

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

June 19, 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 June 19, 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, Superintendent Lorene Gonia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sue Leabo, and Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Maureen Evans. Closed Session adjourned at 6:50 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 7:00 p.m. in the La Cañada Elementary School Library. Present were the five Governing Board Members, Mrs. Gonia, Dr. Leabo, Mrs. Evans, and Secretary to the Superintendent Judy Mellick. There were approximately 15 people in the audience. Mrs. Racklin asked Board Member Jeanne Broberg 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 June 5, 2001 regular meeting and May 29, 2001 special meeting of the Governing Board had been distributed to the Governing Board Members in advance for review. The minutes of the June 5, 2001 regular meeting and May 29, 2001 special meeting were approved as submitted.

PRESENTATION

REPORTS**1. Superintendent's Report**

- a. Bond Survey Update – Mrs. Gonia reported that reference checking on the bond survey companies has been completed. Notes taken on the references were sent to all members of the interview panel. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Business Services have selected Fairbank, Maslin, Maulin & Associates. They have been contacted and staff will be working with them on a timeline and community involvement.

- b. Modernization Update – Mrs. Gonia reported that Phase 1 had started on Monday and was expected to be completed before the start of school. Mrs. Gonia reminded the community that there is construction, ditches, etc. at the school, and, while they are fenced off, children must be told to stay on the outside of the fence. Since it is summer, there is no supervision at the schools. She also reported on the walkway in Phase 1, which went out to bid. The bids were all very high. The District will re-bid this item as part of Phase 2. At that time, there will be a larger scope of work, which should bring down the bids. She will also have the site look at the walkway to see if there is any way to reduce costs.

Mrs. Gonia reported that the LCE outdoor science lab does not yet have DSA approval. Some items still need to be submitted by HMC. Mrs. Evans and Mr. Voorhies will be meeting with HMC and PCM3 to discuss the status and come up with a timeline to have this work done. They will also be discussing if the work can be completed before school resumes or if work would need to be done during the school year.

Mrs. Gonia reported on the issue of wood chips or poured rubber for the playground at PCR. She reiterated that, although the areas where work is being done are fenced off, the District has received several calls that children are not heeding the fencing. The District did extensive research on poured rubber versus wood chips several years ago. Staff reviewed the investigation again and spoke with ASCIP, our insurance liability carrier. The District's liability is much greater with wood chips than with the poured rubber surfaces. Wood chips require much greater maintenance to retain the safety standard. Depending on amount of use, wood chips can take up about 1 hour a day and the District would be liable should maintenance not be proper. With use, wood chips tend to drift or separate creating shallow areas. The District would not be covered if a shallow area is created and someone is injured, because it would be considered negligence. In addition, wood chips are tracked into classrooms, children throw them, and animals use them as a toilet. Staff will contact the vendor tomorrow and find out how soon the rubber will be poured. Staff will make sure that the rubber is of the highest quality available. This is mainly an issue at PCR. Staff is looking into lowering the horizontal ladder at PCR to see if that helps alleviate broken bones. Neither wood chips nor rubber were designed to prevent broken bones. Both surfaces protect against fatal head injuries.

Mrs. Racklin said that she would like to see some sort of learning or instruction going on around the test. She also acknowledged that some effort must be made to protect critical tests. Board members expressed concern about the process. They would like to have the information available to parents at the beginning of school. The issue of having tests come home is not as critical for the beginning of school, but changes in how much homework should be done is information that should be given to parents at the beginning of school year. Mrs. Broberg suggested that, just to keep life simple, it should be one document, an Administrative Regulation. Mr. Moffitt said that there is a need to have 2 documents, both a regulation and a guideline. He said that bringing home tests is such a help to parents in helping students. He would like to see more tests coming home. Mid-term, finals, and departmental tests don't need to come home, but chapter tests would be very helpful. Mrs. Reynolds said that a guideline adds flexibility in case a teacher has some other things going on at that time, whereas a regulation does not. If it is a regulation, it should have a little flexibility. Perhaps having a range in the regulation. Mrs. Dalbeck explained that teachers had presented a document for 7-12 that had moved items from guideline to "suggestions." Mrs. Broberg said that the process has gone on for such a long time, that to come up with just a list of "suggestions" would not be worthy of all the work that was put into this process. Mr. Moffitt said that the learning process should be collaboration between teacher, parents, and students.

Opportunity to address Board

The following audience members addressed the Board:

Jeanie Riddell, 5120 Hayman Ave.
 Ron Dietel, 4432 Commonwealth
 Richard Weld, LCTA President, Science Teacher
 Lauren Oakes, 4708 Gould
 Karen Mathison, 5154 Redwillow Lane
 Cindy Wilcox, 4408 Union Street
 Royal Oakes, 4708 Gould
 Annie Honch, 4629 Palm
 Sherry Ingram, Valley Sun

Public Hearings

1. The Board held a public hearing on Statement of Assurances for Fiscal Year 2000-01 Pupil Textbook and Instructional Materials Incentive Program, Grades K-12. The Public Hearing was opened at 8:29 p.m. Hearing no comment from the public, the hearing was closed at 8:30 p.m.
2. The Board held a public hearing on Budget Proposal for 2001-2002. The Public Hearing was opened at 8:30 p.m. Hearing no comment from the public, the hearing was closed at 8:31p.m.

