conference. Staff made a priority list of what was important in choosing a textbook. Staff then individually reviewed the textbooks, and then came back together to discuss their opinions. The main question was whether to update the current textbooks or go with a new textbook. There was a lot of communication between staff to come to the decisions they did. Mr. Stratton reported this item will come back to the governing board at the next meeting.
- b. **Statement of Assurance for Standards Alignment for Science Adoptions, Resolution 04-05-06:** Biology: A Molecular Approach. This item is being presented as a first reading. Mr. Stratton explained the process, goals and objectives are the same for this textbook as the previous agenda item. The Science Department at La Cañada High School determined this textbook aligns with the standards, covers the labs, is readable and is up to date. Ms. Compeau, a Science teacher at La Cañada High School made a brief presentation on Biology Honors. Mrs. Wilcox asked if this textbook is adopted will the students have this book this semester. Mr. Stratton responded an order for this textbook will be placed upon adoption and the students will have the book this semester. This item will return to the governing board at the next scheduled board meeting.
- c. ***Request to Proceed with Design Services for the FIS HVAC & Edison Upgrade, R29—05-06.** It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Beattie) to approve the Request to Proceed with Design Services for the FIS HVAC & Edison Upgrade, R29-05-06. Dr. Leininger stated this is a request to proceed for the FIS HVAC. The current system at FIS is maxed and further upgrades would require an upgrade from Edison. The idea is that the long term goal is to get rid of the boiler and get packed AC and heating on top of each building. The electrical on the current system requires annual maintenance and if the system ever goes down it could take up to two days to repair due to the age of the system. The estimated cost is from the architects but it is believed this is a ballpark figure. Mrs. Dalbeck asked what the cost of the actual system would be. Dr. Leininger stated it could run approximately \$800,000 and this would come from fund 40. This would provide the power for any new system. Currently, air conditioning is window units and the heating is the boiler. The district office modernization has provided new systems on the new spaces but has maxed out the system for any future upgrading. The motion to approve the request to proceed with design services for the FIS HVAC & Edison Upgrade was adopted unanimously.
- d. ***Operation School Bell Agreement with Assistance League, R30-05-06.** It was moved and seconded (Tracy/Dalbeck) to approve the Operation School Bell Agreement with Assistance League, R30-05-06. Mr. Stratton thanked Marianne Glenn of Assistance League for being present this evening to answer any questions. This is a nationwide program that provides backpacks with school supplies to students that are in need of these supplies. This program will expand this year by including store

vouchers along with school supplies. Ms. Glenn stated 30 students were serviced last year. Site staff will choose and contact the families and once the site has family consent Assistance League will provide the backpacks. The Assistance League will not know which families receive the backpacks. The motion to approve the Operation School Bell Agreement with Assistance League was adopted 4:0 with Mr. Beattie abstaining due to a business relationship with the Assistance League.

- e. ***Personnel Report P4-05-06:** It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Tracy) to approve the Personnel Report as presented. The motion to approve the Personnel Report was adopted unanimously. The following personnel items were approved by the governing board: *Certificated:* New Hires: Kandy Basmajian, Jennifer Butuin, Stacey Carr, Robert Chacon, Caroline Chai, Sun Choe, Jeff Drach, Marie Evelyn, Jesse Foreman, Tara Georgenes, Gregory Hardash, Jenny Keens, Joshua Landerer, Marjorie Ludwig, Leslie Martin, Erin O'Reilly, Dana Oakley, Alicia Pal, Colin Spitler, Amy Sweetnam. Substitutes: John Bailey, Vanessa Balderrama, Karen Bauer, Shei Brakebush, Ann Klamer, Marcie Leisure, Corey Peters, Tom Roberts, Sonia Silva, Tatitana Walsh. Leave of Absence: Kathy Kaze, Tracy McCullough. Resignation: John Herkert. *CMSA:* New Hires: Susan Kobilarcsik. *Classified:* Linda Hada. Resignations: Karen Bauer, Judy Chalison, Anait Chizmichyan, Rima Hovsepian, John Landreth, Patricia Piumetti, Neela Trilokekar, Nune Tsaturyan, Melinda Witt.
- f. ***Request to Accept Low Bid, R32-05-06.** It was moved and seconded (Beattie/Wilcox) to accept the Request to Accept Low Bid. Dr. Leininger reported this is a request for asbestos abatement for Bldg F. By law the lowest bidder must be accepted. Last week was bid opening. At that time it appeared Total Industries did not have all documentation completed. As it turned out this company did have all necessary documents at bid opening. Therefore, it is requested the governing board accept the bid from Total Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$15,112.00. The motion to accept the lowest bid from Total Industries, Inc. 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. **Special Activities: Cross Country-Mammoth Retreat, R28-05-06.** The Board approved the Special Activity request for the Cross Country team to take a retreat in Mammoth September 2 to September 5, 2005.
- b. **Disposal of Surplus Equipment, R27-05-06.** . The Board approved the disposal of surplus equipment at Palm Crest Elementary.
- c. **Request to go to Bid to Resurface the Outdoor Basketball Courts.** The Board approved going to bid to resurface the Outdoor Basketball Courts.
- d. **Gifts to District, R27-03-04.** The Board approved the gifts to the district as presented.
- e. **Purchase Order List #3-05-06.** The Board approved Purchase Order List #3.
- f. **Purchase Order List #19-04-05.** The Board approved Purchase Order List #19.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Stratton announced the sites enjoyed the recent site visits by the governing board and it was requested the board visit more often. It was agreed to get dates from the Principals in the morning and afternoon in September and October to schedule additional visits.

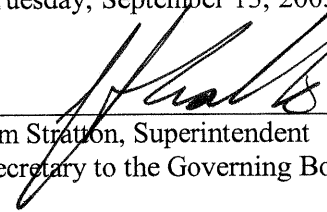
The October workshop was discussed. It was agreed to meet 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on October 2. Agenda items should be sent directly to Mr. Stratton.

Mrs. Dalbeck reported she could not get the master calendar to print and the lack of contact information is missed. Mr. Stratton agreed to provide master calendars to the board in TWIR.

Mrs. Wilcox reported that she has completed a survey as part of her daughter's high school packet. Mrs. Wilcox requested a presentation to the Board on the results of the survey at a future board meeting.

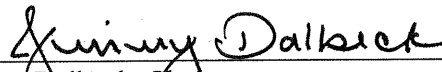
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. in the La Cañada High School Information Resource Center.



Jim Stratton, Superintendent
Secretary to the Governing Board

MINUTES APPROVED



Jinny Dalbeck, Clerk

Sept. 13, 2005

Date