

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

August 15, 2000

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Meredith Reynolds on August 15, 2000 in the La Cañada High School 9-12 Library at 4463 Oak Grove Drive in La Cañada, California. Present were Board Members Meredith Reynolds, Jeanne Broberg, William Moffitt and Barbara Racklin, Superintendent Lorene Gonia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sue Leabo and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Jim Stratton.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:02 p.m. in the La Cañada High School 7/8 Library. Present were the four Board Members, Superintendent Lorene Gonia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Sue Leabo and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Jim Stratton. Closed Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mrs. Jinny Dalbeck, Member

**REGULAR MEETING**

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 7:02 p.m. by Mrs. Reynolds in the La Cañada High School 9-12 Library. Present were the four Governing Board Members, Mrs. Gonia, Mrs. Leabo, Mr. Stratton, and Secretary to the Superintendent Judy Mellick. There were approximately 35 people in the audience. Mrs. Reynolds asked Judy Mellick to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded (Moffitt/Broberg) to approve the agenda as amended. After amending to eliminate retirement recognition, the motion to approve the agenda was adopted unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Reynolds said that the minutes of the July 11 and July 31, 2000 meetings of the Governing Board had been distributed to the Governing Board Members in advance for review. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**1. SAT-9**

Mr. Stratton gave a report on the SAT-9 scores. He explained the meaning of the National Percentiles and outlined how the scores are used to improve the programs in all grades. He stated that our students as a whole scored as well as or better than 87% of the normed group. Mr. Stratton went on to explain the various test score reports and how that information is used to improve the curriculum in the school district.

## 2. Superintendent's Report

- a. Environmental Impact Report: Downtown Village Specific Plan. The Superintendent reported that the district has reviewed all alternatives that are part of the plan and looked for any impact they might have on the schools. None of the alternatives will have a significant impact on enrollment. The district is currently in a slightly declining enrollment trend, rather than an upward trend. The Environmental Impact Report states that the district is considering reopening Foothill or Oak Grove, but at this time that is not being considered. The K-12 Educational Options Committee is investigating the necessity of reopening these schools. In the Environmental Impact Report, the City is using a "children per household" factor that is the same for single- and multi-family residences. Mrs. Gonias stated that a different "children per household" factor should be used for multi-family residences. Mrs. Gonias also reported that in Alternative 3, the school district would need to be very involved in the planning of a Joint City/School District facility. Mrs. Reynolds stated that the School District should be involved in Civic Center planning, even if there is not a joint facility.
- b. Construction Update. Work has begun on the district Joint Use Library project. At the last Board meeting the district expressed concerns about the change of case managers, but the district has learned that it will be getting the full \$999,990 allocation of state matching funds. The final approval will be given at the August 23 SAB meeting. The plumbing modernization project at PCY will be finished before school starts. Mrs. Dalbeck and Mrs. Gonias attended the August 14 SAB Implementation Committee meeting in Sacramento. At that meeting, approval of State matching funds for the three elementary schools modernization projects was discussed. Final approval of the three projects is expected at the August 23 SAB meeting. Allocations for the elementary school projects will fund roofing, asphalt, exterior painting, and plumbing. The plans for these projects are consistent with Facilities Master Plan. We are getting ready to submit our next plans for DSA approval.
- c. Hiring Update. When school starts the district will have hired 26 new teachers. Mrs. Gonias stated that she has been very impressed with quality of staff that the interview teams have recommended for hire. She also stated that we are fully staffed in Special Ed. Richard Tetu has been hired for the Special Education department at LCHS. The Individualized Educational Plans have been reviewed at the high school by our interim director and our new Director of Special Education. With the hiring of Mr. Tetu, we still have room for 8 new students at the high school. We are also now fully staffed at Foothills School. We are hiring a program specialist to work with our teachers at Foothills School.

The following audience members addressed the Board regarding Special Education:

Larry Fishman, 4228 Beulah Drive  
 Hiro Shimada, 4459 La Granada Way  
 Barry Riedel, 1355-1/2 Foothill Boulevard  
 Denise Caven, 5170 Redwillow  
 Dennis Sinclitico, 4433 Gould Avenue  
 Steve Tobia, 4636 Hillard  
 Terry Price, 4377 Cobblestone  
 Bella Issaians, 4041 Dover Road  
 Therrion Price, 4377 Cobblestone  
 David Wilcox, 5354 Palm Drive  
 Tom Hanson, 4390 Belair  
 Nancy Wanski, 2031 Tondolea Lane  
 Jim Burk, 5215 Palm Drive  
 Monica Georgopoulos, 909 Calle La Primavera

Amanda Soloway, of 5284 La Cañada Boulevard  
Debbie Johannes, of 481 Paulette

Mrs. Reynolds recessed the meeting at 10:25 p.m.  
Mrs. Reynolds reconvened the meeting at 10:31 p.m.

