

**CONEJO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING****February 5, 2008  
MINUTES****CALL TO ORDER – CLOSED SESSION**

The Board meeting of February 5, 2008, was called to order by President Dorothy Beaubien at 5:00 p.m. at Thousand Oaks High School, 2323 N. Moorpark Road, Thousand Oaks, CA. Mrs. Beaubien asked if there were any public speakers for the Closed Session agenda items; there was one: Ms. Lorretta Ship addressed the Board. The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 5:05 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*

The Closed Session ended at 5:40 p.m. There were no announcements from Closed Session.

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

President Beaubien called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and read the procedural announcements for the meeting. Due to the large audience, Mrs. Beaubien made additional comments:

1. All speaker cards must be turned in prior to the Agenda item you wish to speak to.
2. There will be two Public Comment sections: one for any comments other than Item #1 dealing with school closures, and one for Item #1, regarding school closures.
3. Due to the number of speakers (67), Mrs. Beaubien stated that all speakers would be offered two minutes instead of the traditional three minutes to speak.
4. No banners or signs may be in the room as they may obstruct the view of others and the video camera.

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

**Approval of Agenda**

Mrs. Didio moved to approve the agenda with the omission of II. D. Recognition of School Psychologists; seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0.

**Reports from Student Board Representatives**

Katie Murphy, Newbury Park High School, Marina Piper, Thousand Oaks High School, and Jeff Alpert, sitting in for Aaron Alpert, Westlake High School, discussed campus events such as club activities, athletics, theater, band and choral activities, assemblies and rallies, Sadie Hawkins Day events, Senior Ball, Shadowing Day, museum visits, Career Day, the academy program, and others. There was no representation from Conejo Valley and Century High Schools.

**Comments from the Superintendent**

Mr. Contini stated that he will only discuss school closure issues tonight. School closure is affecting about 60% of the districts throughout California due to declining enrollment. Mr. Contini addressed the issue of “skepticism” about the actual need to close schools, and whether the district has looked to other means to avoid include school closure. If we do in fact close two schools, it will only cover about 25% of the loss of revenue due to declining enrollment. So it is not the total solution – unfortunately, we wish it would be. This year alone, our district diverted about \$800,000 away from other uses in order to delay school closure and cover the cost of declining enrollment that we’ve experienced. So, alternatives have been looked at and continue to be looked at. We need to face this issue together with courage, compassion and wisdom, and focus on what’s in the best interest of all our children. By nature, the issue of school closure is emotional. Allegiance to a school is a wonderful thing, but it’s not the only thing. We’re all part of a unified school district, and we are responsible to all of the students at all of the schools. Declining enrollment is an all-district issue.

Many people have shared their concerns and we have been listening. Unfortunately a few people injected into this process a very unfair set of unkind remarks that have created a degree of disharmony within our district rather than unity, a degree of hurt feelings rather than compassion, and a degree of disenfranchisement rather than respect for opinions and wisdom for all. The remarks have been made against staff, students and parents at schools that are facing extraordinary challenges that, against all odds, have achieved high levels of academic achievement and character development. The success that they’ve had rivals most other schools in the state of California, and quite frankly, most schools in California envy their level of success given their challenges. These people do not deserve ridicule, if anything, they should be congratulated and applauded, and we should think of them as our heroes. At this time we need courage, compassion and wisdom. Tonight, the Board is taking a pause in the process in order to provide parents the opportunity to share their thoughts and to allow the Board additional time to reflect on the process so it leads to what is in the best interest of all of the children and the entire district. When you speak tonight, please do so with courage, compassion and wisdom. The Board and staff are here to assist everyone who wishes to speak to be able to speak and to be heard.

Many thanks to the Facilities Committee for all the work they’ve done under Dr. Baarstad’s leadership. Many thanks, also, to all those who made this meeting possible tonight. Most of all, thanks to the parents who have been coming forward with constructive suggestions to try to help us get this process to a positive conclusion.