1. First Reading

holidays are celebrated, with the exception of Veteran's Day. The motion to approve Resolution #28-00-01 was adopted unanimously.

- c. ***Resolution #29-00-01 Temporary Cash Transfers by the County Treasurer for Fiscal Year 2001-02 and Resolution #30-00-01 Temporary Borrowing Between District Funds for Fiscal Year 2001-02.** It was moved and seconded (Moffitt/Reynolds) to approve Resolution #29-00-01 Temporary Cash Transfers by the County Treasurer for Fiscal Year 2001-02 and Resolution #30-00-02 Temporary Borrowing Between District Funds for Fiscal Year 2001-02. Mrs. Evans explained that these resolutions are linked together to protect the district against cash shortages. L.A. County would make cash available with no interest or other charges. If there were a possibility of a negative cash flow, the district would be able to borrow. The motion to approve Resolution #29-00-01 and Resolution #30-00-02 was adopted unanimously.
- d. ***Resolution #26-00-01 Assurances for Fiscal Year 2000-01 Pupil Textbook and Instructional Materials Incentive Program, Grades K-12.** It was moved and seconded (Reynolds/Moffitt) to approve Resolution #26-00-01 Assurances for Fiscal Year 2000-01 Pupil Textbook and Instructional Materials Incentive Program, Grades K-12. Mrs. Gonia explained that this resolution certified that the district has sufficient instructional materials for each student and that they meet state standards. The motion to approve Resolution #26-00-01 was adopted unanimously.

2. Second Reading

- a. **Approval of 2001-2002 Proposed Budget with 2000-2001 Estimated Actuals, R248-00-01.** It was moved and seconded (Broberg/Dalbeck) to approve the 2001-2002 Proposed Budget with 2000-2001 Estimated Actuals. Mrs. Evans explained that there are minor changes from the June 5 report in the General Fund and Cafeteria Fund. The motion to approve the 2001-2002 Proposed Budget with 2000-2001 Estimated Actuals was adopted unanimously.
- b. **Approval of 2001-2002 District Educational Goals, R259-00-01.** It was moved and seconded (Reynolds/Moffitt) to approve the 2001-2002 District Educational Goals. Mrs. Gonia explained that the goals are developed through Curriculum Council. These goals reflect input from the Board, and will become basis for all site planning. The motion to approve the 2001-2002 District Educational Goals was adopted unanimously.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. **Personnel Report. P31-00-01. *Certificated:*** Modifications – Ken Chambers from 100%

- I Randy Bayard, Paraprofessional I-SIP Joseph Lee, Accounting Technician Jackie Ong.
Resignations – Tresa Echevarria, Mickey Reardon.
- b. **Extra-Duty/Extra Pay Report, P32-000-01.**
 - c. **Approval of Job Description, R265-00-01.**
 - d. **Change in Work Year for Elementary Principals, R268-00-01.**
 - e. **Multimedia Services Contract – Los Angeles County Office of Education, School Year 2001-02, R266-00-01.**
 - f. **Authorization to Make Appropriation Transfers, R267-00-01.**
 - g. **Change Order for Phase 2 – Library, R269-00-01.**
 - h. **English Elective Proposals 2001-2002, R260-00-01.**
 - i. **Non-Public School/Non-Public Agency Contracts, R270-00-01.**
 - j. **Purchase Order Lists #20 and #1.**

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Racklin commented that Graduation was great.
Mrs. Dalbeck said that she talked to Assembly Member Carol Liu, who had a question regarding the district not being on the approved unfunded list for modernization. Assembly Member Liu is willing to look into it to see if she can get the DSA to give the District an appeal hearing.
Mrs. Reynolds said that she spoke with Jeff Frost, Five-Star Coalition legislative counsel, about state bonds. He said that they are moving along with language that would not be favorable to LCUSD.
Mrs. Dalbeck said that there is a fairly real possibility there will not be a bond in 2002. Mrs. Dalbeck also suggested that staff looks at statistics on playground safety and reexamine options for playground material for Phase 2 modernization.
Mr. Moffitt extended the Board's appreciation to all sites for the end of school activities. They all did a tremendous job.
Mrs. Racklin said that Foothills graduation was particularly heartwarming.

RECONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened to Closed Session at 8:55 p.m.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened Open Session at 9:20 p.m. and reported that no action was taken in Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on July 17, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. in the La Cañada Elementary School Library.