

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

May 22, 2001

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Barbara Racklin on May 22, 2001 in the La Cañada Elementary School Library at 4540 Encinas Drive in La Cañada, California. Present were Board Members Barbara Racklin, Jeanne Broberg, Jinny Dalbeck, Will Moffitt and Meredith Reynolds.

CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:01 p.m. in the La Cañada Elementary School Faculty Lounge. Present were the five Board Members and Superintendent Lorene Gonia. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sue Leabo, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Jim Stratton, and Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Maureen Evans joined the Board and Superintendent at 6:00 p.m. Closed Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Barbara Racklin, President
Mrs. Jinny Dalbeck, Vice President
Mrs. Jeanne Broberg, Clerk
Mr. William Moffitt, Member
Mrs. Meredith Reynolds, Member

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 7:06 p.m. in the La Cañada Elementary School Library. Present were the five Governing Board Members, Mrs. Gonia, Dr. Leabo, Mr. Stratton, Mrs. Evans, and Secretary to the Superintendent Judy Mellick. There were approximately 25 people in the audience. Mrs. Racklin asked LCTA President Richard Weld to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Racklin reported that no action was taken in Closed Session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Racklin stated that the minutes of the May 8, 2001 regular meeting of the Governing Board had been distributed to the Governing Board Members in advance for review. The minutes of the May 8, 2001 regular meeting were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Gonia reported on the Governor's May revise, which indicates that while the state economy remains strong, the general fund is down by over \$3 billion. The governor's commitment to education remains strong. His proposed funding is above the January proposal. Education funding is 41% of the total fund budget for the state of California. The budget will be controversial, as the governor is proposing to spend out the reserve. The COLA in January was 3.91%. It has been slightly reduced to 3.87%. Deferred maintenance has been reduced. There is a reduction in the API Governor's performance awards and a reduction of \$268 million in mandated costs. Energy costs will go up significantly. \$540 million is proposed to assist schools with energy costs. There may be changes in that amount. The Senate suggested a reduction to help with K-3 class size reduction encroachment. The Assembly proposed a reduction to go to help support year-round schools and to help maintain a budget reserve. The Governor has a proposal to extend the school year for middle schools. He is proposing 15 added days to the regular calendar. Mrs. Gonia expects that there will be a lot more discussion. She said that it will be difficult to bring the district proposed budget because the state budget has not been established.

Mrs. Gonia reported on a staff development program, called "Schools Attuned," that provides teaching strategies to help every student achieve expectations. It also provides teachers ways to differentiate how they teach in order to accommodate learning styles of different students. "Schools Attuned" is a yearlong training program. There are 35 hours of initial training and then support once back in the classroom. The program helps teachers understand various learning styles of students and neurological developmental functions that affect student learning. Some LCE teachers participated in the training last summer. There will be a new cadre of teachers from LCE, PCY and PCR participating in the program this summer. Mrs. Gonia invited the Board to attend a session on June 29 to learn more about the "Schools Attuned" program.

Mrs. Dalbeck reported that there was a 5-star meeting on Monday, at which they discussed how energy bonds that would be issued in August play into capital facility money. If bond ratings go down, the state may not sell the bonds, which would leave a hole in the budget. There is a bill going through regarding a capital facilities bond in March of 2002.

Mrs. Gonia reported that the district has just undergone a Coordinated Compliance Review. She introduced Mr. Stratton, who explained that the State reviews all of the district's records to make sure all expenditures of Consolidated Application monies and categorical fund monies have met all compliance issues. Mr. Stratton reported that the Coordinated Compliance Review is a two-year process. The site self-reviews began last year. Reports were submitted from each school and from the district. The reports were rated very highly by the state, so it was not necessary to have a full visit. The CCR team visited the district and one school. A committee of three people was with us for two full days. As part of the visit, the team had conversations with staff, requested data, then wrote a report. The report said that the district is in compliance with Integrated Program issues. There are five minor issues to fix, but no major issues at all. Mrs. Gonia said that many districts have been complaining to the state about the rigor of the

courses have met with initial approval for alignment with high school courses, with the exception of some courses at Hillside. A biology class at Hillside currently does not have enough lab experience, so a student taking that course can receive credit only for Life Science. The P.E. class at Hillside does not have enough hours. Certain courses within social science, foreign language, and science have not yet been accepted. Some students have already enrolled in classes in Hillside. Mrs. Gonia and Mr. Stratton met with the high school Administrative Team to come up with a compromise to make sure students are not penalized, but allow the school to maintain the high standards and integrity of the diploma. She said that, for this summer only, students who are already registered with Hillside in the classes in question will be grandfathered in and the students will get credit. The guidelines will then be fully implemented in the fall. The district is encouraging Hillside to become WASC accredited.