**ACTION ITEMS - GENERAL****Business Services****A. Board of Education Direction on Elementary School Closure Process**

Mrs. Phelps indicated that in order to begin discussion, a motion must be made, and the motion she was about to make should not be presumed to be the outcome of a vote as public input or Board discussion could change that. She then moved to confirm the eight elementary schools identified to be identified to be evaluated for closure by using the secondary school closure criteria approved at the Board meeting January 15, 2008, and direct the Facilities Goals Committee to begin the secondary scoring process, seconded by Mrs. Didio.

Mrs. Beaubien opened the discussion on this topic. She explained how Dr. Baarstad and his committee of district and school staff and community members have worked many long hours over many months to find a process that was as fair as possible. She stated that the Board and staff have been inundated by parent phone calls, emails and faxes, and we welcome them all. However, a few have crossed the line with their rude and vicious comments about the staff, children and parents at other schools. Mrs. Beaubien emphasized that the Board is not revisiting the School Closure process because of parent pressure. All of our schools are excellent schools where students receive an excellent education. The Board has no intention of throwing out the committee's hard work, and it has no intention of sending students from high performing schools to low performing schools, because all our schools are high performing. For several years, the Board has been concerned with the socio-economic imbalance of some of our schools. We had hoped that as part of the school closure process, we would be able to address this issue as well as some inconsistent boundaries. The PTA, in a letter to the Board a few months ago, also expressed their concerns regarding demographics at some of our schools. Mrs. Beaubien stated that the Board failed to communicate these concerns strongly enough to the committee early on, and she apologized for the Board for that oversight. But, in discussing these concerns with the Superintendent, they decided it would be best to ask the Committee to give the Board more time to discuss the demographics of the schools and the possibility of boundary changes to facilitate balance. They felt that the committee needed to hear those concerns before making their final recommendation, and that the Board should discuss these issues at this Board meeting.

Dr. Stephens discussed the fact that we have six Title 1 schools in this District, four of which have a large number of socio-economically deprived students and English Language Learners. Goal #2 in our Strategic Plan, under Instruction, states "Increase English Language performance of all English Language Learners." Having schools that are socio-economically and ELL balanced goes a long way to achieving this goal, and closing the achievement gap. He stated that this should be on the table as we go through this process.

Mrs. Phelps asked if the Board was trying to solve the issue of school balance with school closure. If our goal is truly to displace the fewest students and inconvenience the fewest families, then the criteria that the Facilities Committee presented to us is correct. If we want the Facilities Committee to look at this issue, then we need to charge them with that responsibility also and not just school closure or we need to meet as a Board and ask, what is our intent?

Mrs. Didio agreed with Mrs. Phelps. Listening and seeing the results at the last meeting, she thought that balance should have been a part of it. There are three things we need to reconsider if we are going to address balance: school closure, boundary changes and school choice, which has exacerbated the problem of imbalance. The Board has to work as a team, the district community has to work as a team, and should ask, what can I do to make things even better?

Mr. Dunn stated that he received a letter from a PTA president who was concerned about statements made about her child's school. She also sent information to him regarding socio-economic integration. He wanted it known that he did not make ill remarks about Manzanita staff, students or parents.

Mrs. Beaubien stated it is very important that we look at the demographics of all our schools. Mrs. Beaubien stated that the Board firmly believes that all our schools are fine schools. In a meeting with Dr. Baarstad, she asked to work with several factors to see what seems to affect API scores. Dr. Baarstad and Mr. Nelson presented a chart showing the relationship among API ranking, ELL and SES students. The chart showed that size of school does not affect API scores as our larger elementary schools have the highest API scores. However, socio-economic status (SES) and ELL does seem to affect API scores, as our five lowest API scores are in schools with the highest SES and ELL populations. In the Middle and High School levels, where the socio-economic and ELL populations are more balanced, the API scores were very close, within 20 points of each other, which indicates that when students are mixed they do very well. (Copies of this PowerPoint may be obtained by calling the Business Services Division.)

Dr. Stephens mentioned that two of the Title I schools with ELL enrollments over 100 also proves that if the SES and ELL students are distributed among all schools, restructuring boundaries to redistribute these students would help and we would see an improvement in API scores and close the achievement gap.

