

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

April 15, 2008
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – CLOSED SESSION

The Board meeting of April 15, 2008, was called to order by President Dorothy Beaubien at 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Beaubien asked if there were any public speakers for the Closed Session agenda items; there were none. The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 5:00 p.m., where the following items were discussed:

- A. Public Employee Appointment-Employment-Evaluation-Leaves of Absence-Retirement-Discipline-Dismissal
Pursuant to Government Code §54957
- B. Consideration of Student Discipline
Pursuant to Education Code §48918
- C. Pending Litigation
Pursuant to Government Code §54957.1(a)
- D. Labor Negotiations
Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6
- E. Real Estate Negotiations: Kelley Road Site
Pursuant to Government Code §54956.8
Dr. Joel Kirchenstein, Sage Industries, Negotiator

The Closed Session ended at 5:55 p.m. There were no announcements from Closed Session.

CALL TO ORDER – OPEN SESSION**OPENING PROVISIONS**

President Beaubien called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and read the procedural announcements for the meeting.

Present were Board members Dorothy Beaubien, Dolores Didio, Mike Dunn, Pat Phelps, and Dr. Timothy Stephens. Administration: Mario V. Contini, Superintendent, Jo-Ann Yoos, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel Services, and Janet Cosaro, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services. Bob Iezza, Director, Elementary Education, Max Beaman, Secondary Education, and Carol Boyan, Director, Curriculum, were also present.

Mrs. Beaubien called for a moment of silence in memory of Newbury Park High School student Cody Murphy, who was killed in a car accident last week.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Didio moved to approve the agenda, with the following changes: remove item IV. A. 1. from the Consent Agenda: Regular Meeting of March 18, 2008 to discuss and vote on separately from the Consent Agenda; item IV. H. from the Consent Agenda: Award of Contract – Westlake High School – Phase 1 Modernization Site Utilities and ADA/Compliance, Information Items V. A. Board Priorities and the District’s Strategic Plan, and G. CEQA Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the Conejo Valley Community Learning Center (CLC) – Conejo Valley high School Project, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0.

Recognition: Marmonte League and CIF Champions

The Board congratulated and acknowledged the Newbury Park High School Boys Soccer team and CIF Champions, the Thousand Oaks High School Girls Soccer team.

Report: Zangle ParentConnect Program

Dr. Michael Vollmert presented a demonstration of the Zangle ParentConnect Program. The program is available at all the high schools, middle schools, and most of the elementary schools.

Comments from the Superintendent

Mr. Contini: 1) congratulated Lang Ranch, Meadows, and Sycamore Canyon Elementary Schools, their principals, teachers, support staff, parents and students for being identified as California Distinguished Schools. CVUSD had three of the seven schools being recognized throughout Ventura County this year. We now have twenty-six California Distinguished Schools. This special distinction not only required a lot of hard work throughout the application process, but is testimony to the dedication of all involved. It is the result of a pattern of excellence that has been part of the culture of these schools for years. The continued state and national recognition of our schools is clear evidence that all of our schools are great schools. We are extremely proud of each and every one of them and while at this moment in time we are particularly excited for Lang Ranch, Meadows, Sycamore Canyon. 2) announced that the first annual State of the District presentation will be held on Wednesday, April 16, at the Thousand Oaks High School Performing Arts Center, beginning at 5:45 p.m. and running to 7:00 p.m. This presentation is coupled with the release of the CVUSD 2007 Annual Report. 3) discussed the issue of moving toward a "Paperless Agenda" for Board meetings. The Agenda for this meeting was available on our website for the first time in its entirety, that is, in a .pdf format including all the attachments to the Board agenda. We are moving toward eliminating the cost of duplicating almost 100 copies of the agenda each meeting, which costs close to \$500 per meeting. With some of the cost savings, the Board will be on laptops and a monitor will be installed for our audience.

Comments from the Public

One public speaker spoke against Measure B (right to vote on Traffic Congestion initiative), one speaker spoke about the negative behavior of the Board when a parcel tax was mentioned to raise money for the district, and two speakers spoke against closing schools.

