

**CONEJO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING****March 5, 2013
MINUTES****CALL TO ORDER – CLOSED SESSION**

At 4:00 p.m., Dr. Stephens announced that the Special Meeting – Closed Session was called to order. The topic was the Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation. The Board met with Dr. Jeffrey Baarstad, Superintendent. The meeting ended at 5:10 p.m.

At 5:12 p.m. President Timothy Stephens announced that the Board would convene into (Regular) Closed Session, and asked if there were any public speakers for the Closed Session agenda items; there were none. The Board convened into Closed Session at 5:14 p.m., where the following items were discussed:

- A. Public Employee Appointment-Employment (*Pursuant to Government Code §54957*)
 1. See Section IV. Action Items – Consent - Personnel/Assignment Orders
- B. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release (*Pursuant to Government Code §54957*)
 1. See Section IV. Action Items – Consent - Personnel/Assignment Orders
- C. Labor Negotiations, Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6
Agency Negotiator: Timothy Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent, Personnel Services
Employee Organizations:
 - Unified Association of Conejo Teachers (UACT)
 - California School Employees Association (CSEA)
 - Conejo Valley Pupil Personnel Association (CVPPA)
- D. Consideration of Student Discipline – Expulsion or Suspension, *Pursuant to Education Code §48900, et seq.*
- E. Consideration of Confidential Student Issues Other Than Expulsion and Suspension, *Pursuant to Education Code §35146*
- F. Pending Litigation, *Pursuant to Government Code §54957.1(a)(3)*
- G. Conference with Real Property Negotiators, *Pursuant to Government Code §54956.8*
Property negotiators for CVUSD are Dr. Joel Kirschenstein, Sage Institute, and Dr. Jeffrey Baarstad, Superintendent

The following properties will be discussed regarding price and terms of payment:

- 310 Kelley Road
- 2498 Conejo Center Drive

The Closed Session ended at 6:05 p.m. There were no announcements from Closed Session.

REGULAR SESSION**OPENING PROVISIONS**

Call to Order and Roll Call: President Stephens called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Present were Board members Peggy Buckles, Dr. Betsy Connolly, Mike Dunn, Pat Phelps and Dr. Timothy Stephens. Administration: Dr. Jeffrey L. Baarstad, Superintendent, Timothy Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent, Personnel Services, Linda Bekeny, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, and Robert Iezza, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services. Dr. Jeff Davis, Director, Secondary Education, Carol Boyan-Held, Director, Elementary Education and Dr. Jon Sand, Director, Curriculum and Assessment, were present.

Dr. Stephens read the procedural announcements and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

Mrs. Phelps moved to approve the Agenda with the following changes: bring Agenda item IV. A. Recommendation to Name the Westlake Hills Elementary School Library the Julie P. Power Library to Opening Provisions D.1. after the approval of the agenda, and in the Consent Agenda, item B. 1. Certificated Employees, change the numbers to #9252 to #9259, seconded by Mrs. Buckles. Motion carried 5-0.

Action Item (per approval of agenda change)**Recommendation to Name the Westlake Hills Elementary School Library the Julie P. Power Library**

Mrs. Buckles moved to approve the recommendation by the Foundation to name the Westlake Hills Elementary School Library the Julie P. Power Library, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Mike Soules, President, Conejo Schools Foundation provided history about the commitment and generosity of the Power family to CVUSD, and Jamie Power presented information about his mother, Julie P. Power, who was the first PTA President at Westlake Hills Elementary School and volunteered at the school for many years. Motion carried 5-0.

Reports from High School Student Representatives

Jonathon Gomes, Conejo Valley High School, Alex Vesling, Newbury Park High School, Kate Corlett, Thousand Oaks High School and Will Barrett, Westlake High School, reported on activities from their campuses, such as recycling programs, Mock Trial, college application workshops, SAT preparation, Science Fair, talent shows, athletics, band, choir, theater, school clubs and organizations, assemblies, rallies, and fundraising, and many others.

Reports from Community Support Organizations

Julie Nerland, Conejo Council Executive Vice President, reported from Los Cerritos Middle School PTA and Debbie Bulko, President, Colina Middle School PTSA, reported on school activities at Colina. For more information, you may visit the Conejo Council PTA website at <http://conejocouncilpta.org/CommunityConcerns.html>.