Mr. Dunn stated that he received a question from a parent asking if we could use TOPASS money, State redevelopment money, Developer Fees, etc. to help balance the General Fund. Dr. Baarstad responded that all of those funding sources are restricted by Federal and State code, and we cannot use them for salaries or benefits. The funds must be used to build or modernize buildings. We are not legally allowed to use the funds for anything other than what they are intended.

Mrs. Beaubien opened the meeting to public comments.

### Comments from the Public

The Board heard 67 speakers discuss their concerns regarding school closure, and received 55 public written statement cards were received regarding school closures.

Mrs. Beaubien thanked all the speakers and assured them that they were being listened to.

Mrs. Phelps withdrew her motion, “confirm the eight elementary schools identified to be identified to be evaluated for closure by using the secondary school closure criteria approved at the Board meeting January 15, 2008, and direct the Facilities Goals Committee to begin the secondary scoring process.” Mrs. Phelps asked if this does go back to the committee to look at new criteria, not scrapping everything but considering issues such as SES and ELL, how long would it take the committee to reevaluate? Dr. Baarstad responded that once the committee has the Board’s recommendation, they will need to meet and rescore, applying the new criteria. He felt that they could have the recommendation by March 4, 2008 (skipping the February 19, 2008, Board meeting date). Mr. Contini stated that any further delay would affect the School Choice application process. He thanked the audience and speakers for their candid, honest discussions.

Mr. Dunn stated that a speaker questioned the consultation line item in our budget, which was around \$5 million dollars. He asked how the costs break down. Dr. Baarstad stated that that particular category breaks down in many ways, and that the line item being referred to could include electricity, trash service, legal fees and so on. Assuming a large category in the budget is easy to cut may be an inaccurate assumption. For example, this is difficult to control because we cannot choose who sues us in a district of over 22,000 students. One person asked what will happen to our teachers at the schools that close? Dr. Baarstad stated that through attrition, etc., we do not expect to have to lay off any teachers. Another person asked about programs at one particular school, what would happen to good programs? Staff answered that the programs will follow the students to their new schools.

Mrs. Beaubien, Mrs. Didio and Dr. Stephens all discussed their experiences with school closure as parents (Didio and Beaubien) and as a principal (Stephens).

Mrs. Didio moved to direct the Facilities Goals Committee to provide the Board at the March 4, 2008, meeting with a revised recommendation for school closure using the Board approved criteria and boundary scenarios that maximize a balance of English Language Learners and socio-economic status, Special Education, which includes School Choice, that supports improving and maintaining that balance for all elementary schools and their grade levels, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Dr. Stephens wants to emphasize the word balance. Dr. Baarstad asked for a lot more clarification to bring back to the Facilities Goals Committee. He stated that balancing in the Newbury Park area will not help the schools in Thousand Oaks or Westlake Village. Mrs. Didio stated that school closure will not help with boundary changes nor will it help with balance, but she would like to see boundary changes that would make more sense. Dr. Baarstad asked if the Board would be okay if the Committee looked at boundary changes of schools that were not involved in school closure. Dr. Stephens stated that it would be a good time to try to clean up some of the boundaries that don’t make sense, or that send students from one side of the freeway to another. Dr. Baarstad asked if the Board wants the committee to focus on the eight schools or go back to the beginning? Mrs. Phelps stated that she believes the Board feels that there should have been different primary

criteria. Whether the committee looks at the secondary criteria and weight it heavily, or go back and add balance as a primary criteria. Dr. Baarstad stated that the criteria process took nine months, and the 25 people on the committee worked long and hard on the process, bringing the information forward to the PTAs, DAC, and the Board of Education in Study Sessions. The committee published in every education publication around the District, the STAR and the ACORN have all the information available to them. Dr. Baarstad suggested that the Board consider the following changes: Change in Primary Criteria 1: Disruption to all children that attend the school, not just the neighborhood children. Primary Criteria 2: Some errors in capacity were found and will be corrected. However, the committee still feels that this is relevant. Primary Criteria 3: We were asked why don't you look at how far every child will have to travel? Many don't care how far they have to go. Perhaps the Board should recommend removing this from the criteria. Mrs. Didio responded that then there's the issue of School Choice. Should that be dealt with as a separate issue? Mrs. Cosaro stated that there has been no racial profiling in terms of School Choice, in fact there is a statement on the form that the District will be racially and socio-economically balanced. However, School Choice provides an entrance into another school, but it does not address the impact of the exit.