Comments from Individual Board Members

Mrs. Didio spoke about the contingent of staff and Board members who traveled to Poway Unified School District to visit their technology and child care/preschool programs. Mrs. Didio also defended the Board's attendance at conferences due to the fact that the District has gained a great deal of information and in the case of developers' fees, millions of dollars. Mrs. Cosaro added that the technology at Poway is integrated throughout the curriculum, and Dr. Baarstad pointed out that there is dedicated support staff working on technology through a dedicated and continuous funding source.

ACTION ITEMS - GENERAL**Board of Education****A. Proposed Land Use Initiative "Right to Vote on Traffic Congestion"**

Mrs. Phelps moved to adopt Resolution #07/08-23 – Resolution in Opposition to the "Right to Vote on Traffic Congestion" Initiative, as submitted, seconded by Dr. Stephens. Five public speakers spoke to support the initiative against Measure B, five public speakers spoke against the initiative for Measure B. Mrs. Didio, Dr. Stephens and Mrs. Beaubien spoke in favor of the opposition to the "Right to Vote on "Traffic Congestion." Dr. Baarstad estimated a loss of \$15-25 million if the project was not completed, in addition to the concern other businesses would have to consider coming into the area. Motion carried 4-1, with Mr. Dunn voting no.

B. 2008 CSBA Delegate Assembly Run-Off Election for Sub-Region 11-B

Mrs. Phelps moved to nominate Rob Collins, Simi Valley Unified School District, to break the tie vote for Sub-Region 11-B, seconded by Dr. Stephens. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Resolution #07/08-20: Opposition to the Governor's State Budget Proposal

Mrs. Didio moved to adopt Resolution #07/08-20, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. One public speaker spoke against the resolution. Mr. Dunn stated that the legislature should share the blame of the budget, and went on to state that three things are responsible for the state budget shortfall: 1) hostile business community, 2) we're spending \$8 billion a year to provide goods and services to illegal immigrants, and 3) we are now 46th in the nation in per pupil spending, while the revenues in the state have gone up in the last 3-4 years, the service on the debt has also gone up each year. We spend more and more on bonds and interest on the bonds, so we have less for public education. Mrs. Phelps stated that we need to send the resolution to the Governor, who should bring it to the legislature. The Governor does propose the budget and should look more seriously at the needs for education. Motion carried 4-1, with Mr. Dunn voting no.

D. Approval of the CSBA 1312 Board Policies and Administrative Regulations, Second Reading

Dr. Stephens moved to adopt the CSBA 1312 policies and administrative regulations regarding complaint procedures, seconded by Mrs. Didio. Motion carried 5-0.

Instructional Services**E. Approval of K-5 Math Textbook and Materials Adoption**

Mrs. Phelps moved to adopt and purchase the textbooks and ancillary materials of California Everyday Mathematics for grades K-5, seconded by Mrs. Didio. 8 speakers spoke in opposition to Everyday Math, 7 speakers spoke in favor of Everyday Math. Dr. Stephens requested Mrs. Boyan, Director, Curriculum, to come to the podium to answer questions. Dr. Stephens asked what the vote was for Everyday Math from the math committee: K: 14 schools voted for EDM, 1st grade: 12 schools for EDM, 2nd grade: 14 schools for EDM, 3rd grade: 15 schools for EDM, 4th grade: 10/10 split vote between EDM and Harcourt Brace, 5th grade: 12 Harcourt, 8 EDM. Most of the books at the secondary level are traditional (like Harcourt). Dr. Stephens asked why the 6th grade teachers did not select EDM? Ms. Boyan responded that the 6th grade teachers felt they needed to be in line with the 7th and 8th grade students who are using the traditional mathematics books. Dr. Stephens stated that there are standards at every grade level, and the teachers are charged with delivering student mastery. How is this best achieved? Ms. Cosaro stated that the National Advisory Council states that in the early years, students need a lot of strong instruction. It is a philosophical difference with some of our teachers that students learn everyday algorithm or look at solving problems in a number of ways. All teachers agree that students need automaticity of the math facts, they need procedural knowledge, conceptual knowledge and need problem solving, and there is a difference of opinion how to get there. Dr. Stephens stated that it is important for teachers to feel comfortable with the materials they are using, and we need to consider teacher decision making. Ms. Cosaro stated that the Math Committee looked at different levels of materials, and considered many options. Ms. Boyan stated that while the teachers want our students to meet the standards, they also want them to go beyond the standards. Ms. Didio asked about the transition of learning with a philosophy such as EDM and then moving to traditional learning in the upper grades. Ms. Cosaro explained that with traditional teaching, the students memorize and learn the algorithms and the rote process, but struggle with conceptual understanding and problem solving as they move into the upper grades. Ms. Cosaro stated that test scores show that our students are doing very well, and have improved in math over the years of the EDM adoption. Mr. Dunn stated that the greatest consistent improvement seems to be at Weathersfield, who has been using EDM as a supplement to Harcourt. The other schools appear to have inconsistent increases, with an increase of +52. No other school in the district showed that increase. Ms. Cosaro stated you cannot compare point for point like an API score, but rather the number of points within a range. Mr. Dunn referred to information from Dave Ayers, a teacher at Weathersfield, which showed that Weathersfield scored the highest at 5th grade. Ms. Cosaro stated that those figures represent a cohort of students, which may vary from year to year. Mrs. Phelps stated that when the district adopted EDM in the last adoption, the Board did it with some reservations and questions. EDM has responded positively to every expectation our Board