Mike Soules, President, Conejo Schools Foundation (CSF), discussed the upcoming Music Festivals beginning April 2, 3, 4, 5 for the choirs, and April 30, May 1 strings, and May 20, 21, and 22 will be the bands. He thanked Terry McCallum for his leadership and direction with the Music Festivals. Mr. Soules offered information about the Foundation's "Get Ahead" summer school for high school students. More information may be found on <http://www.conejoschools.org/>.

Laurie Lam, Chair, District Advisory Council (DAC), reported from the meeting of February 11, where DAC members heard reports from the English Language Arts Adoption, "We the People" Program, the Recycling Program and School Choice. For more information, please visit DAC's webpage at <http://www.conejo.k12.ca.us/Parents/DistrictAdvisoryCouncilDAC.aspx>.

Comments from the Superintendent

Dr. Baarstad proudly announced that Redwood Middle School and Century Academy have both been moved forward in the prestigious California Distinguished School selection process, and that several of the high school athletic teams are preparing for CIF and state tournaments as the winter sport season comes to a close. He also indicated that the Westlake High School performing arts programs were highlighted in an excellent article in the Westlake Malibu Lifestyle magazine.

Comments from the Public

One person stated her concerns about the District's Child Care program; one person introduced herself as the new Personnel Commissioner and invited Board members to attend Commission meetings.

Comments from Individual Board Members

Dr. Connolly discussed attending a Thousand Oaks vs Camarillo High School basketball game, which she enjoyed thoroughly. Dr. Connolly attended the lecture at CLU that featured speaker Yong Zhao from University of Oregon, author of "World Class Learners." Dr. Zhao spoke about the entrepreneurial spirit and the questionable wisdom of "chasing" test scores. Dr. Connolly stated that Mr. Zhao had many positive things to say about education in the United States and thanked all those responsible for sponsoring him at CLU (CLU, Corwin Press, Conejo Schools Foundation, and the Workforce Investment Board). Dr. Connolly also applauded the upcoming Music Festivals and "We the People" activities. Mrs. Phelps discussed the last meeting of the Conejo Coalition for Youth and Family. The group took a field trip to the County's new medical clinic (formerly Border's Books), which she reported was an amazing, modern facility.

ACTION ITEMS – GENERAL**Instructional Services****B. District Program Improvement Year 3 – Local Educational Agency Plan**

Mr. Dunn moved to approve the Local Educational Agency Plan as submitted, seconded by Dr. Connolly. Mr. Iezza provided information about the process. Mrs. Phelps stated that while she had not read all 300 pages of the report, she felt that the study was "right on" in regard to strengths and weaknesses in the district. Board members stated their appreciation for the staff time and efforts put into the process and report. Mr. Iezza thanked the County representatives for their leadership and time to create the report. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Title III Year 4 Improvement Plan

Mrs. Buckles moved to approve the Title III Improvement Plan for 2013/2014, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0.

Business Services**D. Approve Extension of Contract with VCEDNET for Internet Access**

Mrs. Phelps moved to approve extending the contract with VCEDNET to provide Internet access for 2013-14, seconded by Mrs. Buckles. Motion carried 5-0.

E. Approve Extension of Contract with VCEDNET for Web Hosting Services

Mr. Dunn moved to approve extending the contract with VCEDNET for web hosting services for 2013-14, seconded by Dr. Connolly. Motion carried 5-0.

ACTION ITEMS – CONSENT

Mrs. Phelps moved to approve the consent agenda with one exception: to remove item V. F. Ratify Overnight Trip Request – Thousand Oaks High School School-to-Career/DECA for discussion and vote, seconded by Mrs. Buckles. Motion carried 5-0.