Mr. Contini summed up the evening's discussion by saying that the Board has learned something by going through the process, and the Board has had a sensitivity to many of the issues brought up tonight and all along. They thought that by working through the process, most of those things would be worked out. Sometimes you have to take a step back in a process and make sure that the direction you are going is the direction you intended to go. When we first began this process, the focus was on declining enrollment and a significant loss in funding. What we have learned and what has evolved is that there are some core values that we have not really clarified until tonight. This is an opportunity to seize. He stated that he believes that the Board members would like the committee to explore and return with a recommendation to improve the balance and protect the needs of our special education children. Second, take all of the criteria that have been explored and determine if those can best be utilized as well. We need to be true to the process, but we should never be so true that we don't do what's in the best interest of all our children.

Dr. Stephens asked to offer Dr. Baarstad suggestion: Regarding the criteria, get rid of P4 (size and quality of school facilities), keep S2 (number of SDC classrooms displaced) and S3 (impact on diverse student distribution). Dr. Baarstad stated the importance of not moving autistic programs that take years to develop and serve with the most vulnerable children in our community and students who will have the most difficult time with change. Mrs. Cosaro stated that every one of our schools has autistic children in them, but the early intervention programs at Ladera and Maple are strong with well-trained teachers and specialists. While these programs could be moved, it would be the most difficult of moves for the children. Mrs. Beaubien stated that she did not want to see the committee start at the beginning, but, the boundary changes and the diversity issue needs to be addressed. She apologized for the fact that the Board overlooked it.

Dr. Baarstad stated that P1 needs to be adjusted "the number of students attending the school at the second month enrollment," and that would include all students. P2 and P3 remain, remove P4, run the numbers and then start analyzing the results of that based upon, if we close the number one school, can we do a good job of balancing ethnicity and do we displace SDC programs. Mr. Dunn stated that when the motion was read, the words ethnicity and SDC were not mentioned. Mrs. Phelps asked if it was the recommendation of Mrs. Cosaro and Margaret Saleh, Director, Special Education, that the two schools with the most extensive autism programs (Ladera and Maple) be excluded. Ms. Cosaro responded that neither she nor Ms. Saleh actually are part of the committee. However, yes, they would hope that those two schools could be excluded. It would take many years to build the cultures of these programs again. Mr. Contini suggested that the Board make a recommendation to Dr. Baarstad that they not come back with the two schools with the extensive autism programs (Ladera and Maple) and not come back with a recommendation that used diversity at a lower level in the sequence against the other criteria. If it is that important of a core value, tell them now.

Dr. Baarstad asked to comment on this. The committee wants to get it right, too, and appreciates this type of candid communication with the Board. He will ask for a sub-committee of statisticians for the new scoring. Dr. Baarstad asked to give feed back what the motion is: Revise P1 to all students enrolled in the second month

attendance period, keep P2 and P3 as is, eliminate P4, pull Ladera and Maple out of the analysis, look at how they score, then we look at the number one school and ask, if we close this school and use good boundary realignment, what would be the impact on the balance on diversity and how many SDC classes would be disrupted. Then we go to school number two, and do the same. We will have to have schools from different regions (Newbury Park, Thousand Oaks, and Westlake). We can get this information to the Board in the first week in March.

Mrs. Didio withdrew her motion and asked Dr. Baarstad to state the motion for the Board to move on.