had, including the fact that 66% of all teachers have approved the adoption. Mr. Contini stated that in his view, the teachers had excellent programs to consider for the adoption, and any one of them would have been successful for our students. This district has a process, which has been carefully thought out and executed. We are a unified district, and part of the advantage is that you can have commonalities across the district. Not only is it the instruction of the students, but the communication among the staff members. We have been talking for a couple of years about an emphasis on strong learning communities, which not only look at student data but also at student work. It is critical when looking at student work that teachers are brought together to determine common goals and common curriculum, which is critical. This doesn't mean that one textbook is better than another, but the advantages that we can bring to students are enhanced with common curriculum with common data and focus, across the district. Mr. Dunn stated that a compromise would be a good solution. He outlined his background in math, and stated that both he and his son liked EveryDay Math and his son did well in the program. However, people have been calling him and sending emails about their dissatisfaction about EDM. He feels that a dual adoption would work. Mrs. Beaubien asked Weathersfield teachers if they have been teaching EDM? They stated that they have been teaching from a traditional book but supplementing with EDM. Ms. Beaubien had considered a K-3 adoption (EDM), 5-6 traditional, and still feels it's not a bad idea. However, Ms. Phelps' statement that EDM has "done everything we asked it to do," is correct. If teachers don't like the material from the adoption, can they be passionate about it? Ms. Didio asked which curriculum was more difficult to teach? Ms. Cosaro stated that depends on the teachers, and staff development needs to be available to new teachers. Ms. Didio asked about transitioning – is there a right time? She understands the rationale for having one adoption, especially with schools closing and students and teachers moving from one school to another. We have a process, including a pilot program, and we need to depend on their information. Ms. Cosaro stated that a split adoption will incur a cost factor, which should not be considered in the decision of the adoption. Harcourt would be \$196,600 and EDM \$122,000, in 5/6 grades only. Dr. Stephens asked if we have outside authorities who have offered their opinion about EDM? Ms. Cosaro stated that many states around the country have adopted EDM, in our state of California many districts have adopted EDM. We're on the forefront in our County as some other districts look to what we do. EDM is looked to for how students should learn math entering the 21st century. Mr. Dunn stated that he typed in on his laptop a Google search: "Everyday Math criticism," and that had 115,000 hits whereas Harcourt has about 10,000. Mr. Dunn stated that may be an indication of expert opinions. Mrs. Phelps stated that hits on Google are not professional or expert math opinions, since you never really know who they are from. Our math committee choose EDM as they believed it was the better way to teach our children math through math concepts not rote memorization. If we want our children to be better thinkers, the scientists and thinkers of the future, math must be taught in a better way. EveryDay Math does that and has proven itself in our district. Mrs. Beaubien stated that she was very impressed when visiting classrooms and EDM is being taught. Mr. Contini stated that he wanted to "step over the line" and make a recommendation that the Board have a common, single adoption K-5, and give our confidence and trust in the process and our people who have explored this thoroughly and support the EveryDay Math adoption. Motion carried 4-1, with Mr. Dunn voting no.

Business Services

F. Waiver Application – Summer School Feeding 2008

Mrs. Didio moved to allow Child Nutrition to apply for its waiver for this year's summer feeding at the District's summer sites, seconded by Dr. Stephens. Motion carried 5-0.