Mrs. Broberg thanked Mrs. Gonia for addressing the time line for students who had already been registered for this summer.

2. Student Representative Report

Michael Kotick reported that the high school has started a new policy. The ASB president will be elected in the third quarter. The rest of ASB will be holding elections next week. Students participated in second annual KROQ contest, but did not win. One of the entries in the contest was a 30-second student produced commercial to end violence. Students collected food that was donated to a food bank. The Day of Silence went very well.

3. Final WASC Report from the Visiting Committee

Mrs. Gonia reported that Mr. Stratton is a lead reviewer in WASC and asked him to introduce this report. WASC is an ongoing process of preparing, examining student evidence, monitoring where you want to go as a school. The team at the high school has done a very good job and used the process to do what it was supposed to do. The visiting committee affirmed what was in the high school self-study report. Mr. Stratton then introduced Principal Mike Leininger, who reported on the WASC process.

Dr. Leininger reported that the WASC process is a self-study. The purpose is to uncover what you do well and what needs improvement. He said that the report was very thorough with a wide variety of stakeholders. The findings were broken down into five different groups. Under each group, there is a series of questions to ask. It is then necessary to produce evidence so the visiting committee can see exactly how the school arrived at the statements. At the end of each of the five areas, the visiting committee determined the high school's areas of strength and areas for growth. The committee then came up with schoolwide areas for growth. Those areas identified by the committee were all areas the high school had identified in its self-study: align standards, utilize assessment results, improve communication, evaluate effectiveness of long standing programs, develop a comprehensive School to College/Career plan, continue to develop a Character and Citizenship Program. The identified strengths: a strong commitment and personal desire to help students succeed. producing a quality self study that accurately

with Bob Brauneisen, Technology Coordinator on the Eagle Aries program. They are looking into downloading attendance and grades from the classroom and making the information accessible to parents. In the area of career planning, they are looking at attainment of career related technical and practical skills. They have internships on a limited basis. They are working on tying character and citizenship into SSR, and working with YMCA on Character Counts, trying to bring that component into the high school.

Dr. Leininger reported that the school will be talking about the Monday schedule for next year and looking at going back to a regular Monday. They should be hearing the first week of June as to what length of accreditation they will receive from the state.

Mrs. Dalbeck suggested that, in discussing the Monday schedule, they be aware of how it affects time at other schools and be sure to notify surrounding schools. She also suggested that the high school give a yearly update on their progress with the action plans.

Mr. Stratton said that most schools have a lot of trouble doing action plans. The high school's action plans are outstanding. Dr. Leininger thanked the team and the chair, Mary Jane Hufstedler.

Mrs. Gonia said that the benefit is the work the staff has done together and the commitment that the staff has made to program improvement with their action plans.

Mary Irwin, high school staff, addressed the Board.

4. Bond Oversight Committee Report

Mrs. Racklin introduced Craig Steele, chair of the Bond Oversight Committee. Mr. Steel reported that, while oversight means a lot of different things to a lot of different people, the Bond Oversight Committee has taken a more productive model of participating in the process. Members of the committee have a diverse background in construction, public finance, law, etc. They have determined three areas of focus – continuing to monitor the project at high school, monitoring elementary school modernization projects, and being available for special projects as they come up. Members of the committee will be attending the interviews of bond survey companies later this week.

Mrs. Reynolds thanked Mr. Steele for volunteering to chair this committee.

Mr. Steele invited everyone to attend the Committee meetings.

Mrs. Gonia pointed out that because it is a Board Committee, the Bond Oversight Committee is under the Brown Act and the meetings are open to the public. She thanked Mr. Steele for his work on the Committee.

Mrs. Dalbeck said that she has attended some of the Committee meetings, and was very impressed with the thoroughness of Committee members. She was very impressed with the caliber of people who

Mrs. Dalbeck asked how long the committee serves. Mr. Steele replied that the Board did not establish an ending date for the Committee, so they would be available as long as needed.