**3. a. Superintendent's Evaluation and Preview of Goals for 2000-2001**

Mrs. Reynolds reported that the Board has spent a lot of hours with the Superintendent evaluating her work for the year. She stated that she would like to thank the District for working so hard within budgetary constraints. Our schools are some of the safest and most educationally sound in Los Angeles County. Mrs. Reynolds stated that we need to create an educationally sound program that's constantly improving. It's nice to see the SAT-9 scores are very high – second in the county. The focus in our district has been on education student by student. This has been Mrs. Gonia's focus. The district has intervention programs to help students. In the high school packet there were 2 surveys – an example of our attempt to rely not only on test scores, but also on personal experience and perception of how programs are affecting individual students. We have great principals and can attract great teachers. Mrs. Gonia has broadened the hiring process so parents, students and the Board are involved. She has established the Bond Oversight Committee. She is a brave and committed person who seeks community input and attempts to make the hard decisions for students.

Mr. Moffitt stated that one of the most important things that the Board does is hire a superintendent. The Board did its best to find someone who would make needed improvements, such as in curriculum and assessment. We've seen progress; we've seen things happen. The Board made a right decision. We know that Mrs. Gonia shares with us the desire that every student get the best education that this school district can give them.

Mrs. Broberg stated that during this long, difficult Board meeting, Mrs. Gonia has demonstrated her talents and her professionalism.

Mrs. Gonia thanked the board for acknowledgement of the work the district has been doing to enhance curriculum and instruction for all students – one student at a time. We want our students to be responsible, moral adults. We will continue to strengthen character education as well as academics. We will strengthen student support by expanding intervention programs, and continuing to identify students in need of extra help. We will expand our college counseling services. Mrs. Gonia stated that she is pleased with the hiring of excellent new teachers. We have extremely strong experienced teachers in this district. We will implement a peer assistance and review program to help new teachers and support experienced teachers. We will continue our work on facilities, technology and equipment. We have broken ground at the high school for the Joint Use Library Project, have almost finished the PCY plumbing, and have a 5-year maintenance and replacement plan for technology. Mrs. Gonia will be working with the K-12 Educational Options Committee to evaluate facility use. She will form a Budget Advisory Committee and work to bring our reserves up to target level.

Mrs. Reynolds added that our outreach is not just to committees, but to parents to give them the tools to know how to help their children excel in school.

First Reading

- a. Resolution 2-00-01: Assurance of Schiff-Bustamante 9-12 Textbook Alignment with State Standards. It was moved and seconded (Moffitt/Racklin ) to approve the Schiff-Bustamante Textbook Alignment with State Standards. The motion was adopted unanimously.
- b. CSEA School Calendar, R30-00-01. It was moved and seconded (Racklin/Broberg) to approve the CSEA School Calendar for 2000-2001. Dr. Leabo explained that we are required to negotiate the school year calendar for employees. The motion was adopted unanimously.
- c. Nomination for Membership to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization, R29-00-01. It was moved and seconded (Reynolds/Racklin) to nominate for membership to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization. Mrs. Broberg explained that this is a four-year term. Nominations come from each geographical area, but vote is at large. It was unanimously decided that the Board would make no nomination.
- d. Short Term Facility Use Proposal, R28-00-01. Emese Varga Bihari explained the purpose of bringing the proposal to the Board. She explained that a public meeting was held on July 14, with our users. The district cannot pick up any costs for the use of our facilities from the general fund. The committee compared fees with other facilities in this area, and established two categories of users. The district will create an evaluation form to elicit input from our users. The changes suggested were: the district will not require a custodian to be on site for the duration of the activity, but if an employee must be called out, the union contract states that custodians must be paid for a minimum of 4 hours; the district will establish a single rate for all non-employee users who pay a facility fee. The commercial rate has been eliminated; the district will establish a standard charge of \$25 per hour for staff; the district will modify current Administrative Regulation to require a custodian only for opening, closing and setting up, with a minimum of 4 hours, outside of regular hours; the district will allow advance reservation of not more than three months prior to the event and in blocks of no more than three months, so as not to interfere with district activities; the district will set and impose a cancellation fee for failure to cancel – equal to the 50 % deposit required up-front; the district will define when cancellation is needed – 48 hours was suggested. The fiscal impact of these changes would be minimal. Mrs. Reynolds asked if insurance is required. Ms. Varga assured her that we require a \$1million policy. We also have the Tenant Users Liability Insurance Program (“TULIP”) for users who don’t have a liability policy already.