ACTION ITEMS – CONSENT

Mrs. Didio moved to approve the consent agenda as amended, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0.

- A. Approval of Minutes (in Section B of the Agenda packet)
 1. ~~Regular Meeting of March 18, 2008~~ *Item pulled to discuss and vote on separately. See below.*
 2. Regular Meeting of April 1, 2008
- B. Personnel Assignment Orders:
 1. Certificated: 8055-8059
Teachers

2. Classified: C-4143 to C-4158
Child Care Assistant, Child Nutrition Assistant I, Custodian, Instructional Media Technician, Paraprofessional, Paraprofessional/Bilingual-Spanish, Paraprofessional/Special Education, Site Computer Technician
 3. Exempt: E-7891 to E-7931
Campus Supervisor, Coach, Proctor, Specialist, Student Helper
- C. Expulsions:
1. Westlake High School #39-07/08
- D. Contract for Non-Public School Placement for Handicapped Student #31-07/08 and #32-07/08
- E. Purchase Order Report #7202
- F. Disposal of Surplus and Obsolete Equipment
- G. Change Order #4 – Sycamore Canyon School – Gym & Locker Room Addition – GRD Construction, Inc.
- H. ~~Award of Contract – Westlake High School – Phase 1 Modernization Site Utilities and ADA/Compliance~~
Item pulled

Pulled from the Consent Agenda to discuss and vote on separately:

1. Regular Meeting of March 18, 2008. Mrs. Didio stated that in the minutes regarding school closure, it was stated that the Board would receive a report on the school closure meetings at University and Meadows, and asked to have one this evening, since no board members were there. Ms. Cosaro stated that at University, about 75 parents were present at the meeting with her, Bob Iezza, and Jeff Rickert, Principal. Staff answered questions, included where students would be placed. Dr. Baarstad's staff provided placement maps and staff has arranged tours of the receiving schools for families of the proposed closing schools. The families were very appreciative and felt that their questions were answered. They were provided with a survey to return. Mr. Contini, Dr. Baarstad, Ms. Cosaro and Mr. Iezza also met with Meadows parent constituents, along with Principal Judie Tetzlaff and Glenwood Principal, Sally Wennes. The parents felt that the only option they had heard so far was for all students to be moved as a group to Glenwood, and they were not, overall, in favor of that. They wanted to know other options. Staff also offered two schools for students to attend, but the parents were not interested in that, either. They want their small community, and felt they could draw more students to the district through an art magnet program at Meadows. They stated they were interested in working with the district as partners, but want to keep their school open. Another meeting was held with UACT representatives, Ms. Cosaro and Mr. Iezza with the Meadows teachers to hear their concerns, and they have asked for a two week turnaround on information. Ms. Didio asked about the news that Meadows parents want to form a Charter School; Ms. Cosaro stated that some parents said they were working toward a Charter, but stated that a Visual/Performing Arts magnet at Meadows would be their preferred choice. The staff and UACT previously met with the staff at Glenwood, who said they would welcome the Meadows staff and families with open arms. Ms. Cosaro asked if parents would like to choose anywhere in the District, but they stated they would like to keep their community together at Meadows. Ms. Didio asked if Glenwood became the arts and technology magnet, would that attract Meadows parents? Ms. Cosaro stated that the teachers and parents stated that they have been focusing on this magnet for years and don't want to move off their site. Mr. Contini stated in the discussion with the parents and following communications, the parents at Meadows feel that they can draw others into the District with the magnet, and have asked if they could have a couple of years to increase the enrollment. Ms. Beaubien stated if we do that with Meadows, we must make the same offer to University. Mr. Contini agreed, and pointed to the decision of the Board to rescind closure if the budget or enrollment improved. As a staff, we are looking at everything we can to support both schools, and we would love to avoid school closure. Dr. Baarstad stated that we cannot, however, do that on speculation that Meadows may attract more students in a couple of years. All departments are working on cuts to help us get to the \$8 million that needs to be cut for the 2008/2009 school year. We need to support commitments with solid delivery. Ms. Phelps stated that if the school district as a whole is willing to make cuts to keep the schools open, we need to consider that, too. Dr. Stephens asked if there is a final date whereby we will look at enrollment to consider whether it makes a difference about school closure. Dr. Baarstad stated that the final school closure decision should be made at the first board meeting in December 2008. Right now our enrollment projections reflect overall 350-450 students less next year, with smaller kindergarten registration. Now we are seeing a decline in our middle and high schools, which was expected. We need to look at budget cuts. We have sent the message to all sites that we will look at 6% cuts at the District Office, 4%

