

**CONEJO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING**

March 27, 2001

MINUTES

The Conejo Valley Unified School District Board of Education met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 27, 2001, at the District Office Board Room, 1400 East Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, California. **CALL TO ORDER**

Present were Board members Dorothy L. Beaubien, Mary Jo Del Campo, Dolores Didio, Patricia H. Phelps, and Timothy G. Stephens. Also present were Jody Dunlap, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel Services; Richard W. Simpson, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services; and Gary Mortimer, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services. Staff present during the Regular Session was Chuck Eklund, Director, Secondary Education. **ROLL CALL**

The Closed Session meeting commenced at 5:30 p.m. The Board discussed the appointment/employment of Certificated: Teachers, Notice of Re-election, Psychologists and Counselors, Managers; Classified: Child Care Assistant, Child Nutrition Assistant I, Instructional Assistant/Special Education, Instructional Media Technician, Substitutes; Exempt: Specialists, Student Helpers, Campus Supervisors, Proctor, other exempt, athletic coaches; discipline, dismissal and release. The Closed Session meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. President Phelps called the Regular Session meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. **CLOSED SESSION**

President Phelps led the Pledge of Allegiance. **PLEDGE**

Mrs. Didio moved to approve the agenda as amended (move Recognitions after Approval of Agenda; add Information Item (originally posted as an Action-Consent item) Agenda Report #17, Page 41, Sycamore Canyon School: Future Site of K-5, 6-8 Programs; correct sports teams being recognized Westlake High School Girls' Soccer Team and Thousand Oaks High School Boys' Basketball Team; under Class II Action Items – General, the enumeration should be B. Instructional Services and C. Business Services), seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Motion carried 5-0. **APPROVE AGENDA**

Carmella Ettaro, mathematics teacher, Westlake High School, was awarded the State Farm Good Neighbor Award for her innovative approach to teaching polar graphics, which combines the use of textbooks, research writing and design. Mr. Dale Nowell, California Vice President of Operations, State Farm, presented a plaque to Ms. Ettaro. The school will also receive \$5,000 from State Farm. **RECOGNITIONS**

Lou Lichtl, assistant principal, Westlake High School, introduced Frank Marino, head coach for the Girls' Varsity Soccer team. Mr. Marino presented certificates of congratulations to the team for winning the Marmonte League Championship, and commended the team for its high academic achievements and for the past two undefeated seasons.

Jo-Ann Yoos, principal, Thousand Oaks High School, introduced Richard Andres, head coach for the Boys' Varsity Basketball Team. Mr. Andres presented certificates of congratulations to the team for winning the Marmonte League Championship. Mrs. Yoos commended Mr. Andres for having been honored as the Ventura County Coach of the Year.

Dr. Gross reported that: 1) he spent an evening last week with a Westlake Hills Elementary parent group talking about their interest in considering school uniforms. The parents feel that uniforms would ease the pressure students feel they are under to wear certain clothing. Note of interest: the courts have ruled it legal to require uniforms as long as there is an opt out process. 2) during a presentation to a Conejo Elementary School parent groups, Dr. Gross discussed effective communication between the school, teachers, and parents. It was concluded that the most important thing to remember regarding effective communication is to respect the other person's opinion and at all times remain courteous. 3) Board members and senior leadership staff have been meeting for the past two days with a representative from the National Blue Ribbon office at University Elementary School. The visitation was concluded Tuesday and we now await the final word from the U.S. Office of Education. Dr. Gross and Board members commended University staff and parents, and our M&O department, for the exceptional job they did to prepare University for the Blue Ribbon visit. 4) the Principal for Half-Day Program and wrap-up luncheon at Dole Foods was informative and successful. He thanked the principals and business leaders who participated. 5) he wished to commend the County Health Department and staff at Los Cerritos Middle School for their quick response to handling the meningitis alert at Los Cerritos. Symptoms to watch for are flu-like and parents who see such signs should contact their physician immediately. 6) we have received positive responses regarding the District's new Hot Line (805-497-9591) which is available 24 hours. Posters will be distributed for every secondary classroom and high traffic areas at each school. 7) we received word today from the State Department that our District will receive \$1.4 million in staff bonuses and block grants as a result of the excellent API testing scores.