Committee member Linda Bair commented that she was pleased with the direction of the Committee, and thanked staff for their work with the Committee.

Opportunity to address Board

The following audience members addressed the Board

Jamie Melzer, 4731 Lasheart Drive
 Beth Reinhart, 484 Paulette Place
 Joan Williams, 480 Paulette Place
 Don Williams, 480 Paulette Place
 Diane Reinhart, 484 Paulette Place
 Harvey Zirler, 4832 Grand Avenue

Mrs. Broberg thanked staff for spending time on considering the placement of the PCY child care trailers and for the thoroughness of the report at the last Board meeting.

The Board requested that staff give an interim report on the Curriculum Council's process with the homework guidelines.

1. First Reading

- a. *Resolution #23-00-01 Layoff of Classified Employee.** It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Moffitt) to approve Resolution #23-00-01 Layoff of Classified Employee. Dr. Leabo reported that this is because of lack of funding due to the end of a grant. The motion to approve Resolution #23-00-01 Layoff of Classified Employee was adopted unanimously.
- b. *Variable Term Waiver, R241-00-01.** It was moved and seconded (Moffitt/Reynolds) to approve the Variable Term Waiver. Dr. Leabo reported that this is for a teacher to finish the year for a teacher who is out due to illness. The motion to approve the Variable Term Waiver was adopted unanimously.
- c. *PCY API Spending Plans, R243-00-01.** It was moved and seconded (Reynolds/Moffitt) to approve the PCY API Spending Plans. Mr. Stratton reported that the API Spending Plans from the other schools were brought to the Board at the last meeting, however, PCY needed a little more time. PCY's API Spending Plan is being brought to the Board now.

- d. ***Consolidated Application – Part I, 2001-2001, R246-00-01.** It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Dalbeck) to approve the Consolidated Application – Part I. Mr. Stratton reported that this allows the district to apply for funds that come through Consolidated programs. Mrs. Dalbeck thanked Mr. Stratton for putting the report together. The motion to approve the Consolidated Application – Part I was adopted unanimously.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P28-00-01.** *Certificated:* New Hires – Special Education-ED Teacher Allison Jenkins (temporary), 6th Grade Teacher Thomas Partner (temporary). Retirement – Judy Frewing. Resignations – Corinne Cuneo, Monica Holdridge, Frank Pace, Gillian Snoddy. *Certificated:* New Hires (2001-2002) – 8th Math/Science Teacher Jasmine Altounian, 9-12 Math Teacher Breyne Moskowitz. Transfers – Jody Harrison-Lee from Special Education (PCR) to 60% FTE Special Education (PCR), Susan Skalla from .5 PE (PCR) to 7th English (LCHS). *Classified:* New Hire – Paraprofessional Joseph Lee. Modification – Rexie Ondoy from Step 3 to Step 1. Resignation – Michelle Hanrahan.
- b. **Request for Claim Settlement, R239-00-01.**
- c. **Rejection of Claim, R240-00-01.**
- d. **Special Activities: Jump Rope, R244-00-01.**
- e. **Non-Public School/Non-Public Agency Contracts, R242-00-01.**
- f. **Gifts, R238-00-01.**
- g. **Purchase Order List #18.**

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Dalbeck said that the District goals that Curriculum Council worked on have been given to the Board for their input. Mr. Stratton will bring changes and goals for 2001-2002 to the next Board meeting. Mrs. Broberg said that she felt the introductory paragraph needed a phrase to include citizenship and character. Mrs. Dalbeck said that each site got together and articulated goals for their site. She said that one of the concerns of Curriculum Council was the homework guidelines and requested an update at the next Board meeting. They are now working from staff input.

Mrs. Reynolds said that tomorrow night is the first annual Concerto Concert. The orchestra features outstanding musicians. The program is at 7:30, at Lanterman. The Pops concert is also coming up.

Mrs. Broberg asked when the Child Care contract would be coming to the Board. Mr. Stratton replied

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on June 5, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. in the La Cañada Elementary School Library.

Lorene Gonia, Superintendent
Secretary to the Governing Board

MINUTES APPROVED

Jeanne Broberg, Clerk, Governing Board

Date