District Office support services, and 2% at the schools. We may not be able to eliminate 4% in Special Ed (a total of \$1 million), so we may have to cut deeper at the school sites. Dr. Stephens stated that we are looking at \$1.3 million to keep both schools open. Dr. Baarstad reminded everyone that if one school draws students from other schools around our district, that still does not increase enrollment district wide. If we can gain 200-250 students overall from private and home schools, that will make a difference and may help keep those two schools open. One of the budget cuts that is being considered is eliminating elementary counselors – not to keep schools open but to balance the budget next year. Another consideration is to eliminate freshman sports. These are examples of some of the programs that may directly affect the schools. Ms. Cosaro thanked the County Offices for their help in researching materials regarding developing magnets schools. She stated that the first step is to ask our community what they want in terms of a magnet program. Ms. Didio asked where we are in terms of attracting families for a pre-school program? Ms. Cosaro stated that staff is learning about the start up requirements of a pre-school program. Ms. Phelps moved to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting of March 18, 2008, seconded by Mrs. Didio. Motion carried 5-0.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Board of Education and Superintendent's Office

- A. ~~Board Priorities and the District's Strategic Plan~~ (Discussion Only) *Item pulled to reschedule for May 6, 2008*

Instructional Services

- B. Approval of School Choice Capacity Limits for Elementary Schools 2008-2009 (No comments)
C. Approval of Grades 6-12 Math Textbook and Materials Adoption (No comments)
D. Approval of CSBA 6142 Board Policies and Administrative Regulations (No comments)
E. Approval of CSBA 6143 Board Policies and Administrative Regulations (No comments)
F. Approval of CSBA 6164.2 Board Policies and Administrative Regulations (No comments)

Business Services

- G. ~~CEQA Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the Conejo Valley Community Learning Center (CLC) – Conejo Valley High School Project~~ *Item pulled*
- H. 2008-2009 Budget Development Update. Dr. Baarstad offered a brief outline of a plan for budget cuts, which included a 6% cut at the District Office, 4% District Office Support Services, and 2% cut at the schools. Dr. Baarstad and Susan Tucker, Director, Fiscal Services, have presented their plan to Principals, DAC, UACT, CVPPA and CSEA and asked for their feedback. In the Friday, May 2 Weekly Report to the Board, staff will provide a first and second plan to implement for budget cuts. The proposed budget plan will be presented to the Board at the May 6 Board meeting.
- I. November 2008 Tax Initiative. Dr. Baarstad explained that this concept was brought forward by parents to raise money for school closure efforts. The district thought a parcel tax may be more effective. The company that was asked to do a study on this possibility stated that \$60 per parcel would be necessary. Dr. Baarstad stated that staff has been talking to the Board for a couple of years about a General Election Bond for a master plan for all facilities. We would need to do one or the other – either a parcel tax or a bond. Bond money cannot be used to keep schools open, but a sales tax or parcel tax could. A sales tax would have to be shared with the City. The City has stated they are interested in sharing this effort with the School District and CRPD, but it will take a couple of years to sort out. This will not be in time to save our schools. It is suggested by those who work in this field that a public survey is an excellent investment to see what your public would like. Dr. Baarstad stated the advantage of a parcel tax is that we can put it on the ballot in November. The sales tax (with the City and CRPD) will not be available for a couple of years. Dr. Baarstad stated that he would like the Board to approve the staff looking at budget cuts to keep the schools open and conduct a combined survey with the City and CRPD for a sales tax initiative.

REPORTS AND CONCERNS

- A. Report from the Strategic Plan Committees: There were none.
- B. Report from the Superintendent: There were none.
- C. Reports from the Personnel Commission: There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

President Beaubien adjourned the Open Session at 10:20 p.m. The Board will reconvene on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. for Closed Session; 6:00 p.m. for Open Session at the CVUSD South Building Board Room, 1400 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks.

May 6, 2008

Date

Clerk

May 6, 2008

Date

Superintendent

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