**SUPT.
REMARKS**

Mr. Jim Martin, principal, Conejo Valley and Century High School, presented information about the schools and explained the differences between regular high schools and continuation schools, and between Conejo Valley and Century High Schools. The continuation schools offer total individualized instruction within small classrooms. Students attend the continuation school for any of four reasons: low on credits, attendance problems, transferred due to disciplinary action or by choice. The greatest percentage of students attends to make up credits and the lowest percentage attends as the result of a disciplinary action. The schools now have Internet access in each classroom, offer concurrent enrollment at other schools including Moorpark College, have a Career Path program, and are anxious to publish their new student-prepared yearbook. Mr. Martin commented on the school's recent WASC visitation, which was extremely positive.

REPORTS

Tina Grumney spoke in support of Sycamore Canyon School. She has been in contact with Dr. Chasse, principal, to help form a corps of volunteers parents and joined the PTA. Ms. Grumney mentioned that the first parent meeting held by Dr. Chasse was excellent and very informative.

**PUBLIC
CONCERNS**

Cheryl Heitmann spoke as the District Advisory Committee Chairperson (DAC). She stated that at the March 20, 2001 meeting, it was moved that our District lengthen the middle school periods to equal the high school periods until such time as class size reduction would be academically and fiscally possible. The motion was seconded. After discussion, the motion was amended to read: 1) DAC is unanimously opposed to extending the school year to 210 days; 2) DAC recommends that districts be given flexibility in implementing programs to meet the Governor's goal of academic excellence in middle schools; and 3) DAC recommends that our District lengthen the middle school periods to equal the high school periods until such time as class size reduction would be academically and fiscally possible. The motion was seconded and passed as amended. Another motion was that the Executive Board writes a letter to convey the motion that was just approved and send it to the Governor and appropriate Legislature representatives. The motion was seconded and

approved. The Board recommended that individual letters be written to representatives as the impact would be greater.

**PUBLIC
CONCERNS
(CONT.)**

Nick Quidwai commented that he is still opposed to the fact that the City Council and the School District meet on the same day of the week, at the same time; he questioned the inclusion of lottery funds in the general fund; and he suggested that the Board use the terminology "Oral Communications" rather than "Public Concerns" on the Agenda.

Dr. Stephens commented that he and other Board members had the opportunity to sit in on part of the Blue Ribbon interview on Monday, March 26, at University Elementary School. He commended the staff at University for their preparation for the visit.

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

Mrs. Didio commented that Dr. Gross sent a copy of a booklet, "Do You Know the Good News About American Education," to each Board member. She read some excerpts from the booklet that pointed out some of the many great improvements and achievements that are occurring in public schools.

Mrs. Beaubien moved to accept Personnel Assignment Orders Certificated #5516 - #5536, Classified #C-0263 - #C-0293 and #E-2428 - #E-2455, seconded by Dr. Stephens. Motion carried 5-0.

PAO's

Dr. Stephens moved to Amend Policy 501 – Equal Opportunity Employment (First Reading), seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Mrs. Phelps questioned whether the term "religious creed" should be used throughout the policy; Dr. Dunlap responded that she would review this and make recommendations for the second reading. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #1 filed.

**AMEND
POLICY 501**

Mrs. Didio moved that due to lack of funds and lack of work, the Board of Education finds that it is in the best interest of the School District to direct the Superintendent to commence implementing procedures to reduce the Instructional Assistant/Visually Handicapped as requested, effective April 30, 2001 and the Instructional Assistant/Special Education positions as requested, effective June 30, 2001. The layoff proceeding will be under the provisions of the CSEA Contract of Agreement between the District and Chapter 620, CSEA and the California Education Code, seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #2 filed.

**REDUCTION
IN HOURS
FOR SP. ED.
INSTR. ASSTS.**

Mrs. Del Campo moved to expel student 19-00/01E from the Conejo Valley Unified School District effective March 13, 2001, pursuant to the conditions described in the "Voluntary Consent to Discipline" signed and dated March 13, 2001; readmit student 19-00/01E to the District's Independent Study Program and/or refer to the County's Community School Program; and permit student 19-00/01E to apply for readmission to other programs on or after January 28, 2002, seconded by Mrs. Didio. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #3 filed.

EXPULSIONS

Dr. Stephens moved to expel student 20-00/01E from the Conejo Valley Unified School District effective March 13, 2001, pursuant to the conditions described in the "Voluntary Consent to Discipline" signed and dated March 13, 2001; readmit student 20-00/01E to the District's Independent Study Program and/or refer to the County's Community School Program; and permit student 20-00/01E to apply for readmission to other programs on or after January 28, 2002, seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #4 filed.

Mrs. Del Campo moved to expel student 21-00/01E from the Conejo Valley Unified School District effective March 7, 2001, pursuant to the conditions described in the "Voluntary Consent to Discipline" signed and dated March 13, 2001; readmit student 21-00/01E to the District's Independent Study Program and/or refer to the County's Community School

Program; and permit student 21-00/01E to apply for readmission to other programs on or after January 28, 2002, seconded by Mrs. Didio. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #5 filed.

**EXPULSIONS
(CONT.)**

Mrs. Beaubien moved to adopt the 2001-02 Budget Allocation Formulas, seconded by Mrs. Didio. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #6 filed.

**2001-02
BUDGET
ALLOCATION
FORMULAS**

Mrs. Didio moved to approve the 2000-01 School District audit and the compliance audit with the firm of Quezada & Company for an amount not to exceed \$36,770, seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Nick Quidwai spoke to this motion asking that the Board consider other companies to conduct audits and questioned whether the District goes out to bid on such items; Mr. Mortimer responded that in the past five years, the District has used other auditors, and that the District does offer a bid (RFP) for auditors every few years. Mr. Mortimer pointed out that since school district accounting is so specialized, there are very few companies that respond. Mrs. Phelps commented that she appreciated the work of the auditors who did help the District in several areas in the audit. Mrs. Didio stated that we also conduct our own internal audits, and by doing so, have implemented several improvements in the system. Mr. Mortimer also commented that there had been a recent audit of the bond expenditures, and that will be presented to the Board in a future meeting. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #7 filed.

**2000-01
DISTRICT
AUDIT
CONTRACT**

Mrs. Beaubien moved to approve the Major Facility Projects for 2001-02, seconded by Mrs. Didio. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #8 filed.

**2001-02
MAJOR
FACILITY
PROJECTS**

Mrs. Beaubien moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Dr. Stephens. Motion carried 5-0. A.R.'s filed: Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 13, 2001; A.R. #9—Academic Performance Index Award Budgets; A.R. #10—Grant/Visual and Performing Arts; A.R. #11—Preauthorization of Overnight Trip Requests; A.R. #12—Overnight Trip Request: Newbury Park High School Journalism; A.R. #13—#9-00/01 Contract for Non-Public Placement for Handicapped Students; A.R. #14—#10-00/01 Contract for Non-Public Placement for Handicapped Students; A.R. #15—Purchase Order Report #581; A.R. #16—Disposal of Surplus and Obsolete Equipment.

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

INFORMATION

INFO.

The Board received information regarding Sycamore Canyon School: Future Site of K-5, 6-8 Programs. Mrs. Didio commented that she felt the need to change the report from an Action item to an Information item so that everyone would have advanced notice about the report, and if needed, time for discussion would be available. She mentioned that in the past there had never been enough acreage to propose a K-5, 6-8 configuration, and now there is. Mrs. Del Campo stated that this collaboration was an example of the Park District, the School District and the City of Thousand Oaks working together to solve a problem to the benefit of the entire community.

There were no items of legislation.

LEGIS.

There was no report from the Personnel Commission.

PERS. COMM.

President Phelps adjourned the regular session at 8:22 p.m. to reconvene to Closed Session to discuss administrative positions. Closed session adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on April 10, 2001, at 5:30 p.m. for Closed Session and 7:00 p.m. for the Regular Session Board Meeting.

ADJOURN

April 10, 2001
Date Clerk

April 10, 2001
Date Secretary