

**CONEJO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING****February 28, 2006
MINUTES****CALL TO ORDER – CLOSED SESSION**

The Board meeting of February 28, 2006, was called to order by President Pat Phelps at 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Phelps asked if there were any public speakers for the Closed Session agenda items; there were none. The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 5:05 p.m., where the following items were discussed:

1. Public Employee Appointment-Employment-Evaluation-Leaves of Absence-Retirement-Discipline-Dismissal
Pursuant to Government Code §54957
2. Consideration of Student Discipline
Pursuant to Education Code §48918
3. Pending Litigation
Pursuant to Government Code §54957.1(a)(3)
4. Conference with Real Property Negotiators
Pursuant to Government Code §54956.8

The Closed Session ended at 6:00 p.m.

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

President Phelps called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Phelps welcomed guests and read the procedural announcements.

Present were Board members Dorothy Beaubien, Dolores Didio, Mike Dunn, Pat Phelps, and Dr. Timothy Stephens; Administration: Dr. Robert Fraise, Superintendent, Dr. Richard Simpson, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services, Jo-Ann Yoos, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel Services, Dr. Jeffrey Baarstad, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, Chuck Eklund, Director, Secondary Education, Linda Peralta, Director, Elementary Education, Martha Mutz, Director, Curriculum/Media Services, and Janet Cosaro, Director, Special Education.

Approval of Agenda

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

Reports

President Shirley Koertz, Personnel Commission, presented the Annual Report to the Board.

Presentations

Marty Bates, Ventura County Board of Education member, and Dr. Carey Dritz, Associate Superintendent, Student Services, presented information regarding services available through the Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office.

Janet Cosaro, Director, Special Education, presented information regarding a new intervention program, Schools Attuned, which will help with student learning.

Colleen Briner-Schmidt, representing teachers and UACT, Dr. Richard Simpson and Linda Peralta announced "Seuss-like" that *Read Across America* participation was throughout the District!

Comments from the Superintendent

Dr. Fraise: 1) thanked all the evening's presenters - the Personnel Commission, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office, Special Education Director Janet Cosaro and school psychologist Jennifer Jones, and teacher Colleen Briner-Schmidt for the "Read Across America" presentation. He pointed out how everyone is here for the same thing: to ensure that our children get the best possible education! 2) thanked the Ventura County Offices for the valuable leadership programs they offer, such as the VIP series for principals and other school leaders; 3) commended the Special Education Department for their intervention program, Schools Attuned; 4) stated his appreciation for the schools that contacted him to read to the students this week, and commented on the wonderful response of the children; 4) encouraged everyone to get out to the schools to experience the incredible talents within the theater and musical programs; 5) congratulated Nick Jelinek of Lang Ranch Elementary School for co-winning today's Spelling Bee and congratulated all the students who participated.

Comments from the Public

Sue Byars and Brenda Storz, Thousand Oaks, expressed appreciation to the staff for working with parents from the Horizon Hills kindergarten class, and referred to the position paper parents put together regarding the future of the program. Debbie Miller and Kelly Konjoyan submitted Public Written Statement Cards in support of the Horizon Hills kindergarten class.

Nick Quidwai, Newbury Park, stated his disappointment that other groups were not present at the Board meeting; asked for the Board to work on other days than the same as the City Council and if not, then meet at 7:30 p.m.; discussed the new youth expansion on the library; and presented a fireman's serenity prayer to Mr. Dunn.

Suzanne Duckett, Thousand Oaks, asked that the minutes reflect her requests and asked for block schedules at all high schools.

Comments from Individual Board Members

Mrs. Didio commented on the Bond District Advisory Committee Annual Report and suggested that parents and community members request a copy to see all the work that has been accomplished in the district, and the additional monies the district has obtained through matching grants, etc., with the state. Mrs. Didio read a newspaper article stating that property values are directly connected to good schools. And that the passage of the bond was a good investment for the entire community. Mrs. Didio thanked the community again for the bond, thanked the staff for their work, and the Bond DAC committee for their oversight of the funds. The original \$88 million has been expanded to additional \$21 million already received, \$1.5 million in joint-use funds, and a tentative \$8 million, putting us in a position to be eligible for additional funds in the future. Our district does not qualify for state funding to build schools because the state counts all classrooms, including those in closed schools. Before it was a law to have developer fees, we had developers who set up school facility fees -we were ahead of the curve. We have been fortunate to have land donated for schools as well as school facility fees to pay for the

building of schools (Lang Ranch and Sycamore Canyon). Putting together all the funding sources has allowed us to upgrade our facilities without using general fund dollars. In fact, there would not have been enough dollars to do any of the phase 1 projects, such as repairing or replacing deteriorated plumbing fixtures, water lines, gas lines, roof leaks, gutters, etc. And, we would not have had the matching funds for the three high school stadiums, the gym at Sycamore Canyon, the pools at Westlake and Thousand Oaks High Schools, and the theaters at Thousand Oaks and Newbury Park High Schools. Thank you to all who have made these projects possible and for helping to make our district one of the great districts.