- A. Approval of Minutes (in Section B of the Agenda packet)
 - 1. Regular Meeting of February 19, 2013
- B. Personnel Assignment Orders:
 - 1. Certificated: #9252 to #9258
Counselors, Exempt Specialists, Teacher
 - 2. Classified: C-7511 to C-7436
Account Clerk, Child Care Leader, Child Nutrition Assistant I, Early Care Aid, Health Clerk, Intermediate Clerk Typist, Language Assessment & Development Facilitator, Professional/Bilingual-Spanish, Paraprofessional/Special Ed, Payroll Clerk, Senior Account Clerk, Senior Clerk Typist
 - 3. Exempt: E-12472 to E-12501
Athletic Coach, Campus Supervisor, Outdoor Education, Proctor, Specialist
- C. Stipulated Agreement: Thousand Oaks High School #10-12/13SA
- D. Expulsions
 - 1. Conejo Valley High School #7-12/13E
 - 2. Conejo Valley High School #8-12/13E
- E. Overnight Trip Requests
 - 1. Newbury Park High School Varsity Baseball
 - 2. Westlake High School Academic Decathlon
- ~~F. Ratify Overnight Trip Request – Thousand Oaks High School School to Career/DECA~~ Removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion and separate vote
- G. Parent Support/Booster Organizations Reauthorization: Conejo Open Program Endeavor Booster Club
- H. Purchase Order Report #829

ACTION ITEM (Item removed from the Consent Agenda)

- F. **Ratify Overnight Trip Request – Thousand Oaks High School School-to-Career/DECA**
Mrs. Phelps moved to approve the overnight trip request, seconded by Dr. Connolly. One public speaker stated her concern about the rules concerning the safety of the students in regard to proper allocation of seating in vans, driver credentials, etc. Motion carried 5-0.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Personnel Services

- A. **Political Activities by Employees**
One public speaker discussed the ruling regarding distribution of political information during work hours. He read from Education Code regarding this issue. The speaker stated that CSEA feels very strongly about employees being denied political action as protected by Education Code. Mr. Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent, Personnel Services, presented information regarding political activities by employees. Mr. Carpenter stated that current Board Policy 1160 and Education Code 7055 states that the Board “may establish reasonable regulations related to Board members and employees engaging in political activity during working hours and on district premises. Dr. Baarstad stated that it is clear the legislature was trying to prevent employees from impacting the political views of students during instructional time. Board

Policies and Administrative Regulations may be found on the district’s web site:
<http://www.conejo.k12.ca.us/BoardofEducation/PoliciesandRegulations/Series4000Personnel.aspx>

Mr. Dunn asked if policy would allow a teacher to send a district email asking other teachers to change curriculum on a given day to accommodate students or staff promoting a social policy issue. Mr. Carpenter stated that occasionally this may happen on a high school campus, and he cited a situation with a sign language club teacher/sponsor asking staff to consider respecting students who were observing a day of silence in order to express empathy with hearing-impaired students. Students were advised not to disrupt class and to answer teacher’s questions as well as they could. He said the action was supported. Mr. Dunn asked if classified employees have a right to collective action, such as writing a letter to the editor (of local papers) that would be critical of the district without the fear of discipline. Mr. Carpenter stated yes. Mr. Dunn asked if classified employees (CSEA) had the right to strike. Mr. Carpenter stated yes.

Business Services

B. Approve the Transfer of the State Preschool Program Grant from the City of Thousand Oaks to the District as of July 1, 2013

One public speaker stated that the program has lost money over the past five years, and that is why the City wants to transfer the contract. Mrs. Bekeny provided information regarding the grant for pre-school at the City Center and stated that due to State regulations regarding the agency that contracts for the program audit, the City is offering to transfer the grant to the District. There will be no changes in services. Dr. Baarstad stated that he feels compelled to correct the record and statement of the previous public speaker regarding the financial status of the program. Each year for the past five years staff provides four documented financial reports to the Board, which include the NfL Preschool Program financials. These reports show that the NfL program has been self-sustaining and has not infringed on the District’s General Fund. Dr. Connolly stated that she is proud of the District for offering a high quality pre-school program that specifically serves low income families. Mrs. Phelps agreed that the programs are excellent and provide an important opportunity to our community’s families.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Stephens adjourned the Open Session at 8:10 p.m. The Board will reconvene on **Tuesday, April 2, 2013, Closed Session at 5:00 p.m., Open Session at 6:00 p.m.** at the CVUSD South Building Board Room, 1400 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks.

March 19, 2013

Date

Clerk

March 19, 2013

Date

Superintendent