The following persons addressed the Board regarding Short Term Facility Use:

Tim Gosney, 490 E. Alta Canyon, Representative from the Roger Barkley Community Center  
 Aaron Solomon, 4469 Chevy Chase Drive, Representative from the Roger Barkley Community Center  
 Marty Motia, 5306 Angeles Crest Highway, Representative from La Cañada Spartan Basketball  
 Anthony Portantino, 4612 La Cañada Blvd.  
 Gayle Friedmann, 5130 Hayman Avenue, LCE PTA President

- e. Scrip Fund. It was moved and seconded (Racklin/Moffitt) to accept the Scrip fund. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P3-00-01.** *Certificated* – 2000-01 New Hires Tricia Glaser (temporary), Daniel Hamman (temporary), Lisa Mahrer (temporary), John Snyder (temporary), and Richard Tetu. Leave of absence for Jody Harrison-Lee. Resignation of teacher Claud Rostamian. *Classified* – 2000-01 New Hires Aide Diane Fabrizio, Aide Tobias Lewsadder, Remedial Aide Lindsay Mavilia, Classified Substitute Victoria Shumway. Modification of position for April Akers from PCY to LCE. Leave of Absence for Victoria Shumway. Resignations of ELD Aide Sharon Hancock, Remedial Aide Lisa Keller, Classroom/Noon Aide Tobias Lewsadder, Classroom Aide Lindsay Mavilia, ELD Aide Marion Maxwell.
- b. **Authorization to Enter into Contract with Red Flag Fire Protection, R14-00-01.** This is a request from the Business Office to enter into a contract with Red Flag Fire Protection for fire protection services.
- c. **Authorization to Enter into Contract with Parker & Covert for Legal Services, R15-00-01.** This is a request from the Business Office to enter into a contract with Parker & Covert for Legal Services.
- d. **Authorization to Enter into Contract with Margaret Chidester for Legal Services, R16-00-01.** This is a request from the Business Office to enter into a contract with Margaret Chidester for legal services.
- e. **Authorization to Enter into Contract with Solid Waste Recycling and Disposal, R17-00-01.** This is a request from the Business Office to enter into a contract with Solid Waste Recycling and Disposal for waste disposal services.
- f. **Authorization to Enter into Contract with Service Pro Pest Management Company, R18-00-01.** This is a request from the Business Office to enter into a contract with Service Pro Pest Management Company for pest control services.
- g. **Authorization to Enter into Contract with Embree Bus, R19-00-01.** This is a request from the Business Office to enter into a contract with Embree Bus Company for student transportation.
- h. **Approval of Frederick S. Upton Foundation Grant to Palm Crest Elementary School, R20-00-01.** Ms. Dietra Reed, Principal at Palm Crest Elementary School, has applied for and received a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the Frederick S. Upton Foundation, a private foundation.
- i. **Gifts to the District, R21-00-01.** This is a list of gifts to the district since the last regular Board meeting.
- j. **Approve Sale of Surplus Bus, R24-00-01.** This is a request from the Business Office to approve the sale of a surplus bus.
- k. **Approve Superintendent's Contract, R33-00-01.** The Board is asked to approve the Superintendent's contract.
- l. **Approve Non-Public School, Non-Public Agency Contracts, R26-00-01**
- m. **Special Activity: Boys' and Girls' Stanford Cross-Country Invitational, R27-00-01.** The LCHS Boys and Girls Varsity Cross Country Teams will attend the Stanford Cross Country Invitational at Stanford University, Friday, September 29 to Saturday, September 30, 2000.
- n. **Purchase Order List #2-00-01 and #19-99-00**

## COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Reynolds asked that resolutions concerning Prop. 38 and 39 be put on the next agenda.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no need to reconvene Closed Session, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 p.m. The Next

Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on September 12, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. in the La Cañada Elementary School Library.

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Lorene Gonia, Superintendent  
Secretary to the Governing Board

**MINUTES APPROVED**

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Barbara Racklin, Clerk, Governing Board

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Date