

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

**June 28, 2005
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

The Conejo Valley Unified School District Board of Education met in Regular Session on June 28, 2005, at the District Office Board Room, 1400 East Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, California.

ROLL CALL

Present were Board members: Dorothy L. Beaubien, Dolores Didio, Mike Dunn, Pat Phelps and Dr. Timothy Stephens; Administration: Dr. Robert Fraisse, Superintendent, Dr. Richard Simpson, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services, Dr. Jody Dunlap, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel Services, Dr. Jeffrey Baarstad, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, Chuck Eklund, Director, Secondary Education, Linda Faverty, Director, Elementary Education, and Martha Mutz, Director, Curriculum/Media Services.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:00 p.m. The Board discussed the following items:

1. Appointment/employment of: Certificated: Teachers; Classified: Substitutes; Exempt: Specialists, Campus Supervisors, Student Helpers. (Government Code §54957)
2. Consideration of Pupil Personnel matters (Education Code §35146).

The Closed Session ended at 5:50 p.m. Dr. Stephens announced that the Board took no formal action during Closed Session.

APPROVE AGENDA

Mrs. Didio moved to approve the agenda with the replacement of page 88 in A.R. #6 2005-2006 Adopted Budgets – General Fund and Ancillary Budgets, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0.

REMARKS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Fraisse deferred his time in order to provide more time for the public speakers who were in the audience.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cathy Carlson accused the District and Board of lacking family values, will be working to replace all PTAs with PFAs, will work with the Governor to streamline education, will get rid of the Distinguished School program, and will demand accountability.

John Anderson voiced his opinion on the issue of traditional family values.

Sandra Stevens questioned the chain of command at the schools regarding discipline at the high schools.

Heather McKearn represented the concern of special education students after the arrest of a bus driver

(who worked for Durham Transportation).

Angelo Gober stated her objection to a comment by Mrs. Phelps in the newspaper regarding students "not reading" their textbooks.

Carlos Ortega stated that he invited Board members to speak on his radio show, and none responded. Mr. Ortega asked for tolerance toward Latinos.

Nick Quidwai accused the Board of being intolerant toward parents.

REMARKS BY THE BOARD

Mr. Dunn quoted from the Brown Act that members of the Board may make brief comments/statements regarding public statements. He confirmed with Mr. Ortega that he did not receive a phone call to speak on his radio show.

PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENT ORDERS

Mrs. Beaubien moved to approve Personnel Assignment Orders Certificated #7141 - #7174, Classified #C-2656 - #C-2682, and Exempt #E-5978 - #E-5991, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0.

The following administrative personnel assignment orders were announced:

Brian Crain as Assistant Principal, High School, Class X, Step A, on the certificated management salary schedule for the 2005-2006 school year.

Elizabeth Bryant as Dean, High School, Class XIII, Step A, on the certificated management salary schedule for the 2005-2006 school year.

Timothy Carpenter as Principal, High School, Class V, Step E, on the certificated management salary schedule for the 2006-2007 school year, effective July 1, 2005.

Luis Lichtl as Principal, Middle School, Class VIII, Step E, on the certificated management salary schedule for the 2006-2007 school year, effective July 1, 2005.

Drew Passalacqua as Assistant Principal, High School, Class X, Step B, on the certificated management salary schedule for the 2005-2006 school year, effective July 1, 2005.

SCHOOL SCHEDULES

Mrs. Beaubien moved to approve the 2005-2006 school schedules as attached, seconded by Mrs. Didio. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #1 filed.

K-6 HOME BASED PILOT

Mrs. Phelps moved to approve the 2005-2006 K-6 Home Based Independent Study pilot, seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #2 filed.

HEALTH CURRICULUM AND TEXTBOOKS

Mrs. Didio moved to adopt the proposed Health foundation documents developed by the District Health Committee, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #3 filed.

Mrs. Beaubien moved to approve the proposed Health curriculum for grades K-7 and 9, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #4 filed.

Mrs. Didio moved to adopt the proposed K-6 textbooks and software, and adopt Glencoe Health, 9th Edition, 2005 for 9th grade students, seconded by Mrs. Beaubien.

Dr. Stephens stated that Martha Mutz, Director of Curriculum, would present information regarding the textbooks. He also announced that since there were so many speakers to the topic (over 60), each speaker would be given 2 minutes.