Dr. Barstaad stated the following motion: The Board directs the Strategic Facilities Planning Committee to perform a new analysis with P1 being changed from a count of resident students to all students attending the school in the second month attendance period, including Choice and SDC students. Keep P2 as currently defined, P3 as currently defined, exclude from the analysis Ladera and Maple, resulting in a ranking of the three primary criteria, and then apply balancing diversity and displacement of SDC programs to determine whether or not we skip schools on the list until we find the school that would result in the best diversity balance and least disruption to SDC. Mrs. Phelps so moved. Dr. Baarstad added to eliminate P4, Mrs. Phelps so moved. Mrs. Didio seconded the motion. Dr. Baarstad stated that SDC will present the most difficulty. Mrs. Beaubien asked for a vote: motion carried 5-0.

### Instructional Services

#### **B. Approval of Math Philosophy, Program Expectations, Standards for the Graduate and Grade Level Content Standards**

Mrs. Phelps moved to adopt the proposed Math foundation documents developed by the District Math Committee, seconded by Dr. Stephens. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **C. Resolution #07/08-13: Child Care Grant and Application**

Mr. Dunn moved to approve the attached child care grant resolution, seconded by Mrs. Didio. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **D. Approval of Junior Kindergarten Pilot Program 2008/2009**

Dr. Stephens moved to approve the Junior Kindergarten pilot program 2008/2009, seconded by Mrs. Didio. 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:
  1. Regular Meeting of January 15, 2008
- B. Personnel Assignment Orders:
  1. Certificated: #7997 through #8002  
*Management, Teachers*
  2. Classified: C-4059 to C-4083  
*Adult School Classroom Aide, Child Care Assistant, Custodian, Intermediate Clerk Typist, Instructional Media Technician, Paraprofessional/Bilingual-Spanish, Paraprofessional/Special Education, Senior Clerk Typist*
  - Exempt: E-7684 to E-7718  
*Advisor, Campus Supervisor, Coach, Proctor, Saturday Work Study Campus Supervisor, Specialist, Student Helper*
- C. Expulsion:
  1. Los Cerritos Middle School #21-07/08
  2. Colina Middle School #22-07/08E
  3. Westlake High School #23-07/08E
  4. Thousand Oaks High School #24-07/08E
  5. Westlake High School #24-07/08E

- D. Contracts for Non-Public School Placement for Handicapped Students
  - 1. #27-07/08
  - 2. #28-07/08
- E. Overnight Trip Requests
  - 1. Manzanita Elementary School
  - 2. Thousand Oaks High School Cheer
- F. Parent Support/Booster Organization Reauthorization
  - 1. Conejo Schools Foundation
  - 2. Conejo Elementary School Parent Faculty Association Booster Club
  - 3. Cypress Elementary School Umbrella Booster Club
  - 4. Westlake Elementary School Parent Faculty Association Booster Club
  - 5. Newbury Park High School Booster Club
  - 6. Newbury Park High School Girls Volleyball Booster Club
  - 7. Thousand Oaks High School Boys Volleyball Booster Club
  - 8. Westlake High School Cross Country & Track Booster Club
- G. Purchase Order Report #717
- H. Change Orders
  - 1. #1 Westlake High School – Phase 1 Modernization HVAC/Specialty Electric – Viola, Inc.
  - 2. #1 Thousand Oaks High School – Gym Bleacher Replacement – Herk Edwards, Inc.
  - 3. #3 Los Cerritos Middle School – Phase 1 Modernization – Viola, Inc.
  - 4. #3 Indefinite Quantity Fencing – Magnum Fence and Security, Inc.
- I. Notices of Completion
  - 1. Thousand Oaks High School – Gym Bleacher Replacement – Herk Edwards, Inc.
  - 2. Stadium Scoreboard – Thousand Oaks High School
  - 3. Various Sites – Indefinite Quantity Fencing – Magnum Fence and Security, Inc.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **Instructional Services**

- A. Approval of K-12 Science Courses of Study
- B. Adoption of English-Language Development Standards

### **Business Services**

- C. 2006-2007 Annual Audit Report of District Financial Statements

## **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 10:37 p.m. The Board will reconvene on Tuesday, February 19, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. for Closed Session; 6:00 p.m. for Open Session.

March 4, 2008

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

March 4, 2008

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent