

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

**FEBRUARY 4, 2008
MINUTES**

MEETING

The Conejo Valley Unified School District Board of Education met on Monday, February 4, 2008, at the District Office Board Room at 1400 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA.

ROLL CALL

Present were Board members Dorothy Beaubien, Dolores Didio, Mike Dunn, Pat Phelps, Dr. Timothy Stephens, and Superintendent Mario V. Contini. Staff members Dr. Jeffrey Baarstad, Deputy Superintendent, Janet Cosaro, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services, Jo-Ann Yoos, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel Services, and Dr. Michael Vollmert, Director, Assessment and Technology, were also present.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE

President Beaubien called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Beaubien led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the announcements.

ACTION

Mrs. Didio moved to take the motion (from the Board Meeting of January 28, 2008) off the table: To authorize staff to enter into an agreement with Sunesys LLC to install a high-speed, fiber optic network connecting the District Office to 32 sites” seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Beaubien stated that a presentation by Dr. Baarstad and Dr. Vollmert will take place first, followed by a discussion by the Board, and then public comments will be heard.

PRESENTATION BY THE STAFF

Dr. Baarstad stated first that after a week of intensive study with Verizon, Sunysis, legal council, and technology staff, he is coming to the Board with the recommendation to reject all three proposals and direct staff to resubmit when the next e-rate cycle is available. He stressed that there were very productive discussions with Verizon and everyone involved learned much more about the options. There are some legal issues associated with the RFP process that is a concern to the staff, and in addition, while Verizon has been very forthcoming with information, we believe that their solution is a good one for the next two years, but not convinced that it is for the next five. A contract has to be signed by February 7 in order to qualify for the e-rate discount. It is just not possible to make that kind of decision in this amount of time. Dr. Baarstad stated that at this time staff recommends that the Board reject all bids. Dr. Vollmert presented a PowerPoint (available to the public upon request to the Business Services Division). The presentation explained how our network operated up to December, how it operates now with new County hookup with their VC Ed Net internet provider service, and how the Sunysis and Verizon proposals would redefine our network, and what the costs would be for each option.

Dr. Baarstad explained that he struggles with the question of what will be available five years from now and what it will cost. The next e-rate cycle begins July 1, 2008, and staff will ask the Board to consider another RFP at that time. This way, staff will have lead time to review the bids and proposals, have legal council, and be ready for a recommendation well in time for the Board to consider the next proposal.

Mr. Dunn asked for clarity: Will both the Sunysis proposal and the Verizon proposal deliver 1 gigabyte of bandwidth to each school site? If you just consider the first five year period, the Verizon proposal is at least \$1 million less than Sunysis. Dr. Baarstad confirmed it's more like \$1.5 million.

Mrs. Didio asked what would happen if what we have now failed? Dr. Vollmert stated it won't fail – they are phone lines that run data. What will happen is we will have no ability to increase the software utilization we have with school sites, no ability to do any type of consolidation or take advantage of cost savings by centralizing services. We'll have to maintain the existing model. We have some servers that are very old and we will have to replace them.

Mr. Dunn asked if the SuccessMaker software will run on an IBM with a XP operating system with 1 gig of ram. Dr. Vollmert said no, the program must run from the server.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nineteen speakers discussed their concerns regarding the expenditure for a high-speed network at this time; three public written statement forms were handed in against the expenditure for the network.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Didio asked if staff could answer any questions that the speakers presented. Dr. Baarstad offered the following:

1. *Have we considered wireless?* The wireless situation for our District is difficult because high frequency network cannot get through the surrounding hills and mountains. It would require high end antennas. We have looked into wireless as a possible solution, but it will not work.
2. *What would happen once a signal gets to our schools sites?* We have fiber backbones and can take a 1 gig signal and use it with our computers.
3. *What about all computers out there?* We probably have 6-7,000 computers hooked up to our network. We are not a little business – we are the 4th largest employer in the Conejo and the 8th largest employer in Ventura County. It is a very large network. We don't have a solution in the current budget for a 5-year replacement plan for the PCs the students, teachers and staff are using. We would like to propose to the Board a \$500,000-\$600,000 line item in the budget for the future upgrade and replacement of the PCs. This year's COLA was 4.53. We took about \$800,000 and used it to offset the loss of income due to declining enrollment, we gave our employees a raise, and then we set aside \$300,000 to cover the cost of the proposed network. The City did look at the potential for the iNet from Verizon coming to each school site, but that is not required as part of the City agreement. What was required was video access. We will look again at the Time Warner proposal as well, and we will be in contact with Time Warner to solicit their bid as part of this process next year.

Mr. Dunn stated that one speaker distributed an analysis to the Board and asked the question: Can we use proceeds from the sale of surplus property or from Measure R or State Modernization funds to technology upgrades? Dr. Baarstad stated that we could use surplus property funds for capital improvement conduit infrastructure and so on; we cannot use it to purchase computer equipment, etc. Surplus property funds have to be used for capital facilities projects. Modernization funds from the State of California could be used to upgrade school sites' network and infrastructure, but not for telecommunication costs. Regarding the bond funds, he believe network upgrades were in the original language and word was done, but the money is gone. Mr. Dunn referred to the original Sunysis proposal at \$2.4 million for 5 years. How much of that would have come out of the general fund? Dr. Baarstad responded 100% out of the unrestricted general fund.

ACTION

The Board voted on the motion on the floor: To authorize staff to enter into an agreement with Sunesys LLC to install a high-speed, fiber-optic network connecting the District Office to 32 sites. Motion denied 5-0.

Mrs. Beaubien called for a new motion.

Dr. Stephens moved to reject all three proposals that were submitted at the January 28, 2008, Board Meeting and reissue this proposal with e-rate in July 2008 for Board consideration, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Baarstad stated that Dr. Vollmert is currently chairing a committee to review the Technology Master Plan, which will look very specifically at what kind of technology architecture we want and what we want students and teachers to do with technology to improve learning. He stated that he hoped to have more information when they come back with proposals in July. Mr. Contini stated that Dr. Vollmert will also be taking inventory of our equipment and will build a 5-year plan for replacement and upgrades.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

February 19, 2008

Date

Clerk

February 19, 2008

Date

Superintendent