

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

June 6, 2006

SPECIAL MEETING

The Special Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by President Scott Tracy on June 6, 2006 in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were Board Members: Scott Tracy, Jinny Dalbeck, Susan Boyd, and Cindy Wilcox, Superintendent James Stratton, Deputy Superintendent Bill Loose, Assistant Superintendent Michael Leininger and Executive Secretary to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. There were 6 people in the audience. Mr. Tracy asked Diane Clinton to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded (Wilcox/Boyd) to approve the agenda as presented. The motion to approve the agenda was adopted unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD ON AGENDIZED ITEMS

The following audience members addressed the Board:

None

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

1. First Reading

- a) **Approval of 2006-07 Projected Budget and 2005-06 Estimated Actuals, R146-05-06.** This item is being presented for a first reading and will return at the June 20th meeting for a second reading. Dr. Loose reported on current enrollment. Projections as of today reflect a declining enrollment of 109 students for next year. Interdistrict enrollment was discussed. Dr. Loose distributed a revised budget building assumptions handout.

Health Benefits were discussed.

Dr. Loose reviewed the Estimated Actuals 2005-06 and Proposed Budget 2006-07. GASB 45 was discussed. The Board asked Dr. Loose to look at contingent liability over the next three years and eligible retirees. Dr. Loose will put the requested information in TWIR.

Mrs. Wilcox asked for an analysis on Algebra I and IA 8th grade class size reduction and what the size would be if we added another section and what it would cost. Mrs. Dalbeck recommended looking at the impact of staffing on that reduction.

At the start of the workshop there were approximately 16 people in the audience.

WORKSHOP: Substance Abuse: current conditions and educational programs

The workshop began at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Dreibelbis Arthur started the workshop with a report on the funding sources and program requirements in regards to Substance Abuse. Two sources of funding are available from Federal and State Funding Sources: Title IV, Part A Safe and Drug Free Schools and

Communities and TUPE: Tobacco-Use Prevention Education. Some of the programs at LCUSD are Too Good for Drugs and Violence, STAR: Success Through Awareness and Resistance Unit, Safe and Healthy Kids Program Annual Report, California Healthy Kids Survey. The California Healthy Kids Survey is an optional survey. The district's participation increased in 2004 over 2002 and the 2006 participation is expected to increase over the 2004 participation. However, the 2006 results are not available until July.

Joanne Davidson, LCHS Asst. Principal, reported on the pro-active things that are being done at the high school. Ms. Davidson discussed the high school's policy on working with the kids on substance abuse.

Several students gave their perception and experience of drug use at La Canada High School. Several parents talked about their experience with substance abuse at the high school and in the community. Students found Ms. Davidson, Deputy Deacon, and the staff to be forthright, encouraging and helpful in getting them started on their way to recovery from addiction.

Dr. Dragos and Ms. Sinnette discussed their approach to Substance Abuse. Ms. Sinnette discussed the Asset Approach: 40 elements of healthy development. Search Institute has identified 40 positive experiences and qualities that all of us have the power to bring into the lives of children and youth, which are called developmental assets. It is Ms. Sinnette's goal to bring the asset approach to La Canada Unified through training to teachers, administrators and parents, to try to build these assets in our students.

Mrs. Wilcox asked several questions of the students regarding drug dogs, open campus and the drug education program. There were several comments about the possibility of bringing drug dogs on campus. One student said that the campus was too large to be effectively checked by a few drug dogs; students would learn that the dogs were on campus in time to dispose of any evidence. The comment was also made that students at another local High School are using illegal substances and the dogs they bring in don't seem to be helping them. Regarding the questions about whether or not the open campus is inadvertently facilitating the use of illegal substances during lunch, one student said that it might be, but that the best way to handle that is to locate the students who return late or fail to return to school after lunch. That would be the key to finding most of the students using illegal substances during lunch. Students who make appropriate use of the open campus are not the problem. There was a brief discussion about the physical safety of students leaving campus for lunch in cars during the short time available. On the question about whether the drug education program is effective, students responded that it tends to enforce the students' current view.

Mrs. Dalbeck asked some of the students if they participated in the Healthy Kids Survey while they were using illegal substances. The students responded that they wouldn't have completed the survey during that time.

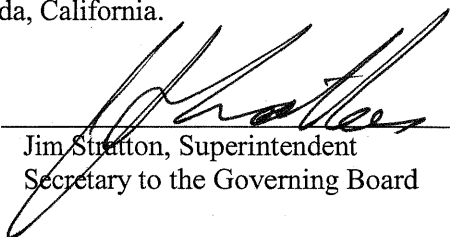
Mrs. Wilcox discussed the drop in math scores at the High School level and explained that the current financial situation prevents the district from implementing class size reduction where it might be helpful in meeting an academic need. Mrs. Wilcox is concerned that, while the asset approach sounds promising, teachers may not have the time to develop personal connections with students considering the current class sizes. The staff responded that they are hoping to use time available during SSR. Mrs. Dalbeck would like this to be a community wide approach. Marissa gave suggestions on how and where to implement the asset approach and suggested Bridge become involved.

Mr. Tracy stated the board fully endorses the asset approach program. This is a positive proactive approach. Mr. Tracy thanked students and parents who were present tonight to speak to the board.

ADJOURNMENT

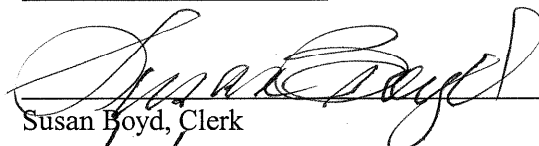
There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the

Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Canada, California.

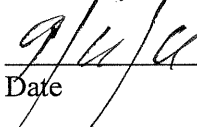


Jim Stratton, Superintendent
Secretary to the Governing Board

MINUTES APPROVED



Susan Boyd, Clerk



Date