Martha Mutz outlined the curriculum process, including the formation of the textbook committee. In the area of 9th grade health, there were only two textbooks available to the California market: one was Holt and the other Glencoe (publishers). Teachers commented that both were content rich, but the Glencoe text was more student-friendly. The chapter in question addressed marriage and family, and attempts to educate children on how to have a successful marriage. Ms. Mutz quoted the sentences in the chapter that are in question: *“A commitment is a promise or pledge that partners make to each other. Marriage is a long-term commitment.”* Ms. Mutz continued to explain that out of context, the sentence could infer that the textbook is about different kinds of marriages. Within context, if one reads the chapter, one would infer that marriage requires commitment. In the Holt book, the sentence reads, *“A marriage is a life-long union between a husband and a wife who develop an intimate relationship.”* Ms. Mutz explained that this sentence in the Holt book has been misquoted in the press and elsewhere to be *“...between a man and a woman...”* This is wrong.

The guidance came to the committee through the health framework, and was created at the state level. The committee must remain faithful to this. *“It is important that children not be denigrated because of their living arrangement or the composition of their family. This content area promotes the development of positive family interactions in all types of families, including those that face unusual challenges.”* *“Decisions regarding developing specific instruction in family living within the parameters of legal requirements rest with the school district. The approach of this framework is to encourage districts to work with parents and community members in developing curriculum especially in the area of family living. The intent of the curriculum in this content area is not to invade the privacy of families and their right to teach values to their children, but to assist families in teaching about family living, and encourage effective family communication.”* Consistent with this framework, both Holt and Glencoe de-emphasize what a family is, but definitely emphasize the need for family communication. As district employees, we clearly need to work with our community to reflect all families in the community, and we need to make decisions about family living curriculum. Our nation is divided on the definition of marriage, as is our local community. The issue in question relates to one sentence in a textbook of over 700 pages - will that one sentence influence students to an alternative life style? On the same page, there is a picture of a man and woman receiving pre-marital counseling - will that one picture influence students toward a traditional lifestyle? Or will they be influenced to understand the chapter's message, which is not lifestyle, but marriage requires emotional maturity? In 9th grade health classes, students do not initiate discussions about same-sex marriages. Were they to do so, our teachers would refer the students to their parents. Family values clearly reside not with the teacher, but with the family.

Glencoe has used neutral language of “partners” or “couples” since 1999, and no challenges other than in the state of Texas have happened.

Mr. Dunn asked if we have been sued by anyone with the use of the 5th edition of Glencoe Health; Ms. Mutz replied not to her knowledge. Mr. Dunn asked what the legal definition of marriage was in this state; Ms. Mutz stated if referring to Proposition 22, the district's attorney stated that nothing in Proposition 22 that would prevent the district from selecting the Glencoe textbook. Ms. Mutz referred to the legal brief forwarded by the District's attorney.

Mr. Dunn stated the options that were available for the Board to decide upon: the Glencoe 9th edition, the Texas version of the 9th edition; the Holt edition or status quo (using the 5th edition of the Glencoe textbook).

Mrs. Didio asked Ms. Mutz if there have been any complaints during the pilot year of both textbooks (Glencoe 9th and Holt editions). Mr. Dunn questioned the use of the books without Board approval; Ms. Mutz explained the pilot year is part of the adoption process so teachers can provide input for final choices. Mr. Dunn asked for numbers of students who were using the pilot books.

Dr. Stephens asked if the old edition of Glencoe is a viable option. Ms. Mutz stated that the books have been in use for about nine years, but since the book is out of publication, it would not be replaceable. This would cause problems in the classrooms as the books would become less available (through loss, damage, etc.).

Mr. Dunn pointed to the options, stating that the Glencoe 5th edition is an option for the evening's vote. Dr. Fraisse stated that while this is an option, the pros and cons of each option are not always obvious. The problem with the use of the old edition is that the textbooks are no longer in publication, and there would be a textbook shortage, creating problems in the classroom.