Dr. Stephens commented on the (available) API update and the targets established by the state, which is 800 or better. There are 1,036 school districts in the state of California; in 2005, 220 districts have met the 800 benchmark (21%). This district had an API score of 846, and is one of those 220 districts. In addition, CVUSD's score places it in the top 9.5% of all districts in the state. Last year, only 99 districts out of 1,036 districts that had higher API scores than CVUSD, of those, only 21 were unified school districts and of those, only 9 had enrollments of 10,000 or more. Looking at the percentage of English Language Learners, CVUSD has 7.2%; in another category, free and reduced lunches, we have 13.2% of our population in that category. Taking a look at other districts of similar size, most have a much lower percentage of both of these categories. Comparing with districts of similar size, CVUSD does very well. Dr. Stephens commended the teachers, principals, and district staff on these accomplishments. But – we can and will get better!

Mrs. Phelps updated the community on the superintendent search: The team has met with all bargaining units (UACT, CSEA, CVPPA), various school and district administrators, representatives from PTA, DAC, and parents and community members who responded to the ad. The recruitment team stated that they received great input from every source, and the ad was posted on February 27; the deadline to receive applications is March 24. The next update will come March 28. Mrs. Phelps also commented on "Read Across America" and thanked the students for their excellent behavior when being read to.

ACTION ITEMS - GENERAL

Superintendent's Office

1. Amendment of Board Policy 344.3 – Promotion and Retention (First Reading)

Mrs. Didio moved to amend Policy 344.3 as recommended to reflect changes in the State testing program, seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Motion carried 5-0.

Personnel Services

2. Renewal of Retainer Agreement with the Law Firm of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

Dr. Stephens moved to renew the retainer agreement with the law firm of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore for the 2006 calendar year and pay the firm an annual retainer of \$30,450.00 to represent the Conejo Valley Unified School District in employer-employee relation matters and contract negotiations as specified in the retainer agreement, seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Mrs. Phelps thanked the firm for the good work they do for the District. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Resolution #05/06-16: Week of the School Administrator, March 6-10, 2006

Mrs. Beaubien moved to approve the formation of a study committee to review alternative education for a small alternative school, seconded by Dr. Stephens. Mrs. Didio read an excerpt from the Resolution:

“Whereas public schools operate with lean management systems across the Nation public schools, employ fewer managers and fewer supervisors than most public and private entities including transportation, food service, manufacturing, utilities, construction, publishing and public administration.” Motion carried 5-0.

4. Formal Receipt of the 2006-2007 Proposal for Reopener Collective Bargaining Negotiations Submitted by the United Association of Conejo Teachers (UACT)

Mrs. Didio moved to formally receive UACT’s proposal, seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Motion carried 5-0.

5. PUBLIC HEARING: UACT Initial Proposal.

Mrs. Phelps opened the Public Hearing at 7:22 p.m. John Anderson, Newbury Park, asked if the proposal was available for review; staff responded yes, to contact Personnel Services. Dr. Baarstad stated that it was an overview that the proposal was not attached to the package. The hearing was closed at 7:24 p.m.

Instructional Services

6. Resolution #05/06-17: Read Across America Day

Mrs. Beaubien moved to adopt Resolution #05/06-17, seconded by Dr. Stephens. Motion carried 5-0.

7. School Choice Capacity Limits

Dr. Stephens moved to adopt the 2006/07 proposed school choice capacity limits for each school, seconded by Mrs. Didio. Dr. Stephens stated disappointment that districts have to reduce the choice options because the pupil-teacher ratios have been raised due to budgetary problems in the state, and it is his hope that pupil-teacher ratios can be lowered as the schools receive more funding, especially in the primary classes. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Approval of New High School Pilot Course: Peer Resource

Dr. Stephens moved to approve Peer Resource as a pilot course, seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Mrs. Didio asked if Peer Counseling was at each of the high schools; Ms. Mutz responded that only at Thousand Oaks High School – but those schools do have other forms of kids connecting with kids. Mrs. Didio asked about the training for this class; Ms. Mutz stated that counselors bring students in for full day workshops, and those children are available for mediation. The proposed course at Newbury Park High School is a semester long class, so students will have more in-depth training. Mrs. Beaubien asked for clarification: do students currently get credit for Peer Counseling, Ms. Mutz replied no. Mrs. Beaubien stated that the title may be confusing; Ms. Mutz agreed and stated that the name could be changed. Mrs. Phelps asked if the students would be acting as mediators while they are taking the course; Mrs. Mutz – no. Ms. Mutz stated that the lesson design would be such that it could be taught at the other schools. After the Columbine incident, funds have been made available for intervention programs. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Contract for a Medi-Cal Administrative Activities Claiming Agreement #1-05/06

Mrs. Beaubien moved to approve a Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) Claiming Agreement between KC202 and CVUSD, seconded by Dr. Stephens. Motion carried 5-0.