Public speakers on the issue were the following. *(Since these cards are handwritten, we apologize if some of the names are not accurately spelled.)*

Against the Glencoe 9th edition: John Anderson, Miguel Arana, Bruce Barkis, Tamara Campbell, Cathy Carlson, Gina Conti, Larry Conti, Susan Dietrich, Anthony Fiumerudo, Marilyn Fiumerudo, Joe Giardiello, Steven Geoffrion, Jason Irbano, Jennifer Jones, Shirley Jones, Richard Kahdeman, Marc Keenberg, Steve Larson, Richard Mason, Elaine McKearn, Cheryl Miller, Jeff Miller, Charlene Niemi, Carlos Ortega, Jason Palermo, Nick Quidwai, Wendy Ridenour, Ed Rockland, Betty Schmidt, Don Schwaiger, Renate Sutton, Hal Swanson, Miguel Valencia, Chris Valenzano, Sara Williams

For the Glencoe 9th Edition: Lenore Arab, Adrienne Aschenbrenner, Tina Aschenbrenner, Debbie Birenbaum, Linda Brown, Peggy Buckles, Ethel Chambers, LeeAnne Clark, Susan Falk, Marie Gluck, Barbara Leighton, Jacqueline Levesque, Pamela Lopez, Jerry Morris, Tom Mullens, Riley Neel, Andy Pletcher, Rev. Dr. Bradley Resare, Richard Reiss, Randy Roth, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Tom Stapleford, Laura Winchester, Jim Yarbrough

Public written statement cards submitted: 118 cards were submitted (many from out of the local area and many were duplicates of public speakers). 20 cards were for the Glencoe 9th edition; 98 cards were against the Glencoe 9th edition.

Mr. Dunn stated that the textbook publisher caused the problem by recommending how society should define marriage. Mr. Dunn cited California Education Code regarding textbook selection that each Board shall promote the involvement of parents and other members of the community in

the selection of materials. Mr. Dunn questioned the people listed on the textbook selection committee, stating that he didn't see any parents or community leaders listed. Mr. Dunn stated that he ran on a platform of traditional family values. He felt that "traditional family values" is the issue that has been brought forward. Mr. Dunn cited the election figures for Proposition 22, stating that 71% of the Conejo voters voted for the proposition, and as such, he feels that he needs to represent them. Mr. Dunn presented the choices, including keeping the current edition of the textbook. Mr. Dunn finalized his statements by stating that he knows no parent who throws rocks at homosexuals, nor does he know any who would have their child do this. Our District has a policy against violence, yet we should not let the course of our society be changed to accommodate these people. Mr. Dunn stated that he felt that the voice of the majority should be heard.

There was an attempt by Mr. Dunn to make another motion, but there was already a motion on the floor. Dr. Stephens requested clarification about the motion from Dr. Dunlap, Parliamentarian. Dr. Dunlap explained that when there is a motion on the floor, that motion must be voted on before any other motion is presented. An amendment to the motion may be considered, but not another motion.

Mrs. Didio repeated her motion: *"I move to adopt the proposed K-6 textbooks and software and adopt Glencoe Health 9th Edition 2005 for 9th grade students."* Mrs. Beaubien repeated her second to the motion.

Motion carried 4-1, Mr. Dunn voting no. A.R. #5 filed.

Mrs. Didio stated that the Glencoe 9th edition textbook is recommended by the State Department of Education and the District's curriculum committee. Mrs. Didio said that she appreciated the time and the work of the committee; she read the material and determined that the text provided information that would be helpful in having a successful marriage. The definition of marriage in regard to the law is not for the Board to determine. The book is not in violation of State law. Mrs. Didio looked up the definition of marriage, partner, spouse, and couple in the dictionary – all have the same basic definition – married persons, state of being married, a husband or wife. Mrs. Didio stated that she took her position on the Board to uphold the law in a non-partisan position, which is her ethical and moral responsibility. It is her responsibility to provide the best education for the 22,500 students in our District. As responsible Board members, they need to work with everyone in the best interest of our students, and should not let partisan politics enter into making decisions, nor should they attempt to intimidate or threaten other Board members to vote with them, instead of using logical, convincing arguments.

Mrs. Beaubien discussed the curriculum process, stating that many of the teachers who worked on the curriculum committee are also parents in the District, and many of students have used the book as a pilot over the last year. It is her opinion that the material is relevant and up to date, and will give the students information necessary to make good decisions. Mrs. Beaubien stated that we are a public school, not a private school, and as such, our job is to educate all students to become productive members of the adult society. That means they need to be aware of all options available to them. Religious and moral values are very important – but the dispute about them does not belong in the public school, and Proposition 22 does not apply to these textbooks. Mrs. Beaubien stated that she has been a teacher in the district for 31 years, a board member for 16 years, married for 41 years, raised 2 children and defies anyone to say that she does not have traditional family values. She has read the passages in dispute, and feels that they meet State and District standards.