10. 2004-2005 Annual Audit Report of District Financial Statements

Mrs. Didio moved to accept the 2004-2005 Annual Audit Report of the District’s Financial Statements as presented, seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Motion carried 5-0.

11. Elementary School for New Housing Development

Dr. Stephens moved to approve Manzanita Elementary School as the school of attendance for this project, seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Motion carried 5-0.

ACTION ITEMS – CONSENT

Mrs. Beaubien moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Dunn asked that the minutes of February 14, 2006, be corrected to reflect the following change: Page 4, under Mr. Dunn's comments, the poll percentage for the 16th should be 36% not 26%. The motion to approve the consent agenda as corrected was seconded by Mrs. Didio. Motion carried 5-0.

- A. Approval of minutes of Regular Meeting of February 14, 2006.
- B. Personnel Assignment Orders:
 - Certificated: #7343 to #7357
 - Classified: C-3128 to C-3146
 - Exempt: E-6520 to E-6559
- C. Contract for Non-Public School Placements for Handicapped Students: #24-05/06
- D. Expulsion: Colina Middle School #28-05/06E
- E. Overnight Trip Requests:
 1. Newbury Park High School Band Drumline
 2. Newbury Park High School Winterguard
- F. Purchase Order Report #677
- G. Disposal of Surplus and Obsolete Equipment
- H. Acceptance of Cash and Equipment Donations
- I. Change Orders:
 1. #2-Madroña Administration Office Modernization and Newbury Park High Classroom Rehabilitation
 2. #1-Cypress Elementary Phase 1 Modernization – MSA Construction Group, Inc.
 3. #1-Madroña Administration Office Modernization and Newbury Park High School Classroom Rehabilitation

INFORMATION ITEMS**Instructional Services**

1. Resolution #05/06-15: Child Care Grant and Application – There were no comments.
2. Fee Increase – Child Care Program 2006-2007. Dr. Stephens asked what the prevailing fees are at other child care programs; Ms. Cheryl Freitas, Administrator, stated that a poll of the outside markets show the closest comparable cost for the full coverage of before and after school to CVUSD's price of \$270/month is \$360/month, ranging to \$495/month. Mr. Dunn asked if the funds are segregated from the General Fund; Dr. Simpson stated that it is a separate fund, but the district does charge for rental of facilities, custodial costs, etc. The income is in a separate account and the program is self-sustaining (and in the black!). Dr. Fraisse stated that CVUSD's child care program has been a model all over the county and we are looked on as leaders in the county with this program.

3. School Improvement Reallocation: K-12. Mrs. Didio asked what kind of feedback staff is getting from the elementary schools on this proposal. Dr. Simpson responded that there has been a committee of elementary, middle and high school staff working to reach a consensus. We have a long history of equalization but an inequitable situation not created by our district but through legislation. Dr. Stephens commends the administrators at all levels to come together to work out the details.
4. Revised Elementary 2006 Summer School Extended Year and Pilot Title 1 Intervention Program. Board members pointed out that this program offers more choices to parents.

Business Services

5. 2005-2006 District Audit Contract. Mrs. Didio asked if staff was pleased with past services; Dr. Baarstad responded yes.

REPORTS AND CONCERNS

- A. Reports from the Strategic Plan Committees: Dr. Fraisse commented that in meeting with his Cabinet, he provided an outline of projects that need to be completed by the end of the year. In looking at Committee #3, which is designed to take a look at the need and feasibility of building a small alternative high school and to find a funding stream to build it. We hope to have a report for you soon on this topic.

- B. Reports from the Superintendent: There were none.

Public speaker Cathy Carlson, Thousand Oaks, asked if legislative items will be on future agendas; Dr. Fraisse responded that legislative items will be on the agenda if there are items for the Board to address. Ms. Carlson asked that the Williams Act be addressed. Ms. Carlson opined a short description of the Williams Act, that the parents cannot be asked to provide supply funding before the schools provide what they can. Every classroom should have this information posted. Ms. Carlson also discussed issues regarding the First 5 pre-school program and her dislike of universal pre-school programs. Ms. Carlson asked about the Neighborhood for Learning program and the distribution of funds for administration. She also asked about the fingerprinting ruling associated with NFL and what role CVUSD plays.

- C. Reports from the Personnel Commission: There were none.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Stephens adjourned the Open Session at 7:45 p.m. The Board will reconvene on Tuesday, March 14, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. for Closed Session; 6:00 p.m. for Open Session.

Date March 14, 2006

Clerk

Date March 14, 2006

Superintendent

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