Dr. Stephens stated that school board members are to be non-partisan, representing all of the people. This controversy over the health book has forced the Board to deal with a political issue that should be debated in Sacramento, not here in the Board room. He cited an article from the *Star* by one of the deputy editors, "*Public schools must be the catalyst for a life time of curiosity, enlightenment, and tolerance; not places of indoctrinating children with beliefs better taught in the home and in the church.*"

Mr. Dunn asked if the Board members had their speeches written before the public spoke. He stated that the Board was presented with a compromise – the Holt Reinhardt textbook with the traditional definition of marriage. That book is on the State approved list and meets that State standards. He stated that the Board has changed the definition of marriage in this city and the whole philosophy of the school district – against the will of the majority.

ADOPTED BUDGETS

Mrs. Didio moved to adopt the 2005-2006 budgets for the General Fund and Ancillary Funds as submitted with the replacement of page 88, seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Stan McClain spoke to the issue of the Governor's promise to restore the money borrowed from Education's STRS account. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #6 filed.

TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Mrs. Beaubien moved to continue the parent-pay, home-to-school transportation system at the current fee schedule of \$196 per semester for round-trip service and \$100 per semester for one-way service, seconded by Mrs. Didio. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #7 filed.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH PRICES

Mrs. Phelps moved to raise the meal prices \$.25 for both breakfast and lunch at the elementary and secondary grade levels, seconded by Mrs. Didio. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #8 filed.

CIVIC CENTER FEES

Mrs. Phelps moved to approve the amended civic Center Fee Schedule, effective July 1, 2005, as submitted, seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #9 filed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Didio moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Motion carried 5-0. Approval of minutes for Regular Meeting of June 14, 2005. A.R.s filed: A.R. #10 Expulsion: Westlake High School #41-04/05E; A.R. #11 Expulsion: Conejo Elementary School #42-04/05E; A.R. #12 Readmission of Expelled Student #2-04/05E; A.R. #13 Readmission of Expelled Student #19-04/05E; A.R. #14 Readmission of Expelled Student #25-04/05E; A.R. #15 Overnight Trip Request: Thousand Oaks High School Cross Country Team; A.R. #16 Overnight Trip Request: Thousand Oaks High School Girls Softball Team; A.R. #17 Overnight Trip Request: Westlake High School Dance Team; A.R. #18 Overnight Trip Request: Westlake High School French Student Exchange; A.R. #19 Contracts for Non-Public School Placement for Handicapped Student #24-04/05; A.R. #20 Contracts for Non-Public School Placement for Handicapped Student #25-04/05; A.R. #21 Contracts for Non-Public School Placement for Handicapped Student #26-04/05; A.R. #22 Contracts for Non-Public School Placement for Handicapped Student #27-04/05; A.R. #23 Contracts for Non-Public School Placement for Handicapped Student #28-04/05; A.R. #24 Contracts for Non-Public School Placement for Handicapped Student #29-04/05; A.R. #25 Contracts for Non-Public School Placement for Handicapped Student #30-04/05; A.R. #26 Purchase Order Report #667; A.R. #27

2005-2006 Annual Signature Authorization; A.R. #28 Acceptance of Cash and Equipment Donations; A.R. #29 Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints; A.R. #30 Award of Contract – Electrical Upgrade and Indefinite Quantity Electrical – Conejo Adult Education

INFORMATION ITEMS

Instructional Services

There were no comments on the following items:

1. Approval of New High School Math Pilot Course: Functions, Statistics and Trigonometry
2. Approval of Textbook for Math Pilot Course; Functions, Statistics and Trigonometry
3. Amendment to Policy #334.9 and Regulation R334.9 Independent Study Program K-12
4. Resolution #04/05-32: Child Care Grant and Application
5. Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Application
6. Approval of Change in High School Courses from Pilot to Permanent Status

REPORTS AND CONCERNS

1. Items of Legislation. There were none.
2. Items from the Personnel Commission. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

President Stephens adjourned the regular session at 9:25 p.m. The Board will convene on Tuesday, July 12, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. for Closed Session and 6:00 p.m. for Regular Session.

August 23, 2005	
Date	Clerk

August 23, 2005	
Date	Secretary